Introducing SOL*R

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What is SOL*R?

A service for BC post-secondary educators aimed at facilitating the

- Sharing
- Discovery
- Remixing &
- Reuse

of provincially-funded (and other) learning resources under “open content” style licenses
http://solr.bccampus.ca:8000/
BC Education Perspective

Participation of all BC public post-secondary institutions increases system service efficiencies

Post-secondary system partners collaboratively provide learners with integrated access to online academic and student services

BCcampus Mission

BCcampus is an online service connecting learners and educators to programs and resources from all public post-secondary institutions in BC.
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Technology Perspective

Support and services for an effective systemic use of web-based educational technologies and tools

Portal technology development and deployment is aligned with national and international standards
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Learner Services Perspective

- Course Information
- Application Service
- Registration and Payment
- Programs and Courses
- Library Services
- Bookstore Services

Students are able to access information related to online programs and courses, as well as student services from multiple post-secondary institutions from a single web portal.
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Educator Services Perspective

Participation of educators contributes to a repository of high-quality, system-accessible learning resources.

Online Program Development fund provides funding to BC’s post-secondary institutions to increase courses, programs, technologies, and services to students.

BCcampus Online Community provides a forum for communities of practice to engage in professional development.
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Online Program Development Fund

- Funding to public post-secondary institutions to increase the number of online courses, programs, technologies, and services
- Encourages inter-institutional partnerships
- Resources produced through this fund become accessible system-wide for sharing and reuse.
- Three rounds of the $1.5 million OPDF have taken place — one in 2003, 2004, and 2005. 4th round CFP closes April 28.
BC Commons License

- 1 of 2 license options for OPDF content
- Developers retain IP
- Supports free sharing of content among a regional consortia
- Developers retain commercialization potential outside consortia.
- Reduces effort for permission to reuse
- Requires sharing of modifications of original content with larger community
Some of the challenges we’ve tried to address...
Resource interoperability and granularity…

Learning Resources come in all shapes and sizes:

- Different formats and media types – images, animations, web content, PDFs, Powerpoints, Word docs, course management system exports…

- Different levels of ‘granularity’- concepts, lessons, modules, courses, programs
Different kinds of “Reuse”…

- Instructors need to be able to
  - Reuse content "as is"
  - Wrap existing content "as is" in new contexts (re-aggregate)
  - Alter the content (either for quality, accuracy or to suite their own needs)
Sustainability...

- BCcampus needs to be able to
  - Track content use and reuse
  - Support the cataloguing of content
  - Support versioning of content
  - Secure content which should only be available to validated BC Educators
...and some opportunities we’re trying to enable

- Federation with other repositories
  - Open Archives Initiative
  - Edusource Communications Layer/IMS DRI
  - Z39.50 Catalogues
- Interoperation with different tools
  - Web Services interfaces
- Flexible item definitions and security model
- Coming Soon…
  - Multiple front ends
... and some real obstacles we face

- Reluctant contributors
- The “just one more revision” syndrome
- Cultural antagonism to reusing other peoples’ materials
- The model may just be wrong ;-(
  - The production model
  - The delivery model
  - The sharing model
Next Steps

- Other content welcome!
- Apply for a BCcampus portal account at https://portal.bccampus.ca/
- Contact me at sleslie@bccampus.ca or 250-383-2456