

Considerations for Implementation

SAFARI Montage LOR

The Learning Object Repository (LOR)

Welcome to SAFARI Montage! The South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE) has invested in a Learning Object Repository to support both the state and district's digital instruction needs. A LOR is the ideal place to curate your state/district's library of digital learning objects, providing a solution for the storing, managing, and sharing of these items across the state/district. The SCDE plans the implementation of the SCDE LOR to be a phased approach. While the plan for the implementation phases is designed at the state level, this document will help you to think through the big picture of a LOR implementation in your digital ecosystem. You may not have a complete plan or all the answers as to how this will work in your district right now, and that is expected. The SCDE and SAFARI Montage are here to partner with you as you make the necessary decisions to ensure that this solution evolves and meets your district's needs over time.

As you review this document, you will be prompted to think through some of the key decisions you will need to make regarding the set-up of the LOR. There is no perfect or "right" answer and as the use of the LOR in your district evolves you can make changes to those decisions. The SAFARI Montage LOR is a powerful and flexible tool which will help your district to build a strong foundation for a digital ecosystem that supports equity in remote and on-site learning.

This document is organized into several areas you will need to consider: Content Curation and Standards, Instructional Tools, User Types, and Integrations. Before we dive into the details of these, let's consider some of the common use cases for K-12 school districts.

Who will be using the LOR and the digital learning objects it houses?

- The SCDE/district's curriculum leaders managing the curation and review of procured, curated, and created digital learning objects, including usage reports, across the district.
- School-based Instructional Resource leaders raising awareness about digital resources available in the LOR, and potentially building instructional materials.
- Teachers searching for, adding their own, and aggregating learning objects into playlists and Get it? Formative Assessments for instruction.
- Students accessing learning objects and playlists teachers have provided from the LOR or through a district LMS as part of a lesson or assignment.

Content Curation & Standards

Note: The SCDE will be adding content to the LOR in a phased approach. The SCDE will guide this process in phase two of the implementation. A rubric will be shared during the implementation phase which will guide all entities uploading resources.

Learning objects are all the content items you have across the SCDE/your district that are used for instruction by teachers. Getting all your digital learning objects loaded into the LOR is key to an effective implementation and the first place to start. You likely have digital learning objects from various sources. This will include SAFARI Montage packaged content, Discovery Education, supplemental resource publishers, course curriculum publishers, district staff, and teachers. In this section, you will review information about content in the LOR and how it can be added. Related, and also relevant, are academic standards and their configuration at the onset of your implementation as well as updates over time.

Packaged Content

Getting all your digital learning objects into the LOR may start with the packaged content you have licensed from SAFARI Montage. The system comes preloaded with educational video titles that have been hand-picked for their direct application to the curriculum. Selected from the finest educational publishers around the world, the titles included are from the series that teachers use, love, and respect.

This curated library of engaging digital content includes programming from well-known publishers such as PBS, Disney Educational Productions, Scholastic, Weston Woods, BBC, National Geographic, and A&E as well as valuable content from smaller or international publishers you may not be familiar with. All learning objects include metadata such as title, detailed description, and recommended grade range. Video content is segmented into chapters and more granular key concepts to facilitate searching for the perfect resource. Content packages also contain correlations to current academic standards for all relevant content, including all State Standards, Common Core State Standards, Next Generation Science Standards, ISTE Standards, ACTFL, WIDA, and AASL Standards for the 21st Century Learner, and Partnership for 21st Century Skills and more.

Check out our [publisher list](#) to learn more about our respected content partners. Generally, SAFARI Montage Content Offerings are grouped into elementary and high school packages:

- [Grades K-8](#)
- [Grades 9-12](#)

OERs Curated by SAFARI Montage

All Core Content Package subscriptions include carefully curated, free, and contextualized open educational resources. Resources include images, videos, YouTube web links, documents, eBooks, audio files, interactive simulations, and more. YouTube web links display in the SAFARI Montage player in a limited branding, classroom friendly presentation without comments or suggested videos in the sidebar as seen on YouTube. [Learn more about the Free and Open Educational Resources available on SAFARI Montage.](#)

