

Ministry Guidelines Comparison Document – Scholaris

1. Learning with a focus on creating and managing resources and content		
Requirements	Features and Functionality	Notes
Create materials that can be made available in the web environment	1.1 Create web pages by filling in online forms – accessible, fast, intuitive	1.1 Scholaris provides a highly intuitive interface providing seamless capabilities for users to create rich and targeted websites, pages and collaboration environments
	1.2 Text editor for online editing; spellcheck, thesaurus, style etc – create own resources	1.2 Scholaris provides a rich online authoring tools for editing
	1.3 Import/export different file formats to make content available for downloading, eg Asttle, SMS data,	1.3 Scholaris provides a high level of interoperability and importing/exporting of content through standards such as SCORM, IMS, XML etc
	1.4 Upload multimedia -digital images, video, and audio	1.4 Scholaris supports the uploading and downloading of multimedia and digital content such as MS Media player, iMovie, Moviemaker, Real Audio....
	1.5 Adapt resources on-the-fly eg, delay publication, change, XML & style sheets; forums, quizzes,surveys;	1.5 Scholaris flexible architecture supports the ability to customize and configure the application in relation to look and feel, version management, change management of pages, documents and other related content
Access materials from a variety of sources and incorporate them into the learning environment	1.6 Create links to web pages and other resources	1.6 Scholaris provides the ability to create and manage links to resources such as webpages, documents, content etc
	1.7 Data exchange eg with SMS, intranet	1.7 A key component of Scholaris is the interoperability with other systems such as SMS packages,currently Scholaris has integrated with well known packages across hundreds of schools
	1.8 Metadata – store information about objects and resources for indexing	1.8 Scholaris provides a flexible framework for managing metadata associated with rerources such as learning content, documents, lists etc
	1.9 Other – search facilities etc	1.9 Scholaris provides a rich experience for using in searching for people and documents.

2. LEARNING: Focus on processes to support communication, collaboration and reflection

<p>Range of tools available for communication, collaboration and reflection, and to publish in the web environment</p>	<p>2.1 Synchronous conversation tools readily available, eg chat, IM, VC</p> <p>2.2 Asynchronous conversation tools eg forums that can be accessed in the context of a learning activity, calendars, voting, email groups</p> <p>2.3 Publishing tools eg blog , wiki, teaching activities</p> <p>2.4 Reflective records eg, e-portfolios, activity logs, student progress through content</p> <p>2.5 Other collaborative tools eg syndicate or school-wide viewing, parent view</p> <p>2.6 Access tools on-the-fly without technical expertise being required but still with security</p>	<p>2.1 Scholaris leveraging the underlying Microsoft technologies provides a rich toolset for communication from basic functionality such as chat through to video conferencing.</p> <p>2.2 Scholaris provides a wealth of tools and technologies such as Forums, discussion boards, voting, surveys, shared calendars, collaborative workspaces, email integration (MS Exchange)</p> <p>2.3 Scholaris provides functionality around blogs, wiki along with other tools to facilitate teaching activities through rich collaboration environments</p> <p>2.4 Scholaris provides a comprehensive capability around student progress tracking enabling informed learning in making learning relevant for the individual learner.</p> <p>2.5 Scholaris provides a framework for communication and collaboration across the school community including, parents, teachers, students and administrators</p> <p>2.6 The role based nature of Scholaris provides a single sign-on environment allowing users to seamlessly and securely access information that is relevant to them</p>
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3. LEARNING: Focus on the organisation and management of learning

