

# Call for papers

## Special Issue on Learning Technology Standards

### The International Journal of IT Standards and Standardization Research (JITSR)

For a number of years, a wide variety of specifications and standards have been developed for Technology-Enhanced Learning (TEL). However, in contrast to other information and communication technology sectors wide-scale adoption in Learning, Education and Training (LET) is low, notwithstanding promising developments in the theory, methodology and application of specifications and standards.

This Special Issue will provide a comprehensive survey of standards development in the LET domain, with a strong focus on the methodologies and instruments of standards development in comparison to other sectors. A secondary aim is to focus on different approaches to specifications and standards within different interoperability levels (e.g., semantic, organisational, technical, etc.) and for different LET aspects (e.g., metadata for learning resources; competencies; learning activities; learning opportunities; identity management; etc. ).

The Special Issue will discuss, from an international perspective, the general challenges the standards community at large is facing to provide viable solutions to support technology enhanced learning used by vastly complex groups of stakeholders.

### **Introduction to the research themes**

LET specifications and standards address learning activities, its actors and resources, pedagogical approaches, management activities, and several other aspects of this domain (Figure 1).



Figure 1: Classification of TEL standards (Pawlowski, 2008)

However, the fact that the specifications and standards cover a broad range of topics does not imply that these technology artefacts are grounded in the acknowledged needs of the educational community and the end-users. It is a growing awareness that standards' experts and bodies have to improve both their processes and products; and we would invite contributions to the Special Issue to get both a better understanding of the current situation and to come up with proposals for actions.

Furthermore, there is a suboptimal connection between the research community and the standards'

community. We see few examples of outputs from research and other projects being submitted for standardization even when these results are mature enough and could prove beneficial for a much wider audience of users. It is therefore not only necessary to have a much clearer understanding of the standards' development process itself but also to ensure that stakeholders' interests are better represented in this process.

Of particular interest for the Special Issue is the transition from research and development projects to standardization. Figure 2 gives an overview of the adoption life cycle model used in some European projects.

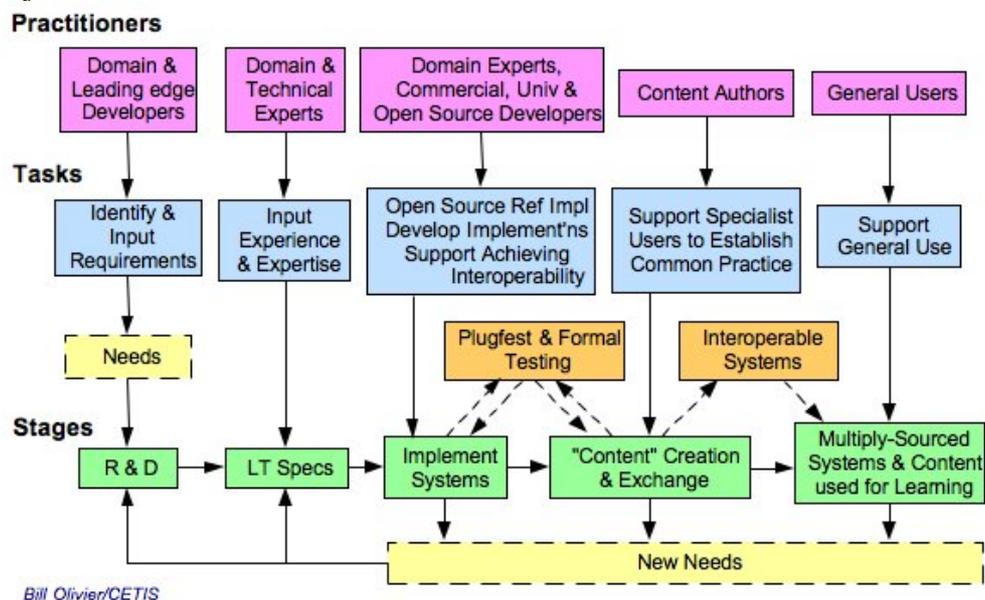


Figure 2: Standardization adoption life cycle (Bill Olivier, adapted in the LIFE project (2006) Roadmap to Interoperability for Education in Europe)

The issues highlighted here are merely illustrative of those experienced in TEL standardization. Papers in this Special Issue should focus on methodological issues relating to the standardization processes as well as explore specific aspects of LET standards. The papers should contribute to the development of theory in addition to being related to the state-of-art practice of technology enhanced learning.

## Research Themes

We are calling for papers addressing broad perspectives on standardization in the LET domain and should aim to address the following themes:

- Standardization theory and methodology applied to the field of Technology-Enhanced Learning
- Standardization types for TEL (Classifications, surveys, studies, etc.)
- Standardization lifecycle: Initiation, development, adoption, and improvement
- Validation of standardization methodologies
- Specific standards issues for sub-domains (specific technologies, didactical issues, contents, competency, assessment)
- Specific perspectives concerning standardization needs
- Stakeholders' perspectives (vendors, developers, end-users, standards bodies, etc.)
- Evaluation methodologies for specifications and standards
- Benefits of TEL standards in practice

- Alternative approaches: Challenging current TEL standards
- Adoption and diffusion of standards
- The relationship between research & development and standardization
- Other related standardization themes

## ***Timeline***

06.2009: Submission of abstracts (optional; to be published in the special issue wiki at <http://sites.google.com/site/standardsgovernance/>)

09.2009: Submission of papers

10.2009: Reviews

02.2010: Final manuscripts

05.2010: Publication

## ***Editorial procedure***

To achieve both academic excellence and practical relevance submissions will be peer-reviewed by at least three members of the JITSR editorial board after selection of the editorial group of this Special Issue. The editorial group will actively invite authors to contribute to the Special Issue on a number of topics. We will encourage all prospective authors to submit short abstracts to be published at a wiki that will be available to authors of interest. We hope to use the wiki to co-ordinate the editing process and foster exchange of ideas and co-authorship.

## ***More information***

For more information, please contact the Special Issue Editors through

Tore Hoel (tore.hoel [at] hio.no)

Paul A. Hollins (p.a.hollins [at] bolton.ac.uk)

Jan M. Pawlowski (jan.pawlowski [at] titu.jyu.fi)

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