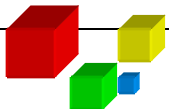
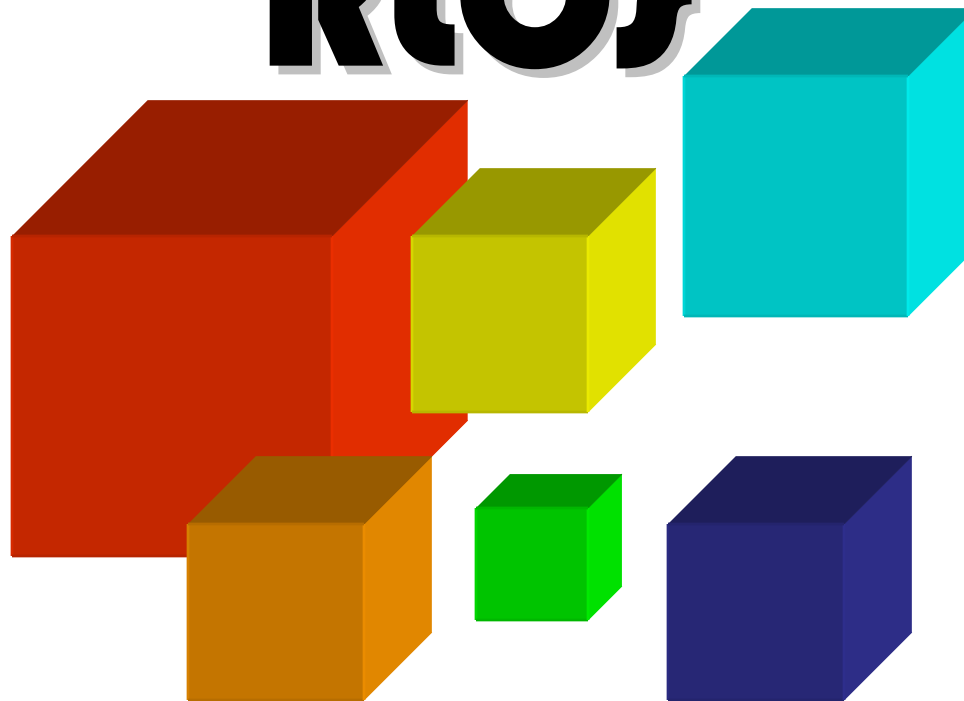


Introduction to EcoLearnIT

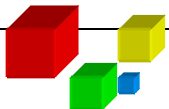
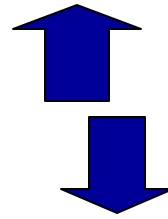
Learning Objective: Learn about the capabilities of the EcoLearnIT RLO System to create and access RLOs.

RLOs



EcoLearnIT[®]

Reusable Learning Object System



Introduction to the EcoLearnIT RLO System

R
eusable

L
earning

O
bject

The screenshot shows the EcoLearnIT website in a Microsoft Internet Explorer browser window. The address bar displays <http://ecolearnit.ifas.ufl.edu/>. The website features a navigation menu with links for Home, The RLO Concept, Share Your Thoughts, Documentation, About Us, and Contacts. A central section titled "EcoLearnIT" provides an overview of the system, stating it provides access to Reusable Learning Objects (RLOs) focused on environmental sciences. Below this, a "Participate as" section lists three roles: Author or author-teams, Instructor, and Learners. The right side of the page includes a registration and login form, a "Top 10 Viewed RLOs" list, and several informational boxes such as "EcoLearnIT Statistics" and "10 Latest Released RLOs".

EcoLearnIT
Reusable Learning Object System

Register for an Account | Log In to search For RLOs

Email Address:
Password:
Log In | [lost password?](#)

Home
[The RLO Concept](#)
[Share Your Thoughts](#)
[Documentation](#)
[About Us](#)
[Contacts](#)

EcoLearnIT Statistics
RLOs in Development: 52
RLOs In Review: 24
RLOs Published: 42
Current User Count: 176

10 Latest Released RLOs
[Phosphorus Transformations in Soil](#)
[Drip Fertigation in Banana](#)

EcoLearnIT Provides access to Reusable Learning Objects (RLOs) which are small learning units focused on environmental sciences (soil, water, climate, policy, ecosystem services), ecology, natural resources and agricultural management. The material is peer-reviewed and shared among EcoLearnIT users.

