Evaluating Computer-Assisted Language Learning

An Integrated Approach to Effectiveness Research in CALL


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Book synopsis

Schools, colleges and universities are investing a great deal in the purchase of computer resources for the teaching of modern languages, but whether these resources make a measurable difference to the learning of language students is still unclear. In this book the author outlines the existing evidence for the impact of computers on language learning and makes the case for an integrated approach to the evaluation of computer-assisted language learning (CALL). Drawing on current and past research linked to CALL and e-learning, the author builds a comprehensive model for evaluating not just the software used in language learning, but also the teaching and learning that takes place in computer-based environments, and the digital platforms themselves. This book will be of interest not only to language teachers and CALL researchers, but also to those interested in e-learning and general research methodology, as well as designers of educational software, digital labs, virtual learning environments (VLEs) and institutional budget holders.

Contents

Contents: Evaluation of computer-assisted language learning (CALL) – Effectiveness research for CALL – A model (methodology, framework, agenda) for the evaluation of CALL platforms, programs and pedagogy – Integrating CALL into modern languages teaching and learning – A methodology for quality control for CALL – A configuration of empirical methods of data collection for CALL – Research methodology for CALL – Qualitative and quantitative evaluation of CALL.

About the author(s)/editor(s)

Jonathan Leakey’s interest in evaluating the effectiveness of computers in language teaching comes from his years of teaching modern languages in secondary schools in Liverpool and in the further and higher education sectors in Northern Ireland. Since 2002 he has been a lecturer in French, German and European Studies at the University of Ulster, where he completed his doctorate in 2008.