

languages ICT

New horizons: Reflective practice

Research papers on ICT and languages

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Becta Research

Becta develops and disseminates research evidence of the impact of ICT on all aspects of teaching and learning and education and schools in general. Reports and publications, many of which can be downloaded, are published regularly on the pages of Becta **Research**.

For those interested in research on the impact of ICT on modern languages teaching and learning or research on technologies which are used or could be used in the teaching of languages, the following may be of value.

What the research says about using ICT in modern foreign languages

Becta's publication, "What the research says about using ICT in modern foreign languages" (2004) highlights significant research evidence on the use of ICT in MFL, an explanation of findings and a bibliography and further reading.

Key positive findings are summarised as:

- Increase in pupils' motivation, enthusiasm and confidence
- Positive association with attainment
- Learning possibilities expanded via collaboration, interaction and communication in the target language
- Potential for differentiation according to individual pupil need.

The document formed part of Becta's "What the research says" series, which offered teachers, ICT co-ordinators and school managers an initial idea of research evidence available on aspects of using ICT in schools and colleges.

The publication can be downloaded as a PDF document from the "**What the Research says**" archive in the Reports and Publications section of Becta's **Research** pages.

ImpaCT2 - The Impact of Information and Communication Technologies on Pupil Learning and Attainment

A key document published in 2002 was **ImpaCT2**, which is available from the **Reports and Publications** section of Becta's Research pages. The report pointed to overwhelming evidence of a positive relationship between ICT use and educational attainment. Although the research group of MFL teachers was too small to be considered statistically significant, a strong association between higher GCSE grades and use of ICT was reported, which bodes well for further investigation into the use of ICT in language teaching.

Other reports

Other reports available include

- Web 2.0 technologies for learning at KS3 and KS4 (2008)
- How mobile phones help learning in secondary schools (2008)
- Impact 2007: Personalising learning with technology (2007)

CILT Research

CILT is involved in a number of national and international research projects to support language teaching and learning. Reports, project summaries and statistics are available at the pages of **CILT Research**.

The **Projects** section of CILT's **Language Colleges** pages provides a summary, with a link for further detail, of two classroom-based ICT initiatives: "Digital Video in the MFL Classroom" and "Digital Voices Across the Curriculum". These initiatives were realised in collaboration with the **BBC 21CC** (21st Century Classroom) and with DfES funding for research and development in Language Colleges. They sought to promote innovation in language teaching and focused respectively on the use of video and audio to enhance teaching and learning of languages.

The **ICT in action** section of Languages-ICT contains summaries of "Digital video in action", an East Midlands Comenius-CILT initiative and Action Research, a three-year classroom-based project with schools nationwide, who explored, with mentor support, innovative use of ICT in the teaching and learning of languages.

CILT Books

CILT Books cover a wide range of themes across all Key Stages. Publications dealing specifically with ICT can be found in the Infotech series. Other publications on the role and value of ICT include:

Impact on learning: what ICT can bring to MFL in KS3 by Claire Dugard and Sue Hewer. This book is published in the New Pathfinder series.

Lights, camera, action! Digital video in the languages classroom by Ruth Bailey and Claire Dugard. This book is published in the New Pathfinder series

We have the technology! Using ICT to enhance primary languages by Therese Comfort and Daniel Tierney.

CILT-ALL Languages ICT

Global CALL on the ICT international section of **Languages ICT** provides links to reports and CALL research journals worldwide, some of which provide access to online articles. See especially the PDF download, "Global CALL".

EC Directorate General: The Impact of Information and Communications Technologies on the Teaching of Foreign Languages and on the Role of Teachers of Foreign Languages

This is a comprehensive report commissioned by the EC Directorate General of Education and Culture in 2003, edited by Graham Davies and Anthony Fitzpatrick. It takes a more international perspective of practice in the use of ICT for language learning, with case studies from various European countries, including the UK. The text offers reflection on the use of ICT in different contexts for teaching and learning, as well as recommendations for the future. It can be downloaded from **Camsoft**.

