

# Reports on Past SIG Events

Last updated: 9 October, 2002

## Index

- ◆ Basis of this report
- ◆ Background

### Talks given:

- ◆ First Plenary
- ◆ Second Plenary
- ◆ Developing Language Learning Materials for Online Delivery
- ◆ The Web, British Studies and the Reforma
- ◆ Computer-assisted conversation practice as a part of Communicative Language Teaching
- ◆ Survey of language teachers
- ◆ Information and Communication Technology project for ESL teachers
- ◆ Some practical aspects of delivery mode in Web-based distance education
- ◆ Teaching legal English through e-projects
- ◆ Commercial presentations
- ◆ Conclusion



## Eastern European IATEFL PL Computer SIG Conference 2001

**Wydział Gornictwa Politechniki Slaskiej, Gliwice,  
Poland**  
**23 - 24 June, 2001**

Report written/compiled by **Clive Newton**  
([clive@cvnewton.freeserve.co.uk](mailto:clive@cvnewton.freeserve.co.uk)) IATEFL Computer SIG Events  
Co-ordinator based on a report by **Jarek Krajka**, East European IATEFL Computer SIG

Please note that this event was NOT organised by the IATEFL Computer SIG, but by its brother/sister SIG, IATEFL Poland Computer SIG.

## Clive's Report

### Basis of this report

This brief report is based on one prepared by **Jarek Krajka** of the East European IATEFL Computer SIG. I should say that despite the weather, the conference was a great success, full of stimulating input and was indicative of the enthusiasm for teaching English through ICT and vice versa, in Poland.



### Background

The event, hosted by The Technical University of Silesia, was attended by almost one hundred participants from Poland, the United Kingdom, Israel and Slovakia, teachers, CALL researchers, teacher trainers, academic scholars, representatives of educational institutions and publishers.

The conference was opened by Grzegorz ?piewak, Vice-President of IATEFL Poland and El\_bieta Gajek, IATEFL Poland Computer

SIG Co-ordinator.



### **First plenary**

The first plenary was given by Jan Rusiecki, Honorary President of IATEFL Poland. He discussed the value of exploiting concordancers for working out meaning from context.



### **Second plenary**

Following that, I gave my plenary entitled "E-solution or ELT-solution?" describing current multimedia CALL and Computer-Mediated Communication, outlining the design, advantages and disadvantages of both - and concluding that, in the longer run, CMC may have more potential for language teaching and learning than multimedia.



### **Developing Language Learning Materials for Online Delivery**

Peter Simmon's presentation was entitled, "Developing Language Learning Materials for Online Delivery". He spoke from the position of co-ordinator Bell English Online and discussed the pitfalls and hidden costs involved in developing online courses, as well as the benefits.



### **The Web, British Studies and the Reforma**

Speaking as a British Council Poland British Studies Coordinator, Michael Houten in his talk "The Web, British Studies and the Reforma" gave an overview of the BC British Studies Website, outlining the design, aims, the content, the production process and the future of the project.



### **Computer-assisted conversation practice as a part of Communicative Language Teaching**

Anatol Shevel in a presentation entitled "Computer-assisted conversation practice as a part of Communicative Language Teaching" showed how, in an attempt to combine the possibilities and attractions of multimedia opportunities with the substantial role of human factor in class learning, and rejecting available commercial ELT software, he uses one computer and so-called live/living book computer programs to provoke students to produce language.



### **Survey of language teachers**

Addressing the issue of teachers' skills, needs and expectations towards using ICT in class, El\_bieta Gajek presented a survey executed among language teachers in 92 schools all over the country. The results showed that teachers are ready and willing to use ICT in class, they are aware of the need to introduce changes to their teaching, and they approve of the use of the Internet and computers. However, what they urgently need is proper training in CALL methodology and multimedia.



### **Information and Communication Technology project for ESL teachers**

Following this thread, Wojciech Drajerzszak, British Council ICT Project Coordinator, and Jaroslaw Krajka, British Council ICT trainer, outlined the Information and Communication Technology project for ESL teachers. The presenters discussed their overall strategy, the content and evaluation of the project.



### **Some practical aspects of delivery mode in Web-based distance education**

Lev Abramov, in the presentation entitled "Some practical aspects of delivery mode in Web-based distance education," demonstrated an alternative to existing Web-based online courses. The presenter's solution is using email as delivery mode, achieving a comparable quality of materials with much lower cost by working mainly offline.



### **Teaching legal English through e-projects**

An excellent talk by Agnieszka Gawlik, this focused on teaching English for Law by means of electronic projects. Among the issues raised were the staging of the project, and practical considerations when using PowerPoint and the Internet. She concluded that using e-projects creates conditions for content-based teaching and facilitates acquisition and retention of legal vocabulary.



### **Commercial presentations**

These speeches were intermingled with commercial presentations given by ELT publishers, software developers and computer

manufacturers. The conference was accompanied by stands of publishers, bookshops, software developers and computer manufacturers, and the participants had the chance to try out the software presented, seek technical advice, as well as develop new contacts.



## Conclusion

As I said at the beginning, the conference was a highly successful event, enabling the exchange of views and increasing the expertise in the field of ICT and CALL in teaching languages.



---

### MENU

[Home page](#) | [CALL Review](#) | [Committee members](#) | [Discussion forum](#) | [Future events](#) | [Past events](#)  
[Contact us](#) | [Search this site](#) | [Guest book](#) | [Web links](#) | [IATEFL home page](#)  
[Top of page](#)

---

IATEFL Computer SIG Home Page:  
<http://www.paddocks64.freemove.co.uk/CompSIG2/callsig.htm>  
Computer SIG Co-ordinator: [tilly@southdene.freemove.co.uk](mailto:tilly@southdene.freemove.co.uk)  
Computer SIG webmaster: [gjtaylor@btinternet.com](mailto:gjtaylor@btinternet.com)

**IATEFL**, 3 Kingsdown Chambers, Kingsdown Park, Whitstable, Kent  
CT5 2FL, UK.  
Phone: +44(0)1227 276528. Fax: +44(0)1227 274415  
IATEFL Home Page: <http://www.iatefl.org>  
Email: [generalenquiries@iatefl.org](mailto:generalenquiries@iatefl.org)