The Edinburgh Statement

for Learning Analytics Interoperability

As participants in the LAK16 Jisc/Apereo Hackathon, we believe that learning analytics is a key to future educational enhancement for all. As a growing community engaging with emerging specifications and standards, we must collaborate closely and continuously to create a sustainable and interoperable data ecosystem. We believe in inclusive collaboration which will be strengthened by engaging with multiple educational, commercial and other non-profit bodies, around the world.

Learning happens across a lifetime. Data must be collected in many different places and spaces, and make sense for all members of society. Without interoperability, inclusive and data-supported lifelong learning will be impossible. Rather, we will be constrained to work across a world of data islands. On the other hand, practical interoperability will help catalyze learning analytics by removing barriers, and facilitating a focus on enhancing learning processes.

The interoperability we require represents both a set of immediately identified objectives, and a direction of travel. As such it will only be achieved by an ongoing and open dialogue amongst all vendors, practitioners and organizations influencing the learning analytics landscape. To be effective, such dialogue must reflect both "top down" and "bottom up" perspectives.

We plan to establish common, shared and accessible spaces which will facilitate the necessary dialogue, exchange of perspectives, and linkages. Activities supported by these spaces might include, SIGs, the sharing of policy documentation, use cases, testing procedures, and other practical interoperability solutions. Such spaces will have an online representation, and will also encompass physical gatherings to foster a shared spirit of collaboration.

Representative bodies must populate this space and be fully engaged. We encourage all all those facing the common challenges of practical interoperability to help us extend the spirit of the LAK16 hackathon beyond - or alongside - the confines of face to face collaboration. In coming weeks we'll be shaping how that will happen. Join the conversation as it emerges.

If you agree with the principles embodied in this document, please add your signature to this document. Include your email address if you wish to be circulated around future planning.

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