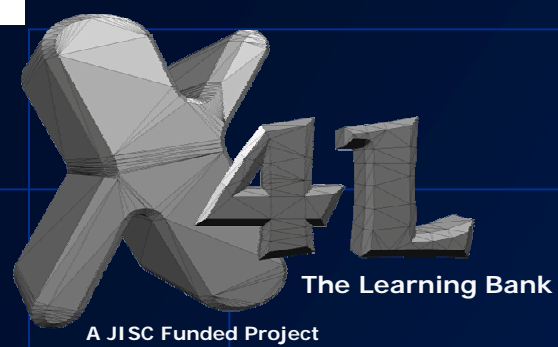
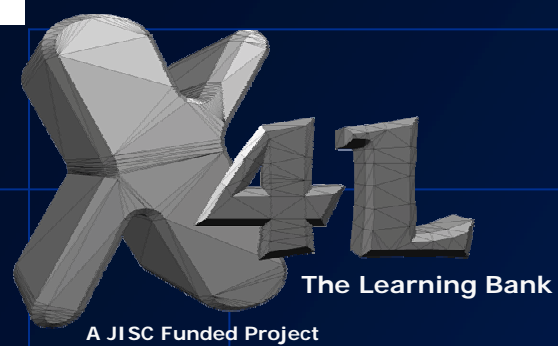


# **The Impact of X4L on South Birmingham College**

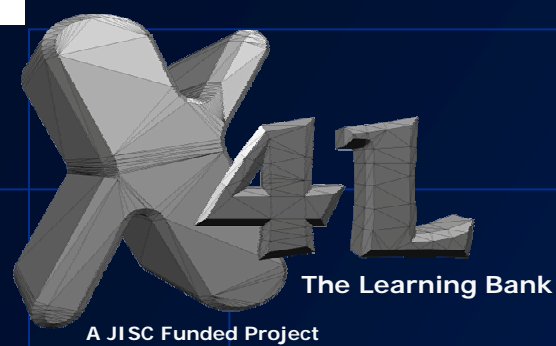


- **We have looked at how X4L has affected**
  - **Tutors**
  - **Learners**
  - **Resource Use and the Library**
  - **Senior Managers and College Policy**
  - **Business Processes**
  - **Inter-institutional Relationships**
- **In preparation for the final evaluation report**



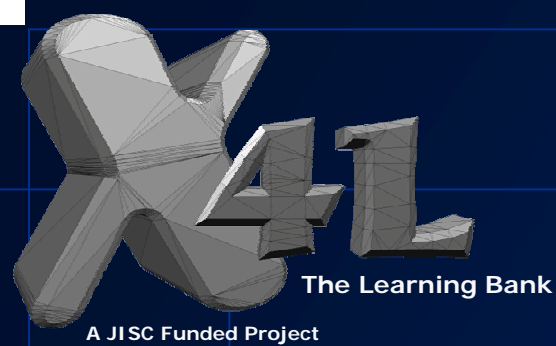
## Evaluation Methods

- We have used and intend to continue using evaluation methods appropriate to the context of the evaluation activities, these include:
  - workshops
  - surveys
  - questionnaires
  - structured interviews
  - testing and trialling activities
  - focus groups
  - reflective logs
  - Development of case studies and guidelines



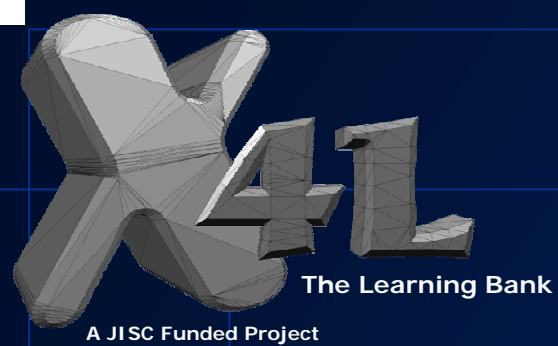
## Evaluation Methods

- We are currently organising tutor and learner evaluation sessions within our partner colleges as well as at South Birmingham
  - Helps to maintain quality through peer review
  - Eliminates tutor and student bias
    - We have found through other testing sessions that students are actually very loyal to their tutors and will often tell you what they think you want to hear
- The exact numbers of tutors and students to be involved in this activity is not yet known but we are endeavouring to conduct this evaluation with as many as possible given teaching and learning commitments.



