
DLO DAILY MEDIA UPDATE

CURRENT NEWS 07 SEPTEMBER 2010

NUT: OECD REPORT- Education at a Glance

General Secretary of the National Union of Teachers, the largest teachers union said; ""The report shows England has a relatively low proportion of time allocated to modern foreign languages compared with other OECD countries. This was reflected in this year's GCSE and A level results. I urge the Government to come up with a coherent policy to ensure that all young people acquire at least one modern foreign language."

Listening In Tongues

After nearly a decade of fighting in Afghanistan and [the Middle East](#), the U.S. Army still can't find enough linguists (interpreters to help troops dealing with locals and translators to handle documents and recordings). Even before September 11, 2001, the army was having problems finding enough linguists. During the 1990s, there was a big need for Albanian and Slavic language linguists to support American peacekeeping operations there. Currently, the army is spending over \$250 million a year for contract linguists. The big demand now is for those who can speak Pashto and Dari, the two major languages in Afghanistan. The [U.S. military](#) has had some success in finding American troops who speak foreign languages well enough to operate as battlefield translators. This was a major boost for intelligence gathering, since a lot of what you want to know can be found in what the locals are saying.

Arabic, Farsi Fluency Considered 'Critical' to US National Security

Summer vacation is ending and students at American schools and colleges are getting ready to head back to class. In previous years, many of them would have been taking French or Spanish as a second language. Knowledge of Arabic or Farsi is now considered "critical" to U.S. national security and more Americans are learning these languages today than ever before.

PARENTS LOOK FOR NEW WAYS TO EXPOSE CHILDREN TO LANGUAGES

Forward thinking parents are now looking for new ways to encourage their offspring to learn a second language including hiring foreign language speaking nannies, enrolling in language classes and using bilingual educational materials at home. In contrast to the recent news of a drop in the number of students taking GCSE in languages, many parents are looking for ways to encourage their children to learn a second language at an early age. It is not uncommon for a first or even a second nanny to be hired by working parents, who can speak another language. Parents ask the nanny to speak to the child in that language in the hope that it will give them a good start on the road to fluency.

'Virtual' teachers take over world language instruction in several Morris County NJ schools

After losing all three elementary school Spanish teachers due to budget cuts last spring, officials turned to "distance learning" to fulfill the world languages curriculum requirement. The Spanish DVDs did not require additional money in the 2010-11 budget. Assistant Superintendent Deborah Grefe said the DVDs were already included in the district's subscription to Discovery Education. Grefe said the 20-minute virtual lessons will be shown during social studies periods in grades K-5.

Sing and Study announced 40% Discount on its software

Sing and Study is an educational software that creates a fun and focused environment to improve listening comprehension using songs and word exercises. Sing and Study helps to learn any language using effective exercises.

Newspaper Reading for Language Students

As I have said in numerous other language learning articles, there are no tricks and no hints. The more hours you invest, the better you will get. And if your goal is to read at a native speaker level, then you need to read things a native speaker reads. If you are a 22 year-old university graduate, then you need to be reading at that level in the foreign language. And you won't get there by reading textbooks *about* the language. You will get there by reading books, articles, and textbooks *in* rather than *about* the language.

SBS plans Chinese social network

Public broadcaster SBS will launch a social networking site for Chinese speakers by the end of the year. Intended as a pilot service, the company hopes to follow with other language sites in the future as it seeks to offer a venue for more foreign language content and community information.

WordSearch Rush HD – The Hit iPhone Title Comes to iPad

The game's ease of use enables children to learn words whilst having fun, so its educational value cannot be missed. Parents and teachers have already been very positive regarding its hidden educational benefits. The range of topics covered are vast and foreign languages are also introduced in the game. These foreign language puzzles are ideal for those wanting to practice their language skills. The game is continuously updated with new wordsearches that can be downloaded from the store, so the fun of WordSearch Rush will never stop!

Creating Linguistic Boxes in Your Head

In a number of previous articles about language acquisition, I have talked about the concept of linguistic boxes, in order to learn multiple foreign languages. My idea is that, as we learn each new language, we must create a separate box for it in our brain. And if we keep these boxes distinct, we will not have interference from one language to the next.

PREVIOUS NEWS

Iraq Politicians Must Match Citizens' Courage, Form Government, Biden Says

The military also needs to be better prepared with an emphasis on training in the culture of the area and its language, Mullen said. The U.S. must work more often with partner countries, as in the coalition of more than 40 nations fighting in Afghanistan, he said.

Students Rate Quality Education, DoDEA Director Says

The activity's No. 1 priority, she said, is to help students reach their fullest potential through a focus on high student achievement and a rich and varied curriculum. Initiatives such as the virtual high school and language arts curriculum will make major inroads toward that goal, she predicted. The activity's virtual high school, new this school year, is an accredited distance-learning program for military students, whether they're geographically separated, transitioning between schools or just dealing with a scheduling conflict. The virtual school offers students 48 online courses in a wide range of disciplinary areas, including foreign language, math, science, social studies, language arts and physical education, as well as 15 advanced placement courses.

Local company's product aids troops in Afghanistan

Bilingual Books, located in Fishermen's Terminal, has recently released a new tool for U.S. military forces serving in Afghanistan. "Pashto: A Language Map" is an ultra-thin, lightweight, durable language guide to the dominant language in Afghanistan. "This release was prompted by military requests for critical needs languages," Kristine Kershul, president of Bilingual Books, said in a press release. "The current war in Afghanistan started nine years ago, on Oct. 7, 2001, and the majority of our troops have had an extremely limited choice of language tools." The language map will give soldiers what they need to communicate immediately and work effectively in the field, Kershul said.

