



# Developing and mobilizing the information skills for students on the move

**A study of IL content development and delivery in practice**

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# Agenda



- About OU and Library
- Information Literacy for mobiles
- The mobile delivery in practice
- Learning Objects Generator tool
- Outputs of LOG tool
- Other projects as part of broader mobile development strategy
- Technical issues and steps forward



# About the OU and Library



# The Open University



- Largest UK University – 35% UK part-time undergraduates
- Over 200,000 students currently studying with the OU and 8000 ALs
- 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2009
- 16% under 25 (median age of new undergrads 32)
- Europe and world wide (26,700 live outside UK)
- Blended learning (print and electronic)





OU Library – more than a building ...

# The OU Library services

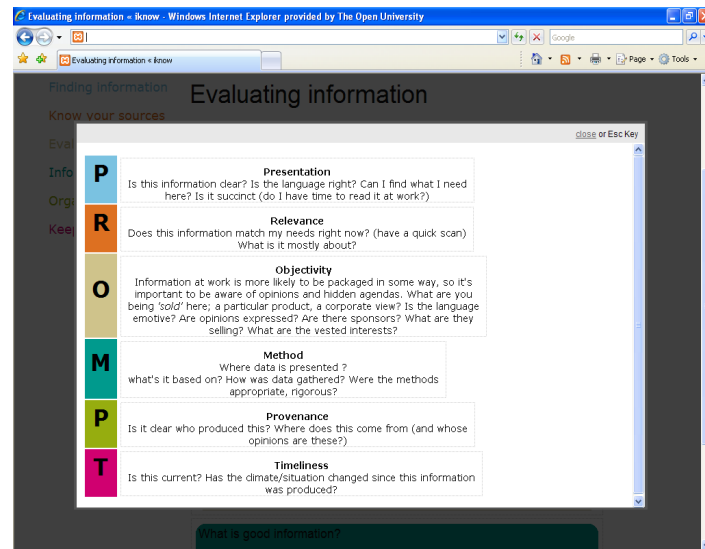
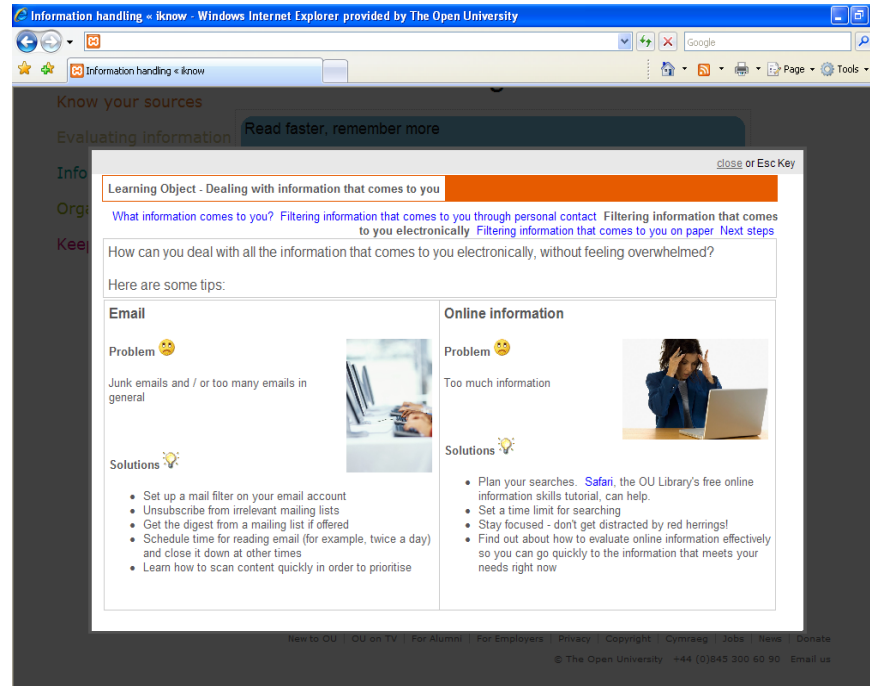