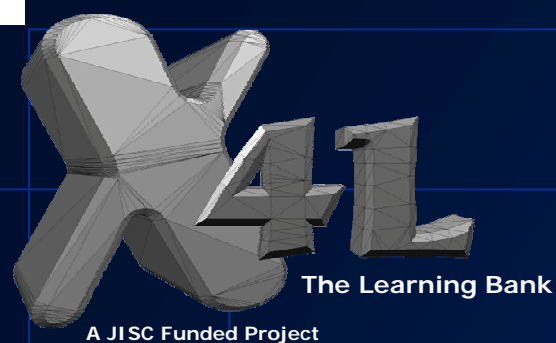
## Tutors

- **X4L has helped to raise the awareness of the staff at SBC to ILT and its benefits in a number of ways**
  - **Directly as a result of the input from subject specialists**
    - **Subject specialists have been involved throughout the course of the project and have been involved in**
      - the selection of content for development
      - validating of content
      - testing of content with Students
      - party to student feedback



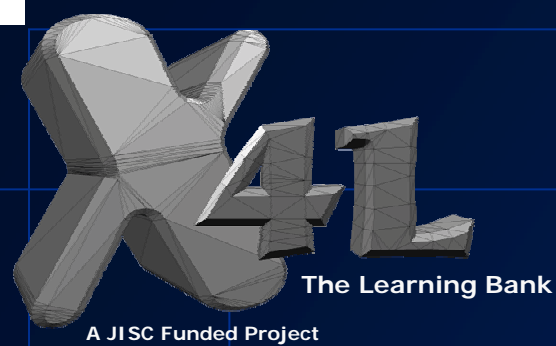
## Tutors

- **Indirectly as a result of the input from subject specialists**
  - **Subject specialists have been involved in communicating the experiences and benefits derived from participation in the X4L programme such as identifying how to use virtual resources to:**
    - **other tutors within their departments**
    - **other tutors outside of their departments through the ICT Champions programme**



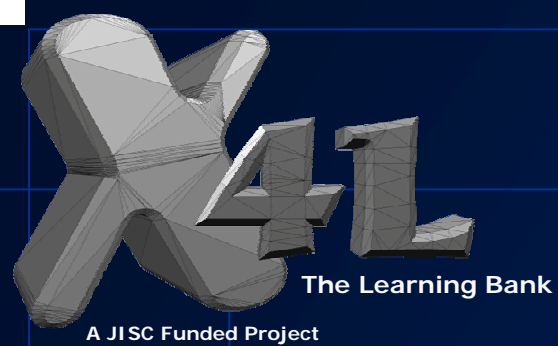
## Learners

- Further to the direct experience of those students involved in the testing of project outputs X4L has impacted on students throughout the college in the following ways
  - SBC subject gateways. These gateways consist of a subject based student website and accompanying instance of the Moodle VLE. This development grew out of the teams experience with accessibility, CSS and resource discovery gained through the X4L programme work
  - Better information and guidance from the Teaching and Library staff with regard to access to virtual resources both in the classroom and in the drop in centres throughout the college



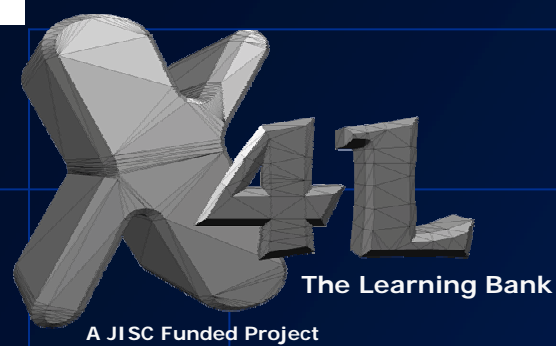
## Resource Use and the Library

- **The Learning Bank has raised awareness of the use of virtual resources and the availability of technologies such as repositories through**
  - **Before X4L SBC libraries were very traditional and largely unaware of the trend towards the usage of learning objects and object repositories**
  - **As a result of the input from the library staff in the production of the Library object the Library staff now have contact with the Content Team and can be made aware of what is becoming available through X4L and other development initiatives such as the output from the National Learning Network**



