Apereo Newsletter
December 15, 2015

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From the Editor:
As 2015 draws to a close, we have many announcements of successful events and releases in the Apereo Community and many new opportunities to participate in 2016.

As you begin to plan project activities in the new year, remember that the Apereo newsletter provides an important opportunity to share what you're doing and invite others to join. We are looking for contributions of all kinds -- examples might include (but are not limited to) articles, video clips, screencasts, graphics, or short announcements on:
-- How you're using software produced by an Apereo community at your institution
-- Major releases or minor tweaks
-- Ideas for new projects you'd like to get feedback on or gauge interest in
-- Important discussions of general educational technology issues that emerge on community email lists

Contributions of all lengths, from snippet to think pieces, are welcome. Send your submissions (and any questions!) to newsletter@apereo.org .

Deadline for items for the next newsletter is Monday, January 11.
-- Lucy Appert, Newsletter Editor

Upcoming Events

1) Traditional Opencast Christmas Sing-along Dec. 15, 3pm UTC

In the Opencast community it is tradition to have a Christmas sing-along on one of the last technical meetings before Christmas. Everyone related to Opencast (and now Apereo) - users and developers -is invited to join.

We would be delighted to see a lot of people Tuesday, December 15th at 3pm UTC in our BigBlueButton video conferencing channel:
http://matterhorn.bigbluebutton.org/matterhorn (pwd=welcome)

2) Apereo Community Welcomes Cirrus Identity Project; Webinar Dec. 15 8 am PST
Apereo would like to welcome a new commercial affiliate, Cirrus Identity. Cirrus offers cloud-hosted identity solutions that make it easier to expand services like Sakai and uPortal to "external users". Newcastle University, UK is using Cirrus Identity's Gateway Service to improve access to their Virtual Research Environment. For research collaborators who do not have a Newcastle University identity, the Cirrus Gateway allows those users to login via Google, Facebook, or LinkedIn.

You can hear more about Newcastle University's use of the Cirrus Identity Gateway at an upcoming JISC-sponsored webinar on Tuesday, December 15 at 8:00am Pacific / 4:00pm UTC. Check the Cirrus Identity website for details, http://cirrusidentity.com.
-- Dedra Chamberlin

3) SakaiCamp 2016
Please plan to join us at SakaiCamp 2016 in Orlando, Florida from January 24 - 27, with two very full days of Sakai planning on Monday, January 24 and Tuesday, January 25 with a team building day on Sunday, January 24 and an optional "Unconference" portion on Wednesday, January 27. Space is limited. We are expecting 20 - 30 people for this event.

For details or to register please see http://bit.ly/sakaicamp2016
-- Neal Caidin

4) ESUP-Days #21 / Apereo Europe 2016 (Feb. 1-2, 2016 in Paris)
[Registration for this event is now open: https://www.esup-portail.org/registration/]

The Apereo Foundation and the ESUP-Portail Consortium are pleased to invite you to the third edition of the ESUP-Days/Apereo Europe event. This two-day conference will take place on February 1-2, 2016 at the University of Paris Descartes (Paris, FRANCE).

This joint conference is a unique opportunity to discover new projects and learn from the experiences shared by colleagues from France and all around the world. *For those who are not 100% fluent in French, don't worry: experienced translators will provide simultaneous translation for all presentations being given in French.*

While the program is still under construction, some sessions have already been confirmed:

- a keynote by Ian Dolphin (Apereo Foundation Executive Director): "Apereo, Supporting the Next Generation of Academic Practice Online"
   - presentations on innovative projects (Karuta, Agimus-NG, Pod, OAE, Learning Analytics,...) being developed within both communities
   - experience feedbacks about dematerialization and solutions deployment & operation
A reception will also be held on the first day, right after the last session, so attendees may be able to chat with other participants -while enjoying French wines and food- in a casual and friendly setting.

If you intend to attend this joint conference, please register now.
If you are interested in speaking at this conference, all you need to do is follow these guidelines to submit your proposal(s).

Find all practical information about transportation, hotels, restaurants and the conference venue on the conference website.

