1. Mandate

The Institute for Research on Learning Technologies (IRLT) has a broad mandate to engage in systematic inquiry, discussion, and information sharing related to the uses of technology in teaching and learning. Originally established in 1987 within the Faculty of Education as the Centre for the Study of Computers in Education (CSCE), the Institute became a university-based research unit in June 2001 and was re-named. IRLT encourages the formation of links with faculty members across the university and with schools, government, and industry to provide collaborative, multidisciplinary approaches to research problems and issues. More specifically, the goals of the Institute are as follows:

- To engage in research, study, and public discussion of issues related to the pedagogical uses of technology and to the moral, ethical, and educational implications of its use;
- To develop projects that make innovative uses of new technologies in teaching and learning;
- To maintain an active program to disseminate findings of its projects, its activities, and developments in the field to educators and other interested parties;
- To foster collaboration between academics, educators, and industry and government personnel on research and development problems and issues of mutual concern and interest.

In 2006 IRLT members developed a six year plan with the aim of becoming one of the premier university-based research institutes in North America focusing on the study of teaching and learning with technology. We have made considerable progress toward this vision, but continued effort is still necessary.
2. Organizational Structure and Staffing

Personnel

IRLT is a university-based research unit, therefore the Vice-President (Research and Innovation) appoints the director. The current and founding director is Professor Ron Owston (Education). York University provides release time and an administrative stipend according to the YUFA collective agreement. IRLT has two Associate Co-Directors, Dr. Mary Leigh Morbey (Education) and Dr. Jean Adams (Schulich). IRLT employs Herb Wideman full time on annual contract as Senior Researcher until December 2010. Regrettably his contract could not be renewed because of lack of external funding for the position. Kathryn Cook (a faculty member at Georgian College) continued as volunteer Webmaster. Joseph Ratnasigham from Learning Technology Services and Elma Thomas (Education) provided clerical assistant on an ad hoc basis.

Governance

The Executive Committee is responsible for setting strategic priorities and policies for IRLT. Its membership consists of the following: the Director, Associate Co-Directors, three Members-at-Large, and a Graduate Student. In 2010-11, Professor Suzanne MacDonald (Health), Richard Jarrell (Science & Engineering), and Roberta Sinyor (LA&PS) filled the faculty positions; Dennis York (Education) was the graduate student representative. The Members-at-Large and the graduate student members are approved annually by the membership; the others are ex-officio voting positions.

IRLT has an Advisory Board that has the following terms of reference:

- To provide an external view of IRLT activities and outputs
- Advise on strategic directions and opportunities
- Raise the profile of IRLT with external communities.

The Board consists of three external members as well as the Executive Committee. The external members in 2010-11 were Marty Keast (Pearson Canada), Shann McGrail (Microsoft Canada), and Robert Martellacci (Mindshare Learning).

Publications

IRLT publishes a series of technical reports based on members’ research. These reports are made available to the research community at the Institute’s Web site. A listing of this past year’s reports is below in the Activities section.

