INFORMATION PORTAL

A Digital Library Science, Mathematics, Engineering and Technology Education

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We envision the Information Portal as a gateway to digital resources, collections and user services for Science, Mathematics, Engineering and Technology Education (SMETE). The Information Portal is more than a digital library, we envision it as a *digital learning space* serving a broad community of learners from these disciplines, including K–12, higher education and life long learners. The Information Portal will support the development, use, re-use and evaluation of a broad variety of digital learning objects, ranging from Java applets to CD-ROMs to web pages. Many of the services of the Information Portal will provide community-based support to help users evaluate whether they should adopt or adapt a particular digital learning object.

The Information Portal builds upon our previous work on NEEDS —The National Engineering Education Delivery System, a digital library for engineering education. Since 1994, NEEDS has provided the engineering education community with a World Wide Web based interface for easy access to a number of services supporting technology enabled learning. Our experiences with a wide variety of university partners, technologies and content provide us with a strong background to help us identify how to best use this national resource, who will be its target audience, what types of resources can be made available and how best to describe and use these resources.

> *"A digital library has to be more than just content—it means developing a group of users. The users, depending on their expertise will want [different] support services."*
>
> *– Digital Library User*

Info

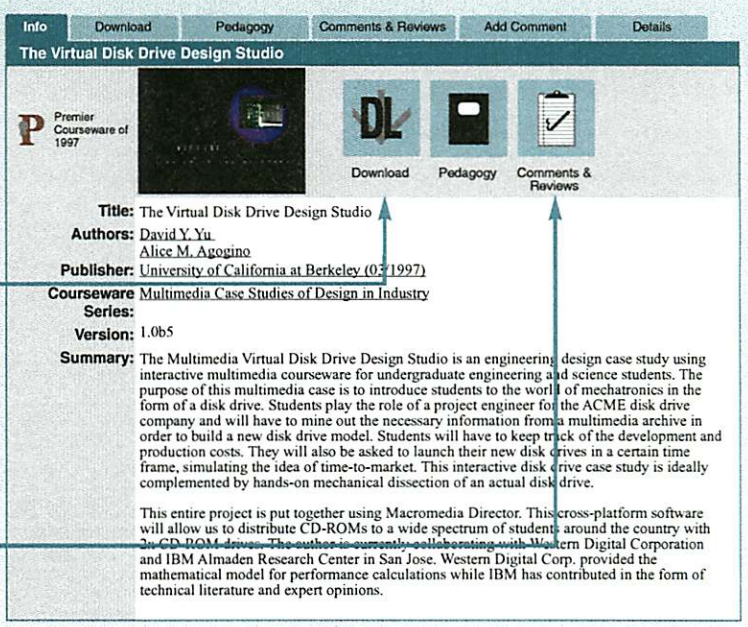
"Tabs" allow convenient access to the features available for each digital learning object. The Info tab provides standard information describing the learning object and allows easy access to other services including Download and Comments & Reviews.

Download

Users may download or link to learning objects in the digital library. The Download tab describes the available platforms, minimum hardware and software requirements and may provide installation notes.

Comments & Reviews

The Comments & Reviews tab connects users to a community-based feedback and support mechanism for each learning object. Users can contribute their experiences with using the learning object or attach related resources, such as a related website, a homework or lab assignment using the learning object or describe other pedagogical practices they used with the learning object.



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SYNTHESIS innovation

NEEDS
National Engineering Education Delivery System
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