

STRENGTHENING HIGHER EDUCATION FOR A SUCCESSFUL WORKFORCE

Editors

Munir Shuib
Shukran Abdul Rahman
Morshidi Sirat



IIUM Press



Published by:
IIUM Press
International Islamic University Malaysia

First Edition, 2009
© IIUM Press, IIUM

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted, in any form or by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording, or otherwise, without any prior written permission from the publisher.

Perpustakaan Negara Malaysia

Cataloguing-in-Publication Data

Strengthening higher education for a successful workforce / editors Munir Shuib, Shukran Abdul Rahman, Morshidi Sirat.

Includes index

ISBN 978-967-5272-06-6

1. Education, Higher--Malaysia. 2. Universities and colleges--Malaysia. I. Munir Shuib. II. Shukran Abdul Rahman. III. Morshidi Sirat, 1955-.
378.595

Printed by:

Ampang Press Sdn. Bhd.
6 Jalan 6/91, Taman Shamelin Perkasa
Batu 3½, Jalan Cheras
56100 Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
Tel: 603-92849448 Fax: 603-92849105
E-mail: ampress@streamyx.com

ESSENTIAL SKILLS IN CALL CLASS: ENHANCING SEARCHING AND LANGUAGE SKILLS

Haslina Hassan and Mohaida Mohin

Introduction

In the quest of making learning more relevant in the contemporary era of information and communication technology, the Internet is considered a valuable resource to both language teachers and learners (Singhal, 1997). With the World Wide Web (WWW), learners of many languages have access to an unprecedented amount of authentic target-language information (Warschauer, 1998; Chun and Plass, 2000). The Internet offers a great deal of supplemental language activities for the teachers to select from and later these activities provide the students with additional practices in a specific area of language learning (Chafe, 1999). The content of the Internet is generally very current and the language used to present it is real and authentic (Brown, 1999). Moreover, the use of the Internet should be endorsed as a tool to be incorporated into classroom activity as it stimulates active learning where the students' language skills and their language learning experience would be enhanced (Wetzel and Chisholm, 1998). The activities can be equally enjoyed by both advanced and slow learners.

Since technologies are fast moving ahead, the educational system needs to follow suit so as to ensure that the students especially in higher education are well-groomed to become effective members of the society once they graduated. Berkowitz (2002) reiterates that information and technology skills are the 'new basics' and being able to find and use information more effectively is essential to the success of students of all ages.

There are many studies carried out in order to find out the effectiveness of Internet in the process of learning a language. Recent