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**Subject:** XCRI Update: Release 1.0 of the E-Framework Curriculum XML Schema

The XCRI project, in conjunction with Ben Ryan of the Pathways4Progression Regional Pilot, is pleased to announce the release of version 1.0 of the E-Framework Curriculum XML Schema.

XCRI would particularly like to extend its thanks to all who commented on the consultation draft. Those comments fed into a joint information modelling exercise with the JISC-funded COVARM, SUNIWE and Pathways4Progression projects, which has formed the basis for the revised schema. Release of the schema is announced in the latest blog entry:

<http://www.elframework.org/projects/xcri/20051222Manchester>

There is even some release razzmatazz in the form of a personal invitation to download the schema (appreciation requires familiarity with Nizlopi's JCB song and sympathy to the constraints of including something with XCRI and XSD in it!): <http://www.elframework.org/projects/xcri/xcri.mp3/view>

Curriculum XML in action:

Software developer Phosphorix has already used elements of the draft schema in two projects: the Liverpool LearningMatrix and the East of England Lifelong Learning System. Experience from those deployments and a third initiative based on version 1.0 of the schema will inform work starting at London Metropolitan University in January to build a curriculum web service demonstrator. Version 1.0 of the schema will also be tested in January in a project to import a university's course catalogue into the UCAS database.

Where next:

The real work of refining the schema starts with these attempts to put it into action. XCRI hopes to build on dialogue with UCAS and vendors of curriculum management software. We will continue to liaise with UK HEIs, FECs, European partners and standards bodies, and maintain our close links with E-Portfolio

developments so that a common 'currency' for specifying educational achievements can be achieved.

On behalf of all involved in XCRI, here's wishing you all the seasonal best and a prosperous and exciting New Year. Many, many thanks for your continuing support.

Mark

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