YouTube & SAFARI Montage

It is easy to use YouTube links and overcome district blocking to students using SAFARI Montage as a trusted source or Web Proxy. The web proxy service enables districts to selectively approve and enable access to videos from any blocked web site, including YouTube. It provides an ideal solution for districts

that want to limit general access to sites such as YouTube, without losing access to the valuable educational resources available on these sites. [Learn more about the Web Proxy.](#)

District Curated Learning Objects

In addition to the content offerings from SAFARI Montage, you will curate OERs and licensed content purchased from other vendors into the LOR to create a robust offering of learning objects for teachers and students. This is one of the most important actions you will be embarking upon to ensure that you have a vetted Learning Object Repository that meets the needs of all your district departments. You will want to speak with each of your instructional departments to review the curriculum materials they are currently using and determine what and how they will be added to the LOR. You can also use the SAFARI Montage LOR to support digital resource management for district-wide administrative needs, like onboarding documents and general district resources.

District Stored Content

Content can be added to the LOR in a variety of different ways depending on where it is currently stored for the district and your individual users.

Content in Google Drive

If your district uses G Suite and teachers and the district house resources in Google Drive then you have multiple options for easily bringing those resources into the LOR. Once an administrator configures the integration between Google G Suite for Education and SAFARI Montage, which can be done by contacting [SAFARI Montage Technical Support](#), users will have the ability to search Google Drive directly from within the SAFARI Montage LOR. Users can perform a keyword search, click on the Google Drive tab, and then save resources as links to the Google Drive file allowing for continued collaboration, or resources can be saved as files in the LOR which converts them to a Microsoft Office or PDF format to preserve the content. Once saved, all metadata, sharing, and permission options provided by the LOR can be applied to the resource. [Learn more about the SAFARI Montage and Google Drive Integration.](#)

You can also use the [SAFARI Montage Chrome Browser Extension](#) to directly add any Google Drive Documents, Slides, or Sheets to the LOR. See more information on the Chrome Browser Extension below.

Content in Microsoft OneDrive

If your district uses Microsoft 365 and teachers and the district house resources in OneDrive those resources can be added to the LOR using the Microsoft 365 and SAFARI Montage integration which can be configured by an administrator with help from [SAFARI Montage Technical Support](#). Once enabled, users will have the ability to search OneDrive directly from within the SAFARI Montage LOR. Users can perform a keyword search, click on the OneDrive tab, and then save resources as links to allow for continued collaboration, or as files to preserve the content. Once saved, all metadata, sharing, and permission options provided by the LOR can be applied to the resource. [Learn more about SAFARI Montage and Microsoft One Drive Integration.](#)

Content on the Web

Resources that are curated by your teachers or curriculum developers from the web, which includes free and Open Educational Resources (OERs) content and video from YouTube, can be added using **Chrome**

Browser Extension or the **Easy Upload** feature. Both options are fast and efficient ways to add individual learning objects to the platform and both processes support the same robust metadata options available for packaged content. Additionally, metadata can be added or edited to enhance resources at any time.

Using the Chrome Browser Extension

The SAFARI Montage Chrome Browser Extension facilitates saving high-quality links to resources to curate additional free content and OERs for your LOR. Links can easily be added from virtually any website and YouTube by simply clicking on the Chrome Extension once it has been added to the Chrome Browser, which can be done at an enterprise level for districts with a G Suite hosted domain. Clicking on the Chrome Browser Extension automatically launches the upload process, and, with one-click, items can be added to the LOR. The Chrome Browser Extension can also be used to seamlessly add content to the LOR from Google Drive in the form of a link (for continued collaboration) or as a full converted file (in Microsoft Office or PDF formats). [Learn more about the Chrome Browser Extension.](#)

Using Easy Upload

The Easy Upload process allows for drag and drop upload of an object or link into the LOR. If the Chrome Browser is not used in your district, or if end users have resources stored on their local computers, this is an alternative option for adding resources to the LOR. Each item can include basic information like a title and description so other users can easily find shared items. More advanced information, like correlations to academic standards, can also be added. At the point of upload, users are provided with a brief prompt to ensure that they are considering any copyright restrictions that may be relevant for curated content. Content added to the system by teachers or administrators can be freely shared among users in the same school. A published copy can be distributed across the district, as well as subject to an approval queue if desired. Uploading learning objects provides your staff with the ability to easily customize the LOR and ensure that all the resources needed are immediately available. [Learn more about Easy Upload.](#)

Using embedded system tutorial videos, teachers can be quickly taught to use any of these features to develop the LOR with their own materials. Once added to the LOR using any method, all learning objects can be aggregated into playlists or lessons. See more about playlists below.

