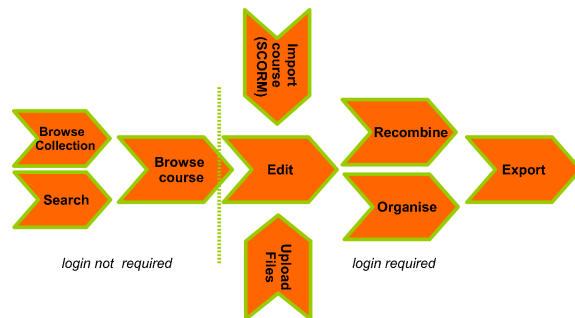


What is the SELF Platform?

The SELF Platform is one of the outcomes of the SELF Project. The SELF Platform is a web platform for the collaborative production, editing, remixing and translation of educational materials. It is an educator-centric production environment for learner-centric materials. To ensure the spirit of collaboration all materials are under a free license and can be used, reused and distributed freely. Technically, SELF is a completely free software system that can be (re)used by all and adheres to open standards for maximum interoperability and usefulness for other projects and platforms. The SELF Platform is the result of the EC-funded SELF project and is now in the hands of a worldwide community of interested users.

The following is a brief description of the main modules or features of the platform



1. Collections

A collection is a set of courses grouped around a certain topic. Browse the collections tree to find learning materials.

2. Courses

A course is a structured learning material (documentation, manual, course, textbook...) and is usually made of smaller Learning Objects

(LOs), also called lessons. A course may also contain other types of objects, such as a glossaries, bibliography, sets of tests, frequently asked questions, etc.

3. Add, Edit, Organise, Recombine LOs

These operations are only available for logged in users. They form the main authoring environment for Learning Objects: users can create LOs, add new sub objects, edit the content and metadata of each object, organise the order and hierarchy of lessons within a course, save favourite objects to the personal bookshelf and recombine saved objects in another course.

4. Upload, Import, Export

Through the File Manager any registered user can upload files in open standard formats, or search files of other users and add them to the bookshelf. SCORM files (the standard format for digital courses) can, once uploaded, be imported into the system. Courses can be exported as a single HTML page, suitable for printing or viewing in a browser, or as a SCORM package that can be imported into a LMS such as Moodle or Sakai.

5. Collaborate

Version control keeps track of every change in a tree-like version history. Unlike many other authoring tools, SELF is not linear but allows branching; a branch is the evolution of consecutive versions where each builds upon the version before. However different users can continue working on earlier versions and create different branches of initially the same course and produce the material according to their personal interests. Comparing changes,

recombining and merging permits bringing different branches together again.

Interest groups can be formed around a common topic making use of collaborative tools that will be introduced gradually in the platform.

6. Material Rating & User Rating

SELF is working on the implementation of ranking mechanisms that keep track of the popularity of each course and assigns proportional parts of that popularity to the contributing users. Contributing users will therefore be recognised for their work and gain reputation and certain privileges in the community.

At the same time the material rating helps to improve the relevance of search results and helps users get an indication of the maturity and use of each object.

SELF Community

All interested users can participate freely in SELF by improving the materials, creating new ones or contributing to the development of the platform. For more information, see <http://selfproject.eu/> and <http://selfplatform.eu/>

People and organisations who want to provide a more strategic contribution are welcome to participate in one of the teams and expert groups and/or make a donation to support SELF. Contact SELF@selfproject.eu.

