

## IVINURS CASE STUDY



### THE CHALLENGE

IVINURS aims to provide high quality nursing education via web-based resources. Different nursing curricula and regulations in each country make it inappropriate to create and manage courses online, but IVINURS recognised that there was still a place for the development of a wide range of learning resources and the dissemination and adoption of best practice, and that a central repository of learning objects would enable IVINURS to meet its objectives of delivering high quality learning content that was independent of both the learning environment, and the regulatory and educational framework of the partner organisations.

#### BACKGROUND

Initiation of IVINURS was principally funded by Scottish Enterprise, and was formally started at a conference in Edinburgh, Jan 2004 which endorsed the concept of providing quality e-learning resources for nurses worldwide.

IVINURS has 12 founding partners from across the world including the US, Europe, Australia and the Far East. The core team is based at the University of Dundee.

IVINURS is built on the principles of collaboration and

During the initial discussions with partners, it was clear that they did not want to be dictated to in terms of the authoring tools used to create learning objects, and also they wanted the freedom to deliver content through a wide range of learning media, including any virtual learning environment (VLE)

The objective was therefore to find a solution that would allow contributors to share content without needing to use specific authoring tools, and for users to be able to access the content easily.

#### THE SOLUTION

In looking for an appropriate solution, IVINURS was aware of other organisations that had chosen their

learning object repository (LOR) from Intrallect. IntraLibrary met their criteria of being independent of authoring tools, and accessible with any web browser. It also met another key requirement of ease of use.

In addition, IntraLibrary stores content in a form that allows sharing, adaptation and re-use, to allow the partners to submit, use and adapt content to their local needs and cultures, allowing them to build courses relevant to their own curricula and regulations.

Discussions with Intrallect staff gave IVINURS confidence that the solution proposed would meet their needs, grow in line with their forecasts, and support their partners through launch, implementation and beyond.

All the partner organisations were happy with the proposed solution, and a licence to trial intraLibrary for an initial period of 1 year was obtained in March 2005. Support through the implementation phase was key to getting the system up and running in the shortest possible time. The trial period was successful, and a perpetual licence was bought in March 2006.

Since launch, the IVINURS repository has acquired approximately 350 learning objects – some as simple as pictures, others more complex units comprising a suite of training materials for a wide range of nursing issues. These have been created by around 20 contributors, with users numbering in the region of 150.

Classifications to suit partner needs have been configured into intraLibrary, based on Nursing and Education taxonomies. Set up took a little longer than expected, but the work put in prior to going live was definitely worth the effort. According to Linda Martindale of IVINURS "Intrallect had advised us that it was better to determine how the system would be configured before we took delivery, and with their help we were able to be up and running in the shortest possible time."

Workflow, the process of uploading, cataloguing and publishing content onto intraLibrary has been deliberately kept simple during the early stages of the project. As this is rolled out to the partner organisations the simplicity of the system is seen as an advantage in making sure appropriate content is uploaded in the correct manner, with full awareness of rights management.

It became clear to Linda Martindale that using intraLibrary was starting to encourage the sharing and re-use ethos when during a presentation of hand-washing techniques to the Clinical Skills group at Dundee's Ninewells hospital, a lecturer who saw the video contacted IVINURS to get access to the video for further use. "This is entirely the sort of thing we want to encourage" said Linda. "The video had been developed in Belfast, and was relevant in Dundee. This is happening more and more, saving time, money and improving the quality of the learning environment."

## FUTURE

Further developments of intraLibrary will be based around the anticipated increase in partners within IVINURS, the desire to expand the repository content and to ensure it retains its flexibility. An IVINURS-specific taxonomy is currently being developed to fully reflect the requirements of their partner organisations.

By the time of the launch of IVINURS 1G, towards the end of 2007, the aim is to have between 750 and 1,000 learning assets, which will be available to all users, as well as being aggregated into around 100 learning objects. Additionally, web-based learning objects will be identified and referenced, directing users towards verified web content to support their learning requirements.

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