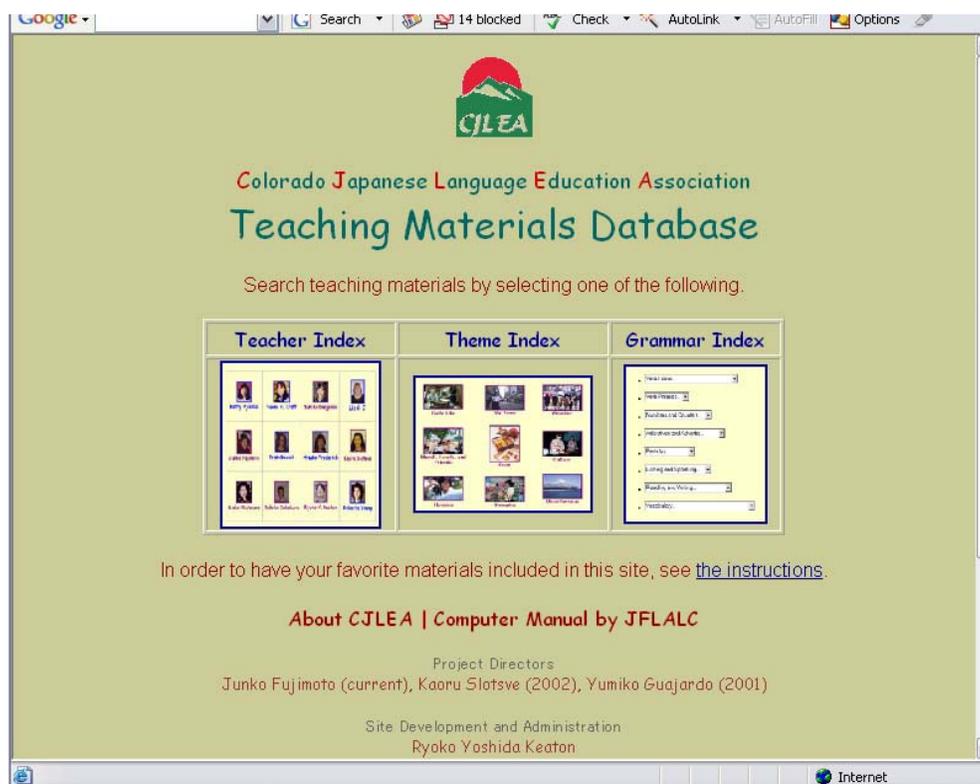


Online Teaching Materials: Development and Implementation

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Abstract

Colorado Japanese Language Education Association (CJLEA) has created its Online Teaching Materials Database at www.cjlea.org in order to share successful classroom activities among Japanese language teachers. The database is now used internationally as a freely available teachers' resource, including various ready-to-use materials for daily teaching with the use of the computer technology. This project was funded by Northeast Asia Council of the Association for Asian Studies with the support of the Japan-US Friendship Commission, Japan Foundation Language Center, and United Memories, Inc.



Introduction

Colorado Japanese Language Education Association (CJLEA) Online Teaching Materials Database provides successful teaching practices among teachers. It adopts the National Standards explicitly into daily teaching and makes articulation between levels clear and smooth. In addition, a collection of links to authoring programs that have been developed just for classroom teachers is included in the database in order to assist teachers who desire to create online materials by themselves.

The online database is a collection of successful activities and materials that have been created, modified, and improved by Japanese language teachers from all over the world through daily teaching experience. The database includes lots of ready-to-use activities and materials, providing a precious resource for Japanese language teachers all over the world. Any teacher can access the database easily through the Internet. Teachers have freedom to modify and customize the activities so that they fit better for their own classrooms. The database is easy to implement to any-level of Japanese classes, promoting interaction among learners.

About CJLEA

CJLEA organizes K-16 teachers, students and administrators in Colorado and Wyoming who are interested in teaching and learning Japanese language, literatures and culture. The association was established in 1995 with a grant from the Japan Foundation, and has continued to support members by arranging pedagogical and cultural events and projects to benefit members. CJLEA currently has about forty members. CJLEA is an affiliate of the National Council of Japanese Language Teachers (NCJLT).

CJLEA Online Teaching Materials Database Project

In 1999 the CJLEA teaching materials development project team started to create an online materials database in order to share successful and effective teaching materials among K-16 Japanese teaching members of CJLEA. We believed that working on this project would improve Japanese language education in our region. Since then, we have had various

activities and events to promote the project at various occasions such as 2002 CCFLT Spring Conference, 2002 ACTFL Conference, 2003 and 2005 SWCOLT Conference, etc. At the same time, we applied for some grants to get financial support for the project. Currently, CJLEA Online Teaching Materials Database is available online at www.cjlea.org; as a result, Japanese teachers nationwide communicate and learn with each other through this database.

Summary of CJLEA Online Materials Project

July 2001	- The first workshop at Pikes Peak Community College, CO. - CD-ROM (1 st Version) produced.
February 2002	- Presentation at the Colorado Congress of Foreign Language Teachers (CCFLT) Annual Spring conference. - The second workshop at the CCFLT Annual Spring conference.
April 2002	- Presentation at the South Central Association for Language Learning Technology (SOCALL), CO.
November 2002	- Presentation at the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages (ACTFL) Conference, UT.
March, 2003	- Presentation at the Southwest Conference on Language Teaching (SWCOLT), CO. - Internet distribution started.
April, 2005	- Presentation at the SWCOLT Conference, TX.
August, 2005	- Presentation at the Foreign Language Education and Technology (FLEAT) 5, UT.

Features of the database

The CJLEA Online Teaching Materials Database has three indexes: Teacher Index, Theme Index, and Grammar Index. This organization allows teachers to search appropriate materials for their classes based on their teaching objectives. The materials are easy to implement because each activity includes basic vocabulary and grammar points and can be downloaded in PDF format or MS-WORD format. Teachers also have the freedom to add what they believe should be taught.

Another unique feature of this database is that it is constantly "evolving." The database will expand by teachers' participation through submission of their successful teaching activities and materials as well as modification or tips to make the listed activities more successful.

Teachers use this material as a reference and a useful toolbox for daily teaching. We believe successful daily teaching is the core of successful Japanese programs; therefore, this teaching material database will serve to make Japanese programs more effective, solid, and successful through collaboration among K-16 Japanese teachers.

Conclusion

CJLEA would like to share its online database more widely and invite contributions from even more educators from all over the world. Since 1999 CJLEA members have been developing the online teaching materials database and they will continue to work on this project. CJLEA welcomes other teachers' participation through submission of their successful teaching activities and materials. We believe the project will allow more and more Japanese language teachers to learn from one another and promote Japanese language education internationally through collaboration among K-16 Japanese language teachers. We appreciate your feedback and participation in the CJLEA Online Teaching Materials Database project!

Appendix

1. Grants

The CJLEA Online Teaching Materials Database was funded by:

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