



Web Data Collector

Save time and effort, and improve data accuracy, by collecting timetable data electronically.

Scientia's Web Data Collector (WDC) makes the timetabling process much more efficient.

The planning of a timetable is all about working out how to deliver the teaching that is required in a way that is clash-free and student friendly. Before that planning process can even begin, a clear statement of what must be delivered is needed. How many students are expected on this module? What size is a tutorial group? Are there specialist requirements for the teaching space? Who can teach? What is their availability? Are the requirements the same as last year? The answers to all of these questions need to be gathered from multiple people around the institution.

WDC is designed to be accessed directly by the subject specialists who know about the timetabling requirements for their subject. Rather than conveying that information on paper or free text with the attendant risk of inaccuracy at the point of entry or transcription, WDC leads the user through the process offering choices from dropdown lists, improving the chances of the data being right first time. One university estimated that 50 person days was saved by streamlining their process in this way.

The screenshot displays the 'Web Data Collector' interface. At the top, it shows the user as '[WDC] WDC Default User'. The main section is titled 'View and Update Module Details' and contains several input fields: 'Name' (HC1039), 'Description' (Professional Practice For Assistant Practitioners), 'Credit Delivered' (0), 'Planned Size' (120), 'Modifications' (dropdown), and 'Status' (NotConfirmed dropdown). Below this is a section for 'Select Week Pattern' with a dropdown set to 'CLAWS/Autumn Semester' and a 'Week Pattern Description' of '1-11'. This is followed by two rows of checkboxes for 'Period1' and 'Period2', with the first seven checkboxes in Period1 checked. At the bottom, there are buttons for 'Save', 'Save and Close', 'Cancel', and 'View Activities', along with a 'Main Menu' and 'Log Off' link.

Web Data Collector Web Form

Advantages of Web Data Collector

The advantages over manual systems are numerous:

- Fully Integrated – Once collected, the data can be transferred directly to Syllabus Plus.
- Accessibility – Minimal training is required to use the browser-based interface.
- Configurability – Local terminology and validation rules can be applied.
- Consistency – Standard forms impose a consistent style of data entry.
- Easy Operation – Dropdown lists and tick-box options guide the user to valid entries.
- Audit Trail – You can track what data was created, when, and by whom.
- Data Quality – Direct entry of data by those with specialist knowledge improves quality.

The WDC leads to more efficient use of staff time, both in academic departments and within the central administration. Less time is required for data validation. The improved data quality reduces the need for repeated liaison with those providing it. These factors combine to shorten the time between provision of data and production of the timetable.

Our solution

The system consists of three components:

- Web Forms: a Departmental User Interface and an Administrator Interface.
- Data Import-Export Tool for the Timetable Coordinator to transfer the data on demand between Syllabus Plus and WDC.
- Database: this holds the collected data 'behind the scenes', in between transfers to and from Syllabus Plus.

Our expertise

Over the course of time our implementation consultants have built up considerable expertise in the configuration and implementation of Web Data Collector. Each site will be individual in their requirements and the first exercise we would undertake with a new customer would be analysis and specification work to ensure that the WDC you have delivered is tailor-made for your needs.

For more information on how Scientia's Web Data Collection solution can benefit your institution, please contact +44 1223 884949 or email info@scientia.com or visit www.scientia.com

