

WEB 2.0 TOOLBOX

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Abstract

The new information and communication technologies have been growing enormously in the last few years providing many different tools that the learning professionals should be aware of as our new role as teachers is already being defined by the existence of these tools. It would be handy to know which tools are the best to be used in our foreign language classrooms, in order to create, modify or complete our toolboxes, at least whereas all these tools are there at hand for free.

Our presentation will start with the difference between Web 1.0 and Web 2.0 in order to understand the great change and challenge the social web represents and the possibilities to be used in a foreign language classroom. We will classify these new tools in four categories according to their content: Tools to create resources (mainly weblogs and wikis) tools to share those resources (podcasting, video casting, online presentations, web mailing, instant messenger and voice call, photo albums and geoapplications) tools to organize and recover content (tags, social bookmarking, RSS readers) and the social network (facebook, linkedin...). We will try to define their main features and uses, their main advantages and implications in order to prove how useful they can be for the learning and teaching of a foreign language.

We will try to convey the idea that, once overcome the anxiety provoked by the amount of tools at our disposal, the time has come for us to chose some of those tools, so that we can help our students to become competent in reading, writing, speaking and listening in a foreign language.