

## **Developing a web-based resource to support the professional development of e-learning practitioners.**

Abstract:

This paper reports on wALTer, an ongoing project that aims to provide a high-quality resource to stimulate and support e-learning professional development in the UK HE sector. The output from the project will be a single web service to support e-learning professionals in practice and in achieving professional recognition. It is aimed at all e-learning professionals involved in the design, development and delivery of e-learning and in particular supports professional accreditation in the field. Cranfield University, in association with the University for Industry and the British Institute for Learning Development, has carried out a comparative survey of the education and training needs of learning designers, together with a survey of what education and training opportunities are available. This research has helped inform the development of the resource. A key aspect of the bid is the involvement and support of the Association for Learning Technologies (ALT). This involvement provides a focus for professional development and therefore a rationale for the design and use of the resource.

The project is a direct response to the UK HEFCE/JISC Strategy for e-Learning (2005) that had in Section 4.4 an action for 'The Academy and JISC to support the work of the Association for Learning Technology and the Staff and Educational Development Association in developing and implementing a professional framework for learning technologists.' An existing web-based resource at Cranfield University, The Online Learning Knowledge Garden, is being developed and extended using portal, wiki and content management applications. The paper reports project activities and progress to date, including the development of an ontology, metadata schema and work flows for content management.

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