

Reading Chinese Together: Uses of the Web Forum for Individualized and Group-based Language Learning

C. Candace Chou, National Foreign Language Resource Center, Univ. of Hawaii, USA
Jung Ying Lu-Chen, National Foreign Language Resource Center, Univ. of Hawaii, USA
Stephen Fleming, National Foreign Language Resource Center, Univ. of Hawaii, USA

Abstract: This session tackles issues in teaching foreign languages on the Web. The poster presentation on course design for a Web-based third-year level Chinese reading class will address the following challenges:

- creating a model for Web-based course design that will be useful to educators without advanced programming resources
- designing strategies for use of the forum, or bulletin board, as a locus for several kinds of language-learning tasks
- coordinating hardware and software so that students working with various system configurations can all communicate in written Chinese
- selecting a combination of Web-based tools that suits our needs
- making use of students' background knowledge of the real world and of the target language as a jumping-off point for each lesson
- structuring lessons to conform to natural reading behaviors
- providing a combination of group-based activities and individual, off-line activities with opportunities for reflection and reaction