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Scootle
Background and access

Intended audience

This manual is specifically for parents and other guest users who intend to use Scootle to discover and use digital curriculum resources.

Background

The digital curriculum resources on Scootle include interactive multimedia learning objects and individual digitised items sourced from Australian and New Zealand cultural and scientific organisations.

Learning objects combine still and moving images, text, audio and animation to engage and motivate students and support their learning of concepts and skills in a range of curriculum areas from Foundation to Year 12.

Digital resources include museum artefacts, artworks, archival documents, photographs, archival and contemporary moving images, maps, posters, songs and speeches. In contrast to learning objects, which have in-built learning design, parents can use digital resources in a range of flexible ways to suit their own child’s learning needs.

Scootle (http://www.scootle.edu.au) provides access to more than 20,000 items of digital curriculum content published by Education Services Australia. Parents can find interactive learning objects, images, audio files and movie clips via browse, search, and filter technology. They can create personal lists of favourite resources for quick access.

Parents can also rate and review the value of individual learning objects or digital resources. It is hoped that collaborative understanding of the pedagogical value of digital content in authentic teaching and learning contexts will grow nationally with this Web 2.0 feature.

Access

Parents can and other guest users can use the Guest login to search and browse Scootle.

Conditions of use

http://www.scootle.edu.au/ec/p/conditions
Overview
Home page

**Featured functions**
Scootle’s key functions; or functions that have been added or updated recently.

**Featured resources**
See the most popular resources, or what has been added to the site or updated recently.

**Explore by resource type**
This option allows you to narrow down your search by resource type. Selecting a resource type icon will navigate you to the Search results page, displaying all resources that fall under the selected resource type.

**News**
See what’s new in the Scootle Lounge and ESA News; discover other websites that offer a range of free learning resources and ideas, case studies, online and offline learning activities.

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Overview
Home page functions

- **Browse by Australian Curriculum**
  Australian Curriculum lets you discover content available for each specific curriculum for the various levels.

- **Register**
  If you do not have a Scootle account, the Register link will allow you to join Scootle, provided you meet Scootle's eligibility criteria.

- **Login**
  The Login link allows a registered user to log in to Scootle.

- **Guest login**
  The Guest login link is used by parents and other unregistered users to search and browse learning resources for their own use.

- **Student login**
  The Student login is used by students to access learning paths created by teachers.

- **FAQs**
  FAQs (Frequently Asked Questions) provide answers to many common questions about Scootle.

- **User guides**
  User guides contain links to download the Scootle user guide, Administrator user guide, School Manager user guide, and Parent/Guest user guide.

- **How to use Scootle**
  How to use Scootle provides ten ways you can maximise the functionalities available for you.

- **Learning paths**
  Learning paths allow you to create, share, and search for learning paths. This feature is only available for registered Scootle users.
Utility navigation

The utility navigation appears at the top of every page. It is the home base for logging in and out, and accessing your account page.

Tools and resources

Infrastructure and resources developed by ESA are available for all Australian educators.

Advanced search

This allows you to make specific, targeted searches of learning content by restricting the learning area, year level, content type and metadata fields searched. More detail is provided on page 11.

Social media

You can use the:

- Twitter link to view Scootle’s Twitter page and the most recent Twitter updates. If you have a Twitter account, you can also follow Scootle by using this link.
- Facebook link to view Scootle’s Facebook page and any news updates. If you have a Facebook account, you can also ‘like’ Scootle by using this link.
How to Access Scootle as a guest user

There are various ways to access the login for guests with no user inputs required.
Discovering learning content
Searching and browsing using Scootle
Overview

Basic search

Basic search functionality is provided from every page of the Scootle website via the Search box.

Search box

This Search box (and ‘Advanced Search link) is available at the top of every page in Scootle. With it, you can search the full repository of digital curriculum resources. Searched fields include the title, description, topic, keyword and catalogue entry ID fields.

You can search using:

• a single keyword
• multiple keywords separated by spaces
• Boolean operators OR, AND, NOT
• An exact phrase inside double quotation marks.

