

<b>Cover Sheet for Proposals</b> <i>(All sections must be completed)</i>		<b>JISC</b> Capital Programme	
<b>Name of Capital Programme: Repositories and Preservation Programme</b>			
<b>Bid for Calls :</b> (Please tick ONE BOX ONLY, as appropriate)			
<b>Discovery to Delivery and Interoperability Demonstrators (Strand C)</b>			
	<b>Call I – Interoperability Demonstrators</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> a) Interoperability demonstrators	
<b>Repository Start-Up and Enhancement (Strand D)</b>			
	<b>Call II – Repository Start-Up and Enhancement Projects</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> a) Repository start-up projects <input type="checkbox"/> b) Repository enhancement projects <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> c) Rapid innovation projects: enhancing repository content	
<b>Digital Preservation Across the Lifecycle (Strand H)</b>			
	<b>Call III – Digital Preservation Across the Lifecycle</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> a) Digital preservation across the lifecycle	
<b>Name of Lead Institution:</b> Worcester College of Technology			
<b>Name of Proposed Project:</b> Moodle Repository Create, Upload, Tag and Embed (MR-CUTE)			
<b>Name(s) of Project Partner(s):</b> None			
<b>Full Contact Details for Primary Contact:</b>			
<b>Name:</b> Peter Kilcoyne			
<b>Position:</b> Director or ILT			
<b>Email:</b> pkilcoyne@wortech.ac.uk			
<b>Address:</b> Worcester College of Technology Deansway Worcester WR1 2JF			
<b>Tel No:</b> 01905 725583			
<b>Fax No:</b> 01905 725600			
<b>Length of Project:</b>	<b>6 months</b>		
<b>Project Start Date:</b>	1 <sup>st</sup> September 2007	<b>Project End Date:</b>	28 <sup>th</sup> February 2008
<b>Total Funding Requested from JISC:</b> £19,000			
<b>Funding Broken Down over Financial Years (Mar – Apr):</b>			
	<b>Sep07 - Mar08</b>		<b>Apr08 – Mar09</b>
	£19,000		-

<b>Total Institutional Contributions:</b> N/A		
<b>Outline Project Description</b>		
<p>The primary aim of this project is to specify and program a new way of enabling, encouraging and recording the sharing and uploading of materials to the pre-existing Moodle Repository module.</p> <p>The secondary aim is to extend the current Moodle Repository by providing a fast search facility to enhance the simplistic browse currently available in order to encourage embedding of elearning materials in teaching and learning.</p> <p>Full details and rationale are set out later in this submission.</p>		
<b>I have looked at the example FOI form at Appendix A and included an FOI form in the attached bid (Tick Box)</b>	<b>YES</b> ✓	<b>NO</b>
<b>I have read the Circular and associated Terms and Conditions of Grant at Appendix B (Tick Box)</b>	<b>YES</b> ✓	<b>NO</b>

## FOI Withheld Information Form

There is no information in this bid that we would wish to be withheld.

## Introduction

Moodle, an open-source product, is the most widely used learning platforms (or “Virtual Learning Environments”) in colleges delivering HE in FE. As at June 2007 approximately 52% of FE institutions use Moodle as their main online learning platform. In HE, the percentage is more difficult to state but appears to be approaching 10% and growing (Source: <http://www.oss-watch.ac.uk/studies/survey2006/survey2006report.xml>).

The addition of a content repository module developed by Alton College (in 2006) was very useful and has encouraged the embedding of materials in courses. More importantly, colleges and other institutions can now easily share materials between themselves.

However, the uploading and keywording (“tagging”) of materials, which must comply with the relevant IMS standards, is not intuitive and requires technical or administrator involvement.

This project aims:

1. to encourage and simplify the sharing and exchange of materials between institutions delivering HE (including Foundation courses) by provide a simple

mechanism to automatically convert resources in document and image formats to IMS compliant packages and to upload them to the Moodle Repository. It will include a method for keywording materials both by the author/uploader. A second function will, where considered necessary, allow materials to be examined and authorised (and if necessary further keyworded) by Learning Resources or other relevant staff.

2. to encourage the embedding of elearning by providing an intuitive search mechanism to allow users to find materials which might be relevant to their courses - even where the title of a piece of learning material would not suggest such usefulness. For example, an interactive package dealing with “body language” might have been created in the context of a business studies degree, but may have relevance in a Social Care context. At present, only a “browse by title” facility is available.

The following facilities will be provided for these aims:

1. A Moodle “module” (title to be determined) whose functions are:
  - i. “Share”: Users selects any previously uploaded resource (document, image or single-file web page mht file) within a Moodle “course” area and convert it to an IMS compliant zipped package to include the required IMS manifest file in XML format. The package is then automatically uploaded to the relevant Moodle repository folder and the repository index (see below) is updated.
  - ii. “Upload and share”: (as above, but allows user to upload material to own course and automatically share)
  - iii. “Index”: An administrator function to create the repository index for the first time, or to update it manually if necessary.
  - iv. “Keyword and authorise”: A Learning Resource staff function to allow relevant staff to correct or improve tagging (keywording) and if necessary to authorise or remove specific materials. The index will be automatically updated after this process.
2. A second Moodle “module” (title to be determined) whose functions are:
  - i. Identical to the currently available “Add IMS materials” function but with additional functionality to include a search on title, keywords (tags) and full textual content (where applicable)

