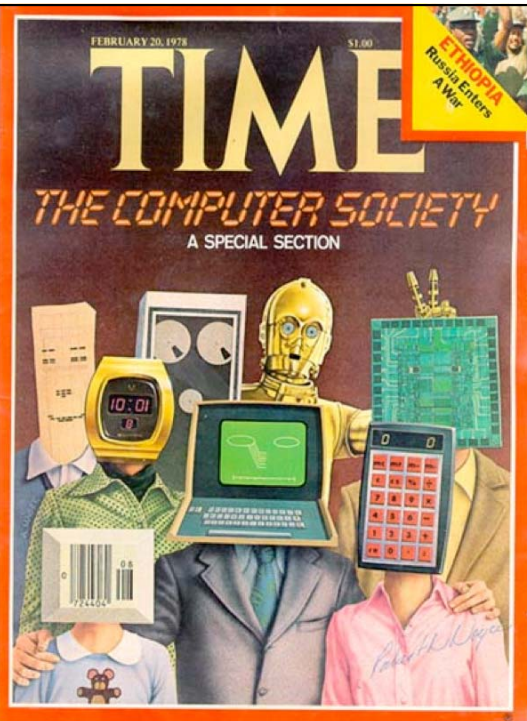


Integrating Technology in the Foreign Language Classroom



General Considerations

- What is technology?
- Advantages and disadvantages of using technology in the classroom
- Possibilities and limitations

Internet in the Classroom for the Foreign Language Classroom

Advantages

- Authentic materials
- Availability of a variety of audio, video and print material
- Up-to-date and readily available information
- Appeals to students' needs
- A great source for augmenting textbooks
- A great way for making your classes exciting and very modern
- Students are familiar with how the web works and there is no need for lengthy explanations

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mesa@mcDaniel.edu

Internet in the Classroom for the Foreign Language Classroom

Advantages

- A technology based approach.
- A great source for individualized research
- A good method for individualized learning or group projects
- Skilled based: reading, listening, writing, comprehension, and speaking (Wimba, etc.)
- Standard based: Some of the 5 Cs can be covered
- Intelligences based learning: visual-spatial, musical-rhythmic, interpersonal, intrapersonal, logical-math, etc.
- Above all, it is fun and motivational.

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Activities and Materials:

- Finding and using Internet sites to teach all 4 skills: Reading (Newspapers, cartoon, literature); Listening (TV, radio broadcasts, Podcasts, music, videos, films, etc.); Speaking (Using Blackboard Wimba, Audacity, or other software); Writing (e-mail, Bloggs, Wikis, etc.)
- Finding and evaluating web lessons for Arabic
- Downloading internet resources
- Saving individual pages on disk
- Creating a favorite collection of URLs using the lists I have put together for this workshop



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- Downloading images, audio and video files from the Internet
- Creating a Technology based bank with images, audio and video files, [Arabic Podcasts](#), [Arabic cartoons](#), [Quia activities](#), interactive games, etc.
- Reading Strategies for web activities
- Creating Internet activities for the Arabic Classroom using On-line applications ([Wikis](#), [Blogs](#), [Podcasts](#), [Hot Potatoes](#), [WebQuests](#), [MERLOT](#), etc.)



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The technology-enhanced syllabus

- How do I enhance my syllabus technologically?
- What options do I have?
- Using the Internet on a regular basis
- Using Blackboard
- Using MERLOT
- Adding audio and video projects to the syllabus
- Using music and other media



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How to create activities for the Web

- Decide what activity you want to create, for what level and for which skill(s). Which standard(s) you want to achieve?
- Using a search engine (google, yahoo, alta vista, etc.) find a foreign language website that can meet your needs.



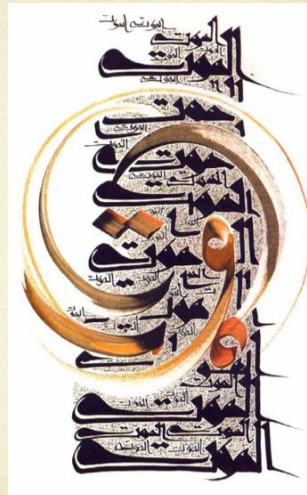
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How to create activities for the Web

- Make a print-out of the site, or download it by saving it onto your hard drive (some websites become unavailable with time and you might find some of the links have been removed, etc. Save the website by choosing “File > Save page as > Web Page, complete.” Give the web page a name you’ll recognize in the future. An additional folder with that name will also be created for all images and links related to that web page.



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How to create activities for the Web

- If the website you are using has audio or video files, then you must save (download) these separately. There are number of software that can do that: **MP3** files can be downloaded by right-clicking on the file. **RM** and **WMV**-files can be downloaded by using an RM- or WMV-Recorder. **Quick-Time** audio or film files can be downloaded from a website if you use the Quick Time Player Pro. With QuickTime Pro, you can save (download) a movie viewed in your web browser to your hard disk. You just need to buy the Quick Time Pro from Apple. They will send you a key that will unlock that feature on your regular Quick Time Player.

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- There are a number of programs that will help you create your own web exercise. **Hot Potatoes** is one of the most used by foreign language teachers. It will allow you to create exercises such as word puzzle, cloze-text, jigsaw, and more. However, the best exercises are the ones you create your own and which you design for your own students.



Example

Let's assume that you want your students to read something about an event in the Arab World in Arabic. Your task is to find a text on the Internet that is current, from a reliable source and one that fits your needs. After finding this article, you must design the activities that will help your students understand the text. This activity must include the following steps:

- pre-reading strategies and predictions
- skimming the text
- finding cognates (that might be difficult in Arabic), numbers, words that are familiar
- reading the text in paragraphs and finding “chunks” (words that belong together)
- reading the entire text for global understanding

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Web 2.0



Technology



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Blogs and Wikis



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Benefits of Blogs

- collective intelligence - collaboration
- non hierarchical - democratic
- transparent - instant gratification
- potential for passion - ownership
- permanence - searchable resources
- open to public - real recognition

Source: "Web 2.0 - Catch the Wave" by Percy Parakh.
Academic Computing. <http://cstcctrain.blogspot.com/>

Benefits of Blogs

- A good teacher blog consists of:
 - up to date course/class information
 - homework
 - links to extra help/practice
 - audio and video materials (own or from YouTube)
 - Google maps, etc.
- students can blog themselves
 - to use the target language
 - to reflect on their own language learning
 - to add audio and video content of their own
 - as an e-exchange with native speakers
 - as a digital portfolio for their work and research

Wikis

"Wiki" is a Hawaiian word for "fast". Wiki Wiki is the name of a shuttle bus between the terminals at Honolulu's airport. The inventor of Wikipedia, Ward Cunningham, says about the name, "I chose wiki-wiki as an alternative substitute for 'quick' and thereby avoided naming this stuff quick-web." It has also been suggested that "wiki" is a backronym, which means "What I Know Is".



"A wiki is a collection of web pages designed to enable anyone who accesses it to contribute or modify content, using a simplified markup language. Wikis are often used to create collaborative websites and to power community websites. For example, the collaborative encyclopedia Wikipedia is one of the best-known wikis." Source: <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wiki>