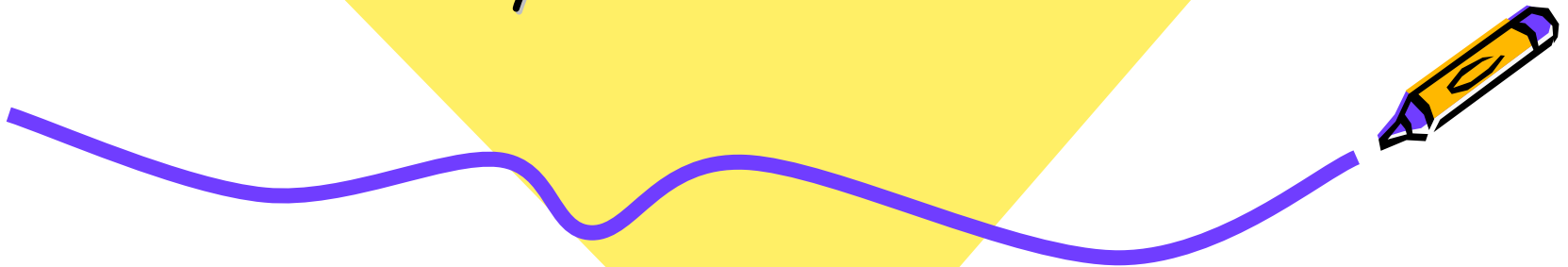




Interoperability

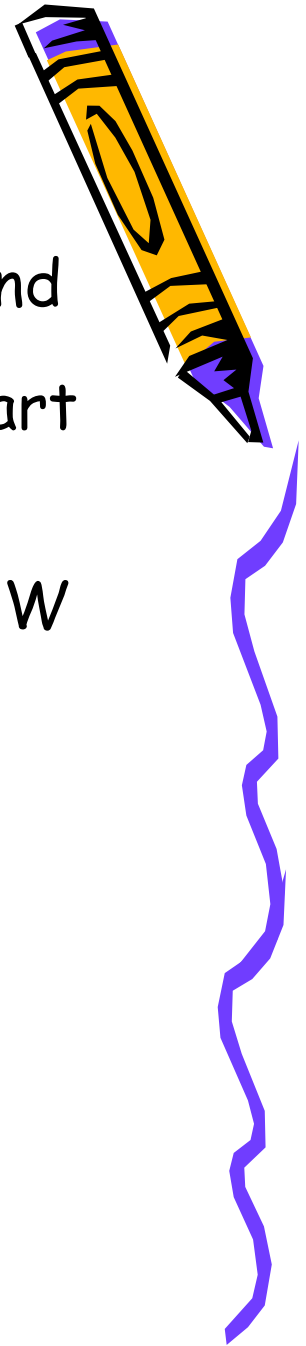
Why does it matter?



!DEA 2004

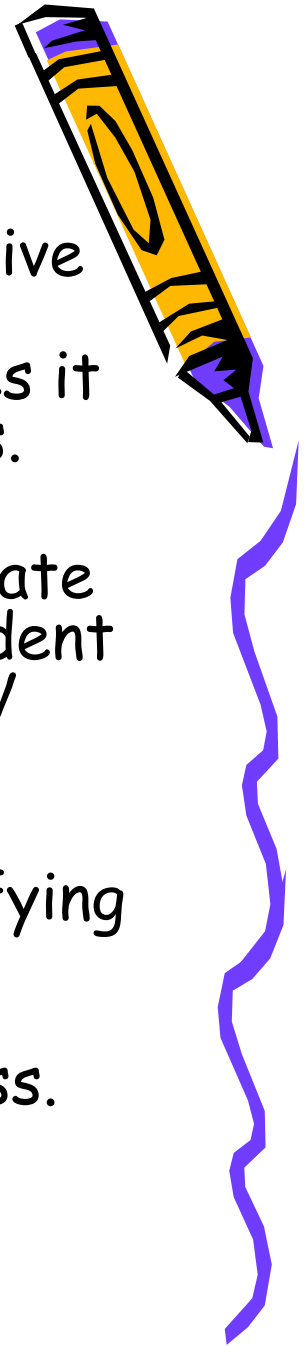
Why can't we do it (1)

- A Year 5 teacher in Shepparton provides an end of year report to a parent of a child who transferred from a school in Albury at the start of the year.
- The report details how the student was performing at the start of the year (using NSW data, including the Year 3 Basic Skills Test).
- It outlines progress over the year.
- It identifies ongoing reading comprehension problems picked up in NSW but notes some improvement as measured by the Victorian Learning Assessment Program.



