

Social Software, Reach Abroad

Language Exchanges

Skype - www.skype.com

- Similar to MSN Messenger, IChat etc. free computer to computer calls
- SkypeOut, usually 2 cents per minute to call a phone
- Works on PC, Mac, Linux
- Peer 2 Peer, navigation though NAT configuration and firewalls
- Voice conferencing up to 5 people, plans to increase
- Video on one to one calls
- Very reliable
- White papers addressing p2p and security concerns
<http://saikat.guha.cc/pub/iptps06-skype.pdf>
<http://www1.cs.columbia.edu/~library/TR-repository/reports/reports-2004/cucs-039-04.pdf>

Other social software adds asynchronous communication to the partnerships.

Mixi – <http://mixi.jp>

- The MySpace of Japan, students write diaries as homework, join communities, and keep in touch with the language partners
- Professor announces events to the community, inviting interested Japanese speakers to a language exchange at a given time.

Blog (Italian 116, 3rd semester) <http://itech.dickinson.edu/blog/index.php?cat=243>

- Dickinson students post all their writing assignments
- Post mp3 recordings of their exchanges so teachers on both sides can listen and provide feedback
- Italian students in Bologna invited to have blog

Find a partner

Personal Contacts

Partner universities

Epals – www.epals.com

Tandem - <http://www.slf.ruhr-uni-bochum.de/etandem/etindex-en.html>

Mixer - www.language-exchanges.org

- Uses Skype api for presence and call/chat initiation

- Very simple finder for individual students to find a partner or for teachers to find other classes.
- Plans to introduce ability for teachers to announce an “event”, time when their students will be online waiting for language partners. Sign up, etc.

Other applications

Abroad blog - <http://itech.dickinson.edu/blog/index.php?cat=129>

- Completely voluntary, students request own blog
- Students journal experiences, keep in touch
- Used by other students to choose program and for orientation

Wiki – <http://itech.dickinson.edu/wiki>

- Newsletters from abroad centers
- Research papers in France

Ideas

Elgg – <http://elgg.net>

- Software for creating a MySpace type site
- Goal to create online community for students heading abroad in order to help them get information and meet local students before they arrive.
- Similar to Pennster, <http://www.rescomp.upenn.edu/pennster/>