The Evolution of MERLOT

Sorel Reisman, PhD

MERLOT Managing Director
California State University, Office of the Chancellor
Professor, Information Systems
California State University, Fullerton
Brief History of MERLOT

• 1997 - MERLOT developed and hosted at Cal State University, Sonoma
• 1999 - University of Georgia System, Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Ed, Univ of North Carolina System, and California State University System formed MERLOT ‘cooperative’
• 2000
  - January - MERLOT cooperative sponsored 48 Biology, Physics, Business and Teacher Education faculty (12 from each system) to develop peer review standards/processes for on-line teaching-learning materials
  - April - other higher ed sys/institutions invited to join MERLOT cooperative.
  - July - 23 higher ed systems/institutions of higher education had become MERLOT Institutional Partners
  - New release of MERLOT website
• 2006 (August)
  - 3rd release of MERLOT of website
• 2007 (June)
  - 47,000+ members and 17,000 materials
• 2009 (November) - Content Builder part of MERLOT (from Carnegie)
• 2011-2012
  • Over 100,000 members and 35,000 materials.
  • Released Translation Tool
  • Content Builder and Web Services upgrades and new Web services
• October 2013
  • MERLOT II released at Educause 2013. Over 42,500 materials and 117,000 members
OPEN EDUCATION RESOURCE REPOSITORY*

- Registered Members
  - 122,000 ~ growing @ 1,000/month

- Materials - categorized by discipline
  - 44,700+ Materials in MERLOT
  - 3,800 Peer Reviewed materials
  - 13,600 materials in “Personal Collections”
  - 5,570 materials with member comments

- Usage
  ~ 90,000 average unique visits per month

* April 20, 2014
MERLOT’s VISION

Premiere online international community of faculty, staff, and student Users, Members, and Consortium Partners from around the world who share their pedagogy and repository-based Learning Objects, Open Courses, Open Access Textbooks, and Open Access Journal articles
What Is Unique about the MERLOT Collection?

- An OER with 44,000+ teaching and learning materials

- Peer-Reviewed Materials
  - Not a Google search
  - Unique peer review by discipline editors and boards
  - GrapeCamp training and QM for online courses

- Across Disciplines

- World-wide, Multi-language

- All levels of Education
Anyone can search and browse...

To contribute, you must register in MERLOT

It's FREE!
As a MERLOT Member you can:

- Create personal collections
- Contribute materials, comments, and learning exercises
- Develop a personal profile and create a CV
- Share online expertise with others
- Receive peer recognition
- Become a guest speaker
- Join an Editorial Board - Become a Peer Reviewer
- Find others in a discipline or affiliation
You can search and find members and materials in MERLOT in any language.
Advanced Material Search

Admin Search:
Active/Inactive: Active Only

Partner Search:
Partner Only: 

Find material by attributes:

Keywords: 

Title: 

URL: 

Description: 

Community: Any

Category: Select a category...

Language: Any

Material type: Any

Technical format: Any

Audience: Any

Find mobile apps that you can download to your mobile device:

<table>
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<th>Other</th>
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Advanced Member Search

Admin Search:
Active/Inactive: Active Only

Find Member by keyword:
Keywords:

Find Member by personal information:
First name:
Last name:
Email:

Find Member by Affiliation Name
Affiliation Name:
Address:
Language:
Associations:
Member Types: Any

Or by Affiliation Category/Location
Affiliation Category: Select...

Find Member by date registered:
All
The Past 7 Days
January 1 1997 to November 12 2013
DNA from the Beginning

DNA from the Beginning is an animated tutorial on DNA, genes and heredity. The science behind each concept is explained using... see more

Material Type: Simulation
Author: Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory
Date Added: Apr 11, 2000  Date Modified: Dec 31, 2012

DNA Structure

A 3-dimensional, interactive, animated nonlinear tutorial on the structure of DNA. The user can choose among several views... see more

Material Type: Tutorial
Author: Eric Martz
Date Added: Mar 06, 2000  Date Modified: Feb 06, 2012

WEHI-TV DNA Molecular Animation

Videos of computer animations of DNA, chromatin, DNA replication, transcription, recombinant DNA and sickle cell hemoglobin... see more

Material Type: Animation
Author: Drew Berry
Date Added: Mar 25, 2008  Date Modified: Jan 08, 2013

DNA Structure 1.0

A very well designed, interactive, 3-D tutorial on the basic structure of DNA. Covers the nature of the double helix, base... see more

Material Type: Tutorial
Author: Frieda Reichman
Date Added: Mar 06, 2000  Date Modified: Aug 18, 2012

Biological animations and tutorials

Key biological concepts animated as narrated and stepped tutorials, along with quizzes.

