

Constructing High Quality Learning Settings

Barry Harper

Abstract

The use of ICT's in the design of learning in the higher education sector is becoming an important skill for all academics. With the range of 'quality' measures being implemented and forshadowed by government, including dollars linked to student learning outcomes, all academics will be increasingly asked to examine their instructional strategies and to offer quality learning opportunities. Opportunities to incorporate quality learning strategies supported by ICT's as part of the learning setting have been limited by poor quality tools that have not supported instructors in the process of learning design and a lack of reusable resources to allow rapid construction of learning environments. The outcomes of a recent national project on reusable learning designs and the development of international repositories of learning objects will offer instructors in all disciplines the ability to rapidly construct high quality learning settings.

Biography

Professor Barry Harper is the Dean of Education and Director of the Educational Media Laboratory (em-Lab) at the University of Wollongong. His work focuses on researching the design, development, implementation, and evaluation of multimedia learning environments.

The Educational Media Laboratory is the focus of a graduate teaching and research program in educational technology, incorporating the development and research of innovative, technology supported products based on flexibly delivered teaching programs. The laboratory has an international reputation for innovative, ground breaking interface and information design; winning over 20 national and international awards for innovation and excellence, including European Multimedia Association awards and a British Academy Award for projects such as Investigating Lake Iluka, Exploring the Nardoo and Stagestruck. The awards have been for both research and commercial products. Recently Barry has been working in the areas of learning designs and learning objects with an emphasis on design tools for high quality learning environments and reusable resources.