3. Active Membership List

IRLT has members from all Faculties at York. Members fall into three categories. Some focus on learning technologies as their primary research interest with all of their publications and grant writing centering on this topic; others have it as a secondary or joint research interest and publish less regularly in this area; while still others are mainly interested in improving their teaching through the use of
technology, receive teaching/project development grants, and/or write conference papers about their teaching with technology and more generally support IRLT’s goals. Membership is voluntary and members are not formally reviewed. There are 43 members, including one from Seneca College and one from Georgian College. The membership for 2010-11 was as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Affiliation</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Alison Griffith</td>
<td>Faculty of Education</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Andrew Eckford</td>
<td>Department of Computer Science</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Avi Cohen</td>
<td>Department of Economics, LAPS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bill Found</td>
<td>LAPS/Environmental Studies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Caitlin Fisher</td>
<td>Department of Film, Faculty of Fine Arts</td>
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<tr>
<td>Carolyn Steele</td>
<td>Career Centre</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chloe Brushwood Rose</td>
<td>Faculty of Education</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dalton Kehoe</td>
<td>Division of Social Science, LAPS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gareth Morgan</td>
<td>Schulich School of Business</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Heather Lotherington</td>
<td>Faculty of Education</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ilo Katryn Maimets</td>
<td>Steacie Science Library</td>
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<tr>
<td>Janet Murphy</td>
<td>ABEL Program, Research and Innovation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jean Adams</td>
<td>Schulich School of Business; Associate Co-Director, IRLT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jackie Lynch</td>
<td>Faculty of Education</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jennifer Jenson</td>
<td>Faculty of Education</td>
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<tr>
<td>Karen Anderson</td>
<td>Dept of Sociology, LAPS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Katharine Janzen</td>
<td>Seneca College</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kathryn Cook</td>
<td>Georgian College</td>
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<tr>
<td>Laurie Wilcox</td>
<td>Dept of Psychology, Faculty of Health</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lyndon Martim</td>
<td>Faculty of Education</td>
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<tr>
<td>Margaret Sinclair</td>
<td>Faculty of Education</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mary Leigh Morbey</td>
<td>Faculty of Education; Associate Co-Director, IRLT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mary Louise Craven</td>
<td>Communication Studies, LAPS</td>
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<tr>
<td>Michael Longford</td>
<td>Fine Arts</td>
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<tr>
<td>Melanie Baljko</td>
<td>Dept of Computer Science</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monique Adriaen</td>
<td>Dept of French Studies, LAPS</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nell Tenhaaf</td>
<td>Fine Arts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peggy Warren</td>
<td>Reference, Scott Library</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Radu Campeanu</td>
<td>School of Analytic Studies &amp; Information Technology, LAPS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Razika Sanaoui</td>
<td>Faculty of Education</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Renate Wickens</td>
<td>Fine Arts Cultural Studies, Faculty of Fine Arts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Richard Jarrell</td>
<td>Division of Natural Science, Faculty of Science &amp; Engineering</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Richard Saunders</td>
<td>Department of Political Science, LAPS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Roberta Sinyor</td>
<td>Department of Languages, Literatures &amp; Linguistics, LAPS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ron Owston</td>
<td>Faculty of Education and Director, IRLT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ron Sheese</td>
<td>Department of Psychology, Faculty of Health</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
4. Member Activities

Listed below are selected representative (a full list would be too extensive) articles, chapters, and books of members, as well as conference papers, reports, awards, and technology development activities of members during 2010-11.

Selected Articles, Chapters, Published Conference Proceedings, and Books (IRLT members indicated in bold, graduate students with *)


Selected Conference Papers/Talks/Invited Addresses/Reports


Learning Environments: Rhetoric, Recognition, Play and Methods, Institute of Education, University of London, UK.


**Lotherington, H.** (2011, May). *Collaborative action research in an urban elementary school: Developing multimodal literacies at Joyce Public School.* Invited presentation, Pädagogische Hochschule Freiburg, Germany.


Meades, S., **Jenson, J., Lotherington, H.** (2011, May). *Where standards fail: Imagining multimodal literacies assessment for the culturally diverse classroom.* Roundtable paper to be presented at the 8th Annual LLRC Pre-CSSE Conference, Congress of the Humanities and Social Sciences, University of New Brunswick, Fredericton, N.B.


Murphy, J., & Kitchener D. (2010, October). *New Designs for Professional Learning: Using a Blended Approach to Change Practice.* COHERE Conference Toronto, ON.

Murphy, J. (2010, October). *Leading Learning: A New Approach that Prepares Learners for the Future.* EDGE Conference, Memorial University, St Johns, Newfoundland.


**Other Selected Member Activities: Projects /Course Development/Grants/Awards/Media Appearances**

Chen, S. (2010-11). Developing a project at University of Havana to set up a computer-based learning lab.

Cook, K. (2010-11). Revised her course web sites this year to make them mobile device friendly. In addition, with so many Web 2.0 technologies available, there is less need for online teachers to rely solely on monolithic software like Blackboard. She uses Twitter to promote student-student interaction, Wikispaces to enable collaborative assignments, and Remind101 as a metacognitive tool to help students take control of their own learning.