- 93 staff based in Library
- No document delivery or postal loans to students
- Access to eResources via Library website
- Helpdesk services (phone, email, IM)
- Online induction (through Elluminate)
- Moving away from physical collections



# IL at the OU Library

- Support to L& T librarians
- Developing products and services such as Safari, IL Toolkit and the Library guide
- Developing bite-size IL activities for mobiles
- Provides staff development
- Course development – e.g. Beyond Google



## Rights and Responsibilities

Pages: 1 2 3 4 5

### What is copyright and why is it important?

One kind of intellectual property is called copyright. This is the legal protection of creative or artistic work. In simple terms this provides legal protection and ownership rights for those who write or otherwise create books, movies, music etc.

### What is plagiarism?

Whilst copyright means that you cannot reproduce another persons book, art, movie etc without their permission plagiarism refers to using someone else's ideas or words without





# Why mobile services?

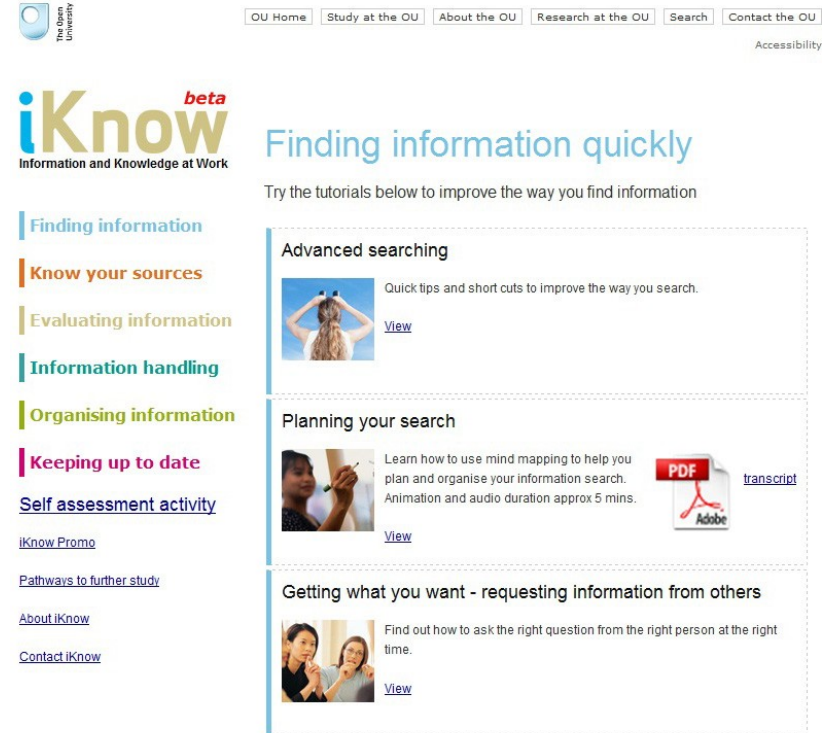
- Increasing demand from students and researchers – majority have mobile devices
- Flexible access for distance learners (anytime and anywhere)
- Quick and efficient WiFi or data access to services
- Caters for different styles of learning and communication
- Appropriate and to the point content
- Empowers students to engage when it suits them



# Mobilizing the IL content – case studies



**Safari – Online tutorials  
for developing information skills**



**iKnow – Information and knowledge at  
work.**

# Safari – case study 1



- Online tutorial to help develop information skills
- Interactive activities to test the progress
- Mobile safari – bite sized version of the main Safari tutorials
- Built on mobile ESL templates/ADR developed by Athabasca University Canada



URL: <http://www.open.ac.uk/safari>



# Safari – screen shots (1)



Safari homepage (PC version)



Mobile Safari





# Safari – screen shots (2)

The Open University

Skills in Accessing, Finding & Reviewing Information

## Safari

- 1. Understanding information
- 2. Unpacking information
- 3. Planning a search
- 4. Searching for information
- 5. Evaluating information
- 6. Organising information
  - 1. Introduction
  - 2. Why organise?
  - 3. Ways to organise
  - 4. Social bookmarks
  - 5. Citing references
  - 6. Bibliographies
  - 7. Summary
- 7. Where do I go from here

Back to Main menu  
About Safari  
Help

### 6. Organising information

#### Scenario

#### Activity Keeping records

Look at the three images on this page and the next two pages. What do you think might be the problem with these if Mary decides she wants to use them for her assignment? Make a note of your thoughts about each image.

