

XCRI-CAP

Overview

The XCRI **Course Advertising Profile** is an open specification for producing and aggregating collections of courses offered by providers

How XCRI-CAP works

The technical architecture of XCRI-CAP is a very simple web-based approach. Universities, colleges and training providers each offer an XML document describing their courses. Aggregators (such as discovery and guidance services) periodically poll each provider to obtain the latest version of their course catalog using a standard request. The aggregator combines the results to create a catalog to use for searching and for adding features

By offering a single XML-based catalog, providers avoid the costs of manual data-entry into multiple systems. By making their offerings visible on the web in an easy-to-process, open fashion, providers open the door to new web-based services being created that help market their offerings or add value in other ways.

XCRI-CAP is not sector-specific, and is being adopted by both Higher Education and 14-19 providers.

Providers

An XCRI-CAP provider is an organisations that offers information about their courses using the XCRI-CAP XML specification. Providers create XCRI-CAP catalog documents by collecting together their courses and offerings and describing them in a single XML document, typically served from their organisation's website. A single XCRI-CAP catalog can be used to supply course information to multiple aggregators.

Aggregators

An XCRI-CAP aggregator is an organisation that collects together XCRI-CAP catalogs offered by one or more providers.

Aggregators can offer a range of services, including enabling users to find learning opportunities on a regional, sectoral or national level, offering advice and guidance, or supporting personalised lifelong learning.

Open Process

XCRI is an open, community-driven process supported by the Joint Information Systems Committee of the UK Higher and Further Education funding councils. XCRI is focussed on creating practical specifications that are validated with real systems and data in institutions today, but which drive improvement and new opportunities for the future. XCRI are now engaged with standards organisations to ensure a viable future for XCRI-CAP.

Preparing for XCRI-CAP

for the internal delivery units in an organisation, value is generated by XCRI-CAP in the form of **internal efficiency gains** as a result of the **business process improvements** implemented to support readiness for exposing course data for external audiences using XCRI

Providing XCRI-CAP

value is generated in the form of **strategic capability** as the institution better understands the nature of its offering portfolio when combined into a single XCRI catalog,, leading to opportunities for improved **quality assurance, standardisation, and consolidation of duplicate offerings**

Aggregating XCRI-CAP

value is generated for the provider in the form of **cost savings on data input** from the use of XCRI by aggregators. For the aggregator, value comes from the **availability of additional providers** in the market, and from shifting some responsibility for QA of basic data from its central process to the provider

Going further

value is generated for the provider in the form of **new business opportunities and revenue-sharing partnerships** that result from opening up the data network using XCRI. For the aggregator, the availability of the provider data via XCRI enables **new added-value business models** that build upon the provider's offerings.

Find out more

You can find a lot more information on XCRI and XCRI-CAP from our website at <http://www.xcri.org>