

## **IMPLEMENTING LEARNING DESIGN: THE LEARNING ACTIVITY MANAGEMENT SYSTEM (LAMS)**

James Dalziel, Macquarie E-learning Centre of Excellence (MELCOE)  
& WebMCQ Pty Ltd

**Length of workshop:** Half Day

### **Intended audience and degree of expertise required by workshop participants:**

This workshop is open to all conference attendees. It will provide a simple, non-technical introduction to the concept of Learning Design and the Learning Activity Management System (LAMS) software system. Attendees should have general familiarity with current developments in e-learning and using a web browser, but are not required to have any specialist knowledge.

### **Clear statement of the objectives of the workshop:**

- Provide an introduction to the concept of Learning Design, and its implementation within Educational Modeling Language (EML), and the IMS Learning Design specification
- Provide an overview of the development of LAMS, and the challenges of implementing IMS Learning Design
- Illustrate the concept of Learning Design as exemplified in LAMS “Learning Activity Sequences”
- Discuss pedagogical issues arising from LAMS sequence building
- Discuss differences between synchronous and asynchronous LAMS sequences/tools, and their implications for pedagogy
- Discuss differences in lab-based and distance learning modes of using LAMS
- Discuss the impact of LAMS sequence design on conceptions of teaching and the teaching process
- Discuss teacher and student evaluations of LAMS during pilots conducted to date
- Provide an opportunity for participants to explore the LAMS system, create their own sequences, and run these with workshop participants during the session
- Discuss issues arising from use of LAMS as both author and student

### **A detailed description of the workshop format including activities workshop participants will be expected to engage in:**

This workshop will introduce participants to the concept of Learning Design as illustrated by the work of the Open University of the Netherlands in Educational Modeling Language, and the IMS Learning Design specification. It will describe key concepts in Learning Design, and compare these with other models of e-learning, including the relationship of IMS Learning Design to other e-learning standards/specifications, and to the work of

related projects such as the UK Open University SoURCE project, and the AUTC Learning Design project.

The Learning Activity Management System (LAMS) is one of the world's first implementation of the IMS Learning Design approach, and the system will be discussed and demonstrated as part of this workshop. The challenges of implementing the IMS Learning Design specification during the construction of LAMS will be discussed, including suggestions for future evolution of the specification to incorporate new/revised functionality. The current state of LAMS as an IMS Learning Design "inspired" system (rather than a reference implementation) will be discussed.

The workshop will provide opportunities for authoring and running LAMS sequences with participants to provide experience in creating, adapting and running Learning Designs. This will include opportunities for participants to create their own designs, and then to run these with other workshop participants. This workshop provides an ideal context for demonstrating the collaborative, multi-learner nature of LAMS sequences.

During the process of building and testing sequences, issues such as pedagogical structures, synchronous/asynchronous activities, and lab/distance environments will be considered in terms of both LAMS construction and more general pedagogical and theoretical principles. In particular, participants will be encouraged to reflect on the ways that their concepts of teaching are affected by the LAMS framework, and examples of experiences from pilot studies with teachers will be presented to illustrate the ways in which LAMS has a deep impact on users beyond simple technical construction skills. Student experiences from pilot studies will also be reviewed and discussed.

Participants in this workshop will be offered access to a free LAMS account for limited personal use for a period of up to six months after this workshop to assist them in continuing to develop sequences based on their experiences in this session, and in sharing/running sequences with other workshop participants. Further details of this offer will be discussed at the workshop.

**A summary of the workshop presenter's qualifications:**

James Dalziel, BA (Hons), PhD, Grad Cert Higher Education  
Adjunct Professor and Director, Macquarie E-learning Centre of Excellence (MELCOE), &  
Executive Director, WebMCQ Pty Ltd

James has led the development of the Learning Activity Management System at WebMCQ in conjunction with the School of Education, Macquarie University. James is involved in the implementation of IMS Learning Design through his role in the Valkenburg EML/Learning Design implementation group, and his involvement in IMS. James is regular speaker at e-learning conferences, and is able to translate difficult concepts (such as e-learning standards) into easily understood everyday language.

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