

e-Framework Update June 2008

This newsletter will inform and update you about the e-Framework developments and related activities. If you no longer wish to receive this newsletter please log-in to the e-Framework subscriber list and 'unsubscribe'.

The e-Framework team is making every effort to ensure the newsletter reaches the correct audiences through the correct dissemination routes. The final section of this newsletter includes the rationale and link to a quick user questionnaire. Answering these few questions will help us to improve the way the e-Framework provides you with the information you need through the channels you prefer.

News from the Initiative

e-Framework partners define eight priority activities for 2008

At the strategy board partner meeting in May, the e-Framework partners listed eight priority activities to be delivered in 2008. These points of collaboration between the four international partners have formed the basis of an exciting and comprehensive joint e-Framework workplan. Key work packages described in the workplan include:

Enterprise Architectures and the e-Framework

This work package addresses the requirement to explore the relationships between Enterprise Architectures and the International e-Framework. The Ministry of Education New Zealand has commissioned a discussion paper which maps the e-Framework onto The Open Group Architecture Initiative (TOGAF) and the modelling language Archimate. SURF are investigating the possible application of TOGAF in the HE domain, and the JISC are commissioning a paper that attempts to define the relationships between the e-Framework and the wider discipline of Enterprise Architecture.

Vendor products and SOA

The JISC and SURF are together compiling an ICT Vendor and Products Map, which should provide insight into the SOA enabling and integration issues between the main vendor products that are currently in use in HEIs, and the vendors future soa strategies. This type of knowledge is essential to successfully develop a SOA strategy and could be made available in the e-Framework Knowledge Base. IMS contacts and other existing analyses will be used where possible.

Validation check

It is paramount that the e-Framework team validates and demonstrates real-world usage of the e-Framework concepts and processes. All partners are exploring the best ways in which to do this. For example, SURF are reverse engineering LOREnet as a means of validating the e-Framework approach.

Successful meeting between Dutch Higher Education and the e-Framework Partners

The session on architecture that took place on 20 May in Utrecht, the Netherlands, demonstrated that there is a large potential for future collaboration of current e-Framework activities and Dutch projects. The SURFshare project, presented by the Platform ICT and Research raised a lot of interest from Australia; Australia has done a lot of work in the areas of repositories and identifiers. A workshop organised by SURF was held in early June, which aimed to establish a global persistent identifier with European countries and Australia. New Zealand will also take part in trading knowledge and expertise with SURF; the focus here is mainly on similar work being done by SURFnet on groupware applications.

[Presentations](#) of the meeting between the e-Framework and Dutch Higher Education are available.

e-Framework Editorial Group meet face-to-face

The dedicated Editorial Group, who maintain the e-Framework website and publish contributions to the e-Framework knowledge base, met for a 5 day workshop. The principle focus of the workshop was to:

1. compile a friendly description and representation of the e-Framework conceptual model
2. prioritize future website enhancements
3. improve the submission process quality assurance criteria
4. update the glossary to include a plain English definition for each entry.

These improvements will shortly be made available on the website.

Partner's Update

Australian's DEEWR announces additional funding for the DER (Digital Education Revolution)

On May 16, the Australian Federal Budget was announced ensuring Government's Digital Education Revolution is secured into the future with \$1.2 billion to be spent on Digital Education over the next five years. \$32.5 million will be spent over the next two years to support three broad programmes aimed at enabling students and teachers to seamlessly access, discover, manage, create and use information online.

- to develop a body of online curriculum content including material for gifted students and for specialist subjects, such as languages for use across the education systems aligned with the newly announced national K-12 curriculum.
- for the Australian Government to work with all schools governance systems across all states to develop a plan of action for further work aimed at ensuring that online information relating to schooling is effectively managed into the future.
- to initiate a series of high priority projects to enable effective management and delivery of the diverse types of online information used in schooling systems across Australia in the areas of Digital repositories, Integrated learning environment, Technical standards, Persistent identifiers Interoperability of student data, National approach to copyright, e-Portfolios, Schools Access Federation

Technical standards for content and systems interoperability are a key strategic element for each of these measures. For more information see: [The Digital Education Revolution](#)

IMS Global Learning Impact Awards – 15 May 2008 – Austin, Texas

Australia scooped some of the top prizes at the international Learning Impact Awards (LIAs) – this is hosted annually by the IMS Global Learning Consortium (IMS GLC). The worldwide competition for high impact use of technology to support and enhance learning saw all three Australian finalists (out of 23 entries) successful as follows:

The *Online Learning Environment* from the University of Wollongong was the winner of the **top Platinum Award** and also picked up a number of specialist category awards. The Online Learning Environment gives Graduate School of Medicine students a single environment from which they can access all resources and functionality relevant to their study.

The Schools Online Curriculum Services (SOCS) from the WA Department

of Education and Training won the **top Gold Award**. SOCS is a 'one stop shop' for teachers, students, administrators and the wider community. It is being progressively made available by Western Australia's Department of Education and Training over a seven year period starting in 2005.

