An Invitation to CALL

Foundations of Computer-Assisted Language Learning

NOTE: This version of the course was last updated in March 2010.

A newer and significantly revised version is available at http://web.stanford.edu/~efs/callcourse2

Click here for PDF

Introduction.
An Invitation to CALL is a website providing a short introduction to the field of Computer-Assisted Language Learning, designed originally as a supplement to in-class instruction. Specifically, this website has grown out of a "mini course" I have taught for the last ten years as part of an ESL methodology class (Linguistics 291). The objective of the present site is to make the material available to a wider audience for general reference, self-instruction, and in-service or pre-service training.

Computers have become so pervasive in the rest of our lives that it is important for us as language teachers to understand their role in language instruction. Without such a foundation, it is difficult to make informed judgments about how to incorporate computers into language classes to make certain aspects of student learning more engaging, efficient, and/or effective. Ideally, a language teacher being trained today should either have one or more full courses in CALL or be engaged in a professional training program where language technology issues permeate the whole curriculum. Over time that ideal may be met, but currently CALL training is spotty at best. Furthermore, many competent practicing teachers are interested in learning more about CALL but lack the means to fulfill that interest. This site aims to provide one such resource.

This course will cover elements of development, evaluation, and implementation of software, along with information for using the Internet and World Wide Web as a learning environment and a resource for both you and your students.

Types of users.
Please click the appropriate link below for further information on how to use this resource
   Independent students
   CALL course or workshop instructors

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Please note that I am happy to receive comments about this site but I am not able to respond to individual questions about CALL.

List of Topics.
     The course is divided into 8 units. While they may be accessed in any order, the materials in later units may assume familiarity with definitions and concepts from previous ones.

Unit	Topic
1	Introduction to Computer-Assisted Language Learning:
2	CALL Courseware Evaluation, Development, and Implementation
3	Computer Mediated Communication
4	CALL on the Web
5	CALL and Language Skills
6	CALL Research
7	CALL Learner Training
8	Conclusion
Supplement	Supplementary material

Comments may be sent to the author:
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Note: this site is typically updated annually in the winter, when the course is taught at Stanford. There may be broken links, so please use with patience.