



The Global Learning Resource Connection and the IMS Global Learning Consortium Announce a Partnership to Enhance the Discovery of Educational Resources Using the Semantic Web

Partnership will leverage web technology to enable open electronic publishing and searching of educational resources supporting countries and states around the world establishing core educational standards

Tucson, AZ and Lake Mary, FL USA – 13 July 2010 – The Global Learning Resource Connection (GLRC) and the IMS Global Learning Consortium (IMS) today announced a new collaboration that will help governments worldwide set-up web-based directories of educational resources searchable by national or state standards.

GLRC is a powerful public/private global collaboration to implement the international linking of education resources for teacher/learner access and use. Using Semantic Web/Linked Data principles, GLRC supports the trans-jurisdictional mapping of learning outcomes creating a globally connected, navigable environment for publishing and finding learning resources.

IMS membership has experienced rapid growth as interoperability between digital education resources, learning management systems and libraries becomes an absolute necessity in today's economy and mobile society. IMS has been working across its membership to deploy tagging of learning resources according to state and national standards. IMS has been leveraging learning objective data provided through the Achievement Standards Network (ASN), a Semantic Web enabled repository of more than 350,000 learning objectives in RDF. The ASN database and associated web services are freely available via the Web. As a result, solutions using the IMS-compliant Common Cartridge digital content standards are well-positioned to join the quick-growing number of Linked Data solutions, a recommended best practice for exposing, sharing, and connecting pieces of data, information, and knowledge on the Semantic Web, using URIs and RDF.

The GLRC and IMS partnership will feature special interest group working sessions at the quarterly IMS member meetings, led by GLRC. The purpose of the sessions will be to help government and supplier organizations collaborate on the deployment of the GLRC solution and to achieve coordination with related IMS interoperability standards activities.

“IMS members are represented by expert technologists from nations leading the charge in educational resource sharing and are actively working on supporting ASN education objectives into IMS specifications,” explains Diny Golder, executive director of JES & Co. and director of the Global Learning Resource Connection. “In expanding those efforts to include the underlying GLRC services that will support the world's first education-focused Semantic Web solution, IMS takes one step further in addressing mobile and global educational needs.”

Dr. Rob Abel, Chief Executive Officer of IMS adds: “It is encouraging to see the GLRC collaboration taking place and IMS is pleased to support it. As leading governments around the world move to focus on core educational standards, the obvious next step is to put in place an infrastructure to leverage the standards to publish and discover a growing array of digital learning resource alternatives, The GLRC partnership with IMS directly addresses this critical need.”

To inquire about this partnership or to participate in this activity, please send an email to GLRC@imglobal.org

About JES & Co.

JES & Co., a publicly funded 501(c)(3) education research organization, is a leader in research and deployment of education programs based on open standards. With 20 years of experience in interoperability and portability of educational resources, organizations around the world come to JES & Co. to make things happen. Since its establishment in the early 1990s, JES & Co. has led and managed The Achievement Standards Network (ASN), The Partnership for 21st Century Skills, The Gateway to 21st Century Skills (formerly known as GEM), the Dell Academy, the Intel Student Certification Program, and Microsoft's Partners in Learning. For more information visit www.JESandCo.org.

About IMS Global Learning Consortium (IMS GLC)

IMS Global Learning is a nonprofit member organization that strives to enable the growth and impact of learning technology in higher education, K-12, and corporate education worldwide. IMS GLC members are leading corporations, higher education institutions, school districts and government organizations worldwide that are enabling the future of education by collaborating on interoperability standards and major adoption projects for the digital support of education and learning. IMS GLC also sponsors Learning Impact: a global awards program and conference that recognizes the impact of innovative technology on educational access, affordability, and quality. For more information, visit www.imglobal.org.