ReCALL Journal

The forthcoming issue of ReCALL (Vol. 15, Part 2) will be distributed to EUROCALL members in November/December 2003. Please send articles, software reviews, details of relevant events or other items of interest for future issues to June Thompson, Editor, ReCALL, EUROCALL Office, The Language Institute, University of Hull, Hull HU6 7RX, UK, E-mail: eurocall@hull.ac.uk.

All articles are considered by an international panel of referees. Notes for contributors can be found at:
http://www.eurocall-languages.org/recall/contrib.htm

Projects

The BP-BLTM (Best Practice - Best Language Teaching Methods) Project

The BP-BLTM project is a two-year project funded by the EU commission with a Leonardo II grant. The project was launched in November 2003.

The project is coordinated by Kent Andersen (Odense Tekniske Skole, Denmark) with partners from the Basque country, Belgium, Denmark, Germany, the Netherlands, Romania, Scotland, and Spain. Three of the partners are EUROCALL members.

The objectives of the project are to portrait five communicative language learning methods in a manual with demonstration lessons on DVDs. For each of the methods the project develops ready-to-use materials. The target groups are teachers and students working with less taught languages like Basque, Danish, Dutch, Gaelic, and Romanian. To ensure a wider use of the developed materials everything is also adapted for English, German, and Spanish.

Everything developed in the project is "CopyLeft", which is a way to license a work so that unrestricted redistribution, copying and modification is permitted, provided that all copies and derivatives retain the exact same licensing.

The first method portrayed was CALLiC (Computer Assisted Language Learning in Context). The manual describing CALLiC can be downloaded from the project website www.languages.dk/methods in English, German, Romanian, and Spanish. The material developed to demonstrate CALLiC can also be accessed from the project web, or can be launched from a CD-ROM distributed at EUROCALL 2003. To obtain a copy of the CD-ROM e-mail ka@ots.dk.

The material comprises web-quests and a text with video (in two language levels; basic and intermediate) showing how to wire a standard British plug. The text is hyperlinked to the eight project languages so any sequence can be translated and watched/listened to in eight languages. The text/video is followed by a sequence of exercises.

The videos have also been transferred to a DVD so one can watch the instructions in eight languages with a choice of eight subtitles. This is probably the first time that one can watch a Gaelic technical instruction with Basque subtitles!
The materials were tested in a class learning Danish. A video recording of the lessons with English commentaries and subtitles in English, German, Romanian, and Spanish can now be ordered on DVD. There is handling fee of 5 Euro for copying, and mailing. The DVD is of course CopyLeft! E-mail ka@ots.dk for more details.

Both the DVDs and CD-ROMs will in the near future be available as disc images ready to download and copy.

The next method described in the project is "Task Based Teaching". The manual is still being revised by the project teams and will soon be available for download from the project web in English, German, Romanian, and Spanish. The remaining three language teaching methods are Tandem Learning, Simulations, and PhyEmoC (the Physical, Emotional, and Cultural approach). If you register your e-mail address at www.languages.dk/methods you will receive the project Newsletter and notifications when new materials are available. The e-mails will be sent with non-disclosed recipients to avoid misuse of your address.

For further information contact Kent Andersen

Recommended website

**Centro Virtual Cervantes**

The Centro Virtual Cervantes (http://cvc.cervantes.es) is the Internet-based branch of the Instituto Cervantes, the official Spanish institution commissioned to disseminate the use and study of Spanish language and culture around the world.

Since its creation in December 1997, the CVC rapidly became one of the most important reference sites devoted to Spanish language and culture on the web, having reached an average of over 500.000 visitors a month. This increasing number of visitors is primarily due to the great variety of resources available at the CVC website, which attract both professionals and public in general. These resources range from announcements of cultural events -included under "Actos Culturales"-, the four discussion forums -each of which focuses on a specific topic-, and the language classroom ("Aula de Lengua") -designed for both teachers and learners of Spanish.

The CVC front page enables direct access to the entire contents which are well structured, and organised in a very user-friendly manner. The centre frame is devoted to current cultural events and is therefore constantly up-dated. The sections included are listed on the left and right hand side of the main menu page.