

Contributing to Jorum

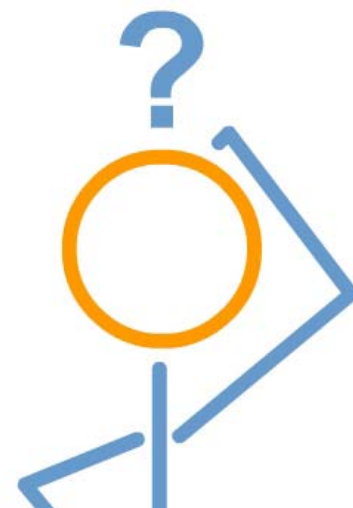


The learning and teaching resources created by teaching staff take a great deal of time and effort to produce, so why should you contribute them to Jorum?

Overview

Jorum is a free online repository service for teaching and support staff in UK Further and Higher Education Institutions, helping to build a community for the sharing, reuse and repurposing of learning and teaching materials. Jorum is a JISC-funded collaborative venture supporting the creation of shared, interoperable, sustainable materials. This free online repository service is a key part of the JISC Information Environment.

We encourage staff from institutions and projects that have developed learning and teaching materials to contribute them to Jorum and help to build a community for sharing in the UK.



What you can contribute?

- Jorum hosts learning and teaching materials of all kinds, ranging from simple single-file assets and links to external resources, to more complex learning resources. Content is collected from a number of sources, including publicly funded projects and individual institutions.
- Resources depend on whatever is contributed to the repository by the community, but broadly include:

Learning Resources

Resources that teaching staff can use with learners, in blended learning, classroom or online learning activities. Examples include single assets (documents, images, video clips, diagrams) or more comprehensive learning objects (interactive units such as content packages).

Teaching Resources

Resources that teaching staff can use to help them in their job. Examples include teaching support and staff development materials such as tutor guides and, lesson plans.

Why Contribute?

- Jorum will play a key role in the advancement, embedding and sustainability of e-learning in the UK. By contributing content you can participate in this new venture, one of only a few of its kind in the world.
- Funding bodies look favourably on applicants who demonstrate a willingness to share outputs created with project money. Work with Jorum to exploit the work achieved and content created by your project.

- For publicly funded projects in particular, which often have a requirement as part of funding terms to make their content available to the community, Jorum can provide means to do this, easily and freely. Jorum enables you to promote and publish your achievements to a national audience.
- Jorum offers a “keep-safe” for publicly funded project outputs, which have so often in the past been lost to the community when funding came to an end. Jorum offers you the opportunity to ensure that your work is not lost.
- Jorum aims to facilitate communities of practice and foster online relationships and links between peers across the UK. You can share materials with others, comment on materials contributed by other project and departmental teams and discuss enhancement ideas with others.
- Jorum offers the facility for any College or University in the UK to store some or all of its learning and teaching resources in the repository, as long as it is willing to share them with colleagues in FE and HE across the UK.
- Help colleagues across the UK:
 - Ready made content can help save staff time if it can be used as-is, or if it can be repurposed easily (or used as a template for other developments). The time saved can be spent with students or developing more quality content.
 - Sharing content helps reduce the duplication of effort common in the creation of learning and teaching materials across the sector. Jorum encourages reuse of content – a benefit to the community as a whole.
- For Contributors, the advantages of the system are numerous:
 - Legal security – Jorum provides a robust licensing system for the expression and dissemination of Intellectual Property (IP) Rights. Contributing Institutions sign a Jorum Deposit Licence giving permissions to Jorum Users to use their resources for educational purposes.
 - Authenticated Access – Jorum is Athens authenticated, ensuring security for your content, limiting access to the educational community, and providing usage statistics.
 - Metadata – descriptions of materials in Jorum conform to accepted standards used in our community and maximise the opportunity for your material to be found and used.
 - Cataloguing – Jorum is able to offer assistance in attaching metadata to content by funding information specialists. You need only give very limited information when you deposit your content. Information experts will do the rest.
 - Workflow – Jorum has developed a workflow process that can be tailored to the needs of contributors (ask us for more details).
 - Jorum provides 24/7 system access and helpdesk assistance during office hours.
 - Users of the service will benefit from management of their data and support services at the data centres. EDINA and MIMAS offer security and management of data, and technical operational support, along with registration, user support, training and promotional services.

- Jorum is a service-in-development which means that, as well as running the service, the data centres will be undertaking R&D work in a number of key areas. Project and departmental teams depositing content into Jorum will benefit from developments in the wider community, tracked under the R&D strand of our project work.

Common Concerns

Why would I share content? – It might be worth something!

- The value in most e-learning materials is how they are contextualised in the learning environment, rather than in any re-sale value to competitors or the commercial sector.

Why would I share something that took me a long time to produce?

- You should share precisely because it took you a long time to produce! It saves other staff (working on a similar subject area) from “re-inventing the wheel”, and if they also contribute their materials, you will benefit from them.

The content is mine and I don't want to give away my rights!

- In most cases, your institution will own IPR in the material you produced during the course of your employment. If this is not the case in your institution, please ask us for help in contributing content to Jorum. However, even where your institution owns the content, your name as author will be attached to it and anyone repurposing content must ensure that this attribution remains. Material will be licensed to HEFCE and the institution retains copyright in the material.

The licensing process looks complicated and time consuming!

- The Jorum licensing model is comprehensive in order to protect all parties' interests. As such the process of getting the licence completed and signed will take a little effort, although there is only one licence required per institution. We have a range of support material on our website which will assist you and we are also available to help. Many institutions have now completed the process.

I don't have time to donate content to Jorum!

- Submitting content does take a little time, but we will do our best to assist you and make the process as easy as possible. In addition, we provide assistance from information specialists, who will create most of the descriptions for you so that the content can be found and used by others.

My content won't be of any use to anyone else!

- Users benefit from accessing this content “as-is”, but can then develop this content further by modifying it to their own needs, enriching their students' learning experience. By virtue of the fact that material in Jorum can be modified, amended, aggregated, annotated, excerpted and repurposed, you are helping to create learning opportunities for others and contributing to a community of sharing in the UK.