Development of the Online Resource Databank Enhancing French Speaking Skill at the Beginner Level (A1)

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ABSTRACT

The purposes of this research were to 1) design and develop the Online Resource Databank Enhancing French Speaking Skill at the Beginner Level (A1) and 2) study the opinions of French language teachers on the usage of the Online Resource Databank Enhancing French Speaking Skill at the Beginner Level (A1). The samples were 40 French language teachers selected from schools in the Educational Service Area Office1 and Office2 of Bangkok Metropolis by using the multistage sampling method: cluster sampling, stratified sampling and simple random sampling. The research instruments were the opinion and satisfaction questionnaires and the website of the Online Resource Databank. The data were analyzed through percentage, mean and narrative description.

The research findings showed that 1) the website of the Online Resource Databank Enhancing French Speaking Skill at the Beginner Level (A1) composing of 5 main menus: Knowledge, Culture, Activity, Mass media and About, was located at the following URL:http://french4speak.wix.com/beginner, 2) the 40 respondents, French language teachers, were mostly agreed with the usage of the website at 96.04%. Few of them were uncertain about some usage of the online resources with the main reasons about the lack of time for activity and lesson plan preparation, and 3) the overall satisfaction of the respondents towards the website was at 4.62 (Highly satisfied) for the data presentation and technology used and was at 4.35 (Satisfied) for the utility and utilization. The Online Resource Databank was indicated as the innovative instructional media that can be used in class, outside the class, and for professional development.

Keywords: Online resources, Online resource databank, French speaking skill

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บทคัดย่อ

การวิจัยครั้งนี้มีวัตถุประสงค์เพื่อ 1) ออกแบบและพัฒนาคลังทรัพยากรออนไลน์ส่งเสริมทักษะการพูดภาษาฝรั่งเศส
ระดับเริ่มเรียน (A1) และ 2) ศึกษาความคิดเห็นของครูผู้สอนภาษาฝรั่งเศสเกี่ยวกับการใช้คลังทรัพยากรออนไลน์ส่งเสริม
ทักษะการพูดภาษาฝรั่งเศสระดับเริ่มเรียน (A1) กลุ่มตัวอย่างได้แก่ ครูผู้สอนภาษาฝรั่งเศสระดับมัธยมศึกษาปีที่ 4 จำนวน
40 คน ซึ่งได้จากการสุ่มแบบหลายขั้นตอนคือ สุ่มแบบกลุ่ม แบบชั้นภูมิ และแบบง่าย จากสำนักงานเขตพื้นที่การศึกษา
กรุงเทพมหานคร เขต 1 และเขต 2 เครื่องมือที่ใช้ในการวิจัยได้แก่ เว็บไซต์คลังทรัพยากรออนไลน์ส่งเสริมทักษะการพูด
ภาษาฝรั่งเศส ฯ และแบบสอบถามความคิดเห็นและความพึงพอใจของกลุ่มตัวอย่าง การวิเคราะห์ข้อมูลใช้ค่าสถิติร้อยละ
ค่าเฉลี่ย และการเขียนเรียบเรียงเชิงพรรณนา