Material Type: Animation
Author: Sumanas, Inc.
Date Added: Jun 23, 2005  Date Modified: Dec 06, 2012

Virtual Bacterial Identification Lab

A virtual lab where you carry out the sequential steps to isolate bacterial, purify DNA, PCR amplify the DNA, sequence the 16S... see more

Material Type: Simulation
DNA from the Beginning

[Editor's Choice]

DNA from the Beginning is an animated tutorial on DNA, genes and heredity. The science behind each concept is explained using...

Material Type: Simulation
Author: Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory
Date Added: Apr 11, 2000  Date Modified: Nov 11, 2013

Crisis at Fort Sumter

[Editor's Choice]

“Crisis at Fort Sumter” is an interactive historical simulation and decision making program. Using text, images, and sound,...

Material Type: Simulation
Author: Richard E. Latner
Date Added: Mar 25, 2003  Date Modified: Nov 04, 2013

LangMedia Foreign Language Media Archive

[Editor's Choice]

This site presents information on culture and language in different regions of the world as well as videos and audio taken...

Material Type: Simulation
Author: Lang Media
Date Added: Jan 10, 2002  Date Modified: Oct 13, 2013

Virtual Chemistry Laboratory

[Editor's Choice]


DNA from the Beginning

Location: Go to Material or Mirror Site

Material Type: Simulation
Technical Format: Excel

Date Added to MERLOT: April 11, 2000
Date Modified in MERLOT: November 11, 2013

Author: Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory
Submitter: Jeff Bell

Description:
DNA from the Beginning is an animated tutorial on DNA, genes and heredity. The science behind each concept is explained using animations related to DNA topics, an image gallery, video interviews, problems, biographies, and links related to DNA. There are three sections, Classical Genetics, Molecules of Genetics and Organization of...

Keywords:
genetics, DNA, History about DNA, genes, DNA models

Browse in Categories:
- Science and Technology / Agriculture and Environmental Sciences / Animal Sciences
- Social Sciences / Psychology / Biological
- Social Sciences / Psychology / Biological / Evolution and Behavior
- Science and Technology / Communication Sciences and Disorders / Foundations and Related
- Science and Technology / Biology / Genetics
- Science and Technology / Biology / Molecular Biology
- Science and Technology / Agriculture and Environmental Sciences / Plant Sciences

Primary Audience: College General Ed
Mobile Compatibility: Not specified at this time
Technical Requirements: Flash 3 and RealAudio
Language: English
Cost Involved: no
Source Code Available: no
Accessibility Information Available: no
Copyright: yes
Discuss for Biological animations and tutorials

Got an idea, question, or debate inspired by this material? Add your comments to the discussion below.

Add a new comment

Say something

Got notified by email when your comment is replied to

Susana Marquez (Faculty)

outstanding

Used in classroom

Reply  Like [0]
Other Digital Library Partners you can search
In about 20 seconds, 25 materials from each of the 12 digital libraries are delivered
Add to the (MERLOT) Collection
All You Need Are a Few Details

Contribute a Material

Step 1
Title & URL

Step 2
Description

Step 3
Category

Step 4
Author

Step 5
Optional Information

Contributing a material to MERLOT is easy. Start here with the material’s title and its location online. Starred(*) fields are required.

As a MERLOT Partner, you can add a URL link to MERLOT or upload a file for viewing by MERLOT partners only. To contribute a URL or file, click the appropriate option below, then enter the URL or locate the file and select to upload.

URL or File selector:  ○ URL  ○ Upload a File

* Title: 

* URL: http://

Mirror Site URL: [test]

Display Image URL: (100 x 100 pixels) [test]

Partner Only:  ☐
Content Builder Overview

• Carnegie Foundation KEEP Toolkit
• Quick and easy way to create [hosted] learning materials

• A way to ensure pedagogical context and wrap it around/develop a learning material
• Take content and create curriculum in a web page
• Provide instructional value to a learning material
• A place to [reliably] store learning materials
How To Access the Content Builder
Why use this mobile app?

