

THE WORLD WIDE WEB AS A RESOURCE OF LANGUAGE TEACHING

Language learning has evolved a long way from the time when we only had the textbooks and dictionaries. The way of language learning by memorizing forms of verbs, nouns, adjectives and grammar rules is still being used today but there are signs that this is not going to be for a long because of the recent new trends in language learning. Language learning has gone a long way. The aim of this paper is to describe the main ways of using the WWW in both learning and teaching foreign languages.

There are now many courses on language learning in the Internet. Language learners can now practice to speak other languages online with foreign partners. Through the Web we can listen to the radio stations broadcasting in foreign languages, watch TVs. This way we get proper accent and intonation in learning foreign languages.

Using the Internet for your English lessons, information search and interaction with other learners enhance your navigating skills through the computer and Web technologies.

Although the Internet cannot teach students to speak English in itself, as a resource in the hands of a skilled teacher it can provide a wealth of authentic materials with the help of which a teacher can build motivating and productive activities. It should be mentioned that the Internet does not provide a new or unique set of language goals or methodologies. The main focus is on Internet activities such as reading, writing and information processing skills, although students also develop their vocabulary skills through extensive reading of Internet materials.

The World Wide Web has a lot to offer for language teachers. Firstly, teachers can subscribe to mailing list related to teaching English as a second language (TESL) or teaching English as a foreign language (TEFL); they can communicate with colleagues and professionals to discuss methodological issues. The Internet is an excellent ground to share practical ideas with other language specialists. Secondly, the Internet is a store of information about the latest teaching tools and materials. Tutors can read electronic journals and newsletters in the Internet. Furthermore, there is a growing number of information on the Web especially concerned foreign language classes. The World Wide Web makes it easier to find the alternative activities or texts that are not provided in the course - books. Moreover, teachers can find authentic texts and ready-made exercises that can be used at language lessons. Texts taken from the Web can be used at any language level, only tasks have to be graded according to students' knowledge.

A great advantage of the Internet is that a whole language course can be designed on it that is a relatively new field of language education. Moreover, lessons can be made attractive by allowing students to choose the kind of material they work with themselves. Students are also provided with the varying tasks they are asked to perform.

However, searching appropriate information on the Web requires some experience. Variety of resources is so great that deciding how to use them is a challenge in itself. It is important to investigate and check Internet material as critically as any other material from any other source and where necessary it should be adopted to suit the proper situation. Every computer-mediated task can be tailored to meet a teacher's methodological goals.

If teachers want to use computers at their lessons to complete traditional language learning, they should find additional material to the topics being discussed. Ideas can be taken from course books where some activities are not challenging enough for students. Analyzing the shortcomings of such activities may suggest an area of the Internet that can be used to create a task. Finding materials designed particularly for ELT is considerably easier than locating authentic materials on a particular topic, as language materials are still limited in number.

An excellent place to begin a search is one of the gateway sites that make it possible to access remote databases without knowing the location of the site in request. They contain links listed according to topics and provide users with quick and easy access to a great number of educational resources on different university, non-profit or commercial site. Some examples are BBC World Service, Learning English, ESL, CELIA, Home Page or The Comenius Group.

Having chosen a site, it is a matter of time and creativity to design an activity that suits teacher's objectives and the area or site selected. However, it is important to remember that there is no sense in doing exercises on the World Wide Web when they can be equally well done offline with paper and pen. It should also be taken into account that before designing an Internet-based activity it is necessary to consider its advantages, the range of students involved and the time required to perform the tasks. A task can really be beneficial for students when it activates different kinds of learning styles.

Special educational centers help teachers to access appropriate teaching materials and to find or build the appropriate set of tasks. The primary goal of these centers is to improve instructions, so they provide a vast database of educational research and articles on topics related to teaching, learning and educational management. Additionally, there are special sites dedicated to different fields of studying, for example, such as linguistics, literature or teaching English as a second or foreign language (ESL or EFL).

Another important thing is Virtual education. Virtual education is a term describing online education using Internet. This term is primarily used in higher education where so-called Virtual Universities have been established. "Virtual" is used here to characterize the fact that the course is not taught in a classroom face-to-face but through some substitute mode that can be associated with classroom teaching. That means people do not have to go to the real class to learn.

A virtual program or a course of studies is a study program in which all courses or at least a significant portion of the courses are virtual ones.

Many virtual study programs are mainly text-based, using HTML, Power Point or PDF documents. Multi-media technologies have been investigated for

many years and eventually formed their way into practice. Today a wide spectrum of instruction modes is available, including the following: Virtual Classroom, Hypertext courses, Video-based courses, Audio-based courses, Animated courses. Web-supported textbook courses, Peer-to-peer courses, etc.

Most virtual study programs use e-learning platform (Learning Management System- LMS) to administer students and courses and to provide learning content. A Learning platform is an integrated set of interactive online services that provide teachers, learners, parents and others involved in education with information, tools and resources to support and enhance educational delivery and management. The term learning platform also includes the personal learning environment (PLE).

A learning platform is a framework of tools that work seamlessly together to deliver a student centric learning experience by unifying educational theory and practice, technology and content. Learning platforms can be described as the next generation of Virtual Learning Environment or Learning Management Systems used by educational institutions.

At the end I would like to conclude that in today`s fast paced world, one must be able to adapt and be flexible while recognizing the need to learn. Web browsers and the Internet connections are available almost everywhere. You just have to take the advantages of the resources that are around you.

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Матеріали
міжнародної науково-практично
конференції

«Сучасні проблеми управління підприємствами:
теорія та практика»

318-321 березня 2016 року
Видавництво «НТМТ»
м.Харків

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Анотація

У сучасному світі , який швидко змінюється, кожен може вибрати той чи інший спосіб отримання освіти. Веб браузері та Інтернет , які є скрізь, допоможуть вам не тільки отримати освіту, а й вивчити будь-яку іноземну мову.

Ключові слова: Веб технології, віртуальне навчання, віддалені бази даних, анімований курс, середовище навчання.

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Аннотация

В современном быстро изменяющемся мире любой человек может выбрать и адаптироваться к тому или иному типу обучения. Веб браузеры и Интернет , имеющиеся повсюду помогут Вам не только получить образование, но и выучить иностранный язык.

Ключевые слова: Веб технологии, виртуальное обучение, удаленные базы данных, анимированный курс, среда обучения.

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Abstract

In today`s fast paced world one must be able to adapt and be flexible while recognizing the need to learn. Web browsers and the Internet connections are

available almost everywhere and can help anyone in getting education, especially language learning.

Key words: Web technologies, virtual education, remote databases, animated course, learning environment.