

languages ICT

New horizons: Innovative practice

Schools-focused ICT and languages projects

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Best Practice Research Scholarship case studies, DfES

This DfES funding stream is no longer available, but it enabled classroom teachers to conduct focused action research with their own pupils. A searchable database of action research reports is available on the **TeacherNet** website, which includes many examples of ICT and language projects. Probably the most effective way of searching the database is to search on the ICT of interest and then browse the results for language-related and other projects of interest.

ICT in action: CILT–ALL Languages ICT

The **Languages ICT** site, produced by CILT, the National Centre for Languages, in collaboration with ALL (Association for Language Learning) offers a range of case studies which can be found in the **ICT in action** pages. See

Using ICT effectively: video case studies

- These video case studies illustrate extended, integrated and effective use of ICT in the teaching and learning of languages. Five schools took part in the production of the case studies which demonstrate how ICT can be embedded into all stages of the teaching and learning process. Teachers and pupils move from review and reinforcement activities to collaborative creative projects. A range of software and hardware was used: authoring software, the interactive whiteboard, digital photos, podcasts and video.

Digital video in action projects

- The Digital video in action project (2007) built on a small pilot network model established in Leicester in 2005-06 and drew heavily on the earlier **Digital Video in the MFL Classroom** initiative from CILT and the BBC 21CC (21st Century Classroom). A group of teachers from the Comenius East Midlands area attended a one-day training workshop in which they gained editing skills and worked on the planning of feasible digital video projects which were then completed over the following weeks. Summaries of their projects are available to download.

Action Research projects

- The Languages ICT Action Research project, which ran from 2004-07, was an initiative from CILT, the National Centre for Languages and the Association for Language Learning. A team of CILT-appointed mentors worked with language departments on an action research project in their schools, focusing on, for example, use of the interactive whiteboard, the creation of a video to be placed on a DVD, podcasts, and using wikis to develop creative writing skills. Some projects were innovative in a more global sense, but the aims of the project were to generate innovation in individual classrooms and to encourage reflective practice in the application of ICT to language teaching and learning. Project summaries can be downloaded as PDF documents.

14–19 Reshaping Languages: CILT

Go to the ICT section for a selection of case studies and advice on various aspects of ICT used to good effect in the classroom: digital audio, video, wikis, podcasts, blogs and social networking are all illustrated. While the case studies illustrate innovative practice in the 14-19 age group they can all be adapted for use with pupils in other Key Stages.

Futurelab

Futurelab works with the education, technology and creative sectors to design software prototypes for innovative ways of learning. Take a look at the **Futurelab Showcase** web pages for recent projects. They include the Skybluepink Interactive Box, which uses play to teach French to 4-5 year olds: “Children interact with the magic box and its animated characters, using cards embedded with radio-frequency ID tags to teach basic colours and shapes.” Iya-ola consists of learning games for Spanish, whereby the player can only progress through collaborating with a learner in a different country via web-based audio-visual chat technology.

ICT4LT: UK Case Studies

The European-funded **ICT4LT** (ICT for Language Teachers) website offers 5 extensive case studies from UK schools within **Module 3.1** demonstrating how they have integrated the use of multimedia language learning facilities into effective teaching and learning. Very useful reflections on managing the facilities are also included.

InterActive Education, University of Bristol

InterActive Education is a major ICT and education research initiative run by the Graduate School of Education at the University of Bristol. The **MFL Subject Designs** project explored ways in which the use of ICT affects the language learning process, such as the use of electronic writing frames. You can read outlines of this work and teacher and pupil reactions on the university website.

The Mary Glasgow 14–19 Curriculum Prize

The **Mary Glasgow Language Trust**, in association with the Nuffield Foundation and the Esmée Fairbairn Foundation offers annual prizes for curriculum innovation in languages in the 14-19 sector. Projects are sought which aim to do something new and different and which make learning more engaging and successful. The Trust is particularly interested in projects which engage pupils who would otherwise stop learning a language at 14. In 2009 prizes of £5000 prizes are to be awarded to four projects.

Specialist Language Colleges Research and Development, CILT, the National Centre for Languages

CILT, the National Centre for Languages developed two ICT-based research and development projects to support Specialist Language Colleges, in collaboration with the BBC 21st Century Classroom and with DfES funding. The projects involved action research in 30 Language Colleges and were aimed at encouraging innovation and reflective practice. ‘Digital video in the MFL classroom’ focused on developing pupils as film-makers in the target language and ‘Digital voices across the curriculum’ encouraged pupils to create and edit digital audio recordings of themselves, using the target language in a cross-curricular context (e.g. Business Studies, Geography, Music). You will find project reports and sources of guidance for setting up your own project on the **Language Colleges** area of the CILT website.

Specialist Schools and Academies Trust: Case Studies

The **Languages** specialism home page of the Specialist Schools and Academies Trust website is open only to affiliated schools, but features case studies from Specialist Language Colleges, including material with an ICT and languages focus. Scroll down and click on the links to access earlier case studies and related articles.

Look out also for those Specialist Language Colleges which make resources focusing on the development of ICT use available to all schools. For example, the **Ashcombe College** website offers video-based study material and features extensive guidance for teachers on using ICT, including video footage: see MFL Teaching Resources.

Web 2.0 technologies

The term “Web 2.0” is used to describe changes in the use of World Wide Web technology which allow information sharing and collaboration among users. Wikis, blogs, podcasts and social networking sites are all examples of Web 2.0 technologies which language teachers can use to engage pupils actively in the learning process and to change the dynamic of the teaching-learning process. The following sites are currently (2008) useful sources of information and ideas on the use of Web 2.0 technologies in the teaching and learning of languages.

Box of tricks: José Picardo. Tips on various aspects of technology in the classroom, ranging from the interactive whiteboard to podcasts. See also **Asísehace.net** for free interactive resources created by José for the teaching of Spanish.

Edu blog: Ewan Macintosh runs his own educational blogging website. Lots of useful comment and Key Posts for items of interest from the archives.

Mark Pentleton’s blog offers his thoughts and ideas on languages, podcasting and learning.

Integrating ICT into the MFL classroom: Joe Dale’s blog is full of useful ideas and links.

Where to look

Ashcombe College: www.ashcombe.surrey.sch.uk/Curriculum/modlang

BBC 21st Century Classroom: www.bbc.co.uk/21cc

CILT-ALL Languages ICT: www.languages-ict.org.uk

CILT-ALL Languages ICT: ICT in action: www.languages-ict.org.uk/action

CILT 14-19 Reshaping Languages: www.cilt.org.uk/14to19/index.htm

CILT Language Colleges: www.cilt.org.uk/languagecolleges

Futurelab: <http://www.futurelab.org.uk/>

ICT4LT: www.ict4lt.org

InterActive Education, University of Bristol: www.interactiveeducation.ac.uk

Mary Glasgow Language Trust: www.maryglasgow.org.uk

Specialist Schools and Academies Trust (SSAT): www.ssatrust.org.uk

TeacherNet Case Studies: www.teachernet.gov.uk/casestudies

Web 2.0 technologies

Box of Tricks: www.boxoftricks.net

Asísehace.net: www.asisehace.net

Edu blog: <http://edu.blogs.com>

Mark Pentleton's blog: www.markpentleton.com

Integrating ICT into the MFL classroom - Joe Dale: joedale.typepad.com