Please use this section to briefly describe what motivated you to use this mobile app in your teaching and your students' learning. For example, you may want to discuss a particular learning problem that your students face, or difficulty in teaching a particular concept that is hard for students to visualize.

Why "being mobile" leads to better learning?

Describe why the mobile features of this online resource are important for students learning. Is it very important to bring the learning resource out of the classroom into the students' environment where students can align their learning with the environment in which they are living? Is the flexibility of using the resource at the students' convenience key? Are the different ways students can use the touch screen and interact with the learning resource more engaging for students learning?

Be sure this section reflects your experiences and your voice. This is a first person story.

Learning Outcomes and Activities

Describe how you use the resource with your students. If it is a part of a larger assignment, describe the assignment and other resources that are necessary. It is important to explain how the learning aligns with the curriculum goals of your program.

Student Reactions to Learning with Mobile Apps

Describe what your students say or how they responded to using the mobile app. Their reactions can include responses to the subject matter as well as the mobility of the learning. Feel free to include student quotes. The key is to try and capture the students' voices.

You can have your students write comments about their learning with the mobile app in MERLOT. Students need to become members of MERLOT (it's free and easy) and then they can add their own reflections. You can add the link to the students' comments about the mobile app here. Just click on the "Edit Files/Links" button below.

Impact of Use on Teaching and Learning
Usability Evaluation of Tablet PCs as Software Development and Deployment Platforms

Franz J Kurfess, Computer Science Department, Cal Poly San Luis Obispo

The usability of tablet PCs for the development and deployment of software is the core question in a project conducted by Franz J. Kurfess at Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo. Supported by an HP Technology for Teaching grant awarded in May 2005, students in Software Engineering and User Interaction Design classes investigated if the use of a computer that is centered around direct, on-screen manipulation makes a significant difference for the development and deployment of software. The main outcome is that tablet PCs are very useful for certain activities and stages in the software development process, such as drawing sketches and diagrams, taking notes, and augmenting existing documents. Their most beneficial use is in situations where conventional computers can be used as the main software development stations, and tablet PCs when mobility, sketching, or annotating are important.

Rationale

Our initial assumption that the use of tablet PCs will be beneficial for students and instructors has been confirmed. Informal observations, focus groups, and questionnaires identified the following as the most important benefits:

- Tablet PCs are excellent tools for certain activities critical in the development of software specifically, and of products where computers are used during the design and development stages in general. Tablet PCs enable developers and others to be very mobile, which can be critical in situations like the acquisition of requirements from users. Their pen-based direct manipulation interface works very well for drawing, sketching, and annotation, making it very convenient to generate documents directly during meetings or work sessions. These documents can be shared easily, and often can serve as the basis for more detailed and refined work.

- The different interaction paradigm makes students reconsider many of their assumptions about the design and implementation of computer-based systems. Since they actually work with a device based on this new paradigm, students do not only know about it but have actual practical experience with it. In addition, they acquire a wider perspective on the design of user interfaces, which otherwise is often implicitly dominated by the conventional, mouse and keyboard-oriented methods.

- Some activities during the design, development, and implementation phases can be performed more naturally with a tablet PC (precise direct manipulation of objects). This is especially beneficial when drawings and sketches are essential techniques, such as during discussions with users or other developers, or in the early stages of trying out
Usability Evaluation of Tablet PCs as Software Development and Deployment Platforms

Creative Commons support
Common Cartridge export

Rationale

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- The different interaction paradigm makes students reconsider many of their assumptions about the design and implementation of computer-based systems. Since they actually work with a device based on this new paradigm, students do not only know about it, but have actual practical experience with it. In addition, they acquire a wider perspective on the design of user interfaces, which otherwise is often implicitly dominated by the conventional, mouse and keyboard-oriented methods.

- Some activities during the design, development, and implementation phases can be performed more naturally with a tablet PC (precise direct manipulation of objects). This is especially beneficial when drawings and sketches are essential techniques, such as during discussions with users or other developers, or in the early stages of trying out different approaches.
And There’s Still So Much More to MERLOT...
Mobile Search Apps

- MERLOT OER Search apps for iOS, Android, and BB devices.
  - Locate materials on the go.
  - Search all of MERLOT or a narrow search of Open options - Journals, textbooks or Courses.
Welcome to MERLOT’s Portal on Mobile Learning - with the tools, resources, and ideas you need to help develop, discover, and/or use mobile computing in your teaching and learning activities.

