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Developing Reusable Learning Objects at ITT Dublin via the Irish National Digital Learning Repository

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Aims & Objectives

To develop reusable teaching and learning objects covering core academic skills; to enhance the student learning experience and provide learners with opportunities to develop, reflect and assess their progress as they acquire an independent approach to learning; to facilitate student transition from second to third level and develop information literacy. RLOs include:

- Academic research
- Study skills
- Plagiarism
- Writing skills
- Grammar
- Referencing

Design of RLOs

In designing and developing the RLOs the team considered the needs of a range of learning styles and agreed on the following:

- Sound pedagogical principles
- Constructivist approach
- An active learning experience
- An element of reflective learning
- Requirement for critical thinking and problem solving
- Elements requiring collaboration between students
- Engaging, interactive content
- Available 24/7 as self paced online resources

The interactive software *Articulate Studio 9* was chosen to produce high quality digital material. This software facilitates rapid e-learning development and the creation of engaging courses, presentations and quizzes.

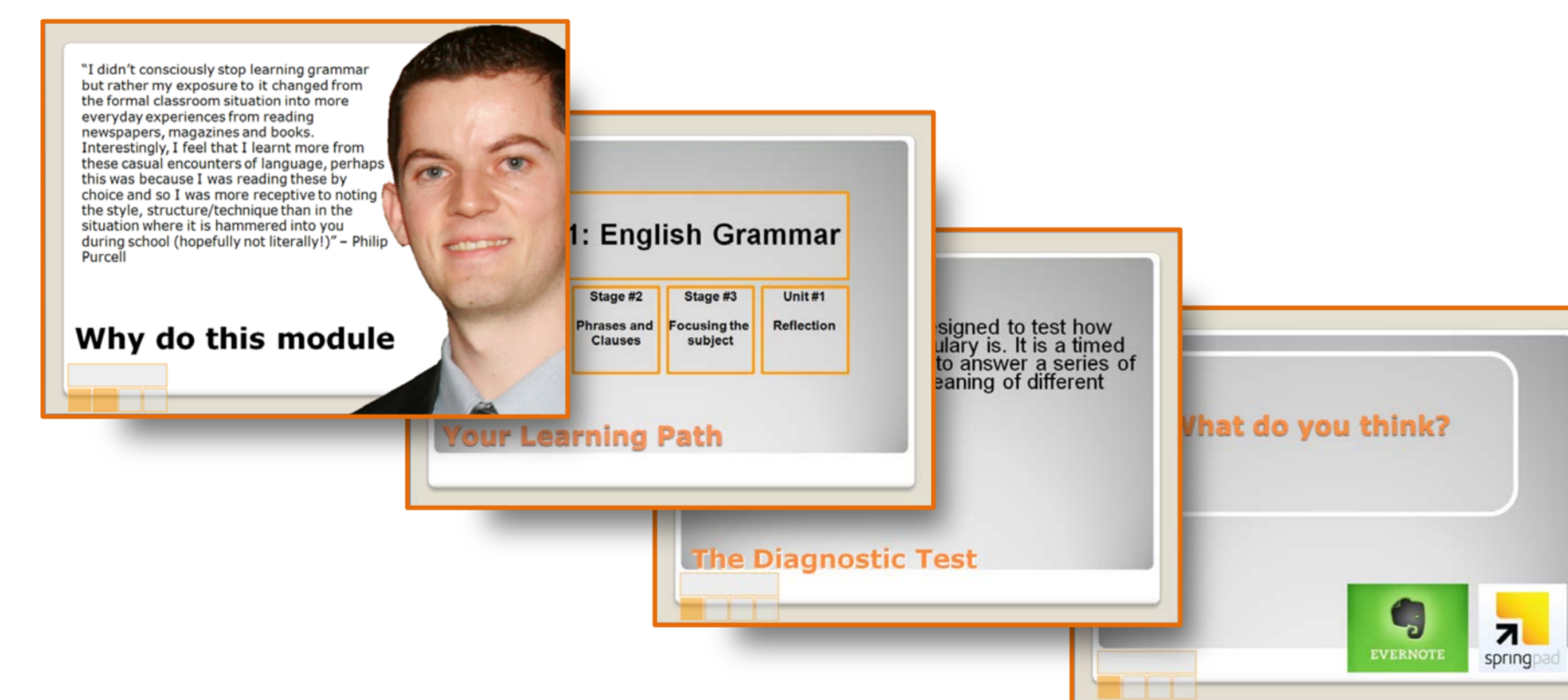
It was intended that the learning objects would:

- Be SCORM 1.2 compliant
- Adhere to best practice international accessibility guidelines
- Be Reusable Learning Objects
- Be hosted digitally via the ITT Dublin library website, the Institute's virtual learning environment (Moodle) and the NDLR

How To resources:



Reinvent resources:



