PUBLIC DISPATCH

February / March 2006

Keeping You Informed of Current and Upcoming Work inside IMS and the eLearning Community

Contents:

Are you using IMS specifications? Know of cool tools? Let us know, send us an email at ims@imsglobal.org

Welcome to the monthly newsletter from IMS Global Learning Consortium, Inc. Our goal is to provide you with information about what is happening inside IMS and around the eLearning Community. We welcome your comments and feedback.

New IMS/GLC Chief Executive

Rob Abel began as the New IMS/GLC Chief Executive Officer on Tuesday, 9 February. Rob is an education industry researcher, author, and analyst focused on transformation, innovation, and effectiveness in higher education. He founded the Alliance for Higher Education Competitiveness (A-HEC) in 2004 for the purpose of performing research to uncover and disseminate best practices that enable transformation. Prior to founding A-HEC Rob was the Senior Vice President of Client Services at Collegis (now SunGard Collegis) where he was responsible for services delivered to more than 60 higher education institutions. Rob also served as General Manager of Collegis' Online and Academic Services business unit (formerly known as Eduprise), Chief Marketing Officer, and Senior Vice President of Business Development. Rob has over 25 years experience in high tech general management, business development, marketing, and product development. A more detailed biography is available here: http://www.imsglobal.org/rob.html

Rob will begin work full-time 1 April 2006. You can reach Rob at rabel@imsglobal.org or +1 407.792.4164

Tools Interoperability Guidelines Final

The Tools Interoperability Guidelines, which were the featured component of the alt-*i*-lab 2005 Demonstrator, are now complete following a Technical Board comment and review period. The TI Guidelines, as well as the Tools Test Harness are available for wide adoption via the IMS Public Website: http://www.imsglobal.org/ti/index.html

alt-*i*-lab 2006

You are invited to participate in alt-*i*-lab 2006 and the Summit on Global Learning Industry Challenges. This 4th annual alt-*i*-lab again brings together creators, vendors, users, and buyers of learning technology to evaluate demonstrations, exchange technology, and participate in working sessions focused on real-world interoperability, strategies maximizing the impact of learning technology, and critical examination of state of the art technology.

The Summit on Global Learning Industry Challenges is a gathering of industry leaders to introduce and debate ideas on issues impacting the growth of learning worldwide. This is a unique and highly direct conversation for the purpose of illuminating the key business challenges facing the learning industry. The Summit is facilitated by a focused set of highly interactive panel sessions with audience participation.

Come join us and our host Indiana University 19-22 June in Indianapolis, Indiana, USA to explore a new world of innovation that cuts across the latest commercial and open source developments. Space is limited. So confirm your registration now!

Registration and program information are available on the alt-*i*-lab 2006 website: http://www.imsglobal.org/altilab2006/

Contact Numbers

IMS/GLC has new phone and fax numbers.

phone: +1 407.362.7783
fax: +1 407.284.1265

IEEE LOM Update

Ingo Dahn from the University of Koblenz informed the Common Cartridge Project Group about errors found in the IEEE XML LOM Schema. His post is below:

Dear colleagues,

late in 2005 IEEE has published a standard XML binding for the Learning Objects Metadata Standard (see http://ieeeltsc.org/wg12LOM/1484.12.3/). The documents published by IEEE include a set of non-normative XML schemas. In order to overcome reported problems when using these schemas to validate instance documents with a number of tools, the Knowledge Media Institute Koblenz of the University Koblenz-Landau/Germany provides on its server patched versions of those schemas at the URL

http://iwm.uni-koblenz.de/xsd/IEEE-LOM/

The patches are minor and are documented within the schemas. For further documentation please refer to the official IEEE documentation mentioned above. The schemas provided should not change the set of conformant instance documents. A side effect of these patches is that the strict, loose and custom variants have been separated. Just in case - any problem with these patches should be reported through

http://iwm.uni-koblenz.de/bugzilla/enter_bug.cgi?product=IEEE-LOM

I am sorry that we cannot provide a LOM help desk. So please use this URL only to report problems, notably any observed deviation from the normative part of the IEEE LOM XML binding or incompatibility with tools in general use.

In order to adapt IEEE LOM to the needs of particular communities we recommend to develop an Application Profile of the "loose" schema following the IMS Application Profiling Guidelines which are available at

http://www.imsglobal.org/ap/

The tools from the Telcert project (http://www.opengroup.org/telcert/) support this process for the patched LOM binding schema as for any other valid XML binding. Notably the SchemaProf profiling tool provided by our institute at

http://iwm.uni-koblenz.de/schemaprof

should be helpful in the profiling process.

Please, forward this information to anyone who might be possibly interested.

Member News

Pearson VUE issued a press release early in the month announcing its support of the QTI specification. The announcement also stated that the recent launch of the Graduate Management Admission Test (GMAT) uses QTI as the data exchange format. You can read the complete announcement here: http://www.pearsonvue.com/about/release/06_02_06_qti.html

Have some news to share with other IMS Members about your involvement with IMS?
Send your news to lisa@imsglobal.org

New IMS/GLC Member

IMS would like to welcome Tegrity, Inc. as a new Contributing Member.

http://tegrity.com

Workplan

Want to know what's happening in IMS?

Description	
QTI Assessment Project Group	The QTI Assessment Project Group has completed QTI v2.1 Public Draft specification (now available on the IMS website) and is working on the Final specification.
Packaging Project Group	The Packaging Project Group has completed the v1.2 Public Draft specification and is working on a rev. 2 version Public Draft that will give implementers a longer than usual adoption period before the spec becomes Final early 2007.
Common Cartridge Project Group	The Common Cartridge Project Group is working on the Base Document specification.
Enterprise Services Special Interest Group	The Query Services work will be folded into a new release and update of the Enterprise Services specification. The group is gathering use cases and preparing a charter for approval.

Workshops and Presentations

◎ 6-7 April 2006 - TELCERT Workshop: 'Interoperable of e-Learning Systems in Action' - Valkenburg aan de Geul, The Netherlands

◎ 8 June 2006 - TELCERT Workshop: 'Facing the New Challenges of Globalization in e-Learning' - Palermo, Sicily

◎ 9 June 2006 - TELCERT Workshop: 'Web Services - Modelling and Testing' - Palermo, Sicily

◎ 10-13 October 2006 - EDUCAUSE Annual Conference - Dallas, Texas, USA