- **FIND mobile apps** that have educational uses in different disciplines
- **FIND information about mobile learning** strategies for institutions and individuals
- **LEARN how to leverage a wide range of MERLOT services** to support your mobile learning initiative or individual practices
- **USE MERLOT’s Mobile Learning Flyer** to market these FREE service
- **USE “Teaching With Mobile Apps” template** with the FREE MERLOT Content Builder tool to capture and share your pedagogies for effectively using mobile apps in education. Begin with the **MERLOT Content Builder QUICK GUIDE** to get started.

**MERLOT Mobile Apps are Here!** MERLOT’s own mobile apps are available for your iPads, iPhones, Android devices, and Blackberrys. [Learn more](#).

The Tennessee Board of Regents – a Platinum Partner in MERLOT – is a national leader in mobile learning with their [Emerging Technologies and Mobilization Initiative](#). We are grateful to the Tennessee Board of Regents for their collaboration and support in establishing this portal and in discovering ways for putting educational innovations into practice.

If you have any questions, contact the [Editor](#) of the Mobile Learning Portal.
Web Services, LMS’s and more...
Access www.merlot.org directly

**OR**

Use MERLOT Web Services to access MERLOT functions via alternate website

Basic Search, Advanced Members and Material search, Register (forgot password/username), Contribute a Material, Member Comments, Personal Collections, Federated Search and Register in MERLOT
Integrating MERLOT’s Web Services

MERLOT Web services are being used in LMS’s such as Moodle, ANGEL, D2L & Blackboard
Participa de la Primera Comunidad de Habla Hispana de MERLOT:
Recursos Educativos Multimedia para el Aprendizaje y Enseñanza en Línea

"Una herramienta práctica para mejorar la calidad de la docencia y lograr un aprendizaje significativo"

MERLOT (Multimedia Educational Resources for Learning and Online Teaching) es una comunidad virtual abierta y gratuita destinada a promover en los profesionales, estudiantes y administrativos de la educación superior, el interés por compartir recursos de aprendizaje y experiencias en el uso de tecnología en procesos educativos.

Pertenecer a la comunidad MERLOT, le permitirá encontrar recursos multimedia de enseñanza y aprendizaje, revisados por expertos y/o recomendados por otros usuarios. Además, al incorporarse como miembro de MERLOT-CHILE, la primera comunidad en español de MERLOT, podrá compartir conocimientos y experiencias con educadores de todos los países de habla hispana.

En MERLOT encontrará materiales de aprendizaje de diversas disciplinas y áreas de enseñanza, de gran calidad y facilidad de uso, como por ejemplo: simulaciones, casos de uso, presentaciones, tutorías, cursos online, herramientas de evaluación, artículos de revistas especializadas de acceso libre y materiales de referencia aportados por docentes de las mejores instituciones educativas internacionales.

Todo esto para que usted pueda innovar gratuitamente y mejorar su desempeño en la sala de clase.

Una vez registrado como miembro, el usuario podrá contribuir con sus propios materiales, construyendo colecciones personales de recursos y desarrollando una red de contactos con profesionales de su especialidad en todo el mundo.

Le invitamos a explorar nuestro sitio y contribuir a mejorar la calidad del proceso enseñanza-aprendizaje del mundo hispano hablante.

Contáctanos en merlot@inacap.cl
MERLOT Communities
Discipline Community Portal

Welcome to the MERLOT Business Portal, where we share:

- Tips for using technology to teach business courses
- People who participate in our community of educators
- Learning Materials that you can use in your classes
- Beyond MERLOT includes resources outside MERLOT that can help you as a faculty member
- Showcase features some of our award winning websites in the business discipline

MERLOT members are welcome to suggest content for this page in our business portal. Please send your ideas to the Business Portal Editor, Theresa Flaherty at flaherty@imu.edu.

Tips for using technology to teach business

Modules for Advanced Teaching Needs

For general pedagogical issues, visit the MERLOT Pedagogy Portal. You will find materials organized by the Teaching Process: Learners and Learning, Course/Instructional Design, Teaching Strategies, Teaching Challenges, and Assessment.