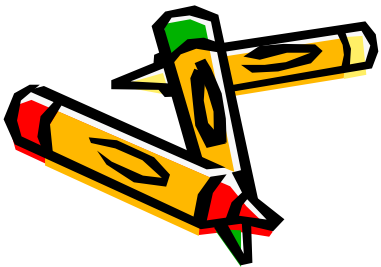
Because

- Neither NSW nor Victoria have a comprehensive student records system which picks up all relevant information about students and makes it available to teachers for educational purposes.
- Even if such systems existed, a teacher in Victoria would have no way of making an accurate match between a student in the Victorian student records system and a student within the NSW student records system, because of a lack of agreement on information standards.
- There is no systems level standard for identifying a teacher as a person authorised to look at student records and controlling the kinds of records different kinds of teachers can access.



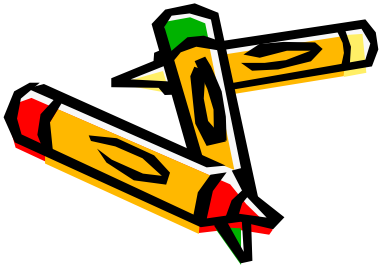
Why can't we do it (2)

- A teacher at Canterbury High School searches a NSW Government web site for resources on bullying using a plain language enquiry (eg Australian resources on bullying suitable for Year 10 female students).
- The teacher quickly finds and downloads an on-line copy of a West Australian curriculum resource on bullying which is specifically tailored to girls around the age group of Year 10 students.



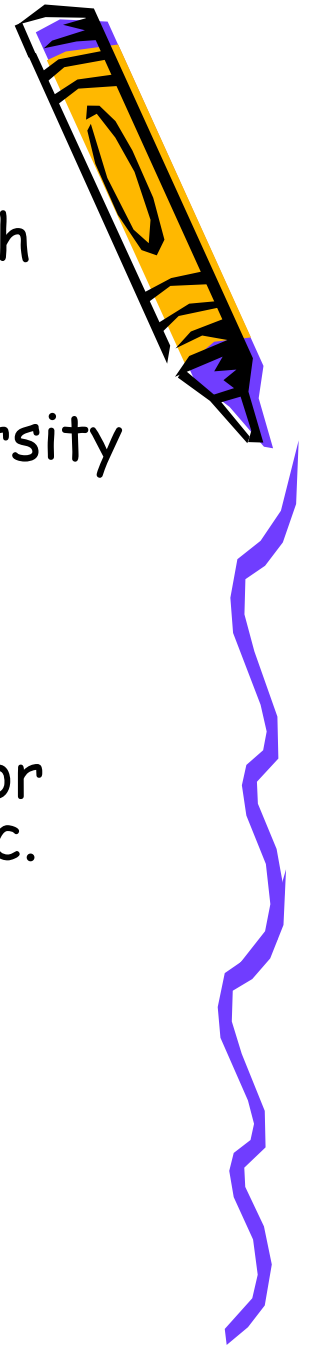
Because

- Apart from the Learning Federation products, most on-line curriculum products are not described and stored according to standard classification systems and cannot be quickly and precisely accessed
- The search given above would return thousands of items and the teacher would have to sort through them to get to the really appropriate ones).