## **Project description**

- August 2007: Identify and appoint staff as necessary and agree internal secondment where appropriate.
- September 2007: Specify and prototype

- October – December 2007: Program and alpha test
- January 2008: Beta test and complete programming
- February 2008: Continue final testing. Document and prepare dissemination materials. Prepare for upload to moodle.org (see deliverables)

## Deliverables

- Moodle modules to be made available on moodle.org under a GNU General Public License.
- Full coding and data storage specifications and documentation.
- User guidance and documentation
- Online dissemination event

## Risks

Risk	Probability 1-5	Severity 1-5	P x S	Action to prevent/manage risk
Staffing	2	3	6	Knowledge and skills shared across the team
Minor technical problems	4	1	4	At least two capable and experienced technicians available within college
Major technical problems	1	4	4	Robust backup procedures plus as above
Staff lack of engagement at testing stages	2	4	8	Selection of motivated staff. Motivational training Good helpdesk support.

## Value to JISC community

The value to the whole educational community using Moodle is stated in the aims. This includes many JISC HE and HE in FE clients. As previously noted, more than

half of the FE colleges in the UK now use Moodle, and a large percentage of these institutions deliver one or more HE courses.

## Intellectual Property Rights

As already noted, the modules will be made available on moodle.org under a GNU General Public License. The IPR of all other deliverables will belong to the JISC but this excludes materials and content uploaded as part of the testing and use of the modules.

## Sustainability

The nature of Moodle modules is that they are maintained and developed by the community. However, it is hoped that the delivered modules will be complete in themselves and continually available as with all other GNU software.

## Budget

ITEM	Total
JISC Contribution	
Non-Staff Costs	
Travel and subsistence	£500
Dissemination documentation and event	£500
Total Non-Staff Costs	£1,000
Grand Total	£18,500

## Project Team

**Project Director:** Peter Kilcoyne

**Project Manager, Analyst, Lead Programmer:** Richard Goddard

**Second programmer:** Alastair Hole

**Admin:** TBA

## Project Plan

The project will be planned and monitored by Peter Kilcoyne (see above) to the timings in the project description outlines above..

- The staff involved are already in place and are available for the project. Richard Goddard will be employed as the Project Manager for the duration of the project and has confirmed his availability.
- As required by the guidelines, the project will deliver a tested and usable prototype within six months of the start date
- The project complements existing Repository technologies.
- The developers commit to dissemination and communication activities as required

## Key personnel

### **Peter Kilcoyne** Worcester College of Technology

Peter Kilcoyne is Director of Information and Learning Technology at Worcester College of Technology. In this role he is responsible for managing the e-learning strategy and provision.

For the previous six years he was ILT Curriculum Advisor at RSC West Midlands. During this time Peter did a considerable amount of work with VLEs including organising user groups, delivering training and providing strategic advice.

While at the RSC he has worked to support a number of HEFCE and JISC funded project including KC-ROLO, WMSHare, SELP and delivering a Foundation Degree through an MLE. Before working at the RSC he gained 13 years managing and teaching experience in both the FE and HE sectors. Peter has a BSc (Hons) in Psychology.

He has also written a number of papers and presented at several conferences, mainly on issues relating to VLEs

### **Richard Goddard** Herefordshire College of Technology

Richard was until recently the Online Learning Coordinator at Herefordshire College of Technology, where he also teaches learning technologies on Post Graduate Certificate in Education courses.

He is an advocate of constructivist (and particularly social constructivist) methods of learning which are closely relevant to this bid. He is an experienced Moodle administrator and user.

His background includes training work in the Civil Service, running a small software company and several years as a freelance multimedia producer within BBC Training and Development.

Richard has been a programmer and analyst and still writes software (in Visual Basic and PHP) and works with XML and SQL data storage methodologies. He creates software packages which aim to support teachers in the development and delivery of learning, including LOCD, a package which centralises all the tasks related to course design and stores all related materials ready for use within Moodle.

He is currently working on an IMS-compliant ePortfolio system for use in FE and beyond, and has also recently developed an online CPD tool to monitor and improve compliance with the new QTLS (Qualified Teacher Learning and Skills) framework.

### **Alastair Hole** Worcester College of Technology

Alastair is the college web developer and lead technical support for Moodle. Alastair has a strong background in Web technology and Web applications. He has experience in developing business to business e-commerce sites using PHP4/MySQL.

He also has experience with Microsoft Content Management Server (.NET 2.0 / C#), and has developed the public-facing website for WCT which went on to win a TES FE Website of The Month Focus award.

Of most relevance to this project is Alastair's experience customising and developing Moodle (PHP4/5, MySQL4/5) and integrating it with existing college systems, e.g. MS Active Directory for user authentication, and external MIS database (Oracle) for enrolment information.



Principal: Chris Morecroft

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Northavon House,  
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Bristol,  
BS16 1QD

8 June 2007

Dear Sirs,

**Letter of Support - Repository Bid**

As Principal and Chief Executive of Worcester College of Technology I am very keen to support this bid as it will allow the college to more effectively manage its Moodle resources for staff and students, and also improve our ability to share developed learning materials with our HE partners. Our investment as a College of Further Education in the development of interactive learning materials has been significant along with the training and development of our staff. This project adds very useful further support to this work and continues our progress in this area.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Chris Morecroft". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

Chris Morecroft  
**Principal & Chief Executive**  
Worcester College of Technology