Get involved with the people in MERLOT business

You can become involved as a:

- Peer Reviewer
- Submitter of Materials
- Author of Materials
- Presenter at MERLOT International Conference (MiC)
- Virtual Speakers Bureau Member

Find learning materials for your classes in the following business categories:

- Accounting (332)
- Business Law (31)
- E-Commerce (94)
- Economics (380)
- Finance (239)
- General (159)
- International Business (444)
- Management (666)
- MIS (213)
- Marketing (498)
- Professional Coaching (89)

Find valuable resources beyond MERLOT that will help you in your business teaching career.

Professional Organizations
- Business Education Journals
- Discussion Forums
- Teaching Resources
- Calls for Papers

Showcase features award winning business modules.


The 2008 Volunteer of the Year is awarded to Ingrid Ulsrud from the University of Wisconsin - Eau Claire.
Welcome to Affordable Learning Solutions

The CSU’s Affordable Learning Solutions Campaign is designed to enable faculty to choose and provide quality educational content that is more affordable for their students. CSU students typically pay over $800 per year for their books. By reducing their expenses, we believe we can provide better access to a quality CSU learning experience. We are launching this campaign in 2010 and will be continuously improving the services to CSU faculty and students each semester.

The Affordable Learning Solutions website is designed to:

- Make it easy for faculty, staff, and students to find no/low cost course content that can substitute for more costly textbooks
- Enable faculty to be recognized for their efforts in reducing costs for students

New Digital Biology Textbook to Cost CSU Students Just $49

As part of a three-year partnership with Nature Publishing Group (NPG), publisher of the world’s leading scientific journal Nature, CSU faculty guided and advised the development of NPG’s Principle Biology – the first in a series of interactive “born digital” textbooks. The text will be incorporated into courses for students at the Los Angeles, Northridge and Chico campuses starting in the 2011/2012 academic year.

Learn more about the Principle Biology digital textbook
Putting Educational Innovations into Practice

http://voices.merlot.org

Welcome to MERLOT Voices

Voices is MERLOT's new community networking site. To participate in Voices discussions and forums, you must register on this site (even though you may already be registered at MERLOT).

MERLOT Voices enables you to collaborate with all MERLOT members, join and participate in community conversations, customize your own Voices page, and add videos related to online learning and teaching. You can also invite others to join and participate.

Joint Symposium Conference – CALL FOR PAPERS – Submit now

Emerging Technologies for Online Education
A Joint Symposium of Sloan Consortium and MERLOT with MoodleMoot

July 20-23, 2010
Fairmont Hotel, San Jose, California, USA

Call for Papers for the Emerging Technologies for Online Learning Conference, which focuses on the technologies that drive online learning effectiveness. The Conference will continue to highlight research, applications and best practices of important emerging technological tools. We encourage submissions related to instruction, networking, assessment, open educational resources, new media and support services.
Open Access – Continued and Revisited
April 3, 2014 by Sorel Reisman, MERLOT Managing Director

[To comment on this blog, click here]

Open Access – Continued and Revisited

In my previous blog about OA, I was trying to be as succinct as possible, providing information about the topic – which, as I have noted before, should not be confused with Open Education Resources (OER). I was aware when I wrote the blog, that because the definitions of Green and Gold can be a bit “fuzzy” around the edges, that I might get responses regarding the simplified definitions that I had provided. Sure enough, I did receive a couple of personal and friendly emails, and the folks who sent them have kindly agreed to allow me to republish them verbatim, both rectifying and clarifying some of what I wrote. It’s thanks to our shared philosophies of “openness” that we can all benefit from the interplay of ideas, comments, and suggestions such as these to help us to build an increasingly strong, shared intellectual community.

1. From Seb Schmoller, Sheffield, UK

I picked up on http://blog.merlot.org/author/sreisman/ because when I was CEO of the UK’s Association for Learning Technology I was responsible for transitioning our Journal Research in Learning Technology (RLT) from subscription-only to free access.
Issue No. 30, Winter 2014

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Understanding MERLOT

Get an overview of MERLOT or watch excerpts from a Sun Microsystems interview with Gerry Hanley, Executive Director of MERLOT in summer 2005.
Welcome

A conference devoted to the emerging and innovative uses of technology designed to improve teaching and learning online

7th Annual Emerging Technologies for Online Learning International Symposium
April 9-11, 2014 · Sheraton Dallas Hotel · Dallas, TX

Twitter: #et4online | Follow us on Twitter @et4online

Unconference Twitter: #unet4online | Launch Pad Twitter: #launchpad

Follow the Symposium at: blog.sloanconsortium.org
Questions and Discussion