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WHAT ARE THE ALTERNATIVE FUNCTIONS AND BENEFITS OF CELL PHONES FOR STUDENTS

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ABSTRACT

Taiwanese College students bring their own cell phones in the English classroom and teachers may become overwhelmed with these technology trends. This study aims to provide a realistic perception of the hidden meanings of the use of mobile devices in English class settings and the benefits it can bring to the students. For this purpose, two conventional classes of fourth year license degree in the Department of Travel Management were the respondents. The students' schooling experiences were clarified with a student satisfaction questionnaire, their values highlighted with an interview, and their social interactions explained with observations of the two classes. The results of this study show that, even though they were not used to working collaboratively in small team-work groups, Taiwanese students were highly likely to develop a collaborative learning style that utilizes emails and internet connections matching their learning needs and motivations and optimizing their academic success.

KEYWORDS

Technology, cell phones, emails, collaborative learning, internet connections.

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I grew up and studied in the South of France and earned a bachelor degree in Marketing. While studying in France, I developed an early interest in international relations while learning English. I lived and worked in the United Kingdom for three years, and I moved to Taipei with my wife in 1999. Having a background in cultures of these countries, and being an independent user of the Chinese language as well, I have developed a curious mind regarding the teaching of English for Business Purposes. Due to this, while as I was working as an English and French and teacher in Taipei, I studied in both National Taiwan University of Science and Technology in the department of Applied Foreign Languages as well as National Taipei University, Global MBA program. As a lifelong learning project, I decided to pursue a PhD in education in 2012, at Chung Cheng University, located in Jia Yi. The purpose of my study is to earn a doctoral degree to support the teaching my business skills gained from NTU Global MBA program, which are relevant to the teaching of English for Business purpose to University students. My study at the Global MBA program combined with the teaching of foreign languages provided me with the opportunity to join Taipei college of Maritime technology, located in Tamsuei, and to gain my first experience at teaching English for commercial and leisure purposes. As I taught English for more than three years, I came to understand Chinese learners better and apply my learning in Applied Foreign Languages to develop teaching materials that were adapted to their learning styles.

AN INVESTIGATION INTO THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE CURRICULUM AND ASSESSMENT POLICY STATEMENT (CAPS) IN SOUTH AFRICAN SCHOOLS

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ABSTRACT

The paper presents the findings from current research on the impact that the Curriculum and Assessment Policy Statement (CAPS) curriculum subjects have on two South African Schools in Gauteng province in South Africa. The aim is to present the impact of the CAPs subjects in the school. The study did a critical evaluation of each subject to elaborate on the importance and challenges in implementing the subjects and using a qualitative research method to collect data on a group of teachers and students on their opinion on the impact of CAPs subjects. The findings suggest that even though the curriculum is effective, it needs to be improved to close the gap between public and private schools. Private schools are currently benefiting the most from the subjects and how the curriculum is structured.

KEYWORDS

CAPS Subjects, Public and Private Schools, Primary and High School, Department of Basic Education

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COGNITIVE AND EPISTEMIC SPACES IN THE CSTA COMPUTER SCIENCE LEARNING STANDARDS

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ABSTRACT

This paper presents the findings of close reading of the Computer Science Teachers Association (CSTA) Computer Science Learning Standards for grades K-12. This document is influential because it has been adopted by at least five of the United States and has served as an inspiration for several more. Analyses of the document structure as well as of verb usage, word frequencies, and word pair networks for the language of the standards themselves as well as the clarification text included in the document for each standard were conducted using tidytext tools built for the R programming language. These analyses revealed a high level of internal coherence in this learning standards document, as well as a wide epistemic space for the teaching and learning of core computer science concepts and practices by K-12 students and their teachers. Implications for student learning, curriculum design, and computer science teacher preparation were discussed.

KEYWORDS

computer science education, computational thinking, learning standards, teacher education, curriculum design, textual analysis.