[Text version of Image 1](#)

Chapter 5 assessing the risks

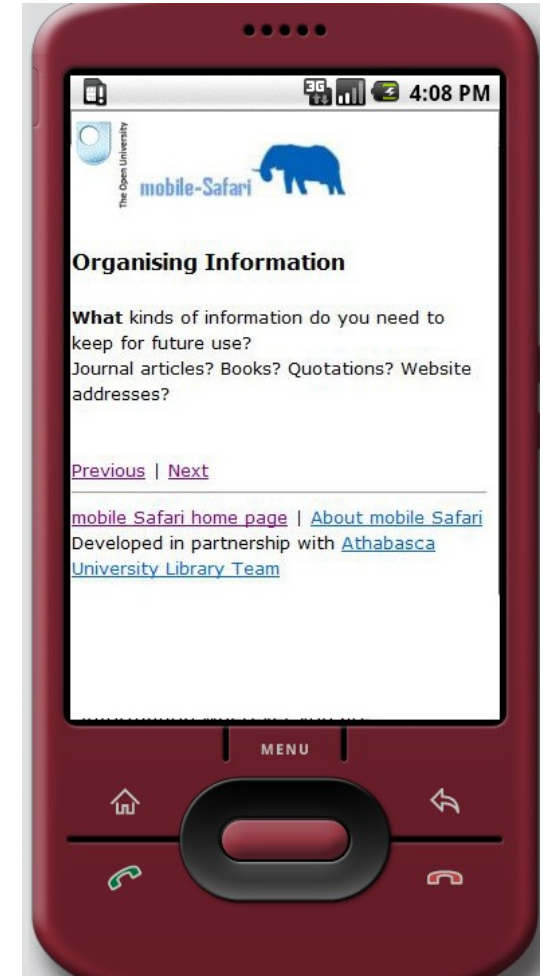
from 1989 report - good background stuff

"During the course of our study a number of authoritative reviews have been published of the risks associated with the release of GEOs. These include a statement by committees of the International Council of Scientific Unions and reports by the United States National Academy of Sciences..."

\* "A release licence should be required before a release may take place. Licences should be issued by

Page 88

Organising information (PC version)



Mobile version of  
The same LO

# iKnow – case study 2

- Information skills for the workplace
- Multi-market audience – at work and at study
- Mixture of learning activities, and audio and video clips
- Also offers IL content to fit on mobile devices



URL: <http://iknow.open.ac.uk>

# iKnow – screen shots (1)



**Finding information**

**Know your sources**

**Evaluating information**

**Information handling**

**Organising information**

**Keeping up to date**

[Self assessment activity](#)

[iKnow Promo](#)

[Pathways to further study](#)

[About iKnow](#)

[Contact iKnow](#)

## Information handling

Techniques for coping with information overload

### Information that comes to you



Tips and techniques for dealing with the different types of information that come to you at work.

[View](#)

### Information that comes to you - for mobile devices



Type <http://tr.im/GBA2> into your mobile browser for a summary of tips for dealing with information at work.



### Using the 5D's to handle information



This checklist offers a quick and simple strategy for dealing with each piece of information that comes to you.

