

The Impact of New Technology on Language Teaching

[L'impatto delle nuove tecnologie sull'insegnamento delle lingue straniere]

A mini-summit presented by Pete Sharma Associates, sponsored by:
Richmond ELT, Little Bridge and SMART Technologies

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Giovedì 4 Ottobre 2012, Consolato Generale Britannico, 5 Piano, Via San Paolo 7, 20121 Milano



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PROGRAMME

09.15 Reception / housekeeping

09.30 Welcome by the British Consul-General and Director General of UK Trade & Investment

09.45 **Keynote Presentation: New developments in Language Teaching & Learning in the Digital Age**

Pete Sharma, Pete Sharma Associates Ltd

Technology has changed the teaching and learning of languages. However, technology changes quickly and it is sometimes difficult for educators to follow new developments. It is not always easy to use technology well inside and outside the classroom.

In his talk today, Pete Sharma describes some of the most recent advances in new technology including m-learning, digital material, the interactive whiteboard and the virtual learning environment.

Welcome to teaching and learning in the 21st century!

10.30 **Presentation #2: Convergence**

Luke Baxter & Cathy Smith, Richmond ELT

Convergence is a term that encompasses many of the most important trends in the “digital world” today. Important examples include how tools, entertainment and work have converged onto a single device, so a person can have, say, a compass, a radio and a spreadsheet on their iPad. Another example and one which is very much at the forefront of digital predictions is “the cloud”, where content and computing converge and become accessible “anytime, anywhere and on any device”.

Using examples from Richmond’s Digital Books and Learning Platforms, this presentation will aim to show how convergence is already affecting ELT publishing. We will see how many of the traditional components of a publisher’s course offering have already converged in a Digital Book that includes the Student’s Book, Teacher’s Book, Workbook and Class Audio. We will also look at how students can access the Learning Platforms to play games, comment on blogs and communicate with their teacher, who in turn can assign trackable tests and homework activities.

Finally, we will attempt to look forward and hazard some guesses as to how convergence will continue to affect ELT publishing. Can every course component converge onto a single device? Will the divide between paper and digital make any sense in the future? Will this mean the end of the printed book? Should ELT publishers view themselves solely as content providers and thus endeavour to provide this content in whatever way best suits the needs and situations of each individual customer?



11.00 Presentation #3: Making English Irresistible to Young Learners!
Paul Rogers, Little Bridge

Taking examples from **Little Bridge**, the author will show how an innovative digital resource can

1. build a bridge between the **learner** and the **English speaking world**, setting the language in context through 3D animations and virtual reality
2. build a bridge between **traditional teaching methods** and the **latest computer technology**, dealing with grammar, for example, in a painless, natural way.
3. bridge the gap between **work** and **play** by making learning fun through a wide variety of motivating games, songs and activity types.
4. build a bridge between **home** and **school** by providing activities that children will do for pleasure, whilst allowing the school to keep track of everyone's progress.

11.30 Presentation #4: The Interactive Whiteboard in Language Teaching
SMART Technologies

The interactive whiteboard has become an important tool for every teacher, and is ideal for language teaching. Providing a visual context to lessons, making the material easier for language learners to understand, with multiple ways to interact with content and learn collaboratively, students can feel less anxious, be more motivated and achieve better results.

This presentation looks at basic features of the SMART solution and how it can help students overcome the barriers that often keep them from effectively learning a foreign language.

12.15 Panel Q & A

- Seth Dickens, Pete Sharma Associates (Moderator)
- Pete Sharma, Pete Sharma Associates
- Luke Baxter, Richmond
- Paul Rogers, Little Bridge
- SMART Technologies

12.45 Aperitif + Informal networking

13.30 approx. Close

About Pete Sharma Associates Ltd

Pete Sharma Associates Ltd (PSA) is an educational consultancy and training organization for language teachers. PSA creates and runs courses worldwide for teachers of English as a Foreign Language, teacher trainers and academic managers on how to successfully integrate educational technology into their language courses. Founder Pete Sharma is acknowledged as one of the leading thinkers and writers on the exploitation of digital materials in the classroom, and lectures around the world on learning technologies.

For further information about how Pete Sharma Associates Ltd can help your teaching organization, please mail byron.russell@psa.eu.com, tel.+44 1993 89 83 93