Challenges

- **Time Commitments** – creating resources dependent on student/staff availability
- **Technical issues** – audio and training, managing version control
- **Design** – ensuring tools were interactive, engaging and meeting pedagogical needs
- **Collaboration** – integrating tutorials into academic modules
- **Feedback** – not all usage stats being captured at start of project

What our users say:

“Great tutorial - very good explanation of plagiarism and how to avoid it. Thought the quiz was very useful - meant I could check that I understood the material in the tutorial – thanks”
 2nd year Science student

“This tutorial is an extremely useful resource for my business students. I will also add to my teaching on Moodle. Thanks”
 Business lecturer

“I felt the library tutorial was a great way to find out how to organize and apply the skills necessary in order to complete a literature review. Very easy to use and very helpful”
 3rd year Humanities student

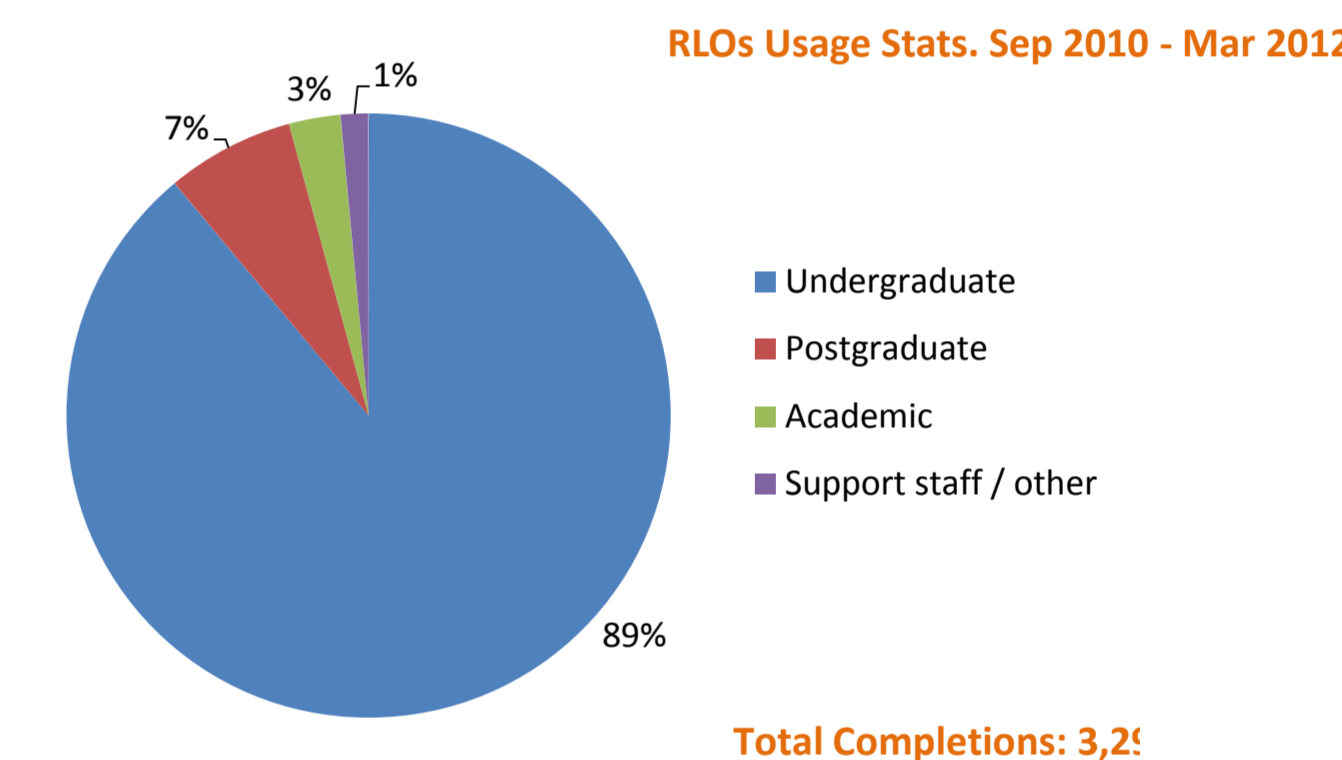
“The study techniques and essay and report writing tutorial has hopefully improved my English writing and report structure”
 1st year Engineering student

Evaluation

Mechanisms used to measure effectiveness of learning objects include:

- Informal feedback
- Library website (Google Analytics)
- Moodle (Institute VLE)
- Online survey tool (SurveyGizmo)
- NDLR Website

Since September 2010 when the first RLO was launched, the tutorials have achieved nearly 3,300 completions with over 2,260 students providing online feedback via SurveyGizmo.



Future Directions

- Additional funding via the NDLR will facilitate delivery of new RLOs
- Embed tutorial into further academic modules
- Increase collaboration with teaching staff
- Tutorials integrated into new Learning to Learn Module – September 2012
- Include audio and tutorial translation
- Ongoing staff training / skills development
- Seek funding for further software provision
- Ongoing development and evaluation of existing tutorials
- Interact and collaborate nationally and internationally

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