[View](#)

### Using the 5 Ds to handle information - for mobile devices

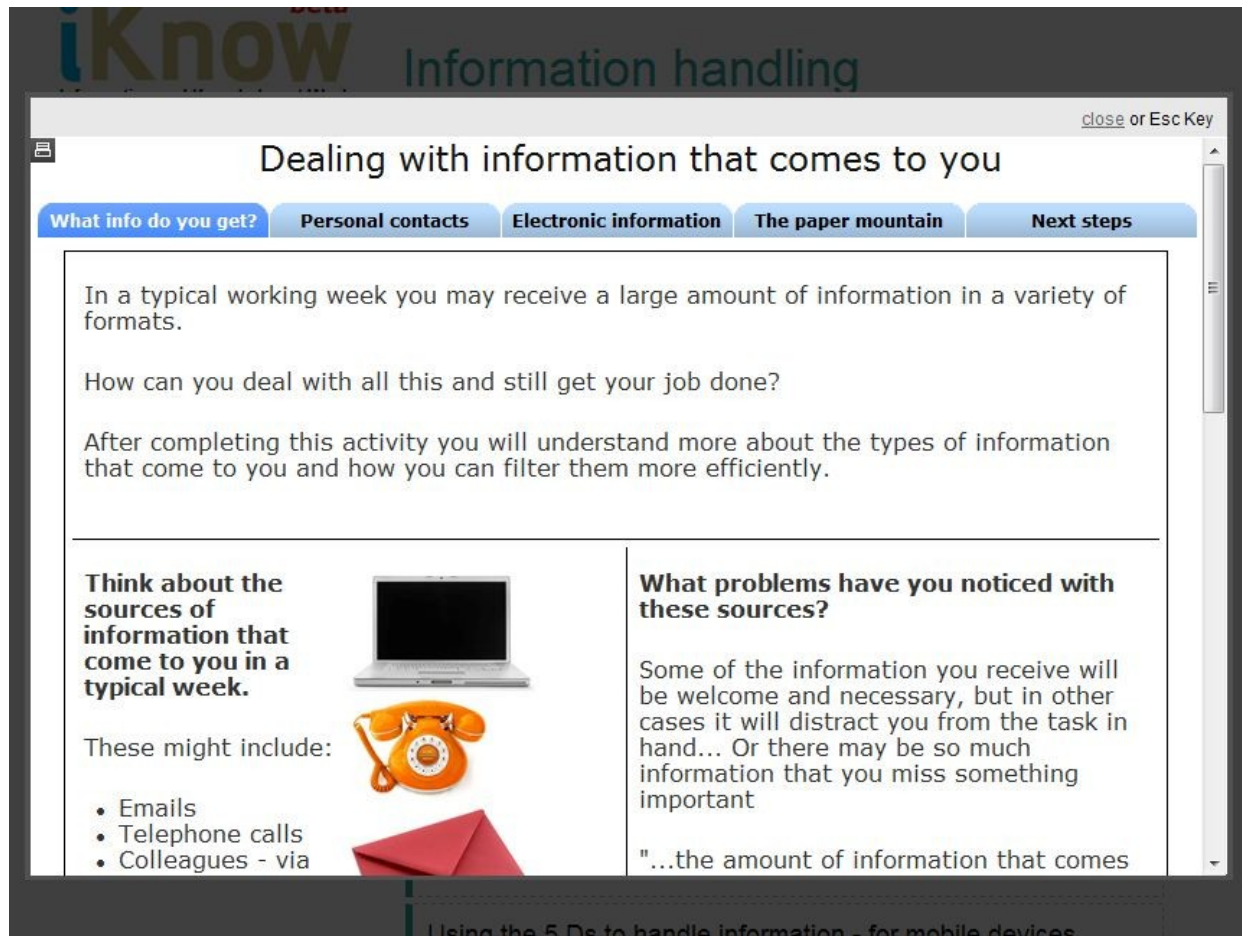


Type <http://tr.im/GBAm> into your mobile browser for a checklist on dealing with information.