ผลการวิจัยปรากฏดังนี้ 1) คลังทรัพยากรออนไลน์ส่งเสริมทักษะการพูดภาษาฝรั่งเศสระดับเริ่มเรียน (A1) ประกอบ
ด้วย 5 เมนูหลัก คือ Knowledge-Culture-Activity-Mass Media-About ตั้งอยู่ที่ URL: http://french4speak.wix.com/
beginner 2) ครูผู้สอนภาษาฝรั่งเศสส่วนใหญ่เห็นด้วยกับวิธีการนำคลังทรัพยากรออนไลน์ฯไปใช้ คิดเป็นร้อยละ 96.04 %
กลุ่มตัวอย่างบางส่วนไม่แน่ใจเกี่ยวกับการใช้คลังทรัพยากรออนไลน์ด้วยสาเหตุหลักเกี่ยวกับการไม่มีเวลาเตรียม
กิจกรรมและแผนการสอน 3) ความพึงพอใจโดยรวมของกลุ่มตัวอย่างที่มีต่อเว็บไซต์คลังทรัพยากรออนไลน์ฯ ในด้านรูป
แบบการนำเสนอและเทคโนโลยีที่ใช้พัฒนาอยู่ในระดับมากที่สุดคิดเป็นค่าเฉลี่ย 4.62 และอยู่ในระดับมาก คิดเป็นค่าเฉลี่ย
4.35 ในด้านประโยชน์และการนำไปใช้ คลังทรัพยากรออนไลน์ส่งเสริมทักษะการพูดภาษาฝรั่งเศสระดับเริ่มเรียน (A1)
ได้รับการยืนยันว่าเป็นนวัตกรรมสื่อการศึกษาที่สามารถใช้สำหรับการเรียนการสอนในห้องเรียนนอกห้องเรียน และใช้
ในการพัฒนาวิชาชีพตนเอง

คำสำคัญ : แหล่งทรัพยากรออนไลน์ คลังทรัพยากรออนไลน์ ทักษะการพูดภาษาฝรั่งเศส

Introduction

The study of problems on French teaching and learning in Thailand indicated that the students were lacked of good speaking skill due to the limited time for oral practice and interaction using French language in the classroom, the large amount of students per class, the insufficient materials and media for self-study and practice outside the class, and the unawareness of continuing importance of French language in AEC Member Countries (Chaisri, 2013). So we should improve and focus on the importance of speaking skill since the "…Effective communication, therefore, depends on one's ability to express oneself in speech clearly, accurately and fluently. Although thoughts could be expressed in writing, it is only through speech that one's thoughts would be put

across accurately and effectively to one's audience without any form of ambiguity…."(Na'Allah and Sanusi, 1992).

Nowadays, due to the progress of the ICT and the rapid expansion of the online resources on the Internet, much more opportunity and potentiality are presenting for the development of the innovative instructional media that can be helpful for both teachers and students who want to improve their French speaking skill practices, using various authentic resources (Choosri and Intharaksa, 2011 as cited inNgampornchai, Adams, and Akkanit, 2013).

That is the reason for the conduction of the research on the "Development of the Online Resource Databank Enhancing French Speaking Skill at the Beginner Level (A1)" which tends to provide

French language teachers with the ready-to-use teaching and learning media and the guidelines for thefurther development of other innovative instructional materials.

Research Objective

1. To design and develop the Online Resource Databank Enhancing French Speaking Skill at the Beginner Level (A1).

2. To study the opinions of French language teachers on the usage of the Online Resource Databank Enhancing French Speaking Skill at the Beginner Level (A1).

Research Methodology

1. Population and Sample

1.1   The population used in this study was French language teachers teaching at the beginner level of French proficiency in public schools of Bangkok Metropolis.

1.2   The sample used for the study were 40 French language teachers in French program at grade level 10, selected from the public schools in Bangkok Metropolis usingthe multistage sampling method as follows:

1.2.1 Cluster sampling for the selection of Bangkok Metropolis as province with public schools and French program.

1.2.2 Stratified sampling for the selection of 50 public schools: 25 schools from the Educational Service Area Office1 and 25 schools from the Educational Service Area Office2.

1.2.3 Simple random sampling for 50 French language teachers from 50 public schools in Educational Service Area Office1 and 2.

From 50 distributed questionnaires, the 40 questionnaires were collected back, representing 80% of the survey data.

2. Research Instruments

2.1   French speaking skill resources on World Wide Web.

2.2   Opinion Questionnaires for the content experts.

2.3   Sitemap and URL script files of the online resources that had been verified by the content experts.

2.4   Free flash templates and web builder service, "Wix.com" for the development of the website.

2.5   Opinion Questionnaires for the technology experts.

2.6   Website of the "Online Resource Databank Enhancing French Speaking Skill at the Beginner Level (A1)" that had been verified by the technology expert.

