Report on Chinese Heritage Culture and Language Learning - Spring Report

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Cornerstone 2 Reports: Community Outreach and Empowerment Through Service Learning and Volunteerism

Chinese Heritage Culture and Language Initiative
(Year 2010 Spring)

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http://webpage.pace.edu/thinkfinity/learnchinese/index.html
Goals:

- Developing education website and application, especially for parents and teachers who intend to teach Chinese to their children/students;

- Focus on teaching Chinese through traditional Chinese holidays;

- By engaging in various online interactive activities, children/students will not only learn the Chinese language, but also learn the beliefs, values, customs, and traditions embodied in traditional holidays;

- Providing other useful multimedia resources about the Chinese language and culture as well as current news and events.
Accomplishments (2010 Spring Semester)

- Two major releases:

  1st release
  
  Last year release
  
  2nd release

http://webpage.pace.edu/thinkfinity/chineselearning-2/

http://webpage.pace.edu/thinkfinity/chineselearning/

http://webpage.pace.edu/thinkfinity/chineselearning/index.html
What’s New in the 1st release

- Add Slidecast widget to the website
- Integrate Flash animation to assist users learn to write Chinese Characters
- Add ProProfs Quizmaker to the website
- Embed Chinese–English Dictionary and Google Translate to the website
What’s New in the 1st release

- Add Slidecast widget to the website

Benefits:

- Combines dynamically-generated imagery with audio synchronization.
- With both visual and audio support, content can be understood better.

http://webpage.pace.edu/thinkfinity/chineselearning/chineseholidays/Qingming/qingming–original.html
What’s New in the 1st release (cont’)

- Integrate Flash animation to assist users learn to write Chinese Characters
  
  Press here to learn the pronunciation of the character
  
  Press here to learn the orders of the strokes
Add ProProfs Quizmaker to the website

Benefits:

- An effective, highly functional, user friendly and interactive way to conduct assessment.
- Ideal for the online learning environments.

http://webpage.pace.edu/thinkfinity/chineselearning/chineseholidays/Qingming/qingming-quiz.html
What’s New in the 1st release (cont’)

- Embed Chinese–English Dictionary and Google Translate to the website
New Features in the 2nd release

- Improved User-friendly Interface
- Better Website Consistency in Design
- Easy Communication via Web-based Form
- Integrate Blog feature in the Culture/Resource/News sections
New Features in the 2nd release

- Improved User-friendly Interface
  - E.g. Dynamic drop-down menu for easy navigation

http://webpage.pace.edu/thinkfinity/learnchinese/index.html
Better Consistency in Interface Design

- Same Backgrounds, colors, fonts, navigation buttons present site visitor with a uniform appearance.
New Features in the 2nd release (cont’)

Easy Communication via Web–based Form

Benefits:

• Allow site visitors to contact us and submit their personal comments

http://webpage.pace.edu/thinkfinity/learnchinese/contact.html
Integrate Blog feature in the Culture/Resource/News sections

Benefits:

- Allows us to frequently update articles
- Allow visitors to post their own comments on the website
- “RSS” feature keep our audience constantly updated.
- “Achieves” allows users to track articles by time
- “Tags” allows users to track articles by subject/keyword.
Deployment

- Initiate discussion with the Chinese teacher at Pierre Van Cortlandt Middle School
- Positive feedback from the teacher
  - Agree to use the website in classroom
  - Work with us for further development
**Future Plan**

- **Further deployment**
  - Cooperate with the teacher in Pierre Van Cortlandt Middle School next semester.
  - Plan to integrate the website into Chinese class

- **New development on the Holiday, Culture and Resource section**

- **Continue updating news in News section**

- **Investigate novel internet technologies for further improvement of the website**

- **Further improvement based on users’ feedbacks**