

Friday 5 June

3:20pm - 4:00pm

Room: Block Y, Room Y402

Presentation Title: The Role of Support Mechanisms in Online Materials for Japanese

Presenter / Co-presenters:	Dr Barbara Bourke, Queensland University of Technology
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Theme:	E-learning initiatives
Presentation Type:	Paper presentation

Abstract

With the reduction in face-to-face teaching hours for language classes in many tertiary institutions in Australia, e-learning provides a convenient means of increasing the time students spend on task in their own time. At the presenter's institution, software in use in the first two years of Japanese language courses has recently been upgraded to make it more widely accessible and more user-friendly. In order to understand how students are interacting with the new online materials and to determine the role of the built-in support mechanisms, a study was devised in which students were observed as they completed certain tasks. In addition to observations, students were interviewed about their perceptions of the effectiveness of e-learning and their assessment of the implications of having to study online materials independently. This paper will address issues such as motivation and the role of assessment in the development of autonomous learners. While the study focuses on Japanese language in an Australian university context, the findings are more widely applicable.

Biodata

Dr Barbara Bourke is Senior Lecturer in Japanese at Queensland University of Technology in Brisbane, Australia. Her research interests include cognitive theory and language learning, language learning strategies and computer assisted language learning. She has been involved in a number of large projects developing interactive multimedia resources for Japanese and was the recipient of a National Award for outstanding contributions to teaching and learning in this area.