Futurelab: Literature Review in Languages, Technology and Learning

This 2002 report from Jim Milton at the University of Wales in Swansea focuses on learning theory with regard to foreign languages in the context of new technologies, with the aim of informing the commercial sector embarking on the creation of digital resources. This reflection on learning styles and teaching approaches, along with a discussion of the strengths and weaknesses of existing technologies, offer useful reflection on the languages teacher creating resources for his or her own classes. The Literature Review can be ordered in hard copy or downloaded from the Research section of the **Futurelab** website and includes a useful Bibliography.

Futurelab: The potential role of ICT in modern foreign languages learning 5-19

This 2004 discussion paper by Keri Facer and Martin Owen is available at the **Discussion Papers** page of the **Futurelab** website. Whilst not a comprehensive overview of existing practice and potential developments, this paper could be very useful as a basis for reflection and offers insights into innovative possibilities across all key stages.

Another interesting discussion paper of relevance to the teaching of languages is "Using wikis in schools: a case study" (2006)

ICT4LT: Annotated bibliography of the effectiveness of CALL

The **ICT4LT** website hosts a very useful bibliography of research into Computer Assisted Language Learning, compiled and annotated by Ridwan Sedgwick. Click on 'Sedgwick.htm' to access links to a wide range of research studies, conducted during the 1990's by researchers and institutions from all over the world.

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. There are useful links to research papers or abstracts in **Publications**.

ITT MFL: Current theory and research

There is a collection of research papers on ICT and languages for teacher trainers on the **ITT MFL** website, provided by CILT, the National Centre for Languages and supported by the TDA. The papers, many of which are taken from ALL Language Learning Journals, relate to the following categories: Principles and practice; Integrating the use of ICT-based authentic materials; Interactive whole-class teaching through ICT; Use of ICT to support autonomous language practice; Opportunities offered by electronic communication.

JISC Techwatch: Published reports

The **Published Reports 2006-08** pages of **JISC Techwatch** provide downloadable reports on various aspects of new technologies, among which is the paper, "What is Web 2.0? Ideas, technologies and implications for education" (2007) by Paul Anderson.

Ofsted Publications and research

Ofsted Publications and research offers reports and information from Ofsted's research and inspections. To find a full list of reports available to download go to the **Publications and research** page and type a phrase such as "ICT in schools" or a specific report title into the search box.

Reports dealing specifically with ICT include:

"ICT in Schools 2004": this report includes data based on classroom observation of lessons. The descriptions of both good and unsatisfactory practice are potentially very interesting and helpful for the classroom teacher. There are also useful reflections for Heads of Department and senior management. An "ICT in Schools 2002" report is also available.

Other reports include "The changing landscape of languages" (2008), which deals in part with the impact of ICT on language learning whilst giving an overall view of the teaching and learning of languages across the years 2004-2007.

QCA: The use of ICT for teaching and learning languages

This August 2006 report is available from the **QCA** website and details a project aimed at identifying successful and innovative practice in the use of ICT for teaching and learning MFL in schools. The project report and 4 case studies very much focus on the impact of ICT use on the learner. The case studies focus on new technologies in whole-class teaching, the use of a multimedia suite for developing both receptive and productive skills and the use of digital video and iPod technologies.

DCSF Research and Statistics Gateway

Click on 'What's new' at the **Research and Statistics Gateway** for a full list of publications since 2004.

Where to look

BBC 21CC: www.bbc.co.uk/21cc/

Becta Research: <http://partners.becta.org.uk/index.php?section=rh>

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

CILT Books: www.cilt.org.uk/books

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

CILT Research: www.cilt.org.uk/research

DCSF Research and Statistics Gateway: www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway

Futurelab Literature Reviews:

www.futurelab.org.uk/resources/publications_reports_articles/literature_reviews

Futurelab Discussion Papers: www.futurelab.org.uk/resources/publications_reports_articles/discussion_papers

ICT4LT Research Bibliography: www.ict4lt.org/en/en_mod1-1.htm#anchor13261

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

ITT MFL: www.ittmfl.org.uk

JISC Techwatch:

www.jisc.ac.uk/whatwedo/services/services_techwatch/techwatch.aspx

Ofsted Publications and research:

www.ofsted.gov.uk/Ofsted-home/Publications-and-research

QCA: The use of ICT for teaching and learning languages: www.qca.org.uk/qca_6975.aspx