Scootle is limited to displaying 500 search results.
Overview
Advanced search

The Advanced search page presents a number of filters, allowing you to perform a more specific search.

Keyword
Enter keyword(s) in the Search for field.

Fields
This section allows you to specify fields to search against. You may include multiple metadata fields in your search.

Resource type
The Resource type selection check boxes allow you to restrict your search to specific types of content. By default, the search covers all resource types.

Year level
The Year level section allows you to choose the audience the resources are aimed at based on schooling year levels. You may select multiple year levels.

Publication date
You may select content according to the time period in which it was published in the repository. (This should not be confused with resources that describe a certain time period, or the original creation date of a digital resource.) Dates may be entered using the DD/MM/YYYY format (day-month-year, eg 12/03/2015, or by using the calendar icon and selecting a date from the drop-down calendar.

Learning area
You can select a learning area by using the Learning Area dropdown list. Only one learning area can be selected at a time.

Resource provider
You can restrict your search to include only content provided by a certain institution or content provider, such as the Archives Office of Tasmania or the Powerhouse Museum.

Source
Use these check boxes to determine which sources will be included in your search. If you want to include web resources, select Web based resources. If you want to include content from the National Digital Learning resource Network select TLF.

Search/Clear search buttons
Once you have specified your search criteria, click Search to search the repository.
How to find content by Australian Curriculum

Step 1
Select an Australian Curriculum learning area

Begin by clicking Browse by Australian Curriculum in the Home page.

Step 2
View learning area

All strands and content descriptions for each year level that fall within the learning area you selected are displayed.

Click on a strand to view the available content descriptions.

Click matching resources to view elaborations and digital curriculum resources linked to the selected curriculum content description.
Step 3
View matching resources

Select View matching resources for the curriculum content description.

The page displays all digital curriculum resources that fall within the curriculum content selected.

To view a resource, select View resource. To view the details of a resource, select View details.

Step 4
View the details of a resource

When viewing the details of a digital curriculum resource, you can download the content package or report an issue.
Overview
Australian Curriculum content

The Australian Curriculum page displays all subjects, strands, and content descriptions for each year level that falls within the learning area you selected.

Refine
The Refine section allows you to filter your results by selecting Year levels, General capabilities, and Cross-curriculum priorities. Select the desired year level and/or general capabilities and/or cross-curriculum priorities and select Apply filters. The search will be conducted.

Curriculum content description
This is a brief outline of the curriculum element that will be covered.

View matching resources
Select to view elaborations and digital curriculum resources linked to the selected curriculum content descriptions.

Year level
Jump from one year level curriculum results to another using these year level links.

Australian Curriculum Assessment and Reporting Authority
This link goes to the ACARA website, which will open in the current window.

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Overview
Elaborations and digital resources

This page displays the Curriculum content descriptions, Elaborations and related digital resources that fall within the curriculum content selected.

View on Australian Curriculum website
This link will open a new window displaying the content from the Australian Curriculum website.

Curriculum content descriptions
A brief outline of the curriculum element that will be covered.

Refine results by
The Refine results by section allows you to further refine your results by resource type. Select the desired resource type(s), then click Apply filters at the bottom of the box. The search will be conducted within the current search results, narrowing down the number of items returned.

Refine by source
This Refine by source section provides a list of sources for the relevant resources. Selecting a source restricts the results to the items related to the source.

Refine by topic
This Refine by topic section provides a list of topics related to the search results, with the number of related items displayed beside each topic. Selecting a related topic restricts the results to items also related to that topic.

Elaborations
A list of tasks involved in order to satisfy the curriculum element.

Sorting results
The results can be sorted according to relevance, title (alphabetically), rating, or popularity.

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How to Browse content alphabetically

Step 1
Select Keywords

Step 2
Choose a letter and select a keyword

Step 3
Browse the search results

Keywords allows you to browse learning content using a list of alphabetically grouped keywords. Begin by selecting Keywords under the Search box.

You can select a letter of the alphabet, each of which is divided into alphabetically sorted keywords and key phrases. Select a keyword or phrase to view the matching learning content.

