LEARNING DEVELOPMENT PROJECT OVERVIEW FORM

UNIVERSITY OF BIRMINGHAM

Project title	Exploring the potential of improving language learning and teaching by combining the digital lab and the latest IT and web-based resources		Project ID No	**CLAD – HIST047**
Strategy area/theme	Humanities			
Start date	September 2005	Completion date	January 2009	
Project type	Learner enhancement project			
Level		Programme of study	CELC language modules	
Aims	The assumption was that the availability of a series of voice tools would be the ideal extension of the development of e-learning and independent learning material on WebCT. This has certainly happened: with the new Wimba voice tools, students can complete listening, speaking and pronunciation tasks out of the classroom, can send and receive voice e-mails, can work with webpages with audio clips added to them and can record their work on these webpages, they can down load podcasted audio material for listening exercises. This tools allow the students to practise these skills independently at a distance and also actively in class, as the recording procedure is very easy. They also allow tutors to create material and activities that are not only read or written on WebCT. The single interface has been well received both by students and tutors, who find it easy and intuitive to use. The technology used is familiar to students and this encourages them to use it. Finally, it has allowed students much needed additional oral practice.			
Objectives				
Overview	The project has achieved its aims of trialling the Wimba voice tools and making them available to students and staff. The tools are now being used extensively by modern languages students and increasingly by other university departments. With the new Wimba voice tools, students can complete a variety of listening, speaking, translating, interpreting and pronunciation tasks in and out of the classroom, can send and receive voice e-mails, can work with webpages with audio clips added to them and can record their work on these webpages, they can download podcast audio material for listening exercises. This tools allow the students to practise these skills independently at a distance and also actively in class, as the recording procedure is very easy. They also allow tutors to create material and activities that are not only read or written on WebCT. The single interface has been well received both by students and tutors, who find it easy and intuitive to use.			
Further Information	For further information on this project please contact CLAD at University of Birmingham cladprojects@contacts.bham.ac.uk quoting CLAD projects HIST047			