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ANALYSIS OF DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION WITH SHARED AUTHORING ENVIRONMENT IN ACADEMIC SETTING

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ABSTRACT

Team work is an important training element of future software engineers. However, the evaluation of the performance of collaboration among individuals is very subjective. Meanwhile, how to effectively promote the collaboration in an academic setting is an even more challenging task. The lack of a common standard or method for the assessment is a practical issue in software engineering projects. With the rapid development of shared authoring environments, such as Wiki, more and more educational institutions are studying the adaptability of such kind of collaborative platforms. In order to study the applicability of adopting wiki-based shared authoring environments in software engineering education, we have proposed three major research questions. By solving these problems, we try to answer some of the most important questions in adopting shared authoring platforms in academic settings.

KEYWORDS

Shared authoring platform, collaboration evaluation, task tracing, quality control.

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SCHOOL MANAGEMENT INFORMATION SYSTEMS: CHALLENGES TO EDUCATIONAL DECISION MAKING IN THE BIG DATA ERA

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ABSTRACT

Despite the benefits of school management information systems (SMIS), the concept of data-driven school culture failed to materialize for many educational institutions. Challenges posed by the quality of data in the big data era have prevented many schools from realizing the real potential of the SMIS. The paper analyses the uses, features, and inhibiting factors of SMIS. The paper proposes a five-phase conceptual model that assist administrators with making timely, quality decisions. The paper enriches the theoretical landscape of SMIS usage in the era of big data and lays a foundation for the future by establishing an educational decision-making model.

KEYWORDS

School management information system, big data, educational decision-making, data-driven schools, educational model, student-information system.

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PROMOTING FEMALE STUDENTS'INTERESTS IN STUDYING WITH EDUCATIONAL TECHNOLOGY

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ABSTRACT

Numerous studies have discussed gender differences in technology education, and have demonstrated that male students have more confidence in using technology than do female students. Female students' lack of interest is due to the pedagogical approaches favoring male values. By contrast, no previous research on the integration of technology in English as a foreign language has investigated gender differences and the level of confidence of students in using technology in the classroom. This study aims to investigate the perceptions of students' use of technology in the field of English applied foreign languages and check their perceptions about the use of computer technology. For this purpose, students enrolled in a conventional class of second year license degree in Applied Foreign Languages were interviewed and answered a questionnaire. The results of this study show that female students are highly likely to gain more confidence when given activities that match their learning interests.

KEYWORDS

Computer, technology, education, gender, foreign applied languages.

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I grew up and studied in the South of France and earned a bachelor degree in Marketing. While studying in France, I developed an early interest in international relations while learning English. I lived and worked in the United Kingdom for three years, and I moved to Taipei with my wife in 1999. Having a background in cultures of these countries, and being an independent user of the Chinese language as well, I have developed a curious mind regarding the teaching of English for Business Purposes. Due to this, while as I was working as an English and French and teacher in Taipei, I studied in both National Taiwan University of Science and Technology in the department of Applied Foreign Languages as well as National Taipei University, Global MBA program.

As a lifelong learning project, I decided to pursue a PhD in education in 2012, at Zhong Zheng University, located in Jia Yi. The purpose of my study is to earn a doctoral degree to support the teaching my business skills gained from NTU Global MBA program, which are relevant to the teaching of English for Business purpose to University students.

My study at the Global MBA program combined with the teaching of foreign languages provided me with the opportunity to join Taipei college of Maritime technology, located in Tamsuei, and to gain my first experience at teaching English for commercial and leisure purposes. As I taught English for more than three years, I came to understand Chinese learners better and apply my learning in Applied Foreign Languages to develop teaching materials that were adapted to their learning styles.

I am currently teaching English in National Taipei University of Business, located in Taipei. Courses such as film translation and business letters and international correspondence provide me with new perspectives to teach as English as a foreign language focused on business purposes and which are adapted to students' learning needs.

EXPLOITING TWITTER IN MARKET RESEARCH FOR UNIVERSITY DEGREE COURSES

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ABSTRACT

Twitter is one of the biggest microblogging platforms that millions of Tweets of maximum size 140 characters are posted every day by its users. Recently many research efforts have been presented towards analyzing the content of information in Twitter for marketing purposes. However, existing analysis approaches have shortcomings in terms of exploiting this media to improve marketing policy in a University. Thus, efficient analyzing technique is a pressing need to complement the existing approaches and hence improve the performance of marketing department in a university through getting public mood from Twitter and apply a number of analysis. To this end, in this paper, we develop a desktop based application that can help marketing staff in Heriot-Watt University to analyse Tweets related to the university and can help in course marketing. The application enables users to retrieve Tweets from Twitter corpus which are related to the university. Afterwards, users will be able to perform a number analysis on the retrieved Tweets such as Word Frequency Analysis, User Frequency Analysis and Sentiment Analysis. Finally, users of the application will be able to export the results in to a spreadsheet. After the application is evaluated, most of the participants agreed that it is reliable and easy to use and that the application has a good performance and can be used for marketing purposes

KEYWORDS

Microblogging, Marketing, Word Frequency Analysis, User Frequency Analysis, Sentiment Analysis.