Content from Educational Publishers

You may have current relationships with educational publishers for content libraries for use at the school or district level. Those resources can most efficiently be brought onto the platform in bulk in one of two ways. Through **SAFARI Montage Content Integrations** or **IMS Global Thin Common Cartridge import**.

SAFARI Montage Content Integrations

SAFARI Montage supports content integrations with select providers such as BrainPOP, BrainPOP Jr., Streamable Learning, and Knovation. These content integrations come with the added benefit of the federated search within the LOR. With mutual licenses, these can be activated and accessed in the LOR, allowing them to be freely searched, shared to your district's LMS via integration, and added to playlists. Learn more about LMS integrations and playlists below. These integrations can be enabled with help from [SAFARI Montage Technical Support](#).

IMS Global Common Cartridge for Content Curation

Content licensed directly from educational publishers can also be added to the SAFARI Montage LOR using the IMS Global Common Cartridge standard. IMS Global is the leading non-profit collaborative for

the advancement of educational technology, interoperability, innovation, and learning impact. They offer several technology standards that empower districts and encourage vendors to work towards a seamless digital ecosystem.

Thin Common Cartridge (TCC) leverages the IMS Global Learning Tool Interoperability technology so that districts can load individual resources in bulk as web links along with their associated metadata. That metadata can include title, description, grade range, learning resource type, and even correlations to academic standards. Additionally, the Common Cartridge standard can be used to load non-web link content from providers for use in the LOR.

It is recommended that each instructional department reach out to their curriculum providers to inquire about the availability of resources via TCC. Districts can also review the [IMS Global Product Directory](#) to see standards-compliant vendors. Once a cartridge is obtained, an administrator can upload it and all the resources it contains will be added to the platform, a custom publisher can be created, and sharing and permissions can be controlled.

[Learn more about SAFARI Montage and IMS Thin Common Cartridge](#) including information on how to plan for and receive TCCs from your educational publishing partners.

Standards

SAFARI Montage provides South Carolina standards for Math, Science, English Language, Social Studies, the Arts and Health & Physical Education.

SAFARI Montage correlates digital content provided in content packages to core content areas: Math, Science, English and Language Arts, Social Studies, Health, Physical Education, and the Arts. SAFARI Montage standards are based on the South Carolina Department of Education's most recently adopted standards. Correlations for content in packages are updated to current standards on a regular basis.

Instructional Tools

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Playlists

Learning objects can be easily aggregated into playlists for instruction by district teachers or staff. Teacher and student directions can be added for the entire playlist, as well as for each individual object on the playlist. Playlists can be aligned to standards and shared freely among users in the same school in which they are created. Playlists shared to the district can be subject to an approval queue and copying, if desired, or freely shared. A System Administrator can set permission for copying and an approval queue, and set individual users as approvers to help manage the queue. There is even a district directory for organizing district curated playlists. For more sophisticated organization of playlists into departments and courses, refer to the LLP Module.

Conference integrations also support the presentation of playlists or individual learning objects in remote learning situations. This includes support for [Zoom](#), [Google Meet](#), and [Microsoft Teams](#).

Playlists also integrate the powerful Microsoft Immersive Reader tool, enhancing equitable access to learning materials for your learners. Users can have text translated in dozens of languages and read aloud in the language of their choice. Learners may adjust text size, spacing, font, and color to improve readability. Words can be broken down by parts of speech or syllable, and a picture dictionary enables multi-sensory learning. [Learn more about SAFARI Montage with Microsoft Immersive Reader.](#)

Get it?

