

Recommending Learning Objects on the Educational Semantic Web

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Abstract. Over the past five years, there has been tremendous interest around the world in the concept of a reusable learning object. Learning objects promise to significantly reduce the time and cost required for developing instructional materials. However, present technologies such as metadata standards are unable to support the kinds of retrieval and reuse scenarios that would be beneficial to instructional designers and learners. This paper examines various weaknesses of the learning objects' approach and proposes to solve some of them by using ontologies on the educational Semantic Web. It also describes a recommendation system that facilitates the intelligent retrieval of learning objects based on different types of ontologies. The paper compares the recommendation system with other search systems such as Google and Wikipedia and preliminary evaluation results indicate that the system is indeed capable of more sophisticated searching and retrieval of learning objects than what is currently available.