Looking forward to meeting you all in Paris! *A bientôt!*
-- Organization committee -- Apereo Foundation / ESUP-Portail Consortium

5) Open Apereo 2016 May 22-26 at New York University
Mark Your Calendars! Open Apereo 2016 will take place at New York University's Washington Square campus in New York City on May 22 - 26, 2016.

This year, the event will include the "Open Summit" - an opportunity for open initiatives in education to share best practices, state-of-the art and strategic directions. Apereo is leading the development of this event together with the Open Source Initiative (OSI)

Here are just a few reasons to attend this great event:

● Share your great work with the community. Call for presentation proposals (CFP) coming soon!

● Learn and collaborate with your peers.

● Hear about the exciting news and developments of your favorite Apereo projects

Of course, there's much more to the Open Apereo conference. Registration, program and hotel information will become available over the coming months – but hold May 22 - 26!

We look forward to seeing you at NYU this summer!

Open Apereo 2016
May 22-26 in NYC, NY

Announcements
6) Successful event! - VII Spanish Sakai Murcia '15
The S2U Team (Spanish Sakai Users) is pleased to share with the community some of the highlights from their recent event celebrated at the beginning of November in the University of Murcia (Spain). The VII Spanish Sakai Murcia '15 had over 60 participants including the following roles: Techcnical Staff, instructional designers, LMS admins, Project managers from all the Spanish Universities that use Sakai, Experts from a couple of companies that offer Sakai support in Spanish, and we even had some faculty and students from the University of Murcia.

Thanks to the collaboration of the Apereo Foundation, Ian Dolphin and Charles Severance were at the event and the S2U team had the opportunity to share with them their current state, their concerns and expectations about the future of Sakai and, also about other Apereo projects. The team was also pleased to receive an update about all Apereo projects from Ian Dolphin and to learn, from Dr. Chuck's keynote, his vision about what the future of Sakai and the LMS in general could look like. The S2U Team covered different topics such as Sakai 11, Karuta, Anti-plagiarism tools, Learning Analytics, a Lessons Builder demonstration, and even an open session to find out what attendees liked and disliked from Sakai. During the afternoon sessions, attendees presented 16 'Lighting Talks' covering multiple topics (Teaching and Learning, Technical, personal experiences, use cases...).

As a consequence of the meeting, the S2U has opened their weekly calls to all the community and will now be having a weekly 'Open S2U Call' in Spanish every Wednesday from 1:45 PM CET to 2:45 PM CET. Everyone is welcome to join! We will be sending the connection details to the sakai-spanish@apereo.orgmailing list. Stay tuned!

'Muchas gracias' to everyone who helped to make this event a total success. Special thanks to our supporters: S2U (Spanish Sakai Users), Entornos de Formación, Apereo Foundation and Universidad de Murcia.
Sessions recordings: http://tv.um.es/video?id=74381
More information: http://eventos.um.es/go/spanish-sakai-murcia
-- José Mariano Luján

7) Jasig Lists Have Migrated
The legacy discussion lists hosted at jasig.org have been decommissioned. Active lists were migrated to the apereo.org domain. All members of the lists were migrated as well and received notification of the new email addresses. At this point, posts to the old legacy lists will not be successful.

For a complete list of Apereo discussion lists available,
see https://groups.google.com/a/apereo.org/forum/#!forumsearch/
-- Jim Helwig

8) TWSIA is now ATLAS!

The TWSIA (Teaching With Sakai Innovation Award) has been part of the Sakai/Apereo community since 2008 when it first called for submissions in innovation in teaching and learning using Sakai. Over the years it has expanded to include other systems such as OAE and more recently Karuta. TWSIA has a global reputation and has selected winners from disciplines as diverse as healthcare, computer science, liberal arts, education, fashion, and more.

The committee is excited to announce that we are expanding even further in 2016. After much deliberation we would like to present the new name "ATLAS" (Apereo Teaching and Learning AwardS) to the Apereo Community. We are hoping with this re-envisaging that we will reach a much broader audience in the Apereo community and welcome applications that demonstrate innovations in teaching and learning using not only Sakai, OAE, and Karuta, but also Xerte and Opencast.

The ATLAS committee is now finalizing the application process and materials in accordance with this expansion. Stay tuned for further details. We will make a full announcement before the end of this year.

