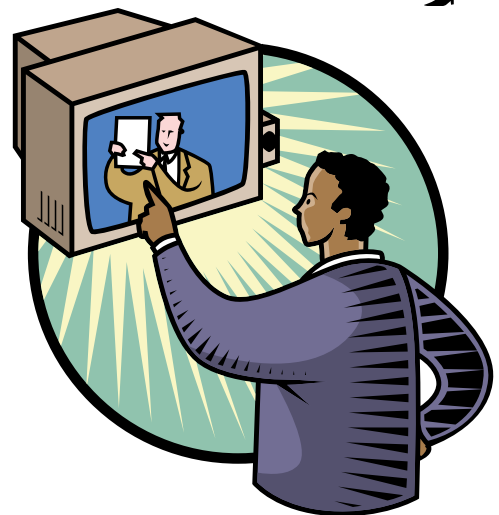
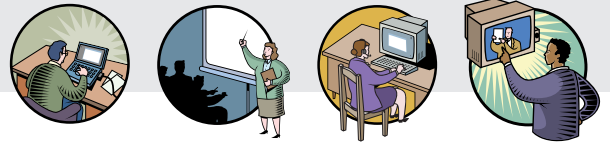


Making your Learning Package Reusable





Making your Learning Package Reusable

While developing your learning package, it is worth considering how to make your materials more reusable so that another tutor could use them in their own educational context. The following suggestions are not always possible to achieve 100%, but anything you can do to make it easier for all or some of your learning package to be used by others is appreciated.

Hints and Tips

The learning package should be based on well-defined learning objectives; you should already have defined these learning objectives (see **Identifying Package to be Developed** guidelines). The learning objectives should cover what you want to cover as part of your course, but not mention the course itself.

Your learning package should be self-contained, capable of being used independently or in conjunction with other learning objects. This means that the learning package should be context free. There should be no references in the materials to things specific to your Institution like course titles or tutor names. There should be no references to things specific to your VLE (Virtual Learning Environment). What you can do however is provide any context you need for your learners around the learning package. For example, you may give specific case studies pertinent to your course that illustrate the more general principles described in the reusable learning object. These extra materials themselves may not be reusable by others, but they will make your materials relevant to your learners while ensuring some parts of your learning package can easily be used by others.

Something that may not be in your control are the technical aspects of your learning package, particularly if you are developing your package in a VLE. There are international interoperability standards (like IMS or SCORM) for building learning packages that allow your package to be easily moved around standards-compliant applications (like VLEs). If your VLE is standards-compliant then you should be able to export your own package and import it into another VLE or digital repository for others to use. However, this is more for your technical support team to worry about rather than yourself.

Another thing which will make your package more reusable is having information associated with it, allowing other users to discover your object if they search for it on a repository or database using specific keywords, in the same way that you did when looking for materials for your package (**Identifying Existing Materials** guidelines). This information about your learning package is called metadata and you can find out more about this interoperability standards at <http://www.cetis.ac.uk>

These guidelines were produced as part of the JISC-funded project X4L Healthier Nation. You can find out about JISC at <http://www.jisc.ac.uk/>, the X4L Programme at http://www.jisc.ac.uk/index.cfm?name=programme_x4l and X4L Healthier Nation at <http://extranet.lauder.ac.uk/x4l/>.