The Learning Federation learning objects and support services was voted the **best Content System**. The Le@rning Federation develops free online curriculum content for all Australian and New Zealand schools and delivers it to educational jurisdictions. The Learning Federation has developed and licensed a pool of over 6000 learning objects ranging from highly interactive content to file media files associated with education metadata. The full list of winners can be found at: [IMS Global](#)

The three Australian entrants were selected from ten nominees at the Regional Finals as part of [IDEA 2007](#), an event sponsored by DEEWR, the University of Southern Queensland and IMS GLC.

ArchiMate to become a global language

Enschede, 28 May 2008 –The ArchiMate language for modelling, analysing and visualising enterprise architectures, was officially transferred to The Open Group. This marks the development of a Dutch creation towards an open standard on a global scale.

Product launches that are postponed or do not stay within budget are a thorn in the side of many an entrepreneur. But how can you in advance the consequences a single decision will have for the rest of the organisation? ArchiMate is an independent description technology used to model and visualise the connections between various business domains. This gives decision-makers a powerful instrument to maintain an overview of the results of changes across the entire width of the organisation, and to schedule and communicate them effectively. "This enables them to quickly respond to different client needs and business goals without the resulting changes leading to chaos," explains Henry Franken, chairman of the new ArchiMate Forum of The Open Group.

The ArchiMate language was developed between 2002 and 2004 by a consortium of enterprises, government organisations and research institutions under the direction of the Telematica Instituut. The ArchiMate Foundation has primarily contributed to the distribution and use of this modelling language. Since last year, this has been an independent organisation, whose goal is the international acceptance of this open standard. According to Marc Lankhorst of the Telematica Instituut, the assistance of The Open Group guarantees ArchiMate a place in history. "We've seen that, with other standards like the Unified Modelling Language for describing software and the TOGAF method for architectural development, the international standardisation of methods and techniques has given a tremendous impulse to the field."

As a global consortium of organisations and knowledge institutions, The Open Group focuses its efforts on improving access to integrated information within and between organisations. To accomplish this, the group uses open standards. Well-known examples of these are the UNIX® operating system and WAP protocol for wireless communication applications. More information can be found at www.archimate.org
<http://www.opengroup.org/overview/what-we-do.htm#2>

Standards and Technical News

PILIN - ANDS Transition Project

“Laying the groundwork for a persistent identifier infrastructure”

The [PILIN](#) (Persistent Identifier Linking Infrastructure) team is currently involved in the government funded ANDS Project. There is a strong ongoing interest from across sectors (incl. e-research, e - learning, vocational education, schools, cultural and collecting organisations and government information custodians) for the adoption and use of persistent identifiers in a sustainable, shared identifier management infrastructure. A collaborative paper is being prepared entitled "Incorporating Persistent Identifiers into a Data Management Plan" (for e-researchers). A limited release to promote feedback is available – to obtain a copy contact: ul@people.net.au

It is anticipated that a National Persistent Identifier Service will be in operation by January 1 2009.

OASIS reference model

OASIS (Organization for the Advancement of Structured Information Standards) has announced a public review period for their new Reference Architecture for SOA 1.0. The Reference Architecture for Service Oriented Architecture addresses the issues involved in constructing, using, and owning an SOA-based system. Conducted by the OASIS SOA-RM TC, this public review ends 8 July. For more information see : [OASIS SOA-RM TC](#)

Events and Reports

- [UK e-Science AHM2008](#) , 8–11 September, Edinburgh, Scotland - a number of workshops incl. 'Profiling UK e-Research: Mapping Communities and Measuring Impacts'
- [e-Research Australasia](#), 28 September - 1 October, Melbourne Australia - a presentation by the e-Framework Implementers Group will document how services in the e-Research space are being used as well as promote the uptake of service usage models
- [Open Access and Research Conference 2008](#), 24 -25 September; Post-Conference Workshops 26 September Brisbane, Australia

JAVA Architectures Special Interest Group (JASIG) Conference

The JASIG Conference, held in St. Paul at the end of May 2008 brought together several of the current or former Andrew Mellon Foundation RIT Strand projects, uPortal, Sakai, Fedora, and the Quali Finance, Research, and Student Projects, together with representatives of other software communities, most notably those around CAS, DSpace and Internet 2. The JISC e-Framework Programme attended and presented a main conference track session, Birds of a Feather (BOF) session, and gave a poster at the main conference reception. Interestingly, several of the current Mellon RIT Projects have espoused SOA based or influenced design methodologies, and it provided a good opportunity to discuss potential collaborations. For further information please contact Alex Hawker (a.hawker@jisc.ac.uk)

TechWatch report call for libraries to adopt 'coherence approach to metadata'

The web is having a profound impact on the role and function of libraries. This, say some commentators, goes beyond 'the demise of the book' and touches on a wider vision for the future and on attempts to understand how libraries are to realise that vision. For more information visit: [JISC](#)

Quick Questionnaire

Newsletter evaluation

We launched the e-Framework newsletter two years ago and are keen to know what you think of it. We're also interested to learn about any

preferred notification methods of e-Framework activities. Your feedback will help us to make the newsletter as useful as possible, and we would appreciate your comments.

This [questionnaire](#) has four questions and should take just a few minutes to complete.

Many thanks for your help!