

eduKate™ Version 2.8.5.0 released in Beta!

Want to check out our new version

eduKate version 2.8.5.0 is up on our website for you to review.

Go to: www.edukate.com now to register for a password!

'Expert' User Group Update

The eduKate 'Expert' Users Group continues to be a great success in 2009!

The program includes **FREE** access to our monthly on-line **Workshops**.

To express your interest in becoming a member, please email: kate@edukate.com

Note:

There are loads more features packed into this release. Keep your eye out for the detailed Release Notes.



NEW Central Repository

eduKate™ introduces the concept of a 'Central Repository'. This new faculty based public repository area will allow your school to build and manage a re-usable pool of learning objects that are accessible for use by all staff.

To accommodate this new feature, the **Learning Object Repository** has now been split into 2 categories:

- My Learning Objects
- Central Repository Learning Objects

You are able to add learning objects (Resources, Questions, Tests and Activities) to the Central Repository. An 'Add to Central Repository' tick box has been added as an enhancement to all learning object creation screens.

The learning objects in the central repository are exactly the same as the learning objects in the My Learning Objects area. This means you are able to use questions from the central repository to build a test, assign an activity to a class or attach resources to other learning objects.

As the owner of a learning object in the central repository, you will have full rights (edit and delete) over the learning object. You will also be able to view all staff usage of your learning object in the USAGE panel.



Manage Faculties

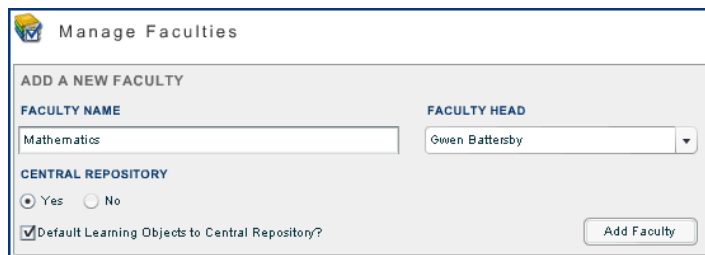
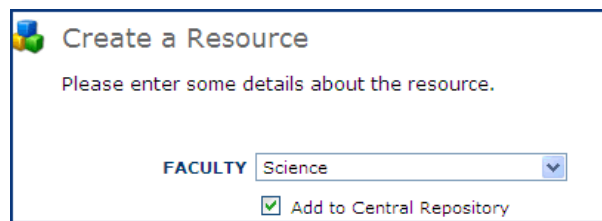
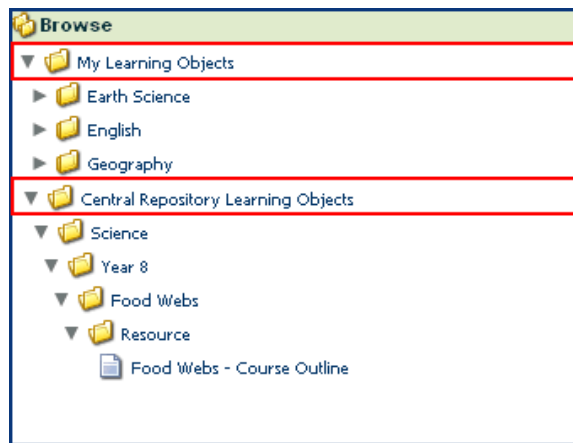
To allow for the set-up of the Central Repository, additional fields have been added to the 'Manage Faculties' screen of the Administration Console. The Central Repository (that is organised the same way as your existing Learning Object Repository) is categorised by faculties which are customisable by your school.

A 'Central Repository Yes/No' field has been added when creating or editing existing faculties. Selecting 'Yes' will allow your staff to use the faculty as a category in the Central Repository.



Faculty Head

When allocating the faculties to use in the Central Repository, you have the added option of nominating a 'Faculty Head' for each faculty. This person has full edit and delete rights over any content that is added to their allocated faculty. Thus ensuring that the Learning Objects that have been added can be maintained.





Manage Topics

A 'Topic Category' field has been added to the 'Manage Topics' screen to assist with the management in the Central Repository. A 'Faculty Head' will have the ability to select their allocated faculty from the 'Topic Category' picklist. When a category is selected a list of all the topics that have been added will be accessible to view, edit and delete.

The screenshot shows the 'Manage Topics' interface. On the left, there is a 'TOPIC CATEGORY' dropdown menu with options: 'Science CR Topics', 'My Topics', and 'Science CR Topics' (highlighted). On the right, there is an 'EDIT AN EXISTING TOPIC' dropdown menu with the option 'Food Webs'. Below that is a 'TOPIC NAME' text input field containing 'Food Webs'.



Searching Learning Objects

An enhancement has been made to the 'Filter' search screen. This enhancement entails an additional search field to allow you to specifically search for Learning Objects that have been added to the Central Repository.

The screenshot shows the 'SELECT FILTER CRITERIA' interface. It features several checked checkboxes: 'Resources', 'Questions', 'Tests', 'Activities', 'My Learning Objects', 'Shared Learning Objects', and 'Central Repository Objects'. Below these is a 'SEARCH BY KEYWORD (OPTIONAL)' text input field. At the bottom, there are 'DISPLAY OPTIONS' with radio buttons for 'Show as Tree' (selected) and 'Show as List'. There are also 'Apply Filter' and 'Reset' buttons.



NEW Transfer a Learning Object

The new *transfer* facility in eduKate™ allows you to safely remove a learning object from your repository without affecting other staff usage. It transfers the ownership of the learning object to another teacher.

The option to 'Maintain a Share' enables you to keep a copy of your Learning Object. An automatic share is created when the Learning Object is transferred to the new owner.

The screenshot shows the 'Transfer Ownership of Learning Object' dialog box. It has a 'TRANSFER TO' dropdown menu with 'Gwen Battersby' selected. Below it is a 'MAINTAIN SHARE' dropdown menu with 'Unrestricted' selected. A note states: 'A share must be defined as you are currently using this Learning Object.' At the bottom are 'Cancel' and 'Transfer' buttons.



Usage Panel Enhancements

A series of filters have been added to the 'Usage' panel for resources to make it much easier for you to manage and maintain your Learning Object Repository. These filters will show the Questions, Activities and Blogs to which a resource has been attached. These filters can also be used to display resources that have been assigned to classes, individual students or groups of students.

An 'Include pre-[current year]' tick box has also been added to this screen. This allows you to view assignments made in previous years.

The screenshot shows the 'Usage' panel in the software. It has a 'Learning Object Usage' dropdown menu and a table with columns 'Name' and 'Usage'. The table lists 'African Food Web - Part 1' and 'African Food Web - Part 2'. There is also an 'Include pre-2009 Usage' checkbox.



NEW Time Change Controls

We have updated our controls for allocating times in eduKate™. These new time controls can be found in the following places:

- Calendar Events
- Assigning Activities
- Modifying Assignment Dates/Times
- Allocating Extensions.

The screenshot shows the time change controls. It includes 'START TIME' and 'FINISH TIME' dropdown menus. The start time is set to 2:06 PM and the finish time is set to 3:00 PM. Below these are numerical input fields for minutes (2, 3, 4, 5, 6).