For further inquires, please email luisa.li@apereo.org or cheryl.brown@apereo.org.
-- Luisa Li

Project News & Releases
9) Announcing the Release of the Karuta Open Source Portfolio Version 1.2
The Karuta project, under the umbrella of the Apereo Foundation, is pleased to announce the release of version 1.2 of the Karuta Open Source Portfolio. Karuta offers a simple and flexible way for portfolio designers to customize portfolio workflows for learning, assessment, reporting, and showcasing. This third release of Karuta includes numerous user interface enhancements, as well as new functionalities that significantly expand the portfolio processes supported by Karuta.

User Interface
The upgrade to Bootstrap 3 makes the use of Karuta on mobile devices faster, more efficient, and more mobile friendly.
Collapsible portfolio pages allow for better and more efficient use of space.

Assessment
-- Users can be given permission to duplicate portfolio sections containing personal data for revision and resubmission.
-- Admin users have a reset button to "unsubmit" portfolio sections submitted for evaluation.
-- A new "submission status" feature alerts students and instructors on the status of items submitted for evaluation.
-- Designers and/or users can determine who receives email notifications regarding feedback or evaluation of portfolios.
-- Text editors auto-save every two minutes to avoid loss of entries for reflection or documentation of evidence.

Portfolio Design
-- Designers can select radio buttons or dropdown menus for display of choice boxes.
-- Smileys can be used as rubric choices.
-- Calendar entries allow selection of only the year or only the month and year.
-- A special display supports the evaluation of proficiency in Europass languages.
-- Customized instructions for specific sections can be made multilingual.

Presentation Portfolios
-- Public URLs allow sharing of portfolio sections or entire portfolios.
-- Users can be given permission to move items up or down within a portfolio section.
-- Free positioning enhancements for presentation portfolios have been improved for use on mobile devices.

Reports
-- Report scripts include tests for specific values of variables for more powerful data filtering.
-- Designers can set colors in report tables.
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Karuta Benefits
-- Simple. Teaching and learning (T&L) designers can quickly build portfolio workflows by creating pages, adding different resources (text, document, comments, rubrics, oEmbed resources, email, etc.) and assigning their use to various roles (student, evaluator, etc.).
-- Flexible. Karuta has no a priori structure. The T&L designer has full control and can build sophisticated portfolio workflows with a minimum of training. No code development is required.
-- Iterative. Karuta is built for quick review and revision. Design a portfolio, test it in faculty meetings, make changes, run a small pilot.
-- Powerful. Karuta has advanced features for creating rubrics, user menus, summary pages, forms, help, and peer evaluation.
-- Mobile device ready Karuta is responsive design-ready and can be displayed on computers, tablets or smartphones.
-- Multilingual. Karuta can support many languages and has already been set up for English, French, and Japanese. Language customization can be accomplished quickly. A special version of Karuta supports portfolios with multilingual interface commands and forms, images, or documents made available in a chosen language.

Technology
-- jQuery javascript front end, Twitter Bootstrap, MySQL, ORACLE, REST API.
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Contact
Learn about Karuta: http://karutaproject.org

Try Karuta: http://eportfolium.com/karuta
Participate as a student, classroom teacher, or supervisor in different types of portfolios.

Or design your own portfolio process.

Get the code: https://github.com/karutaproject
Get the documentation for installation:
https://github.com/karutaproject/karutaproject/wiki

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What's Next?
We are currently working on Karuta version 2.0, which will include a completely new, aesthetically designed, and flexible user interface. The new UI will allow for easy customization of Karuta with institutional, programmatic, or individual portfolio banners, colors, and welcome pages. Portfolio organization and vocabulary will be simplified and more accessible. Karuta 2.0 can be set up with the inclusion of the social network ELGG. New templates and improved designer documentation will also be made available for quick starts in using Karuta.
-- Janice Smith

10) Opencast 2.1: Release Date
Due to a release blocking issue, the Opencast 2.1 release date has been pushed to December, 15th. We might have to move the date by another week depending on how fast we can resolve the issue. But we are positive to release before the Christmas break.

The Opencast 2.0.2 maintenance release will adjust its release date and will be released along with 2.1.
-- Lars Kiesow

11) Xerte Project Release
The Xerte Project will release version 3.1 of the software on Friday 11th December.
-- Julian Tenney