DASSH 2015: Re-imagining Engagement

Solutions to Sustaining Languages: Collaboration or Online?

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Solution I (National): Arabic Without Walls

Introduction

Welcome to Arabic Without Walls, an introductory distance-learning Arabic course funded by FIPSE (P116B030526) and developed by the UC Consortium for Language Learning & Teaching, The National Middle East Language Resource Center at Brigham Young University and Near Eastern Studies Department at UC Berkeley.

To view the suggested daily breakdown of the tasks you need to complete this course, click on Syllabus. To access all the Web materials organized by chapter and category, click on Course Content.

>> More About AWW
Solution II (within a university): Toolkits and Investment in E-learning

**Case Study - Creating Modern Language e-learning materials using toolkits**

The One-Stop-Language-Shop (OSLS): e-learning across all 14 languages taught in the School of Modern Languages and Cultures (SMLC) - Oronna Speicher, School of Modern Languages and Cultures.

Up until about 18 months ago, e-learning in the SMLC was represented by a handful of WebCT/Blackboard courses across the departments, with a few enthusiasts working on individual projects, but there was no e-learning programme spanning the whole School. When I contacted the Learning team about the creation of online exercises the idea of the One Stop Language Shop (OSLS) was born: a project aimed at making e-learning a reality across the School by creating a platform that would provide multimodal interactive language learning materials for all students registered on an MFL or Inter Faculty module. Not only would the materials cover all 14 languages taught in the School (Arabic, Brazilian and Continental Portuguese, Dutch, French, German, Greek, Italian, Japanese, Mandarin Chinese, Polish, Russian, Serbian-Croatian, Slovene, Spanish) but the materials would also be tailor-made to mirror the respective curricula of each semester/year, and would further allow the student to move between languages and levels of competence.
Solution III (Co-operation): National Network for Languages

REANNZ Video Conferencing in Action - Russian Language

01/09/2011
Bindy Barclay

During Semester 1, 2011, Canterbury and Auckland Universities collaborated to offer a stage 2 Russian Language class simultaneously via video conference. Based at Canterbury, the only university to offer Russian to Stage 2, Russian Programme Staff held three weekly classes across REANNZ’s Bridge. The course represents a significant step forward for opportunities for collaboration and the first such initiative for the teaching of languages at New Zealand universities.

Russian staff faced considerable challenges due to disruption by the February quake in Christchurch. As the collaborative nature of the course required reestablishment as quickly as possible, Head of School of Languages Susan Bouterey, Canterbury IT and AVCC staff quickly brokered workarounds to ensure the course went ahead. This year’s was second collaboration between language schools at Canterbury and Auckland, the first class in Russian taught of over Access Grid in 2008 by Professor of Russian at Canterbury Henrietta Mondry.
Solution III (Co-operation): Massey Spanish @ UNE

Australian students are about to receive Spanish tuition from language staff at Massey University.

The University’s School of Linguistics and International Languages has signed a memorandum of understanding with the University of New England in Armidale, New South Wales to provide a Spanish major to students from next year.

Massey Vice-Chancellor Steve Maharey, who was present at the Manawatu campus memorandum signing on September 22, is delighted to be in partnership with the University of New England. “This is the beginning of a collaboration that has potential to last for years to come,” Mr Maharey says.

Head of School Professor Cynthia White, and Senior Spanish Lecturer Dr Leonel Alvarado were recently at Armidale finalising the agreement.

“We met with the vice-chancellor and pro vice-chancellor as well as business managers from the UNE and a variety of staff from School of Arts who were all very enthusiastic and excited about this venture,” Professor White says.

The school has been delivering Spanish papers to Auckland University of Technology students since last year. “The UNE agreement is very similar to the projects we ran at AUT, just on a larger scale,” Dr Alvarado says. “Running the course at AUT enabled us to negotiate any complexities we faced and it also allowed us to foster collaboration between the two universities. The initiative gave us experience in teaching other students in their own time frames, like what we will be doing at UNE.”
Solution IV: International Collaboration
Key Considerations

- Local, national, global networks
- Collaboration and online
- Languages go with everything and real-world needs
- The big picture: internationalisation, security, competitiveness