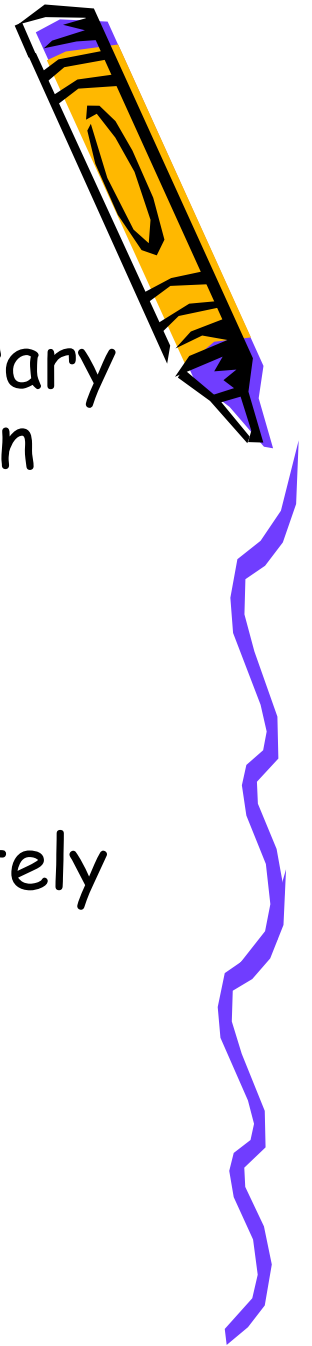
Why can't we do it (3)

- A student in Year 10 in a South Australian high school accesses a career guidance page for information on how to become a journalist.
- The site provides details of all VET and university courses in journalism offered in Australia.
- It also provides details of the school courses which would qualify a student for entry into journalism courses.
- It details cut off scores, HECS levels, fees for private students and fees for VET courses etc.
- It details student satisfaction, post graduate destinations, graduate skills assessment and employer satisfaction surveys for each course/institution.



Because

- The large number of web sites and systems holding the information necessary to make this possible do not hold data in nationally consistent ways and cannot share information in the seamless way needed for this kind of service.
- In most cases, a student would need to access each information source separately and painstakingly assemble the information.



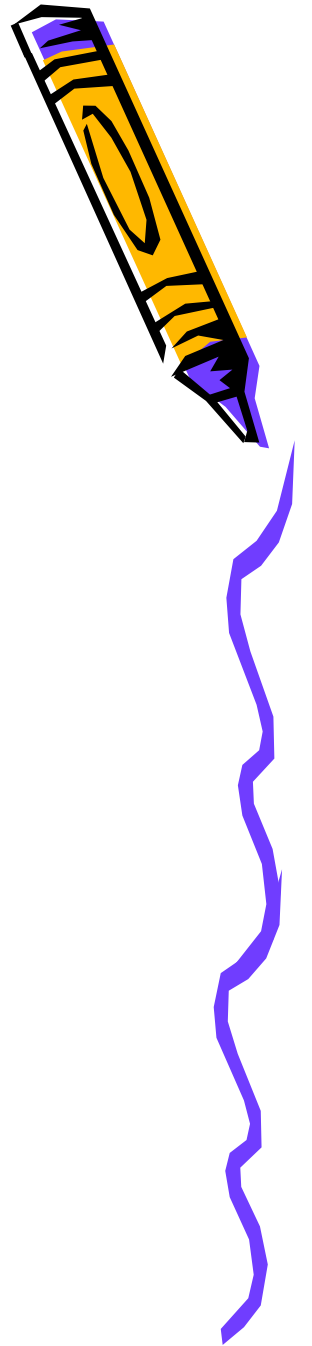
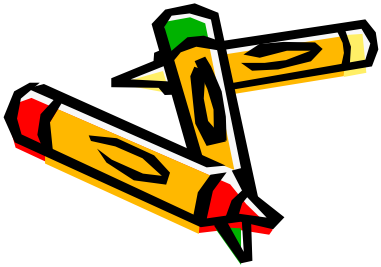
Why can't we do it (4)

