

E-Learning Webinar Series, “Empowering Teaching and Learning through Technology
Integration”: Discussion and Review

‘如何有效融入科技於文教學’ 網上學習系列的研討和評論

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摘要:

自2009年以來，全美中文學校聯合總會（NCACLS）一直努力不懈地以創新教學來提升中文學校教學品質及促進學生學習成效。鑑於老師專業發展是影響教學成效的關鍵，總會連續3年舉辦e-learning 研討會，並在2012推出3部分的網上學習系列，以『如何有效融入科技於中文教學』為主題邀請專家從語言教學、教學設計、和教學技術來分享如何將科技融入教學。網上學習系列的目標是協助老師了解教學設計原則，開發一個共同學習環境，讓學生透過谷歌和它的許多應用程式主動學習，並同時展示如何運用中文輸入法作為教學工具來輔助中文學習。經過一年的實施，希望透過這次的座談會收集反饋意見並進行研討，（1）和與會者分享如何駕馭資訊科技以提升學生的學習經驗；（2）如何改善中文教室以實施創新教學；（3）從經驗中記取教訓，適時檢討並加強整備未來網上學習系列以繼續推動優質的中文教學。

Keywords: E-learning, instructional design, multimedia learning theories, cloud technology, collaborative learning activities, innovative pedagogy

Since 2009, the National Council of Associations of Chinese Language Schools (NCACLS, also known as the Council) has been relentless in its pursuit of strengthening its teaching and learning mission. Building on the success of its e-learning symposiums from 2009-2011, the Council launched a 3-part webinar series in 2012 entitled, 'Empowering Teaching and Learning through Technology Integration.' The series brought expert teachers from instructional design, educational technology, and language teaching to share their know-how and experiences in integrating technology into classroom teaching. The objectives of the webinar series were to assist teachers with gaining foundational knowledge of instructional design principles, developing a collaborative learning environment to engage students through Google+ and its many applications, and learning how to use Chinese typing as a pedagogical tool for effective teaching and learning in a heritage Chinese school.

Effective e-learning is said to enable Chinese schools to expand learning beyond classrooms and to promote individualized instruction to meet student needs. Building an effective e-learning environment cannot be achieved without transforming the current pedagogical practice in Chinese schools. This transformation takes place when teachers are equipped with knowledge on leveraging technology to deliver learning in and out of the classrooms, as well as the types of learning that occur when technology is applied. The ultimate goal is to move beyond brick-and-mortar schooling to engage students in active learning through a virtual learning community. As such, the Council has strategically implemented online training to provide teachers the tools and resources to create effective e-learning environment for their students. The Council assembled a team of experts to help realize its vision in facilitating the pedagogical shift among its member teachers. As part of its continuous quality improvement process, a brief survey was also developed to collect input from participants to assess the effectiveness of the modules. The collected responses to the series were generally positive. After the first year of implementation, it has become vital for the Council to gather feedback from the general public to identify driving issues as well as gaps in its current offering before expanding the webinars in coming years. As a result, the panel will first review the three e-learning modules on (1) application of Richard Mayer's multimedia learning theories/principles in designing media

enhanced learning that is both effective and engaging; (2) development of a class website, powered by Google+, to engage students in collaborative learning activities at their own convenience to promote sense of community; and (3) using Chinese typing as a pedagogical tool to create an environment that is conducive to effective learning of Chinese. Then, the panel will focus the discussion on (1) how to harness easy-to-use technological tools to enhance student's learning experience, (2) how to re-engineer a Chinese school or a classroom to accommodate e-learning and associated pedagogical innovation, and (3) lessons learned while implementing technology innovation in a Chinese language classroom.