Learning Object Repository Funding Summary by State

States with Funding

1. **North Carolina Learning Object Repository** (NCLOR)
   http://www.nclor.its.state.nc.us/nclorprod/logon.do
   - **Status: Not yet in production: test environment at this time**
   - **Funding**.   The NCLOR is funded through the community college system at $500,000 per year for 5 years from a 2 + 2 initiative. These funds are earmarked for collaborative projects, especially focused on nursing and teaching, across educational sectors. **All courses created with state dollars will be available through the repository and disaggregated into lessons to be shared through the repository.** The community college system is charged with licensing, creating, and maintaining the repository; the universities are charged with developing repository content.
     - The North Carolina Community College System is supporting the repository hardware/software infrastructure for all education sectors for two (2) years as well as providing content from hundreds of state developed courses. After the first two years, the universities and K12 must financially contribute to support the NCLOR.
     - For at least five years, community colleges and universities have been collaborating to create distance learning courses to share throughout the state.
   - **Cost avoidance**: 29% of all North Carolina community college and university enrollments are delivered via distance learning in 2008. By developing a centralized content repository (using Equella repository software) and Moodle (open source learning management system software), ***North Carolina expects to avoid the cost of building and maintaining an additional university campus***. For an estimated $6-$8 million investment over five years, North Carolina believes they will save the approximately $60 million per year required to support a new university. Enrollments in distance learning course are expected to increase resulting in additional cost avoidance.

2. **California Digital Marketplace**
   No URL found
   - **Status: Development**
   - **Funding**: through California State University. Information requested on funding, but not yet received.
   - **Legislation** passed in 2008 and signed by the governor to support the use of Open Educational Resources which is free or low cost digital textbooks and resources.
   - Their services include:
     - Teaching-learning services to improve faculty and student success, and, satisfaction.
     - Technology services integrating open standards-based applications to deliver customizable enterprise service.

- o Marketplace services to make their services well known and well used by providing highly valued products and services.
  - o Business services which enable all stakeholders to close their business.
- Also receives funding through corporate sponsorship (technology and publishing companies). They are developing business practices that they anticipate will transform the service and business models for the sharing and distribution of free and fee-based digital content.
  - o Their alliance includes technology companies such as: Oracle, CISCO, Sun, IBM, Microsoft, and Apple, as well as learning management and content management entities.
  - o Their publisher sponsorships include Pearson, Thomson, McGraw Hill, and others. The CSU is also managing an alliance of higher education institutions – MERLOT - who would be using the Digital Marketplace in time.

State Repositories That Are Partially Funded or Seeking Funding

1. **Florida: The Orange Grove**
   http://www.theorangegrove.org
   - **Status: live and completely functional**
   - **Funding**. Funding for the project has been made available from a $250,000 legislative appropriation in 2007 and carryover dollars from the Florida Virtual Campus which are now exhausted. This includes:
     - o A license for all Florida educators to access the repository software (Equella)
     - o Limited programmer services
     - o Part time librarian to describe/metatag and contribute resources
     - o Salary for one full time project manager
   - **Project status:** the repository is live and functioning for any K20 educator that requests an account. The digital Kentucky Educational Television GED resources licensed by the state of Florida and the National Repository of Online modules in chemistry, physics, statistics, history, algebra, calculus and others form the core of curriculum materials available online. There is even a Spanish calculus course available. A new area of emphasis is open access textbooks that faculty members can customize for their courses, and students can access at no cost or low cost.

     Faculty members and curriculum specialists may also contribute resources. A virtual review process is available for implementation through the repository software. Through federation and harvesting, faculty members have access to an additional 60,000 resources from around the globe which continues to expand.

- **Policies:** The Orange Grove Committee has established the need for the following policies:

  - There shall be a specified, state-supported, statewide digital repository for Florida educators, known as The Orange Grove

  - The Orange Grove should support Florida educators through account management, training, and marketing based on an appropriate level of funding provided by the departments that serve the students in higher education or K-12. Funding needed
      - Buyout of software
      - Maintenance
      - Staff
      - User Training
      - Marketing of the Repository
      - User Support

  - Florida should require that a copy of any instructional content created with state dollars be placed in the repository. Policies about content ownership and appropriate level of access should be developed.

  - Florida should provide sufficient funding to initiate open textbook production via The Orange Grove. This could be accomplished in phases, by producing textbooks in a few designated courses, and then expanding the system. A partner for printing, e.g., The University Press of Florida, should be designated.

