Simplifying Digital Resource Management in Hybrid Classrooms

Providing teachers and students with easy, equitable access to the tools they need to succeed

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A Tangible Solution for Education's Toughest Challenges

The shift to anytime, anywhere learning has brought many new challenges for modern educators, but with it has also come the adoption of technologies that are tackling some of the toughest issues school administrators have been grappling with for decades.

One such advancement has come thanks to the implementation of the Learning Object Repository (LOR), which is being embraced by school districts ready to reduce the burden on overworked teachers, take a tangible step closer to equity in all classrooms, and create customizable learning experiences that give all students an opportunity to shine.

The Search for a Variety of Learning Materials to Support Students' Needs

Every student is different. Different strengths, different interests, different learning styles. Today's teachers are diligently striving to create lessons flexible enough to appeal to all their students, but doing so often requires a large investment of personal time.
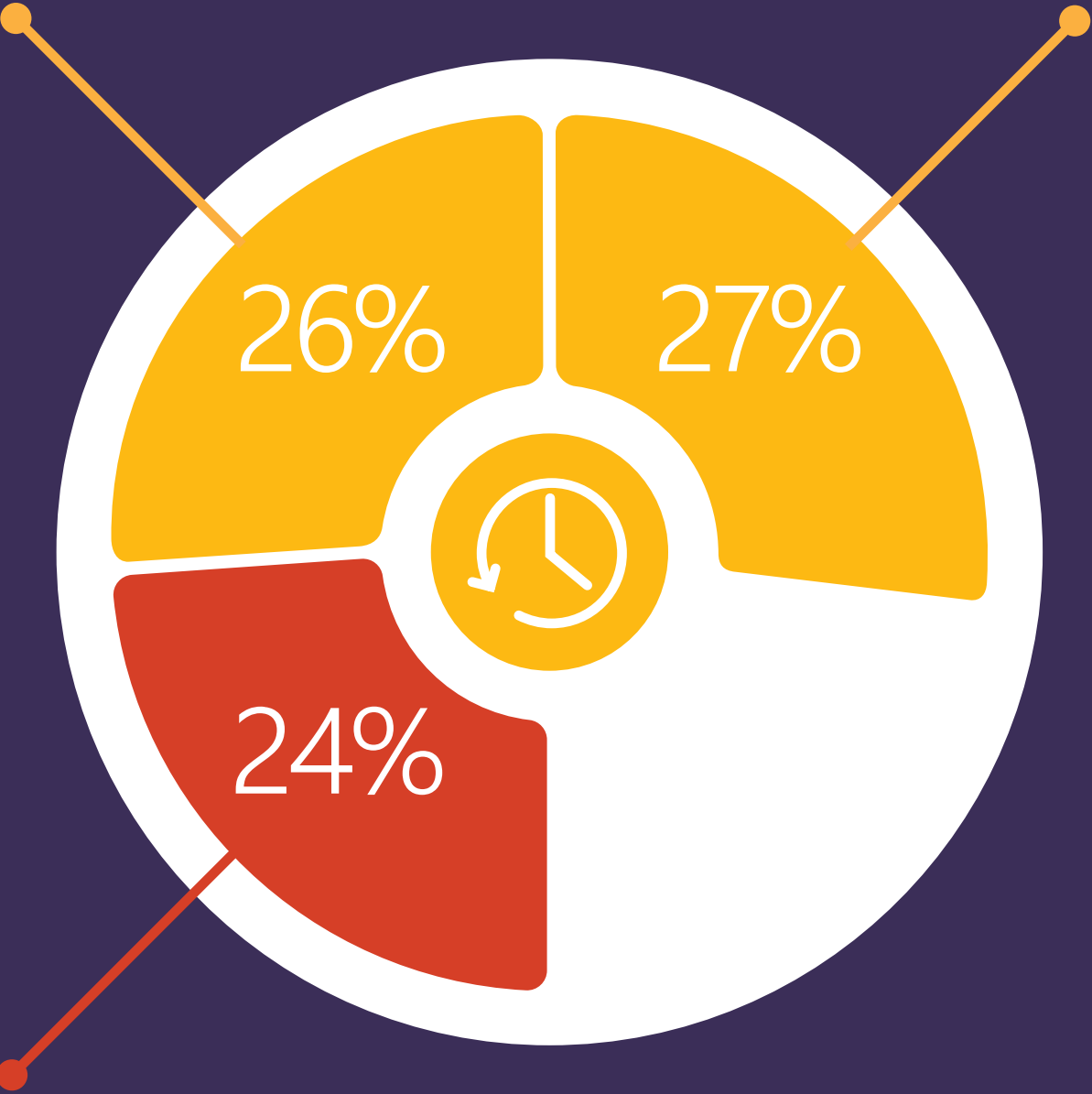
According to a 2021 survey by The Learning Counsel, 74 percent of teachers are feeling overwhelmed or burnt out. The culprit, analysts concluded, was the time-consuming burden of creating lesson plans, which presents a "massive hidden time cost" that educators know all too well.

