Explore the NCLOR

The NCLOR is the North Carolina Learning Objects Repository. The NCLOR provides a centralized location for the acquisition, collection, sharing, and management of quality learning resources. It is a collection of online digital learning resources known as learning objects or learning assets. This collection of resources targets faculty in both Higher Education and K – 12 for use in online and traditional classes. It also contains a collection of professional development training resources. The material in the NCLOR is accessed through a search performed similar to a library catalog. Over the past few years, many learning object repositories have been established such as The Orange Grove, Wisconsin Online, Merlot, and many others.

Using the NCLOR you can...

- **Search**: Find professional or individual created resources.
- **Use & Adapt**: Integrate and adapt these resources for your courses.
- **Contribute**: Share your resources with other faculty.
- **Collaborate**: Work together with peers.

What goes into the NCLOR?

User created files, documents, presentations, short videos, links to web sites, ItunesU, podcasts, etc. are all items that can be uploaded to the NCLOR. These items will be in the form of a learning object or asset.

Because the learning objects (LOs) are small chunks of reusable material, they may be used in traditional, online, hybrid, or computer-assisted classes and they are easily linked to either Blackboard or Moodle or other course management systems. We encourage faculty to browse the NCLOR for material that will enhance classes and present concepts that are often difficult for students to understand. These LOs can then be linked to your course and thus readily available to you and your students.

Where can I learn more about the NCLOR?

WWW.EXPLORETHELOR.ORG is the NCLOR portal page and it includes a link to login to the application as well as information about: Training Resources, Frequently Asked Questions, Contact Information as well as NCLOR News.
**What is a Learning Object**

A learning object is self-contained, reusable, standalone unit or "chunk" of knowledge that is sequenced logically and provides the user (student) engagement and interaction. Generally, faculty use learning objects in a class to enhance a lesson or convey a difficult concept. Learning objects are structured in a defined way: title, prior knowledge necessary for the student, overview, learning objectives, content, interactive exercises with feedback provided, and a summary.

This is the first page of a learning object created in SoftChalk and demonstrating three of the key elements of a learning object: descriptive title, objectives, and prior knowledge needed.

![Image of a learning object](image)

**CMS Integration**

By integrating your institution's course management system (CMS) and the NCLOR, users can easily search for and add content to online courses without needing to login to the main interface. Items in NCLOR can be viewed by students in a seamless manner that corresponds with the context of the individual courses. A major advantage of this is that students do not need special keys or passwords to access the material.

**IMPORTANT NOTE:** The ONLY way for students to access content stored in the NCLOR is through integration with a CMS. Faculty can however, search the NCLOR, download material and upload that material to their course manually without CMS integration.

CMS Integration simply means that you can add content from the NCLOR directly into your Moodle or Blackboard course with only a few clicks.

**When to Use Learning Objects**

Instructors should determine which concepts in their courses are hard to explain without a visual representation or what concepts might be more easily mastered by the students with an interactive learning activity. You should also consider concepts that lend themselves to self-assessments that reinforce learning (formative assessments).

Once you have identified these concepts in your course, you can search for the learning activities within the NCLOR.
Adding a Learning Object in Moodle

To search for and add an item from the NCLOR to your Moodle online course you should:

**Step 1:** Log into your course and **Turn editing on**.

![Switch role to Turn editing on](image)

**Step 2:** Scroll down to the desired section and click **Add a Resource…**

**Step 3:** Select NCLOR Resource.

![Add a resource…](image)

**Step 4:** Search for the learning object you wish to use in your course by using the course number or keywords that describe the learning object. If you can't find an object you want for your course, try using the Federated Search feature, which searches other repositories that have partnered with the NCLOR. Try using different combinations of words to find what you're looking for, sometimes you need to try several different search terms to find what you're looking for.

![Search for the learning object](image)

**Step 5:** Preview the learning objects that sound like they may meet your needs by clicking their title. You'll need to close the small window they open in to return to the list of objects. Once you've decided on an object to use click **View more details…** found below and to the right of the title and description.
Step 6: Under **Links To Resources** click **Select Item** (do not choose "Select"). You may see more than one file associated with an item. It is recommended to always click the **Select Item** Button to avoid any confusion.

Step 7: At the top right of the next page, click **Update this NCLOR Resource**.

Step 8: Under the Window section, select **New window**. This will open the learning object in a new window while leaving the course page open in the background.
Step 9: Scroll to the bottom and click **Save and return to course**.

The learning object has now been added to the bottom of the course section. You may move it elsewhere in the course if desired, just like you would any other item.