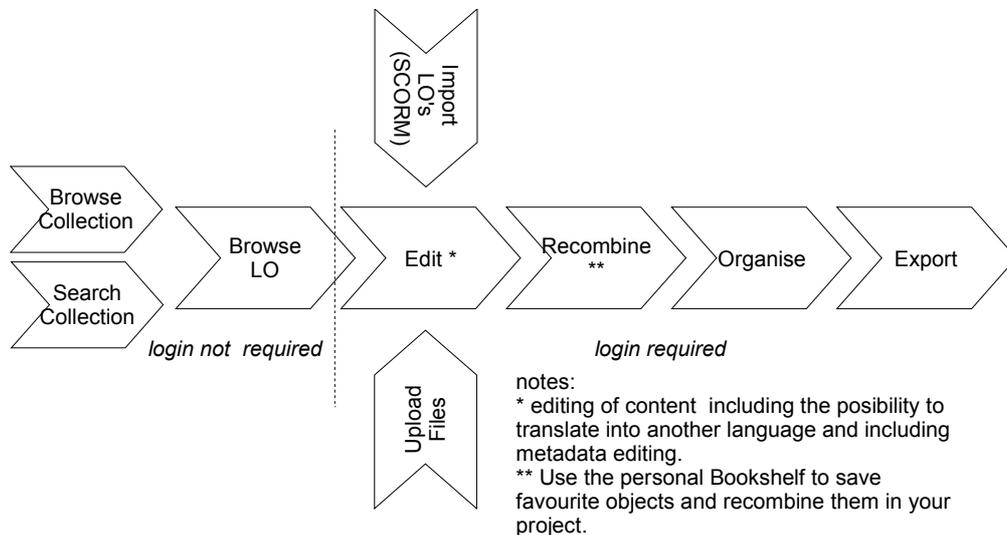




SELF Starter a quick intro on the SELF Platform

The SELF Platform is a collaborative authoring environment for learning objects (LO's).

It's main workflow:



1. COLLECTIONS

are a subset of LO's grouped around a certain topic

2. LEARNING OBJECTS (LO's)

are a structured form of a learning material (documentation, manual, course, textbook, ...) and is usually a consolidation of smaller objects or chapters (lessons). An LO may consist of several types of sub objects, such as lessons or chapters, glossary of terms, bibliography, sets of tests, etc.

3. ADD, EDIT, ORGANISE, RECOMBINE LO's

these operations can only be used by logged in users;

these functions form the main authoring environment for Learning Objects: users can start new LO's, add new sub-objects, edit the content and metadata of each object (with version control), organise the order and hierarchy of the overall LO, save favourite objects to the personal bookshelf, recombine saved objects in another course

4. UPLOAD, IMPORT, EXPORT

through the FileManager any logged in user can upload files (in open standard formats), search files of other users, add them to the bookshelf. SCORM files (standard format for LO's) can, once uploaded, be imported into the system.

5. COLLABORATE

version control keeps track of each change in a tree-like version history. Unlike many other authoring tools, SELF is not linear but allows branching; different users or groups might work on different branches and thus avoid edit-wars, while recombining and merging permits the combination of desired work.



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Interest groups around a common topic may be formed and use collaborative project management tools including messaging, discussions spaces etc (to do).

6. MATERIAL RATING & USER RATING

SELF is working on the implementation of ranking mechanisms that keep track of the popularity of each LO and assigns proportional parts of that popularity to the contributing users. Contributing users will therefore be recognised for their work and gain certain privileges in the community. At the same time the material rating helps the more popular material show up higher in search results and helps users get an indication of the maturity and use of each LO. See for more information [QAEG](#).