



Breaking the Barriers

Welcome to the **October 2006** edition newsletter of the Centre for Inter-Professional e-Learning (CIPeL). This is distributed electronically twice a year to inform the inter-professional community on key activities that have taken place in the CIPeL; and to disseminate information that may be of interest. For further information on any of the news featured or to subscribe to the newsletter please contact Marie Krumins, Centre Manager at marie.krumins@coventry.ac.uk, telephone 024 7688 7810. Please also visit our web site for updates at www.cipel.ac.uk

Update in-brief

The move...

The CIPeL has been extremely busy over the last 8 months, with both partners (Coventry and Sheffield Hallam Universities) allocating capital monies to refurbish new office space, meeting areas and resource/training rooms.



Pictured above: Sheffield Hallam (left) and Coventry new CIPeL locations.

Sheffield Hallam (SHU) have moved into a villa and converted loft space to create new offices for the CIPeL team, whilst Coventry (CU) have refurbished a suite of rooms in one of the main campus buildings. It is hoped this new space will provide creative areas for the team to work in; and will also be used to deliver staff development workshops and a dedicated area for collaborators to work with us in developing learning objects.

The resource rooms have been fully equipped with new technology, including a 3D stereoscopic projection system!

Staff update...

Karen Stasi (based at SHU) and Rossana Espinoza-Ramos (based at CU) joined us in September 2006. Both PhD students, they will be focusing on the student and staff experiences of inter-professional e-learning.

Alex Olufajude joined the CIPeL team at SHU in September 2006 as their new Administration Assistant.

Claire Hannah started at SHU in October 2006 as an IT student intern and will be assisting secondees with learning object production.

Elinor Clarke is also a new addition to the CIPeL team as an Associate Director based at CU. Elinor's role will specifically be taking a lead in special interest group co-ordination, setting up service user panels and student internships at CU, developing links with further education colleges, creation of learning objects and participating in dissemination activities.

And finally, Pat Bluteau who was originally a part time Associate Director of the CIPeL team at CU has now become full time. Pat is focussing on secondee support, creation of learning objects and learning object evaluation.

Profiles of CIPeL staff can be found at www.cipel.ac.uk

CIPeL developments...

- ❖ The team are still busy creating a number of learning objects for the repository. Over 25 secondments are now in place and more opportunities for secondments have been recently advertised. **If you have an idea for a learning object** that you would like to discuss, please contact the Centre Manager (contact details top left).
- ❖ The new repository to hold CIPeL learning objects has been purchased and initial pilot undertaken. Learning Edge was identified as the most beneficial package for the team to use which will be launched in the New Year.
- ❖ Student interns are currently being recruited to pilot and test the learning objects and other e-activities.
- ❖ The CIPeL research and evaluation strategy has now been completed and ethical approval document produced. A protocol for awarding small research grants is currently under progress and will be announced soon.

Special Interest Group

The CIPeL team formally launched its first Special Interest Group (SIG) for Inter-Professional e-Learning on 6 September 2006 at Coventry University. The SIG was attended by thirty visitors, eleven CIPeL staff and eighteen secondees' and provided a forum for colleagues to discuss inter-professional learning and the utilisation of information technology in Higher Education.

A welcome address was given by Dr Linda Merriman (Coventry University) and Professor Linda Lang (Sheffield Hallam University). This first meeting launched the SIG, identified CIPeL staff and their roles and responsibilities as well as interests and experience in inter-professional e-learning. A data base of Special Interest Group members was established and the web page and CIPeL contact details circulated.



Pictured above: Special Interest Group 6 September

A key strand of the work of CIPeL is the production of e-learning objects to support and enhance inter-professional learning in health and social care. A presentation by Helen Bywaters and Pat Bluteau contextualised the creation of inter-professional learning objects within the faculties of Health at Sheffield and Coventry. They identified how the learning objects are utilised in the education and training of health and social care professionals at both universities.

The responsibility for ensuring the development of sufficient, valid and reliable learning objects resides with the CIPeL staff. The production of specific learning objects is achieved in two ways: individual CIPeL staff developing (with or without collaboration) a learning object, or by secondment of academics to work collaboratively with CIPeL to produce a specific learning object.

The SIG showcased a display of the secondees' posters; the poster presentations enabled the secondees' to share the process of developing inter-professional learning objects and to address questions from SIG attendees.

The secondees' also demonstrated their learning objects utilising the e-facilities provided by CIPeL. The posters, booklet and demonstrations by Secondees' were supported and facilitated by Luke Miller and Paul Summers (Learning Technologists).

In the plenary (chaired by Dr Lynn Clouder and Dr Frances Gordon) questions posed by SIG members surrounded the learning repository, possible secondments from across the UK to develop learning objects and the availability and reusability of learning objects. The meeting was closed by Dr Frances Gordon who informed us that the next meeting of the Special Interest Group is to be held at Sheffield Hallam on 20 March 2006. This will take the focus of inter-professional mentorship, followed by a number of workshops facilitated by the CIPeL team. To register your interest in the SIG or for further information you should e-mail marie.krumins@coventry.ac.uk or visit www.cipel.ac.uk

Out and About!