Participate as

- **Author or author-teams:** Create RLOs with the support of authoring tools provided in EcoLearnIT
- **Instructor:** Use the in-built RLO aggregator and include RLOs into modules or courses
- **Learners:** Search for content and learn ...more

version 1.5 EcoLearnIT releases version 1.5 with a new design. Find new features and tools. Create flashy RLOs using tools provided in EcoLearnIT.

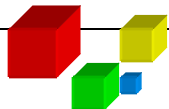
peer reviewed Peer-reviewed online publications of RLOs acknowledge authors and co-authors

knowledge base Build a knowledge base to serve learners around the globe & support open learning activities

social network Social networking – meet the EcoLearnIT user community

Top 10 Viewed RLOs
[Transport of phosphorus into surface water and impact on water quality](#)
[GIS and Water Management](#)
[Harvesting Rainwater](#)
[Wetland Ecosystems](#)
[Florida Wetland Regulation: Wetland Definition and Delineation](#)
[Sustainable Watershed Management](#)
[Drip Fertigation in Banana](#)
[Wetlands: Regional Storm Water Treatment Facility Surveys](#)
[Types of Soil Maps](#)
[Old Maps and GIS: How](#)

<http://EcoLearnIT.ifas.ufl.edu>



Functions of EcoLearnIT



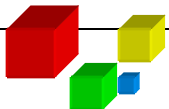
Peer-reviewed online publications of RLOs acknowledge authors and co-authors

Build a knowledge base to serve learners around the globe & support open learning activities



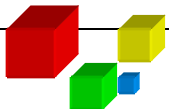
Social networking – meet the EcoLearnIT user community

RLOs provide stimulating content in the form of text, graphics, video, and audio. RLOs also provide assessment.



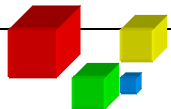
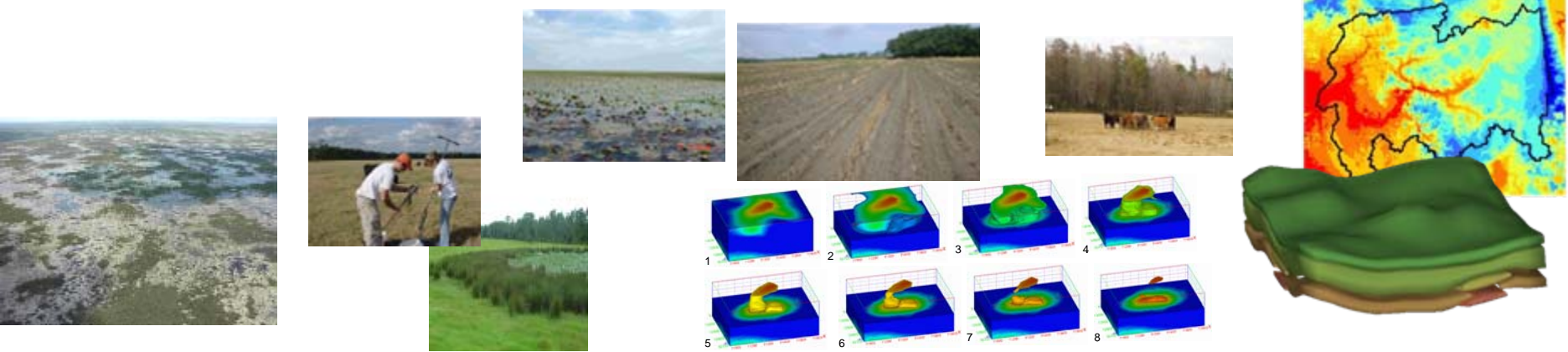
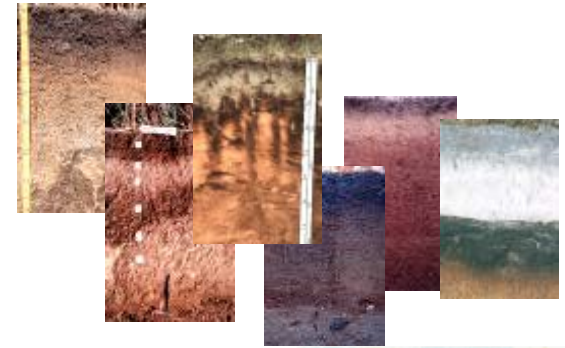
What is EcoLearnIT?

