Regional Identity Preservation Using The Internet

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This work presents two different educational projects that have involved two secondary schools in Italy (students aged 17-19). The aim of these projects is the preservation of the regional identity. The Internet plays an decisive role in the globalization of information, but it is important to defend our traditions (i.e. the regional cooking, the play and the poetry in dialect, and so forth). In the first project, scholastic year 1996/97, 30 students of a fifth class at Vocational Institute in Verbania (Northern Italy) have created a collaborative hypertext (using HTML language) to introduce some particular aspects of the new province of Verbano Cusio Ossola (e.g., its geographical characteristics, the gastronomic local specialities with the tasty recipes). The final work has been available for two years for the Internet "surfers".

The second project, scholastic year 1997/98, has been developed by 29 students of a Technical Institute in Verbania. This collaborative hypermedia (developed in HTML), that also contains the tape recording of the play and poetry in dialect, can be read at the Internet address:
http://www.verbania.alpcom.it/verbania/Alpen/inue.htm

It can be browsed from our emigrants that cannot come back in Italy, and in this way they can preserve the memory of their origin. These educational projects are two examples of "learning by doing" environment, because the students have learnt some their unknown traditions while they were developing the hypertexts.