

# Using XCRI-CAP for sharing workshop information

## Why?

As part of the JISC funded EPICS-2 project we looked at **sharing training workshop information** between universities, thus giving more training opportunities to Postgraduate Researchers (PGRs).

This sharing requires **feeds** of information about workshops to be supplied by the training providers, and these feeds have to be quite **granular**. Although using simple standards such as RSS or Atom feeds may be useful for getting things into date order, it doesn't make it easy for a user to **search those data in more complex ways** (e.g. to pick only workshops taking place in a certain location), or for **meta-data** to be added to the information feed (e.g. for a workshop to be tagged with one or more skills categories).

A higher level of granularity can be achieved in an XML feed, but rather than creating our own feed format, this project chose to investigate **existing feed standards**, and found XCRI-CAP is a close fit to our needs.

## What?

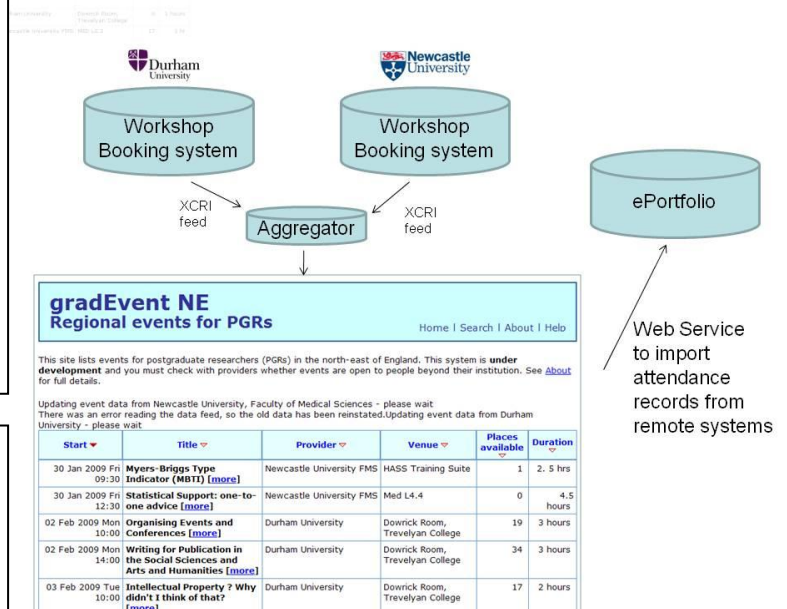
**XCRI** (eXchanging Course Related Information) is a JISC-funded, UK-oriented project to establish specifications to support the exchange of course-related information. **XCRI-CAP** (XCRI –Course Advertising Profile) is a specification for an XML feed format. XCRI-CAP allows learning providers to publish their course information in a format that can easily be collected by course search services such as UCAS.

The focus of the XCRI project has been exchanging data about large courses such as 3 year programmes, so it wasn't really designed with one off events of a few hours duration in mind. Nevertheless, using XCRI-CAP has proved to be very successful in this part of the EPICS-2 project.

## How?

We had to add a few **extensions** to the XCRI-CAP standard (the standard allows for such extensions), e.g. to include details of a building name and room number for a workshop.

This XCRI-CAP standard with our extensions was then used to **generate XCRI feeds from existing training course booking systems**, and these feeds were used by a **regional information hub** which **amalgamates the feeds** and allows the user to **view, search, and use**, the workshop details.



## Further details...

Full details of the EPICS-2 project are available at: <http://www.epics.ac.uk>

The full specification of the XCRI-CAP feed as used in the EPICS-2 project (including extensions) is available at: <http://www.epics.ac.uk/report>

This is based on the specification published by the XCRI project at: <http://www.xcri.org/>