- Open-access digital repository of shared learning resources
- Contains peer-reviewed and published RLOs
- Provides tools to develop RLOs
- In the spirit of Web 2.0 – everybody can contribute and develop RLOs (learning / extension materials)



EcoLearnIT – A System to Support Learning

- Provides access to RLOs
- Focused on:
 - Environmental sciences (soil, water, and climate)
 - Agriculture and life sciences
 - and more

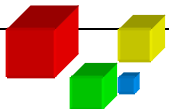


Participate in EcoLearnIT as:

Author or author-teams: Create RLOs with the support of authoring tools provided in EcoLearnIT

Instructors: Use the in-build RLO aggregator and include RLOs into modules or courses

Learners: Search, browse, and rank RLOs; learn

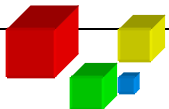


Steps: Create an RLO Publication

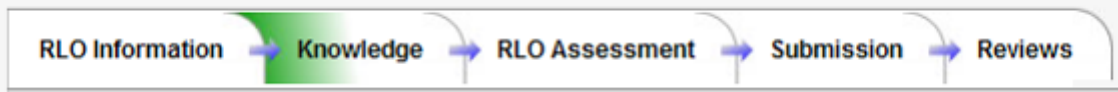


Assign:

- Author and co-author names
- RLO title
- Title image (optional)
- Learning objective
- Abstract
- Ranking (1: Basic/simple to 5: Complex/advanced learning material)
- Target audience
- Keywords
- Acknowledgement
- References



Steps: Create an RLO Publication

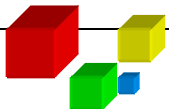


Knowledge / instruction component:

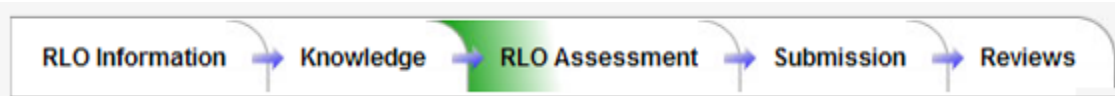
Provide a clear explanation of the theory behind the subject being covered; knowledge that is encapsulated in the learning unit

Upload learning material:

- Text, graphics, video, audio, and animations
- Accepted formats: txt, doc, ppt, pptx, jpg, png, gif, flv, mp3, swf; Adobe Presenter (zip); Articulate (zip)



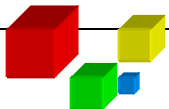
Steps: Create an RLO Publication



→ Add assessment questions and answers:
Interactive questions that test learners knowledge on specific learning topic presented in an RLO.

Question types:

- True/false
- Single correct answer
- Multiple correct answers



Steps: Create an RLO Publication

RLO Information → Knowledge → RLO Assessment → Submission → Reviews

■ RLO in development
(RLO assessable only by author team)

1. →

Submit RLO for peer-review

2.

■ RLO in review (RLO only accessible to Editor)

3.

■ EcoLearnIT Editor assigns reviewers

4.

■ EcoLearnIT Editor makes decision
(based on reviewer's comments)

5.

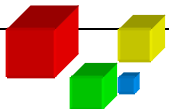
□ RLO returned to author(s) for revisions (white paper status – RLO is now viewable to EcoLearnIT users; author(s) revise/update RLO)

Resubmit RLO

6. →

■ RLO published
(passed peer-review; viewable to EcoLearnIT users)

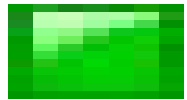
7. ↙



RLOs ~ Online Publications

Each RLO is an online publication and can be tracked/cited by author and co-author name, title of RLO, and RLO publication number similar to a journal article or online publication.

There are different types of RLO publications:



Peer-reviewed RLO publications (completed publication)



White paper (temporary) RLO (need to be edited/revised by RLO author(s) to make it a complete peer-reviewed publ.)

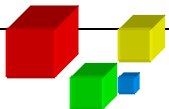


RLO *in review*



RLO *in development*

} Not visible to public;
only accessible by authors



Collaborative Environment to Form Author Teams

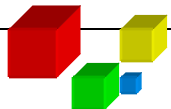
- Joint development and publication of RLOs
- Main (first) author initiates an RLO and adds co-authors

The screenshot shows the EcoLearnIT Reusable Learning Objects (RLO) interface. The title is "Harvesting Rainwater" with an RLO ID of 2. The authors listed are Karthikeyan Chandrasekaran, Palanisami Kuppannan, Venkatesa Palanichamy N, and Sabine Grunwald. The interface includes a sidebar with navigation options: Introduction (selected), Video File, Presentation, Assessment, Authors, and Reference. The main content area features a central illustration of rain falling into a pool of water with the text "HARVESTING RAINWATER" below it. To the right of the illustration, there is a metadata section with the following details:

- RLO ID#: 2
- Published: 11/04/2008
- Learning Objectives:
The learning objectives are :
 1. To create awareness on the importance of water and
 2. To impart knowledge on various methods of harvesting rainwater
- Ranking:
Somewhat complex learning materials
- Target Audience:
Undergraduate level (B.S.)

