

LEARNING DEVELOPMENT PROJECT OVERVIEW FORM

Project title	French studies: blended learning in modern languages using WebCT		Project ID No	CLAD – HIST049
Strategy area/theme	Humanities			
Start date	January 2006	Completion date	February 2008	
Project type	Learner enhancement project			
Level		Programme of study	CML's institution-wide and 'with language' programmes, plus Open Access modules and commercial training	
Aims	<p>The project aimed to promote learner autonomy, especially in the areas of listening, reading, vocabulary acquisition and the development of grammatical competence. Supplementary aims included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • to extend staff's pedagogical expertise to areas of e-learning of direct benefit to CML programmes; • in Stage 1, to prepare non-specialist learners from across campus for residence abroad; • on Open Access courses, to widen access to digital learning resources for part-time students of the University whose commitments or attendance patterns mean they are unable to use the facilities of the LMRC; • to support student's preparation for both, coursework assessments and summative assessments; • to increase non-specialist language students' exposure to the target language and direct their learning of key linguistic and cultural features, in order to achieve the module outcomes more effectively, especially those relating to 'receptive' language skills.; 			
Overview	<p>Prior to the project, WebCT provision was virtually non-existent in CML. Language teaching in general has always been heavily reliant on contact with tutors who seemed to provide the bulk of the learning materials in a very restricted and prescriptive manner. The integration of Web CT in all of our undergraduate modules and some of the Open Access courses has provided students with a much enhanced and enriched learning experience. Many materials can now be accessed more easily - especially if a class has been missed – and students can work (often autonomously) at a time of their choice. Students can now prepare for coursework assessments and examinations without making demands on the time of tutors. The increased exposure to the target language has helped improve students' receptive skills significantly.</p> <p>We had a mix of staff ranging from no experience with e-learning to a high degree of experience with WebCT. All full time staff have now achieved a good standard in IT / i-learning skills and much higher understanding of e-learning issues with regards foreign language teaching / learning has undoubtedly been reached.</p>			
Further Information	<p>For further information on this project please contact CLAD at University of Birmingham</p> <p>cladprojects@contacts.bham.ac.uk quoting CLAD projects HIST049</p>			