Get it? is a formative assessment tool that enables teachers to check for student understanding of a topic or concept during a lesson. Teachers can ask questions, with optional supporting media, and students can answer from their devices. Each question is controlled by the teacher and offers high-level reporting and an optional review playlist to allow teachers to immediately re-teach and/or assign a review playlist to students who answer incorrectly. This interactive tool supports student engagement during live in-class and real-time remote instruction simultaneously. [Learn more about Get it?](#)

View & Chat

View & Chat is a student engagement tool that allows teachers to initiate real-time, moderated text chatting during in-class video playback. Teachers can ask thought-provoking or guided questions to engage student discussion and inquiry while presenting videos and learning objects in playlists. Students can join the session and participate in the discussion via their computer or mobile device. [Learn more about View & Chat.](#)

Users

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User Types

The SAFARI Montage LOR has several different user types with varying system behaviors. You will need to identify who the main users of the LOR will be and the roles they will be playing to help you identify which user types make the most sense for them.

A System Administrator manages user types. Review the below chart to consider district teachers and staff and their respective roles in the LOR:

Your Role at the District	What you might do with respect to SAFARI Montage	Recommended SAFARI Montage User Types & Functionality
Chief Technology Officer/Chief Information Officer	Manage the day-to-day operations of the SAFARI Montage system from configuration of the technical requirements to managing users' issues. Oversee the implementation of SAFARI Montage. Advocate for interoperability.	System Administrator – can manage all system settings and configurations and has access to a full suite of admin tools.
Network Security Systems Manager	Configure LDAP or other account provisioning. Open ports and the firewall to allow external access.	

Your Role at the District	What you might do with respect to SAFARI Montage	Recommended SAFARI Montage User Types & Functionality
Director of Instructional Technology	Oversee the implementation of SAFARI Montage and the development of the digital curriculum. Advocate for interoperability.	Curriculum Administrator – this admin user type can view all content on the system, access unshared content, and view usage reporting. Limited access to admin tools, focused on district content management.
Curriculum Specialists	Review and align instructional materials and curricular resources for integration within the LOR. Approve teacher-designed playlists. Inform the design of instructional playlists.	
Instructional Technology Facilitators	Provide professional learning on all aspects of SAFARI Montage. Collaborates with Curriculum Specialists to take the vision from concept to delivery.	
Principals and School Level Administrators	Ensure effective use of SAFARI Montage by teachers and students. Advocate for equitable curriculum and interoperability.	Principal – has limited, school-specific admin capabilities such as the ability to restrict content at a school level. Access to school usage reports.
Teachers as Pilots of LOR Use	Review and align instructional materials and curricular resources for integration within district LOR. Design digital resources (Playlists and Get it?s). Inform implementation and classroom use of the curriculum. Provide feedback on best practices for wide-spread usage.	Teacher with Upload – can create Get it?s and Playlists; can add their own content and content curated on the web to the LOR and share freely to the school; may be able to publish copies of content and playlists to the district at the discretion of the admin settings.
Media Specialists	Curate resources for each school’s Learning Object Repository as the foundation of the digital curriculum. In some cases, build playlists and/or Get it?s.	
Teachers	Implement digital resources by teaching with learning objects and/or playlists from the LOR directly or by adding to an LMS. Copy and modify district playlists for student needs. Create formative assessments.	
Students	Participate in instructional activities and digital learning opportunities.	
		Student or Student with Upload – can find and play digital learning objects and playlists shared to their school in the LOR or an LMS as added by a teacher.

Integrations

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The LOR integrates with many LMS and enterprise systems to support district digital ecosystems. Integrations support one-click access between the LMS and LOR as well as the ability to search for digital learning objects in the LOR and either push to or pull into the LMS. Learn more about our many integrations:

[Blackboard](#)

[D2L](#)

[Canvas](#)

[Google Classroom](#)

[itsLearning](#)

[Microsoft Teams](#)

[Moodle](#)

[Schoology](#)

As you consider this information and work with district stakeholders to make decisions about the LOR implementation, you may have questions. SAFARI Montage is here to partner with you through this process. We are happy to discuss implementation and district training plans and offer additional support where you feel it is needed. Feel free to reach out to us with questions or to schedule a Professional Development Consultation call by emailing PD@SAFARIMontage.com. We look forward to hearing from you and working with you to build a strong LOR for your state.