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Chinese Heritage Culture and Language Initiative

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Chinese Heritage Culture and Language Initiative

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Initial Plan: Produce Chinese Heritage language lessons through traditional Chinese Holidays for afterschool activities

What Has Been Accomplished:

The project started in February 2008. Below is an outline of what we have accompanished:

- i. Completed a literature research on traditional Chinese holidays and heritage language learning.

For example: Top Ten Websites for Chinese Learning

<http://webpage.pace.edu/xr05417n/top10/>

- ii. Designed the main frame of Chinese cultural and language.

For example:

Part A The origins of Chinese festivals (Audio files attached)

Part B Traditional celebrations of Chinese festivals

Part C Additional knowledge related to Chinese festivals
(i.e. the recipe of moon cakes for the Moon Festival)

Part D Vocabularies and phrases

- iii. Edited and uploaded the contents for each festival

✧ Qingming Festival (Part A, B, C and D, finished)

✧ Duanwu Festival (Part A, B, C and D, finished)

✧ Moon Festival (Part A, B, C and D, finished)

✧ Chinese New Year (on going)

✧ Lantern Festival (on going)

- iv. Designing a website (testing version) to hold the above contents

<http://webpage.pace.edu/xr05417n/ChineseLearning/>

(Under construction)

Next Steps:

- i. Finish the construction of

<http://webpage.pace.edu/xr05417n/ChineseLearning/>

- ii. Test the website base on users' comments.

Future plans: We've begun meeting with two school districts to look at using technology in the teaching of Chinese and to ask them to have students pilot the site at home as part of their program. The two districts (Briarcliff Manor and Croton-Harmon) are both attempting to get Chinese language taught at their schools. They have also been trying to make contacts with schools in China to broaden the exposure of their students to native language speakers. Briarcliff has a grant writer who will be submitting a grant which requires a higher education partner and we've been identified as that partner. We don't know if that will be funded.

In the meantime, we've also been identifying ways in which specific tools can be used for the teaching of Chinese which we will be sharing with faculty at Pace High School and within the University. We've collected examples of teaching Chinese using these tools. These tools include the following:

www.voicethread.com

gmapsmania.googlepages.com/100thingstodowithgooglemapsmashups

del.icio.us

xtimeline.com/

web2.0

zoho.com

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Dr. Sandra Flank