2.7   Opinions and satisfaction questionnaires for the sample group, created under the control of the advisory committee.

3. Data Collection

3.1   For the design and development of the "Online Resource Databank Enhancing French Speaking Skill at the Beginner Level (A1)", the researcher collectedthe information from the related books, documents and resources on the WWW for the sitemap design and the development of the URL scriptsin Word file format. They were verified by the content experts and corrected by the researcher. The website of the "Online Resource Databank" was developed by using the free web builder service, Wix. com. It was submitted to the technology expertsfor verification and was corrected by the researcher.

3.2   For the study of French language teachers' opinions, the researcher distributed the

online opinion and satisfaction questionnaires and collected back the data by herself. Some respondents were also interviewedby the researcher for the completion of the missing data.

     4.   Data Analysis

     4.1   For the design and development of the "Online Resource Databank Enhancing French Speaking Skill at the Beginner Level (A1)", the data wereanalyzed, using descriptive analysis and narrative description.

     4.2   For the study of French language teachers' opinions, the data wereanalyzed, usingpercentage, meanand narrative description.

Research Findings

     1.   The website of the"Online Resource Databank Enhancing French Speaking Skill at the Beginner Level (A1)" is situated at the following URL: http://french4speak.wix.com/beginner . It is composed of 5 main menus and their sub-menus as follows:

     Main menu 1- Knowledge: Text – Audio & Video

Main menu 2- Culture: Skill Culture – Life Culture

Main menu 3- Activity: Drill & Practice – Quiz & Test – Game

Main menu 4- Mass media: Radio – Television – Newspaper & Magazine – Web Service

Main menu 5- About: Author Profile – Usage Instructions & Installation

     2.   The study results of French language teachers' opinions about the usage of the "Online Resource Databank"and their satisfaction towards the websiteshowed that,

     2.1   The 40 respondents, French language teachers in public schools of Bangkok Metropolis, were mostly agreed with the usage of the "Online Resource Databank" at 96.04%. Few of them were uncertain with some usageof the "Online Resources"; the main reason was the lack of time for lesson plan and activity preparation.

     2.2   Most respondents were highly satisfied with the "Online Resource Databank" at 4.62 for the data presentation and technology used. They were satisfied at 4.35 for the utility and utilization of the "Online Resource Databank".

Figure 1   Example of Website Homepage Screen

Table 1 Conclusion of French language teachers' opinions for the usage of the "Online Resource Databank" and their satisfaction towards the website.

(n=40)

Percentage of Overall Opinions		Level of Overall Satisfaction (Likert Scale)	
Main menu	Agreement	Data Presentation and Technology Used	Utility and Utilization
1. Knowledge (96.15%) 2. Culture (95.19%) 3. Activity (96.34%) 4. Mass media (96.20%)	96.04%	4.62 ≈ very satisfied (Ketsingha,1995)	4.35 ≈ satisfied (Ketsingha,1995)

Conclusion

The website of the "Online Resource Databank Enhancing French Speaking Skill at the Beginner Level (A1)" with 5 main menus: Knowledge, Culture, Activity, Mass Media, andAbout,was developed and located at the following URL:http://french4speak.wix.com/beginner. The sample, 40 French language teachers, was mostly agreed with the usage of the "Online Resource Databank"at 96.04%. Few of them were uncertain with some usage of the "Online Resource" with the main reason about the lack of time for lesson plan and activity preparation. Most of the 40 respondents were satisfied with the website of the "Online Resource Databank"; the overall satisfaction was at 4.62 (highly satisfied) for the data presentation and technology used and at 4.35 (satisfied) for the utility and utilization of the website.

The "Online Resource Databank" was indicated as innovative instructional media and materials that can be used in class, outside the class, and for professional development. The "Development of the Online Resource Databank Enhancing French Speaking Skill at the Beginner Level (A1)" has provided the ready-to-use media and the guidelines for the further development of other innovative instructional materials of French language teachers in Thailand.