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THE IMPACT OF SIMULATION ON TEACHING EFFECTIVENESS AND STUDENT LEARNING PERFORMANCE

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ABSTRACT

Simulation Strategy Is Increasingly Becoming A Popular Educational Tool In The Production Of Highly Qualified Professionals In The Field Of Education, Health, And Applied Sciences. Particularly, The Strategy Helps Improve Teaching Practice Effectiveness And Student Learning Performance. This Research Paper Aimed At Investigating The Effectiveness Of Simulation In Teaching And Student Learning Performance In The University Context. The Study Was Important Since It Highlighted How Different Kinds Of Simulation Improve Teaching Practice Effectiveness And Student Learning Performance. The Explanatory Research Design Was Used In This Research Where Data Was Collected Using Close-Ended Questionnaires Designed To Utilize Likert Scale Described In The Methodology Section. The Study Targeted 150 Student Participants. However, Only 134 Students Filled And Returned Their Questionnaires. Both Descriptive And Statistical Analysis Techniques Were Applied In This Research. Descriptive Statistics, Particularly Percentages Were Used In Describing Participant Information. Also, Statistical Analysis Was Used In Determining Reliability Of The Questionnaire As Well As For Hypothesis Testing. The Study Indicated That Social Process Simulation, Diagnostic Simulation, And Data Management Simulation Have A Statistically Significant Positive Relationship With Teaching Practice Effectiveness And Student Learning Performance. Based On The Findings, It Was Concluded And Recommended That Teachers And Students Should Accept The Use Of Simulation In Their Classroom To Enhance Their Classroom Outcomes.

KEYWORDS

Simulation, educational tool, teaching effectiveness, learning performance, variables, university context

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CLASSROOM COMMUNICATION AND ICT INTEGRATION: PUBLIC HIGH SCHOOL TEACHERS' NOTIONS

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ABSTRACT

As part of the 21st Century skills, the integration of Information and Communication Technology is inevitable in classroom communication. This descriptive qualitative research covered all 60 teachers in five selected public high schools in Capiz, Philippines. Semi- structured interviews, informal interviews, and observations were done to gather data. The data were analyzed using General Inductive Approach and thematic analysis to unearth and cull emerging notions and themes. Participants viewed classroom communication as a process, tool, context, interaction, and strategy. ICT for them was a driver for change, a conduit for learning, a modern technology, and an instrument for effective teaching and learning. ICT integration in classroom communication was interpreted to have helped teaching, to be a new medium of instruction, and a marriage or partnership between classroom communication and ICTs. It is recommended that best practices in integrating ICTs in classroom communication should be explored and documented.

KEYWORDS

Classroom Communication, ICTs, ICT Integration, Notions

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AN EXTENSIBLE FRAMEWORK FOR AUTOMATIC KNOWLEDGE EXTRACTION FROM STUDENT BLOGS

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ABSTRACT

This article introduces a framework for automatically extracting knowledge from student blogs and injecting it into a shared resource, namely a Wiki. This is motivated by the need to preserve knowledge generated by students beyond their time of study. The framework is described in the context of the Bachelor of Creative Technologies degree at the Auckland University of Technology in New Zealand where it is being deployed alongside an existing blogging and ePortfolio process. The framework uses an extensible, layered architecture that allows for incremental development of components in the system to enhance the functionality over time. The current implementation is in beta-testing and uses simple heuristics in the core components. This article presents a road map for extending the functionality to improve the quality of knowledge extraction by introducing techniques from the artificial intelligence field.

KEYWORDS

Blogging, Wikis, Knowledge Extraction, Enhanced Learning.

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