<p>Management of learning</p>	<p>3.1 The potential to support innovative teaching practice and existing effective practice eg flexible, configurable</p> <p>3.2 The ability to structure content and activities sequentially and monitor student progress through them; link to SMS</p> <p>3.3 The ability to structure content and activities hierarchically so users can locate content easily; access to learning objects, search facility</p>	<p>3.1 Scholaris provides the foundation and flexibility to leverage best practices and working structures of individual users, a good example is the managed learning environment which is structured to allow users to start at any point along the teaching cycle</p> <p>3.2 This is a strong part of Scholaris in providing a framework that can manage student's progress. This ability allows proactive teaching to tailor learning for the individual</p> <p>3.3 LOR (Learning Object Repository) can be configured hierarchically or by folder design; full Search facilities available – by tags, users, targets, etc</p>
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Management of learners	<p>3.4 Ability to assign activities and resources to individuals and groups without restrictions</p> <p>3.5 Ability to enable teachers to create sub groups eg, year groups, class groups, random groups</p> <p>3.6 Ability to change membership on-the-fly eg in bulk or individually</p>	<p>3.4 Scholaris provides granular support for assigning and managing activities and resources to individuals and groups of learners</p> <p>3.5 Scholaris through class Profiler allows teachers to create and manage learning groups and individual learning groups across all classes</p> <p>3.6 Scholaris provides seamless transition of learners across groups and classes</p>
Learners' self-management and organisation of learning	<p>3.7 Ability for learners to administer and deploy tools as required to create their own learning activities with peers eg document sharing, discussion 24/7 access</p> <p>3.8 Access to portfolio-building tools eg design, create, index</p> <p>3.9 Import/export of portfolio artifacts to/from other systems eg SMS</p> <p>3.10 A portfolio tool that allows for different views to be presented for different purposes</p> <p>3.11 Ability for learners to create and administer their own groups for collaborative work – eg create own forums, self-registering for activities</p> <p>3.12 Ability for learners to locate people with similar interests eg search for people</p> <p>3.13 Users to have a private space for storing, drafting, and re-drafting work</p>	<p>3.7 If granted permission, students can create rich collaboration environments including functionality such as discussion boards, blogs, wikis, webs, document libraries etc which can be shared with peers and other groups of users</p> <p>3.8 Scholaris provides the ability for learners to manage their own e-portfolio, where they can manage content, comments etc</p> <p>3.9 Scholaris with the upcoming release allows for the importing and exporting of learning content</p> <p>3.10 Scholaris provides the ability for students, teachers and parents to view the learners portfolio</p> <p>3.11 Scholaris provides learners with appropriate permissions the ability to create and manage their own collaborative workspaces</p> <p>3.12 Scholaris provides the ability for users to search for other users throughout the system</p> <p>3.13 Scholaris provides all users with "My Site"; providing a private space in which learners can create, manage and store content and information</p>
4. Administration: Focus on organizational, management and administrative issues within the school		
Support services for different user groups	<p>4.1 Range of support – eg, email, telephone, frequently asked questions, online help, easy navigation</p>	<p>4.1 NZ Support via email or 0800 number; forums & user groups to be developed</p>
User account management	<p>4.2 Self-creation of accounts on a web form and re-set of passwords using email – security? Automation?</p>	<p>4.2 Scholaris provides the ability to auto-create accounts through the Microsoft ILM, this also allows for password sync</p>

	<p>4.3 Bulk user management eg group lists can be created easily and members added individually or in groups; use of student IDs?</p> <p>4.4 Permissions management for groups and individuals eg, for access to publish, export; monitoring</p>	<p>4.3 Scholaris provides user and group creation and management from 3 sources: Active Directory, Timetable, and Scholaris itself</p> <p>4.4 Scholaris together with Microsoft Active Directory manages authentication and authorisation</p>
Resource implications	<p>4.5 Cost of maintenance contract, and in house maintenance, updates, hosting, monitoring</p> <p>4.6 Integration with existing software, hardware and practices eg backups, MS Office</p> <p>4.7 Licensing costs and model eg, one-off, annual, per user; set-up & ongoing</p> <p>4.8 Training and support for staff – costs, duration, availability; online support community?</p> <p>4.9 Server maintenance and management eg regular updates, monitoring</p>	<p>4.5 Support available in blocks of support time to be used remotely, via helpdesk, or onsite</p> <p>4.6 Integrates fully with all MS products as well as other common software</p> <p>4.7 Annual fee per student based on MoE school roll; unlimited users after that eg parents, teachers within and out of school</p> <p>4.8 Training courses; online help videos; online support community to be developed once deployed in NZ</p> <p>4.9 Regular updates as part of licence fee;</p>
Users' experience of the platform should be intuitive and without significant barriers	<p>4.10 Users can have individual identity and presence on the platform and a strong sense of the identity of others eg photos, personal details</p> <p>4.11 Allowing users to have a strong sense of the audience for their work when private, published in small groups, or published on the Web eg authoring</p> <p>4.12 Simple and intuitive navigation around the platform – suitability to audience</p> <p>4.13 Accessibility for special educational needs</p> <p>4.14 Anytime/anywhere access through school intranets and also on the Web</p> <p>4.15 Different language options and the use of macrons & other special characters (UTF.8?)</p> <p>4.16 Notification of new content and contributions</p>	<p>4.10 Users all individual; photos included and personal details as per Exchange VCards</p> <p>4.11 Whenever publishing or creating eg webs, objects, target group/permissions required</p> <p>4.12 extremely consistent easy to use format based on standard SharePoint; Early Childhood version due for release late 2007</p> <p>4.13 standard Windows accessibility eg visual impairment, sticky keys (?)</p> <p>4.14 24/7 access – complete portal for internal and external access</p> <p>4.15 Supports Windows standards such as macrons</p> <p>4.16 Alerting can be set for all workflow, document management, site creation, editing etc</p>