Discussion

The ideas and concepts, fallen within the conduction of this research, are as follows.

1. For the development of the Online Resource Databank Enhancing French Speaking Skill at the Beginner Level (A1), using the existing online resources on the WWW,the following concepts and ideas were applied, confirmed and discovered.

1.1 The CEFR: Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (Council of Europe, 2013) had been used for shaping and naming the main menus and the sub-menusin sitemap design. According to the descriptions in CEFR, the foreign language instructions should be related to both knowledge and culture. The content experts had evaluated and agreed with most of the URLscripts according to this applied principle. The good searching skill by using keywords has been found as essential for the developer of the online resource

databank, as cited Leu, Kinzer, Coiro, and Cammack (2004),

"Knowing how, when, and where to locate useful information on the Internet will become an increasingly important component of the literacy curriculum, especially because the availability of information resources and search technologies is expanding rapidly, increasing the importance of effective search strategies"

1.2 The researcher discovered that the sitemap design should be flexible and adaptable for some changes according to the real situation of research conducting. Even when it had been subjected to the good basic research before designing, the mainand the sub-menus should still be modifiable. That is why the free web builder service, Wix.com, isselected for the development of website; the selection criteriaof web builder services that aresuitable for non-professional developer was met as follows: (Wong. 2016 ; Shivar. 2015)

1.2.1 Free-of-charge, with web templates that allows anyone to create website, blogor multimedia products, as well as the data storage.

1.2.2 Easy to use. Userscan add, change, or remove the objects like text boxon thetemplate and also drag and drop in pictures and all types of multimedia objects.

1.2.3 Gallery of free pictures, symbols and flash animation. This provision of materialswill help web developers save time and expenses for graphic design and free from the copyright's problem.

2. The study results of the opinion and satisfaction of the respondents, 40 French language teachers, showed that most of them were agreed with the usage of the "Online Resource Databank". They were highly satisfied with the website for the data

presentation and technology used at 4.62. These results are similar to the previous research of Nuengchumpon (2007); Shutiwatanathada (2001) and may refer to the application of the following web development principles:

2.1 Too many colors for background and the varieties of font sizes should not be applied for each webpage, the simple and consistent design are more preferable. (Misanchuk, Schwier, and Boling. 2000).

2.2 The web screen design should be focused on the important information. The easy navigation should be made through the information. (Hannafin and Hooper. 1989).

2.3 The web design principles of Consistency should be studied and respected. (Schwier and Misanchuk, 1999).

Suggestions

1. For Usage Implications

As this kind of instructional media, using the authentic online resources in various forms, was quite new to French language teachers, the following instructions would be useful to follow:

1.1. French language teachers should study first the main menu ? About ? in order to follow the installation and the usage instructions before being able to use appropriately the Online Resource Databank.

1.2. French language teachers should prepare their teaching materials like computers, network and multimedia facilities, before introducing this resource databank in class. The network computer should be equipped with multimedia features and devices such as headphones and speakers for the good practices of French speaking skill.

1.3. Teachers should study and test the online resources for the existence well before doing the lesson plans since the absence of the websites on the Internet are quite common.

1.4. French language teachers should prepare in class activities and homework by focusing on more practices and good motivation of the students. Their guidelines and suggestions that based sharply on the resources in form of worksheets or knowledge sheets will be very helpful for the students.

2. For Further Development

2.1 According to the research findings and discussions, the resource survey should be donethoroughly before designing the sitemap. The selection of free, easy and friendly web builder tools will be helpful for the website development.

2.2 A research should be conducted on the study of teacher's usage models and methods of the "Online Resource Databank for Enhancing French Speaking Skill at the Beginner Level (A1)"

2.3 A research should be conducted on thedevelopment of"Online Resource Databank Enhancing French Speaking Skill at Intermediate and Advanced Level."

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