In order to build a well-rounded curriculum, teachers must research and identify level-appropriate materials that present the right amount of rigor. Unfortunately, many of these resources may be cost-prohibitive or unlikely to obtain administrative or community approval. Finding the perfect blend of accessible, high-quality materials week after week can become a massive undertaking—one that piles up alongside other administrative tasks, such as grading assignments, and ultimately detracts teachers' attention from the most important component: the students.

How much time do teachers spend searching for content to build lessons?

26% of teachers:
6-15 hours a week

27% of teachers:
15-30 hours a week

26%

27%

24%

24% of teachers:
30+ hours a week

Source: The Learning Counsel 2021 Annual Survey

Simplifying the Never-Ending Search

While the implementation of Learning Management Systems (LMS) may have made it easier for teachers to access their courses, these systems are not designed to help educators compile, organize, and remix the learning objects used to build these courses. A flexible LOR saves teachers 50-90 percent of the time typically spent on arduous searches.

The SAFARI Montage LOR Cloud is the most refined product in its class. For years, this enterprise-level solution has provided school districts with a central location for licensed educational resources, free resources curated from the web, and other educational materials created by teachers and students within the district, making it easy for teachers to access curricular resources that are grade-appropriate and aligned to standards.

The SAFARI Montage LOR further simplifies the process by making it easy for teachers to do a federated search, instantly scans every learning object and playlist, including course materials, within the repository to build a playlist (lesson) which may also be linked to the LMS lesson if desired.

With the flexibility of a well-curated LOR, the district can leverage resources to meet a variety of instructional initiatives, including course creation, course modification and OER curation.

Leveling Up Equity
with an Even Playing Field

As a centralized hub for content sharing, the LOR promotes equity by ensuring all teachers throughout the district have easy access to a vast number of high-quality digital resources that can be used to create memorable learning opportunities for students in the classroom and beyond. But this is only one of the equity challenges the repository has addressed.

English as a Second Language

For students still learning English, the interoperable LOR provides access to tools like Microsoft's Immersive Reader, which can translate text and instructions into dozens of languages.

This powerful Microsoft learning tool greatly supports reading and comprehension for students across all grades and reading abilities by giving users customizable control of on-screen text in SAFARI Montage.

Learning Capabilities

Because the LOR can be used to deliver asynchronous instruction in addition to direct synchronous instruction, the repository also enables each student to learn at the pace that best fits his or her individual needs. The system's media player also includes a selection of built-in tools that provide further aid to students, such as variable speed playback, which speeds up or slows down video and audio depending on needs.

Parental Involvement

Parental involvement is one of the most crucial indicators of academic achievement. But parents are often unable to keep up with their children's progress due to any number of factors, from shortage of time to unclear communication. Though school districts have a long way to go in addressing this issue, the LOR presents an opportunity for willing parents to gain simplified access to their children's digital lessons, providing more champions for each child's success.

Tech-Savvy in the Classroom

With teachers already overworked and pressed for time, it's important to provide solutions that do not require extensive training or constant troubleshooting. The SAFARI Montage LOR can be seamlessly integrated into Microsoft Teams and other LMSs, enabling educators to access the vital tool on a platform with which they are already familiar.

Using an Adaptive Bit Rate (ABR) to adjust video playback based on connection speed and device capabilities, SAFARI Montage's media player also provides users with smooth video playback on any device, browser, or platform, ensuring all students can digest the materials with no unnecessary buffering.

In addition to resources, SAFARI Montage also provides teachers with the support they need to be effective. This support comes in the form of self-paced, hands-on training to help educators develop playlists and lesson plans, ensuring they have a clear understanding of the digital tools at their disposal so they can guide students onward on the path to success.

SAFARI Montage LOR is interoperable with several LMSs already used by teachers, such as:

- **Microsoft Teams**

- **Google Classroom**

- **Schoology**

- **Canvas**

- **Moodle**

- **Brightspace**

- **Blackboard**

Ready to Schedule a Demo of the SAFARI Montage LOR?

SAFARI Montage provides K–12 districts with an interoperable LOR designed for engaging in-person and remote instruction, plus a Video Streaming Library and IPTV & Live Media Streaming solutions. The SAFARI Montage LOR is specifically designed to enable districts to curate educational learning objects, including:

- Free & open educational resources from the web, including academically-relevant YouTube videos

- Courses and lesson learning objects from all major U.S. educational publishers, including HMH, McGraw Hill, Savvas, BrainPOP, CK-12, Discovery Education, Imagine Learning Edgenuity, and more, via Thin Common Cartridge

- District-created content, meta-tagged and aligned to standards

- Teachers' and students' own created media

- Live and recorded digital TV via SAFARI Montage IPTV & Live Media Streaming

- Microsoft OneDrive and Google Drive cloud-hosted resources

- Additionally, the SAFARI Montage Video Streaming Library offers access to 16,000+ segmented videos plus 68,000+ free and open educational resources, all aligned to standards