	<p>4.17 Searching and bookmarking eg federated search</p> <p>4.18 Choice of hosting options with regard to connectivity to SMS, library, finance packages, reporting tools</p>	<p>4.17 Favourites/bookmarking incorporated</p> <p>4.18 Intended for internal installation as portal to existing infrastructure and resources, but hosting also available where feasible</p>
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5. Technical: Focus on technical and infrastructure requirements and support needed

<p>Platform hosted locally or hosted by a third party provider</p>	<p>5.1 In-house server set-up – capacity required, technical support</p> <p>5.2 Hosted service contract – fixed/flexible costs? Issues?</p> <p>5.3 Back-up and retrieval regime – speed of recovery?</p> <p>5.4 Open Source or proprietary solution – support? Longevity of solution?</p>	<p>5.1 Requires SharePoint and SQL server expertise – available from NZ providers</p> <p>5.2 ?</p> <p>5.3 Depends on site installation</p> <p>5.4 The solution is built on the Microsoft Platform using open standards</p>
<p>Platform specifications which will determine the choice of LMS</p>	<p>5.5 Open standards & future-proofing eg, access by PDAs, phones</p> <p>5.6 Protocols eg, SOAP, ActiveX, LDAP, VOIP</p> <p>5.7 Range of multimedia formats eg, Quicktime, Windows media, Shockwave, Flash, MS Office files, other eg, Inspiration</p> <p>5.8 Searching tools available eg free text, metadata (NZGLS, LOM, Dublin Core), archive/retrieval</p> <p>5.9 Customisation – can the product be localised</p> <p>5.10 Continual development plan</p> <p>5.11 Upgrade plan – frequency, process, backward compatibility</p> <p>5.12 Scalability and capacity required</p> <p>5.13 Accessibility eg W3C, equality for low-vision students, slow link, range of browsers</p>	<p>5.5 Already accessible by PDAs;</p> <p>5.6 As standard as possible</p> <p>5.7 Supports all these – incl Acrobat reader, players, iPod, Real Audio, Hot Potatoes</p> <p>5.8 Full indexing and federated search capabilities</p> <p>5.9 Yes Scholaris allows for customization to fit the needs of the environment</p> <p>5.10 Yes – constantly upgraded eg ECE version, Attendance, timetable double-click on class for list</p> <p>5.11 Usually 2-3 per year (?)</p> <p>5.12 Scholaris leverages the underlying scalability and enterprise readiness of the underlying Microsoft platform</p> <p>5.13 Supports IE, Firefox, Netscape, Safari yet to test</p>

	<p>5.14 Interoperability – eg SMS</p> <p>5.15 Ability to transfer content to another system eg XML, SCORM compliance</p> <p>5.16 Server administration and capacity required, OS, technical skill required</p> <p>5.17 Security eg firewalls, anti-virus – risks?</p> <p>5.18 Use of Maori language eg support for the macron in content and searching</p>	<p>5.14 Key integral part of Scholaris – tool to map data etc</p> <p>5.15 Fully SCORM compliant – LOR database being developed to ensure this for replication of LORs between schools</p> <p>5.16 Straightforward but full support available by NZ providers</p> <p>5.17 Scholaris leverages best practice security standards and models</p> <p>5.18 To be investigated (multi-language release)</p>
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