Canadian diplomats don't have necessary foreign language skills: Harder

Only 33% of Canada's diplomats have the necessary foreign language skills to do their job, recently released figures show. Auditor General Sheila Fraser took the federal government to task in 2007 after discovering only 16% of the 180 foreign service officers who were required to have advanced foreign languages skills for their positions, could speak the needed language. In a report tabled in August, the Conservative government said it began re-investing in foreign language training last year and now 33% of officers who need to speak another foreign language have the required capability.

New Programme in the UK Encourages Children to Study a Second Language

Recent reports show that the number of UK pupils studying a second language has fallen to a new low. Some experts blamed a decision by Labour to make languages optional for the first time in 2004, thus allowing thousands of pupils to drop the subjects at age 14. Foreign languages are believed to be among the most demanding subjects in the school curriculum, with fears that many pupils are abandoning them to boost their overall results. New to the UK, Ready-Steady-Move offers young children a joyful experience on their first encounter with the study of a foreign language.

Navy officers get cultural, political training

Members of the military are deploying everyday to places around the world. The Navy is trying to make that transition a bit easier by giving [crews an understanding](#) of the cultural, economic, and political issues they will encounter when they reach their destinations. Navy Captain Mark Huber is the Program Manager for the Regional Security Education Program at the Naval Postgraduate School. The program was started about 10 years ago as a response to the bombing of the USS Cole he said. With that, Capt. Huber explained, the program was created to provide historical, political, and economic context for regional work. The emphasis is on providing a cultural understanding of where they'll be deployed, so the university places strong emphasis on experts with regional expertise.

University of Michigan's Language Flagship students groomed to be 'global professionals'

In the 21st century global job market," says Dr. **Michael Nugent**, director of The Language Flagship, "we don't need people who just speak languages and we don't need people who can just work the professions. We need people who can do both." Since 2008, the University of Michigan has played host to an Arabic Flagship Program intended to do just that. The Language Flagship is a subsidiary of the U.S. Department of Defense's National Security Education Program, a post-Cold War effort designed to produce a cadre of multilingual "global professionals" qualified to serve the U.S. government's needs by combining their career expertise with fluency in "critical languages including Arabic, Chinese, Hindi/Urdu, Korean, Persian/Farsi, and Eurasian languages."

Fremont starts first Mandarin immersion kindergarten program

Children in teacher Orchid Wang's kindergarten class didn't say "bye-bye" to their parents, who crowded just outside the classroom door Wednesday morning, snapping photos of their little ones sitting at school desks for the first time. With a little prodding from the teacher, they said "zia jian" as they waved goodbye to their moms and dads before Wang closed the door. If everything goes according to plan, these 28 students will be proficient in the world's most spoken language by middle school. Not surprisingly, nearly all of the 28 students in Fremont's first Mandarin-immersion kindergarten class have at least one parent of Chinese descent, although English is the only language spoken in most of their homes. Chinese parents and their spouses lobbied the district for two years to establish the program, which they hope will immerse their children in Chinese language and culture in a way that feels fun and natural.

Pentagon Library Language Support

The Pentagon Library is pleased to facilitate access to the Rosetta Stone online language learning suite offered by the WHS Human Resources Directorate. Using the unique voice-recognition-enabled lessons within Rosetta Stone, learners can enhance, build or refresh their abilities in languages from Pashto and military Arabic to German and Spanish. The Pentagon Library's customer workstations are fully equipped for customer use of this new internet-based learning tool. Those individuals who are not located on the Pentagon Reservation can access Rosetta Stone online. For more information contact reference@whs.mil. Pentagon Civilian staff and Pentagon Military Personnel who do not already have Rosetta Stone access through their service are [eligible](#) for a Rosetta Stone license. When [applying for a learning license](#), please provide the following information: Full name, office email address, office phone

number, Common Access Card (CAC) ID, OSD (y/n), WHS (y/n), active duty military (y/n), and if active duty, which service you are assigned to.

Critical Language Scholarship Program

A program of United States Department of State, Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, the Critical Language Scholarship (CLS) Program will offer intensive summer language institutes overseas in thirteen critical need foreign languages for summer 2010. The 2010 CLS Program application deadline was December 18, 2009. The selection process will be administered by the Council of American Overseas Research Centers (CAORC) with awards approved by the U.S. Department of State, Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs. The CLS Program will be administered by CAORC and the American Councils for International Education. Critical Language Scholarship (CLS) institutes provide fully-funded group-based intensive language instruction and structured cultural enrichment experiences for seven to ten weeks for U.S. citizen undergraduate, Master's and Ph.D. students.

Learning a Language with your BlackBerry

With BlackBerry language apps you can learn a second language at your own pace and convenience and also use the app as a live translation tool. Most of the language apps that we cover in this roundup have content for users who are at the beginner stage and even users in the advanced stages of learning a new language. Here are some great BlackBerry language apps. LearnChinese is an audio language tool that has over 400 self-contained lessons for learning the Mandarin language. This language education tool installs 295 self-contained audio lessons on your BB device, which makes it really easy to study at your own convenience. Users can study around their schedule and focus on their interest by selecting and studying lessons and scenarios that they are more likely to be engaged in. This method of learning (the situational model) also helps the student to really put him or herself in the conversation, a process that helps to make the lesson stick in the mind.

Want to learn a language in D.C....and for FREE?

Starting this week, you can sign up for the Global Language Network program and enroll in one of 40 of language classes that meet on nights and or weekends usually once a week for an entire semester at George Washington University. Here's a complete list of classes available (cough please don't take mine! They don't go first come first serve—they tally up how many people register and go on a lottery system). The courses require a small deposit fee which you'll get back at the end UNLESS you skip more than THREE classes in the semester. The point is to make sure the people who sign up actually go and use the spot to its fullest. A good deal in my book!