You can view the search results as a list, which is the default, or a gallery by selecting the appropriate content. Find out more about changing the search results on page 20.

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How to Browse content by topic

Step 1
Select Topics

Begin by selecting Topics under the Search box.

Step 2
View all subtopics within a topic

The Browse by topic page allows you to browse learning content by topic.

Topics are structured using a controlled education vocabulary - Schools Online Thesaurus (ScOT)¹ - and include Arts, Business and enterprise, Education, Health, History, Language, Mathematics, Science, Society, and Technology.

Selecting a broad topic in the Browse by topic box will display the subtopics. Each subtopic is further divided into relevant keywords.

Selecting any topic, subtopic or keyword on the main area of the page takes you to a page that displays all results related to your selection.

¹ For further information about ScOT, visit http://scott.curriculum.edu.au/.

Step 3
Browse the search results

You can view the search results as a list, which is the default, or a gallery, by clicking the appropriate icon.

Find out more about changing the search results on page 20.
Understanding and refining search results
Processes and functions
Overview
Search results page

Re fine results by
The refine results by section allows you to further filter your results by selecting Year levels (useful mainly for learning objects and collections), Resource types and/or a Learning area.

Select the desired year level, resource type(s), and/or learning area, the click Apply filters at the bottom of the box. The search will be conducted within the current search results, narrowing the number of items returned.

Refine search by source
The Refine by source section provides a list of sources for the relevant resources.

Selecting a resource restricts the results to the items related to the source.

Refine by topic
The Refine by topic section provides a list of topics related to the search results, with the number of related items displayed beside each topic.

Selecting a related topic restricts the results to items also related to that topic.

Changing results view
You can change between list view, which is the default view, and gallery view, by selecting the list or gallery icons.

Sorting results
The results can be sorted according to relevance, title (alphabetically), rating or popularity.
How to Change the search results view

Toggle from list view to grid view by selecting the icons below.

Option 1 - List view

Option 2 - Grid view
Overview
Search result display

Resource icon and title
An icon indicating the type of learning resource appears to the right of the resource thumbnail, if any. The title of the resource appears to the right of the icon indicating the source of the resource.

Moving your mouse pointer over the resource icon will display what type of resource it is. Clicking the title takes you to the details page of the content.

ID, Learning areas, Year levels, Publisher name, Published date, Rating and usage
Below the content title is a section that displays the ID, Learning areas, Year levels, Publisher name, Published (date), rating and usage of the resource. (Note: The Learning area and Year level values only appear for learning objects and collections.)

Moving your mouse pointer over Usage will display a number of statistics for the resource, such as how many people have viewed the resource, and how many learning paths it has been added to.

View details and View resource
View details takes you to the details page of the resource.

View resource opens the learning content in a new browser tab or window.
Viewing learning content
Exploring audio and video content, learning objects and images

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Overview
View details page - Education details

Selecting View details from a Search results page opens a preview of the content with its key information. The information displayed varies according to whether the content is a learning object or a digital resource.

Back to search results
Select Back to search results to continue searching.

Thumbnail image
The details page displays a small preview image of the resource.

Educational details
The Educational details tab contains information about the learning outcomes for learning objects and information about the educational value for digital curriculum resources.

View in Australian Curriculum
Select the View in Australian Curriculum tab to view related curriculum information for the learning content selected.

Actions
Select Report issue if the resource does not function correctly.
Overview
View details page - Australian Curriculum

Selecting the View in Australian Curriculum tab from the details page displays a list of available Curriculum content descriptions and Elaborations linked to the resource selected.

Curriculum content descriptions
This contains a brief outline of the curriculum element that will be covered.

Elaborations
This lists the tasks involved in order to satisfy the curriculum element.

Back to search results
Select Back to search results to continue searching.
How to view content

Viewing learning objects

Viewing images

Viewing audio and video content

Selecting View resource from a search result opens the resource in a new browser window or tab.

If the resource is a learning object, it opens to fill the window.

If the content is an image, selecting View content opens a large version of the image with key creation and acknowledgement information.


If the content is video or audio, selecting View opens a new window with a small media player embedded and acknowledgement information.

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