Hornstein, S. Faculty of Fine Arts Creative Grants Award ($1500 maximum allowance) for Shifting Sands: Desertification Architecture in the Moroccan Sahara and the work of Aziza Chaouni.

-DAAD Promoting German and European Studies in Canada, grant ($5000) Starlets and Starchitecture: Teaching Architectural History across Borders, Languages, Geographies (Principal Investigator). Workshop with international participants to be held at IRLT March 2012.

- Feminists in Games. SSHRC Partnership Development Grant. [Principal Applicant]. $171,142.
- Skins, storytellers and second lives: A partnership for developing Aboriginal new media. [Co-Applicant] Principal Applicant, Jason Lewis, Concordia University. $258,620.
- VERUS: Virtual Environments Real User Study: Phase 2. [Co-applicant] Principal applicant, John Murray, SRI International. $380,000 to York.

- Interview with Albert Wisco (2011, March 9) at Joyce Public School. Seneca College Current Affairs Program: S@Y News Weekly.
- Interview with Alayna LaFleur (2011, February 10) on digital literacies.
Headline News (2010, July 14): Dynamic project to create a learning community nets two awards.
- Interview with Johanna Brand (2010, November 26) on our research at Joyce Public School.
- Carving up the work: Research team, student training and previous output. SSHRC standard grant series: Jumpstarting your fall 2010 application, Faculty of Liberal Arts and Professional Studies, York University.

Murphy, J. (2010-2011) Received the following grants: Learning Connections, Phase 7 (Literacy and Numeracy Secretariat) $397,000
- Regional Adapation Collaborative (RAC) (Ministry of the Environment) $60,000

Morbey, M. L. Visiting Scholar invitation: Queen's University Surveillance Studies Centre (SSC), Visiting Scholar, Kingston, ON.

Owston, R. Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council, with M. Baljko (collaborator). The Open Virtual Usability Lab: A New Tool for Website Accessibility Research - $72,100 (2011-12).
- York University, Faculty of Health grant for evaluation of e-learning pilot project - $12,500.
- Developed Future Campus website, with doctoral candidate Dennis York, as a resource for teaching and learning with technology.


**IRLT Technical Reports (available at website)**
- 2010-1 Evaluation of the Learning Connections Program 2008-09: Summary Report
IRLT Speaker Series

To fulfill its mandate of public dialogue and dissemination of research, IRLT sponsors a speaker series each year. Links to more details, handouts, and videos are available at [http://irlt.yorku.ca/events.html](http://irlt.yorku.ca/events.html). The events held in 2010-11 are below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>SPEAKER</th>
<th>TOPIC/TITLE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>November 2010</td>
<td>Webcast and discussion</td>
<td>Don Tapscott’s opening keynote address at the Quest Conference</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November 2010</td>
<td>Enza Antenos-Conforti - Montclair State University</td>
<td>Education 140 – Twitter for Teaching &amp; Learning</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January 201</td>
<td>Suzanne de Castel - Simon Fraser University</td>
<td>Challenges and Opportunities in Virtual Worlds Research</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 2011</td>
<td>Ron Owston, Merv Mosher, Andrew Eckford, Susan Murtha - York University</td>
<td>Lecture Capture: Faculty Experiences at York and What the Research Says</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

5. Measures taken to Promote Equity

IRLT has a very diverse membership in terms of gender and field of specialization. We encourage all members of the community to join—the only requirement for membership is an interest in teaching and learning with technology and supporting IRLT’s mandate. In addition, IRLT’s Website complies with W3C standards and best practices, and is accessible for persons with disabilities.
6. Statement of Operations – see appendix
7. Budget for Current Year – see appendix
8. Student Activities/Accomplishments

As in previous years graduate students participated in all aspects of IRLT. They collaborated with faculty members and/or solely authored refereed numerous publications and conference papers. These are noted with an asterisk in Section 4 above.

9. Changes in Physical Space

No changes during 2010-11.

10. Contractual Obligations

No contractual obligations were made during 2010-11.