Finding and Evaluating CALL Tools

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CALICO/IALLT 2014
Steps to finding & evaluating CALL tools

1. Defining purpose
2. Finding tools
3. Weighting priorities
4. Pre-use evaluating
5. Post-use evaluating
1. Purpose

- Blogging
- Using social network in TL
- Writing practice in TL
- Interacting with TL speakers in writing outside of class
Example: Class discussions

- Fully online pedagogical grammar course
- Content presented via website
- Quizzes/tests in D2L
- Need: Asynchronous written discussion tool
  - Small group
  - Whole class

Welcome!

I'm Ana Phora, and I'll be your guide through this online course. We have a lot to learn together, but your instructor and I will be here to help.

To get started, do the following:

1. Watch Ana's presentation introducing the course. [Download presentation transcript (PDF)]

2. Read the syllabus and get the textbook and other required materials. Get familiar with the course due dates.

Explore the rest of the course site.

Your instructors, Betsy and Jimin (click on their names to watch their short
2. Finding

• Find all tools that might fit your purpose
• Don’t be too judgey at this point
• Sources:
  – Yourself
  – Course management system
  – Colleagues
  – Language resource center
  – Google
  – Diigo list of CALL tools
2. Finding: Diigo resource

- Curated collection of bookmarks
- Viewable by anyone
- Please join and contribute!

v.gd/calico
Example: Asynchronous discussion tools

- Discussion forum in ANGEL
- Discussion forum in D2L
- Blog within website
- Discussion forum as plugin within website (e.g., bbPress)
- Discussion forum embedded in website (e.g., Bublaa)
- Discussion forum in external website (e.g., ProBoards)
- Facebook group
- Email list
- ???
3. Priorities

- **Cost**
  - Free or fee?
  - If fee, who pays?
- **Privacy/Security**
  - Is tool online or offline?
  - Where is tool hosted? Your institution or elsewhere?
  - Is tool available in your course management system?
  - Does tool protect students’ privacy? Comply with FERPA? (Who owns student data?)
- **Stability**
  - Is tool stable?
  - Is tool provider reputable?
3. Priorities

- **Compatibility**
  - Is tool available for Mac & Windows? Linux?
  - Is tool available on iPad/iPhone/Android?
  - Does tool require installation of software? Browser plugins?
  - Can products be exported?

- **Ease of use**
  - Is tool easy to use? Is use intuitive?
  - Do students need to create an account?
  - Are students already familiar with tool?
  - Can tool be embedded in course management system/website?
  - How many steps are needed to accomplish purpose?
  - Does tool comply with accessibility guidelines?
3. Priorities

- **Help**
  - Is help available online? Offline?
  - How quickly is help available?
  - Do colleagues already use tool?
  - Do you have to pay for help?

- **Aesthetics**
  - Is design pleasing?
  - Is tool engaging?
  - Are ads included?

- **Other**
  - Does tool support TL script?
  - Is tool popular with students outside of classroom? Will they be willing to use it for learning?
  - ???
Example: Priorities

- Free
- Online
- Stable
- Easy to use
- Engaging
- Students already familiar
- Popular with students outside of classroom
- Pleasant design
- Can be embedded/exists in course management system/website
4. Pre-use evaluation

- Based on identified priorities, which tool is the best fit?
Example: D2L discussion forum
Topic 1

Test post 1

Elizabeth Lavolette - Oct 10, 2013 11:29 AM

Mark Unread [Reply] More actions...

Attachments:

Audio 2013-10-10 1129.wav (61.04 KB)

Test content 1

Re: Test post 1

Elizabeth Lavolette - Oct 10, 2013 11:30 AM

Mark Unread [Reply] More actions...

Test reply content
Example: Pre-use evaluation of D2L discussion forum

- Free
- Online
- Stable
- Easy to use
- Engaging
- Students already familiar
- Popular with students outside of classroom
- Pleasant design
- Can be embedded in course management system/website
Shelby

Grammar Activity: Below is the link to my Weebly pages for the assignment! Enjoy!

http://weebly.com/grammar-activity.html

Grammar Activity

Welcome to our class projects page! Below, I have created an activity for all of you to complete. Although this activity will take place in the classroom, I wanted to post it on the class website so...

Heather

Moira, I really liked the layout and consistent theme throughout your weebly site. I thought your first activity was a good way for students to determine and compare nouns to adjectives and verbs. Your transitions from activities to answers are also ...

June 10 at 10:56pm • Like

Heather

Klarissa, first off I really liked how user friendly your website was. I could see many young elementary students or specifically first graders being able to maneuver through your website with ease which is very important. I also thought it was a gr...

June 10 at 11:13pm • Like

Write a comment...
Example: Pre-use evaluation

- Free
- Online
- Stable
- Easy to use
- Engaging
- Students already familiar
- Popular with students outside of classroom
- Pleasant design
- Can be embedded/exists in course management system/website
5. Post-use evaluation

• During and after use, collect informal and formal feedback from students about tool
  – Midterm survey
  – End-of-course survey

• Based on feedback & your own experience, was tool
  – Acceptable?
  – Effective?

• Changes to original list of priorities?
  – Addition/deletion of priorities?
  – Reorder?
  – What tool is now best choice?
Example: Post-use evaluation

• “Facebook was awful. I don't like using social networking for class work. It would have been fine to post updates and ask questions, but discussions on facebook were awful.”

• “Using facebook as a discussion board was not helpful. It was pretty irritating to have constant notifications from my group mates.”
Example: Post-use evaluation

- Free
- Online
- Stable
- Easy to use
- Engaging
- Students already familiar
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- Pleasant design
- Can be embedded/exists in D2L/course website
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Resources

- Finding and Evaluating CALL Resources (Phil Hubbard)
- CALICO’s software review guidelines
- NFLRC checklist for evaluating software
  [http://nflrc.hawaii.edu/Networks/NW31/NW31t.pdf](http://nflrc.hawaii.edu/Networks/NW31/NW31t.pdf)
- Usability review template
- Rubric for online instruction
  [http://www.csuchico.edu/celt/roi/history.shtml](http://www.csuchico.edu/celt/roi/history.shtml)
- Criteria for Evaluating the Quality of Online Courses
Resources