  - The Orange Grove should be promulgated as a vehicle for dissemination of products produced by grants.

  - Institutions should be encouraged to use the repository to document their creative and research efforts to assist in accreditation.

  - Institutions should be encouraged to recognize digital publishing by faculty whether instructional resources or textbooks.

2. **Georgia: USG Share**
   http://usgshare.org/
   - **Status: live and completely functional**
   - **Funding.** The project has been funded with existing department funds available from the University System of Georgia (USG) at approximately $205,000 per year. This includes:
       - A license for up to 2000 users and hosting for the repository software (Equella)
       - A statewide license for National Repository of Online Courses learning resources
       - Limited consulting fees/programmer services
       - Part time graduate student assistant salary

   o Salary for one full time project manager
The project is managed through the Advanced Learning Technologies Department of the Board of Regents of the USG.

- **Project status:** the repository is live and functioning for all universities. Their primary audience is USG faculty and staff. USG Share seeks to provide instructional resources for use in both online and traditional face-to-face instruction.   The e-Core courses, developed with state dollars, are being been re-developed into discrete learning objects. Additional funding is required to complete the project.   Resources from the National Repository of Online Courses have also been licensed to help form the core of curriculum materials available through USG Share. The agency is interested in sharing resources as broadly as possible and are making resources publicly available when they are able. USG Share federates with The Orange Grove to access publicly available resources.

- **Policies:** This group is working on issues related to copyright and intellectual property that present barriers to growing content for sharing in the repository. Content developed with funds provided through the USG Board of Regents has been licensed with Creative Commons licenses. They are discussing having new content that is developed with USG Board of Regent funds to be contributed to the repository for sharing, but there is no policy yet in place.

3. **Kentucky**: **Kentucky Learning Depot** (State partner for FDLC FIPSE grant)
   http://kylearningdepot.org/
   - **Status: Not yet in production: pilot**
   - **Funding.** Currently supporting a repository <u>pilot</u> with limited funds of $85,000 plus in kind salaries of special project staff from the Council on Postsecondary Education that includes repository software licensing for up to 1,000 users; database software, hosting services, technical and training support, licensing of digital content, and administrative support.
   - Preparing budget request in cooperation with the Kentucky Department of Education for $160,000 for biennium legislature that meets in January, 2010. The Steering Committee is still trying to decide when to put the funding model in place in order to bring in revenue.
     - Planned audiences and sponsoring entities:
       o Postsecondary institutions (public and private) and K-12 school districts (public and private)
       o State agencies (Education and Workforce, KDE, EPSB, KET, CPE, CRD and KDLA)
       o Corporations (generic, collaborative)
         o Publishers
     - Planned corporate sponsorship options:
       o Collection Sponsor – Varied on the license fee for the collection of digital content
       o Diamond - $50,000 per year
       o Platinum – $35,000 per year
       o Gold - $25,000 per year
       o Silver – 10,000 per year

  o Bronze – 5,000 per year

- Planned provider/user sponsorship options: (fiscal year; prorated to allow open entry)
  - Exploratory user (invitation only during pilot only)
  - Single user - $175 per year
  - 10 user accounts - $1,500 per year
  - 30 user accounts – $4,000 per year
  - 60 user accounts – $7,000 per year
  - Multi-year options – discounted rates
- Planned interaction with external project-based entities (e.g., other virtual schools) options
  - Exchange of learning objects
  - Collaborative development of learning objects
- **Policy.** Developed policy to ensure sharing of state developed resources. Will place a copy of any learning resources developed with state dollars into the Kentucky Learning Depot for one stop access by teachers and faculty.
- Have support of former governor of Kentucky.

4. **Minnesota**
   No URL available. Access only with login and password to Desire2Learn
   - **Status: production, but limited use** as faculty cannot interact with other repositories external to Desire2Learn.
   - **Funding: funded by state as part of state funded learning management system**
   - Currently using the Desire 2 Learn (D2L) course content management system and its embedded learning object repository software.

5. **Texas**
   No URL available yet
   - **Status:** under development
   - The University System is running a 3-year repository pilot using free open source software, dSpace. Texas has excellent computer programming staff to support open source software and its development.
   - This project is just beginning and has a dual emphasis:

     (1) the UT Medical campuses (who will manage a separate sub-LOR and use a medical metadata set; and

     (2) the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB) which will make their sub-LOR available to all public institutions of higher education in the State, including all of the community colleges. There may be additional partnerships within Texas K12 education in the future.