The CIPeL team will be out and about disseminating information about inter-professional e-learning at the following events:

Pat Bluteau will be presenting a poster and delivering a workshop on developing inter-professional e-learning (opportunities and challenges), at the Assessing Inter-Professional Learning Workshop in Aberdeen on the 3 November.

Elinor Clarke will be presenting a paper on Complicated Labour; Delivering Inter-Professional Learning Objects at the International Conference on Multimedia and ICTs in Education. Seville, Spain 22 – 25 November.

Lynn Clouder will be presenting a paper on the CIPeL collaboration to a higher education audience at the Society for Research into Higher Education Annual Conference, 12-14 December.

Frances Gordon is this year providing consultancy regarding the implementation of the IPL education framework devised by the Canadian government's Office of Nursing Policy. This involves work to assist thinking through a strategy and implementation plan for developing integrated services with: Calgary Health Region nursing and practice leaders; the Calgary Health Educators Alliance (CHEA); the Director of Inter-professional Education and Workforce Utilization in CHEA and the Chief Nursing Officer Portfolio Leadership Team in November.

Frances has also been invited to be involved in facilitating a pre-conference workshop on IPL education at The Network: Towards Unity for Health (TUFH) 2007 Annual Conference in Kampala, Uganda.

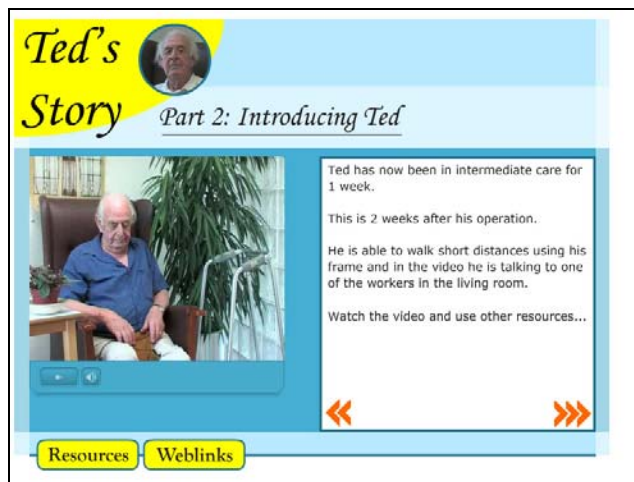
CIPeL Learning Objects in Progress...

The CIPeL team have been busy creating learning objects for their new repository through a number of secondments. Please find two examples explained and the progress we have made on them below. **If you are interested** in collaborating with the CIPeL in creating learning objects or if you have any ideas you would like to see come to life, please contact Marie Krumins, Centre Manager at marie.krumins@coventry.ac.uk, telephone 024 7688 7810.

Teds Story...

Rob Appleyard and Sue Walsh at Sheffield Hallam have produced a series of scenarios depicting patient journeys which are used in an inter-professional module called *Collaborative Working for Professional Practice*.

Ted's story is a case study of an elderly man who has had a hip replacement and has a number of additional issues, including depression.



Pictured above: Snapshot of Ted's Story

The primary aim of the learning object is to help students develop skills and approaches for effective collaborative practice and patient-centred care. Students are also encouraged to critically reflect on their own and others' performance in contributing to the discussion.

Students are presented with an interactive case scenario showing Ted's pathway through health and social care services. In small inter-professional groups students respond to a range of dilemmas and discuss the issues raised and how best to proceed.

The whole scenario is divided into 7 small learning objects. Each object comprises of video clips of Ted, talking about his feelings and experiences; links to relevant resources and documents (word documents, PDF's, diagrams); links to online documents and websites and the tasks to be completed in Blackboard discussion forums.

The inter-professional online groups work through the seven parts of the scenario. At each stage, students discuss the issues through their Blackboard discussion group and decide how best to proceed. Online facilitators release passwords to open up the subsequent learning objects when they are happy with the group's discussion and progress.

Alongside this, students maintain a blog to critically reflect on the learning through this process and both these activities contribute to their final assessment.

Management Journeys...

Elinor Clarke and Rebecca Khanna at Coventry University are currently working on producing a learning object entitled "Management Journeys" for inter-professional use on undergraduate health care programmes.

Specifically four management journeys that impact on patient care will be identified; students will already be familiar with patient journeys and able to build on their earlier experiences of e-learning. Primarily it is intended that the learning object will be utilised within the Faculty's common core module entitled Leadership and Change in Healthcare Management to 'trigger' (Davidson & Courtney, 2004) active engagement in the learning experience and assist in the fulfilment of learning outcomes.

The content, based on current healthcare policy and a variety of management theories, will predominantly involve scenario led exploration. A strong emphasis will be placed on the influences of context and the inter-professional response within each scenario. Problem based triggers are being incorporated to enable students to generate new understandings and possibilities for resolution with identified action. We are hoping to illustrate the scenarios by adopting a story board approach.

Course Genie is the envisaged platform; however, we are currently working with the Learning technologist (Paul Summers) in deciding if this is the appropriate software. The secondment is due to be complete in December 2006.