Database for Classroom Plans

Jesse Drew, ISU, US
Marcia Rosenbusch, Iowa State University, US

The purpose of this poster/demonstration is to clarify the issues that must be addressed in developing a database for teacher-developed activity plans, lesson plans, and unit plans.

Today, classroom teachers are exposed to an abundance of information about instruction much of which is not relevant to their needs. The Internet is an effective means of providing instructional resources to classroom teachers, but the quality of these resources depends on the professional knowledge and skill of the Web site designer. In a collaborative effort among nationally recognized foreign language educators and technology innovators we have designed a Database for Classroom Plans designed to be an effective teacher resource for pre-service and in-service teachers. We will focus on the design process for this database in this poster/demonstration.

We designed this database to help classroom teachers with the planning process. This database is designed to be very flexible. It will allow classroom teachers to view activities, lessons, and units designed specifically for the content area they teach, and, in addition, this database will allow teachers to connect to a variety of content areas, thus, enhancing interdisciplinary planning. The majority of the examples currently on the database are designed for the content areas of foreign languages and technology. Leaders in foreign language education are encouraging classroom teachers to integrate technology into the foreign language curriculum as suggested by the national student standards for foreign language education. More importantly, foreign language educators need resources that will enable them to increase the integration of technology into their curriculum.

After much thought and discussion about what categories of information are essential in planning and communicating the essence of the plan to others, the following were agreed upon and are included as categories in the database:

- Content area (foreign language, mathematics, science, etc.)
- Subject area (Spanish, multiplication, etc.)
- Title
- Grade level (Pre-K – 16+)
- Performance level (beginning, intermediate, advanced)
- Objectives
- Procedures
- Assessment
- Reflection (author[s]’ reflections on the activity in use)
- Author(s)’ name(s)
- Author(s)’ school, city, state, email and type of author (whether the primary or secondary author)
- References
- Resources
- National standards (currently available only for Foreign Languages and Technology)

The demonstration and discussion of this Database for Classroom Plans will enable the creators to clarify key issues that relate to on-line resources and to receive feedback on this database and to inform educators about a database that can be effectively used for classroom planning by any content area.