

The Orange Grove Digital Repository

[The Orange Grove Digital Repository \(OGR\)](#) is an online, statewide initiative to store and manage Florida's instructional, organizational, and professional development resources for discovery, use and remixing by approximately 230,000 faculty and administrators. A wide range of resources from multiple sources are available through The Orange Grove: flash animations, lessons, videos, open access textbooks, books, games, maps, pictures, graphs, lesson plans, professional development materials, courses, institutional research, planning documents, and more.

From one location, a repository enables a faculty member to search for and make available to students high quality content that will support the objectives of their course. The cost to develop high quality content remains expensive, but when shared across a state or multiple states, the development costs drop to just pennies and its impact grows dramatically. A faculty member can also contribute content that they use in their teaching to the repository. The content could be a URL, a content file developed by the faculty member, or even a remix of content already in the repository.

The standards based, feature rich commercial repository software, Equella, enables a range of administrative functions such as:

- metadata creation and collection
- use of controlled vocabularies
- a customizable virtual quality review process
- controlled content access based on copyright
- federation or harvesting with other repositories

Through resources already stored in the repository and through federation with other repositories, The Orange Grove provides access to many thousands of resources which can be located by a search of standards based metadata and likewise provides the opportunity for other repositories around the world to benefit from Florida's collection of resources. The cataloguing of resources with controlled vocabularies such as ERIC and GEM subject headings, and Florida statewide course numbers, allows for precision searching and personal notification when a resource or textbook becomes available in a faculty member's area of interest. The use of The Orange Grove creates one location for users to search for and locate content from many sources.

The repository software can be integrated into the major commercial and open source learning management systems (LMS) to enable a single sign on and ease of use from a faculty member's familiar LMS environment. In addition, faculty members can comment on or rate a resource, which adds to the depth of information regarding the use of and success with a resource.

The Orange Grove Digital Repository has received two US Department of Education FIPSE grants. The first grant, FIPSE OnCoRe project, was awarded for 2006-10, and supports production of a model process for the creation, implementation and sustainability of digital repositories. The project sponsored an August 2009 international conference in Vancouver, British Columbia, to highlight the grant findings and acquire additional knowledge to further improve the model. This grant and the success of The Orange Grove Repository has propelled Florida to the forefront of the statewide digital repository projects. Please see www.oncoreblueprint.org for more information about this project and its partner states. In October, 2009, the Orange Grove received a two-year, \$300,000 FIPSE Special Focus grant to further develop its Open Access Textbooks initiative. Grant funds will support the research, development, and pilot testing of a national model for dissemination of free and low-cost textbooks and educational materials.