

**MERLOT: A REPOSITORY OF E-LEARNING OBJECTS FOR HIGHER
EDUCATION**

George P. Schell

University of North Carolina at Wilmington

Max Burns

Georgia Southern University

ABSTRACT

University faculties are under increasing pressure to do more with less. They are expected to continuously improve educational experiences to more students at less expense. Without assistance, the pressures of increasing demands and decreasing resources may prove too great to maintain a high quality learning environment.

Merlot is an online repository of eLearning objects designed to provide high quality, online material to enhance the learning experience. The materials in *Merlot* may be peer reviewed by both experts in the discipline and users of the materials. As teaching takes a more important role in promotion and tenure decisions at universities, *Merlot* provides a mechanism for evaluating online learning and teaching materials in a fashion similar to other scholarly research. Quality of content, potential effectiveness as a teaching tool, and ease of use are the key criteria in the *Merlot* review process. This paper provides a description of *Merlot*, the peer review process, examples of *Merlot* objects, and the role *Merlot* plays in the promotion, evaluation, and dissemination of eLearning objects.