

## 1. Introduction to XCRi

XCRi stands for 'eXchanging Course Related Information' and has been developed to enable learning providers to publish online prospectus information in a standard format that facilitates efficient collection by aggregator and broker agencies (such as UCAS, the National Learning Directory and 14-19 Prospectus website) and systematic comparison of learning opportunities.

In January 2009 XCRi was approved by the Information Standards Board (ISB) as the UK standard for categorising and coding course related information within FE, HE and Lifelong Learning sector.

WYLLN have been actively involved in the developments around XCRi since June 2008 and were successful in bidding for funds from JISC to support a small exploratory project at The University of Huddersfield to understand the challenges and processes around XCRi implementation.

The mini project completed in March 2009, key outcomes of the project were;

- Greater understanding and awareness of XCRi implementation for a typical HEI
- Successful dissemination event engaging institutions across the WYLLN Network
- Development and approval of a project fund and associated activity to support the wider exploration and implementation of XCRi throughout WYLLN Partner institutions
- Expressions of interest from 7 institutions wishing to benefit from project management/technical support and funding to assist with their respective XCRi projects.
- UCAS & JISC interest and support in the WYLLN project
- Local Authorities & Yorkshire Forward interested in supporting & promoting wider use of XCRi.

More recently JISC have expressed an interest in using the WYLLN approach as a 'test site' for the development of materials, workshops and a national 'hit squad' to support the wider implementation of XCRi within HEIs and FECs.

## 2. Key Institutional benefits of XCRi are;

- The ability to output all course advertising data including non-UCAS offerings, in an efficient manner compatible with the approved ISB UK standard.
- Internal efficiency gains through process improvement and quality enhancements for publishing course advertising information in addition to the organisational benefits of having a systematic way of understanding and presenting all on offer.
- Generates cost savings on data input by providing standardised data to data collection agencies and enables an effective presentation of the offer for others who may wish to draw down sub-degree level information.
- Offers potential support to the employer facing aspects of institutional activity.
- Provides opportunities for new added value usage of the data, for revenue-sharing partnerships and for extension of local arrangements to regional, national and international aggregation, bringing the information to larger numbers of learners.

National Data collectors currently exploring the possibilities of receiving data in XCRi-CAP include UCAS, Local Authorities (14-19 prospectuses), Hotcourses, Strategic Health Authority, Regional Development Agencies.

## 3. WYLLN Funded XCRi Project

WYLLN are now committed to supporting partner institutions to explore and implement XCRi, this support will be in the form of;

A Senior Technical Officer recruited for 12 months to provide technical and project management support to partner institutions wishing to take part in the project.

A project fund allocated to support any associated hardware costs (virtual/external server to hold XCRi data on)

Access to Elluminate, software to support voice & video web based meetings. This will be used as key communication tool throughout the project.

Any additional partners wishing to benefit from the WYLLN funded support, please contact Joanne Charlesworth, [joanne.charlesworth@hud.ac.uk](mailto:joanne.charlesworth@hud.ac.uk)