- A researcher, and ARC grant recipient, at an Australian university completes an article
- Following peer review the article is accepted by an international proprietary journal
- A post print copy of the article is also lodged with the university's open access digital repository
- These actions lead to automatic updating of
 - the researcher's open access publication list
 - the university's open access record of staff research activity
 - the ARC's open access record of research activity related to its grants
 - a gateway site providing sophisticated, industry tailored access to research activities in Australian research institutions



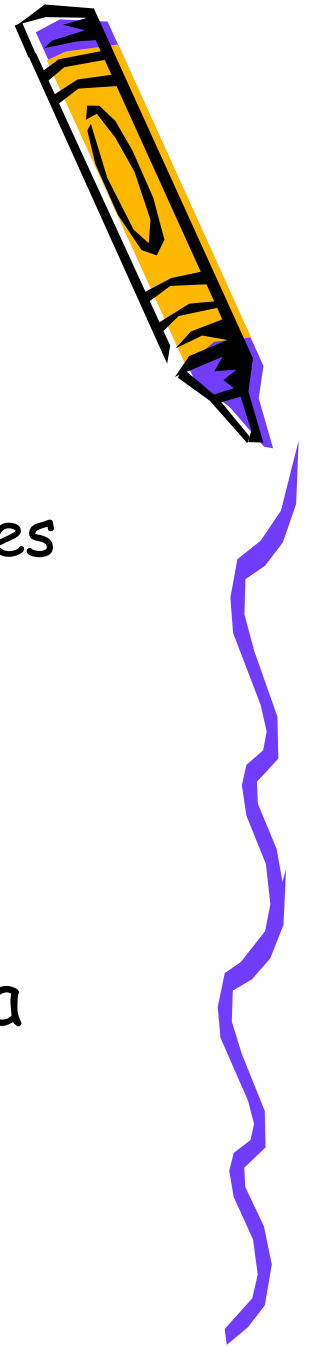
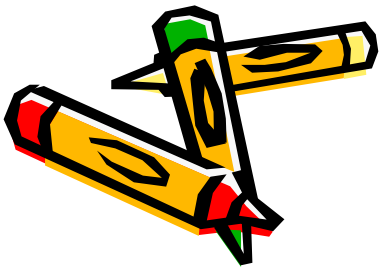
Because

- It's just too damn hard



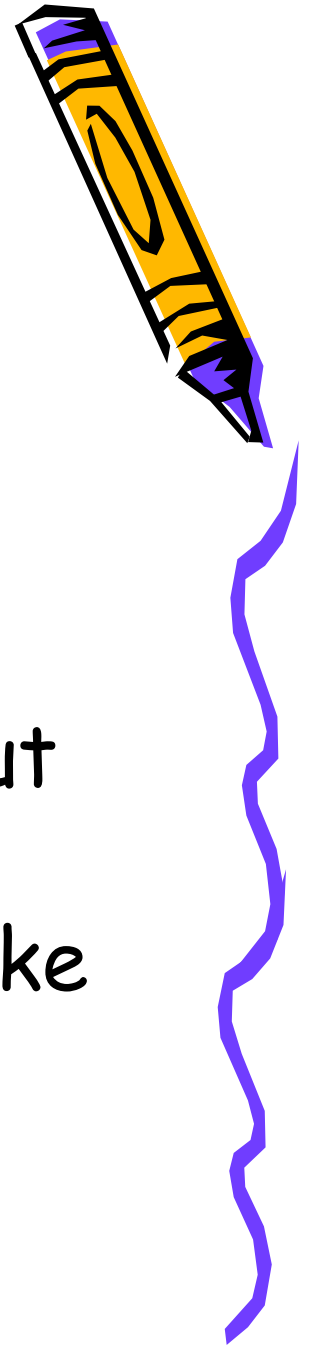
Why this is really really important

- Education is an information process
 - information and communications technologies can affect all of education
- Of all the data stored in the world, 99.997% is stored electronically only
- Most of the world's major research instruments are not located in Australia
 - but they could be accessed from Australia



Why now?

- Because we can see what we could achieve
- Because industry, Government and education are grappling with the same issues
- Because there are real projects out there getting their hands dirty
- Because we have the chance to make real progress



So

Welcome and have a very
productive discussion

