

Emerging technologies and new competencies

## **DST is not a STD : Why Digital StoryTelling is good for your students**

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Storytelling is a newly emerging tool that has been affecting fields as varied as the study of management, strategy and organization studies, medicine, military science, psychology and psychiatry. For many of the practitioners in these fields, storytelling is starting to be considered a key competency and knowing how to deliver a story effectively combined with knowing the right story to tell is actively reshaping these, and other, disciplines.

Social computing refers to the use of social computing software such as blogs, wikis, podcasting, etc. to support social interaction and communication and is based on creating or recreating social conventions and social contexts online through the use of software and technology. It is characterized by approaches to generating and distributing Web content that emphasize open communication, decentralization of authority, freedom to share and re-use material and embraces a knowledge architecture that promotes the transition of websites from isolated information silos to socially meaningful sources of content and functionality.

In this session, I propose to discuss how two emergent trends -storytelling and the usage of social computing tools - might possibly be combined to give renewed impetus to foreign language studies and help develop both students' linguistic and cross-cultural skills. Moreover, I will discuss whether the application of storytelling and social computing to foreign language study might not bring to light deep-laying structures that may require a reorganization of that field in order to properly benefit from their application.

As the second presenter of this paper, I intend on my part to show how digital storytelling (DST) complements foreign language learning (French B2) in a course aimed at students in social sciences based in the UK.

The benefits of DST are threefold:

- 1) Students have the opportunity to develop their fluency by using of their own voice while working on a highly personal story. DST gives them creative space in a course highly focused on current issues (Politics, Economics and History).
- 2) Key narrative skills are developed through storyboard writing and analysis of visual communication.
- 3) DST is created by completing a series of original tasks concentrating on particularly complex language issues. Students achieved a better understanding in the relevant use of past tenses in French during the narrative process.

Key words: Storytelling, Digital natives, Social computing software, Key skills, Narrative, Emerging technologies