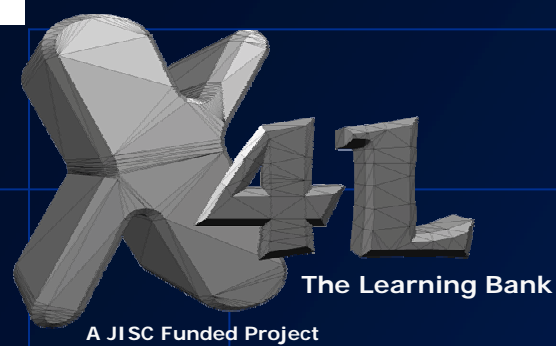
## Senior Managers and College Policy

- The college management have come to realise the significance of the work of the Content Development Team through the course of X4L
- They were aware that we existed but many did not know what we did let alone of what benefit our work could be to the college
- During the course of the project through our own internal X4L dissemination and the Subject Gateway Project the work of the unit is now known by all of SMT and MMT
- The unit has been placed at the heart of the colleges ILT Ofsted inspection policy by the principal giving the unit an effective voice when it comes to the development of college policy



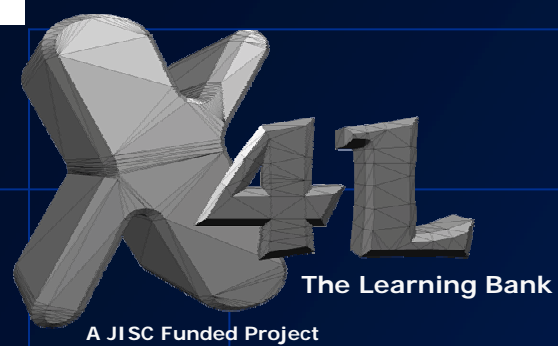
## Business Processes

- Further to the elevated standing of the unit within the college the work done on the subject gateway project has been put forward to support the colleges Charter Mark application.
- The work done supports the colleges application under criterion 3.1.2 - using technology to provide information about and access to services
- The colleges statement for this is
  - " The College is keen to utilise the opportunities that technology provide. An example of this are the Subject Gateways which aim to embed Information Learning Technology in teaching and learning."



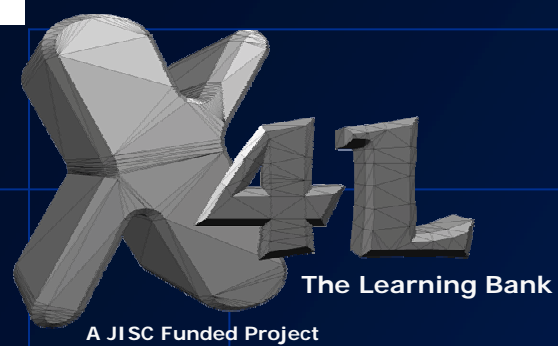
## Inter-institutional Relationships

- **X4L highlighted how Inter-institutional Relationships can be of major benefit and also a source of consternation.**
- **Where it has worked well the partner institution has had a proactive input to the project**
  - **Our partnership with UCE being an excellent example of this – having become a major Phase 2 partner**
  - **Elsewhere relationships, have until recently, have not been so productive – This is changing now we are getting toward delivery and partners can see actual benefits from the project**



## Conclusions

- It can be seen that X4L has had a wide ranging impact throughout the college
- That impact has been felt most by those subject specialists that are directly involved with the Learning Bank and the students of those subject specialists
- X4L has had a wider impact however in terms of the promotion of the use of virtual learning content and awareness of object repositories both for teaching staff and learning support staff



## Conclusions

- X4L has also led to changes in Senior Management attitudes towards the importance of E-Learning and virtual resources
- X4L has created some excellent links with other institutions which are now paying dividends in terms of Phase 2 partnerships
- X4L has had a direct effect on business processes, the Charter Mark statement being a clear example of this