At the bottom, the authors and their affiliations are listed:

Author	Author	Author	Author
Karthikeyan Chandrasekaran	Palanisami Kuppannan	Venkatesa Palanichamy N	Sabine Grunwald
Tamil Nadu Agricultural University	Tamil Nadu Agricultural University	Tamil Nadu Agricultural University	University of Florida



Author Acknowledgement

EcoLearnIT – Reusable Learning Objects



Harvesting Rainwater

Karthikeyan Chandrasekaran, Palanisami Kuppannan, Venkatesa Palanichamy N, Sabine Grunwald

RLO ID# 2

Peer Reviewed



Karthikeyan Chandrasekaran
Tamil Nadu Agricultural University

Bio

Date of Birth - 14 November 1970

Qualification - B.Sc.(Agriculture), M.Sc.(Agri.)Ph.D.,

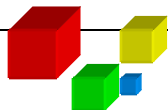
Occupation - Associate professor (Ag. Extension), Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, Coimbatore 641 003, India

Experience - 10 years in TNAU as Teacher and Researcher in Agri. Extension. Now handling one research project on Irrigation sociology sponsored by IFS, Sweden 2007-09.

Expertise

Research and teaching post graduate courses on ICT based Agricultural Extension Services.

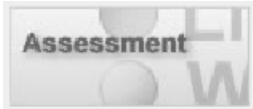
Recently engaged in one cyber extension project for technology transfer to farmers in tamil nadu state. Expertise in conducting PRA, Gender studies and policy research in Agricultural extension.



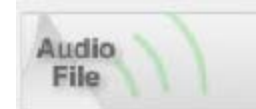
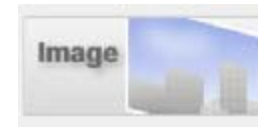
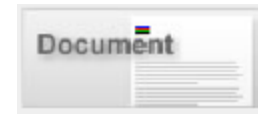
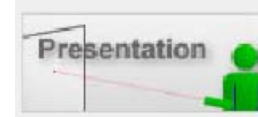
By Sabine Grunwald

RLO Content

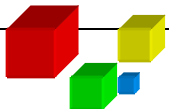
Text fields and tools



Upload files



Content can be implemented (uploaded) in various digital formats including text, artwork (various graphics formats and Power Point), video and audio files, and Flash animations to add interactive features.



RLO Content

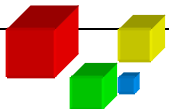
- To mix different digital media → create stimulating learning material that engages learners
- Uploaded material is compiled on-the-fly and a Flash wrapper encapsulates the completed RLO to provide a common feel and look

Reading

Reading *& visuals*

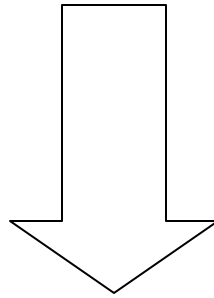
Reading, visuals *& sound*

Reading, visuals, sound *& interaction*

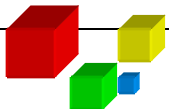


Acknowledgement of RLO Authors

- Author and co-author names are attached to each RLO to acknowledge their work
- *EcoLearnIT* is a peer-reviewed system (only RLOs that were approved for publication are published)



RLOs are publications
(similar to a research publication)

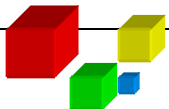


Who owns RLOs in EcoLearnIT?

- RLOs hosted in *EcoLearnIT* are owned and shared with the community of *EcoLearnIT* users in "open-access mode"

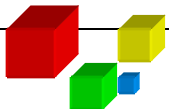


Source: Google Images



Licenses Implemented in EcoLearnIT

- The access to RLOs is based on a:
 - Share alike (SA) license
 - Non-commercial (NC) (end-users cannot use the RLOs commercially for their own purpose and are not allowed to restrict their use and distribution)
- This model does not discriminate based on social status, geographic region, funding or other reasons



EcoLearnIT Adopts a Creative Commons License

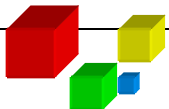
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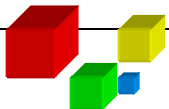


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Soil and Water Science Department, IFAS,
University of Florida

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- Content / RLOs are owned by RLO developers



Summary

This module provided an introduction to the EcoLearnIT RLO system.