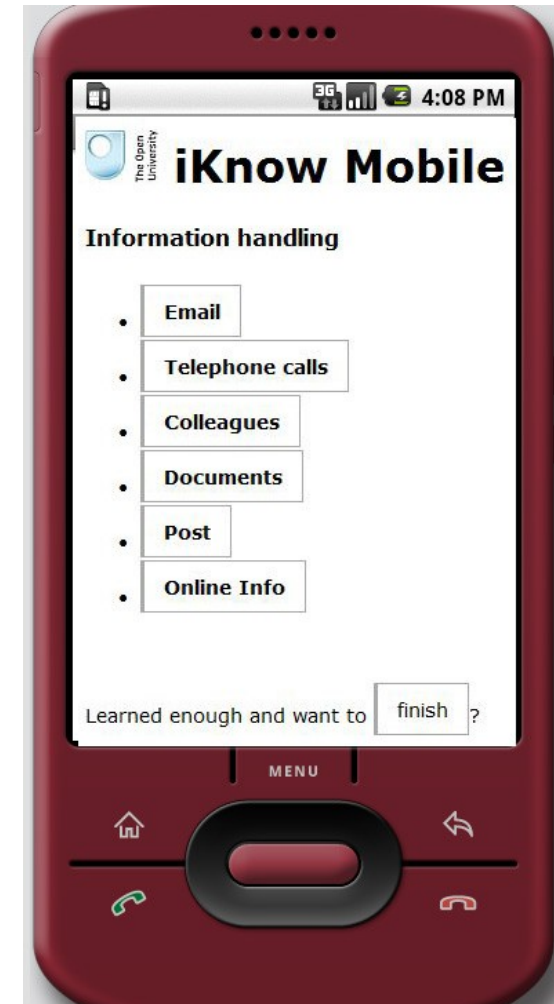




# iKnow – screen shots (2)



One of the example iKnow activities



Mobile view



# How the content is delivered?



Edit Learning Object: 'iKnow\_Dealing with information that comes to you'





Page title: What info do you get?

**HTML1:**

Think about the sources of information that come to you in a typical week.

These might include:

- Emails
- Telephone calls
- Colleagues - via personal conversations or in meetings
- Documents that get circulated - from internal or external sources
- Postal mailings
- Online information you find, for example, from websites or your organisation's intranet
- Any others?

**HTML2:**

What problems have you noticed with these sources?

Some of the information you receive will be welcome and necessary, but in other cases it will distract you from the task in hand... Or there may be so much information that you miss something important

"...the amount of information that comes into school is quite phenomenal" (Anne Thompson, Head Teacher)

**Email**

Do you struggle with too many messages, irrelevant messages, or junk mail?

**Telephone**

Do frequent phone calls interrupt your work flow?

**Colleagues**

These can be a useful way of keeping up-to-date with the latest news, but do they also come and chat to you when you are busy?

**Documents that get circulated**

You may need to keep up with the latest developments within your organisation, or policy affecting your area of work, but do you find that huge reports are sent to the whole team?

