Nr 15 Informal web-based learning environments in language teaching

From: Erik Brunnert Walfridsson

Organisation: Chatarina Edfeldt
Kontaktpersons namn: Erik Brunnert Walfridsson
Kontakt epost: ebw@du.se
Kontakt telefon: 46732701710
Projekt namn: Informal web-based learning environments in language teaching

Kort summering:

This project aims to proceed from the experiences gained from previous research and analyze how fan-culture communities and their subcategories (such as fanfiction and scanlation) can be applied from both a practical and educational perspective at Dalarna University.

Webbpage: http://www.du.se/Templates/web5/Pages/InfoPage.aspx?id=21517&epslanguage=en

Slide share:

Short Summary:

The project is funded for the duration of 2014 and the project group consists of teachers and researchers from four different languages: French, Japanese, Portuguese and German. Each teacher/researcher will form their own work and adapt it to their own subject and course and the specific conditions.

Argument för nominering:

In today's increasingly globalised world, knowledge and understanding of other languages and cultures are extremely desirable skills. With the entry of technology and mainly communicational technology earlier obstacles such as geographical and spatial has reduced and pretty much disappeared. The world grows bigger as we can communicate with someone located on the other side of the world. By that definition one can also say that the world is smaller hence long way communication is used in the same way. At Dalarna University, our courses in language and culture form a central part of our organisation. We offer courses in 11 languages: Arabic, Chinese, English, French, German, Italian, Japanese, Portuguese, Russian, Spanish and Swedish, as well as Swedish as a Second Language. The large majority of these courses are offered online, and are both well-regarded and well-known throughout Sweden in terms of their sophisticated use of technology and pedagogical quality. The Univ ersity is constantly investing resources in online education and has been at the national forefront in this field of development for many years.

Many students take our web-based courses to combine studies with family and career, or perhaps they simply do not live nearby. Whatever the circumstances, it is important students make time for their studies if they want to succeed, as web-based studies demand as much discipline and focus as any other form of study. Our web-based courses and programmes are notable for their level of student/teacher interactivity. Anything is possible in our online classrooms. Teachers can use an electronic whiteboard as they lecture and explain, while students can chat and comment and even raise an electronic hand when they have questions. The technology simplifies the actual meeting as well as the education. The innovation with education can now increase as the technology increases, the things you can do in education nowadays is vastly improved compared to only a couple of years ago.

By opening a door to more informal environments for education, the project meets the users or the students in their private sphere in contrast to earlier. Education should be both interesting as well as fun; since researchers claim that having fun increases dopamine and endorphins and promotes learning. Not being one of those researchers I can't speak for the credibility but I know that my own personal interest has been a real source for increased knowledge. By connecting students interest to language learning through such an informal environment the project has both shown great innovation as well as showed the possibility for people everywhere for language learning in another way than the traditional.

With all this considered the project Informal web-based learning environments in language teaching an great nominee for the Boldic Awards 2014.

Email-sent by contact form from Boldic http://www.boldic.org