## Learning Object Generator (LOG) tool

# Learning Object Generator tool

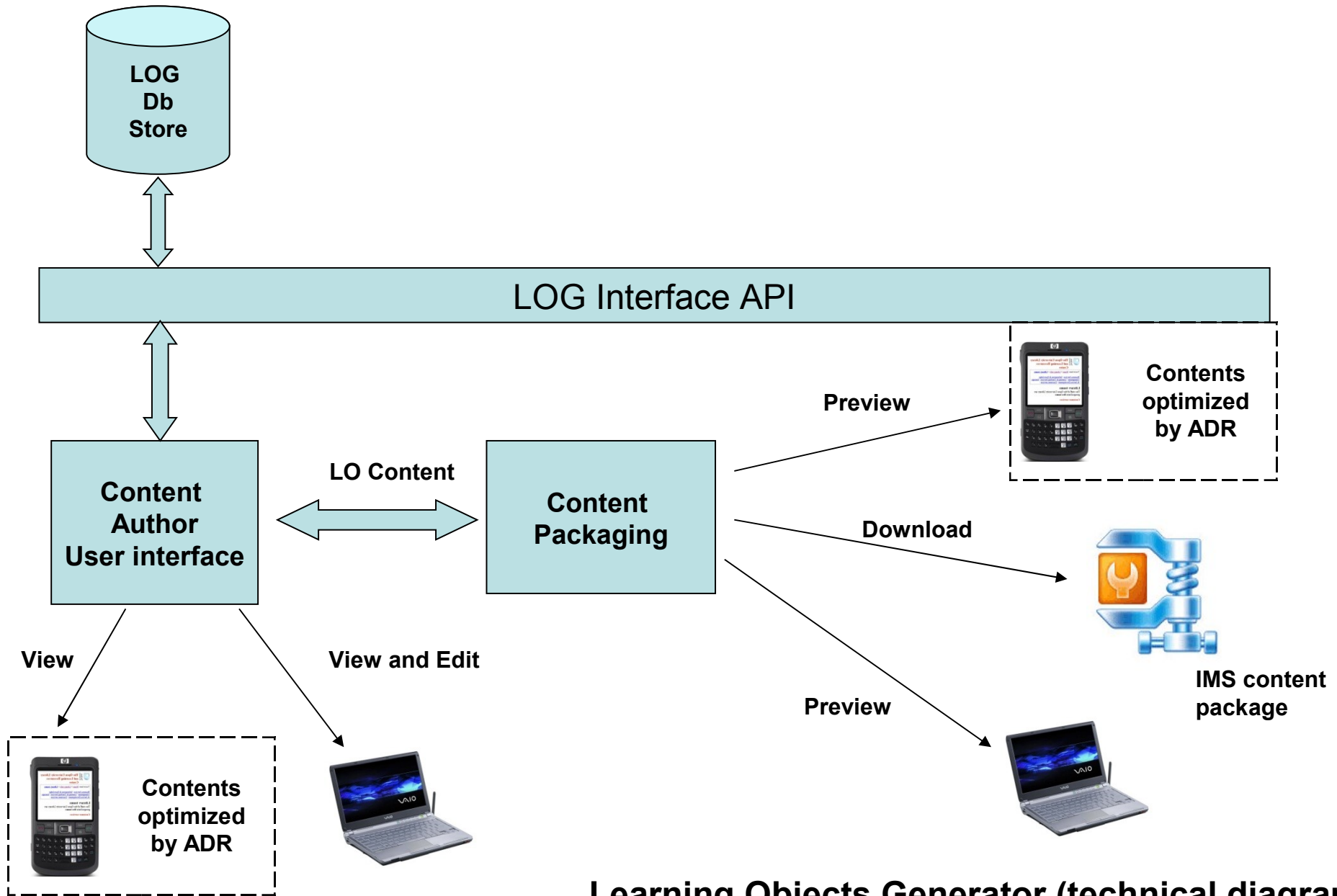


- Web based tool developed in-house
- Enable instructional designers to author learning objects
- Maximum 5 pages per LO with two screens on each page
- 90 words max per page for mobile LOs
- Content package function enables exporting to other systems such as VLEs



Technical details

# LOG – back end technical details



Learning Objects Generator (technical diagram)



# LOG tool – used at M-Libraries 2009 conference to deliver “Skills on the move” hands-on workshop



Output available at: <http://library.open.ac.uk/digilab/testarea/mLib2009Outputs/>



# Other mobile services projects

- Mobile Open Library 2.0
- iPhone and smart phone versions
- Experiment with SMS services e.g. overdue loan alerts and reference services.
- Customise search interface for smaller screens
- Contribution towards mobile VLE project
- Provide digital literacy on mobiles e.g. How to's and learn about guides



# Technical issues ...

- Long contents – mean a lot of scrolling for users
- Larger pictures – don't fit on screen and take longer to download
- Flash isn't supported by some smart phones e.g. Black berry
- Limited and slower bandwidth
- Advanced html features not supported by many smart phones
- Too many devices and models



# Finally steps forward ...

- Continue to develop mobile Library services – it's future!
- Identify what users need – very important
- Develop digital/info literacy material for mobiles
- Collaborate with other universities on mobile development
  - don't re-invent the wheel
- Mobile services for VLE – information on the move!



# Questions?



# Photo credits



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**iTeeth**

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/toma01/2171010315/>



**Questions**

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/oberazzi/318947873/>



# Thank you!

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