

ICT and You

Incorporating ICT into your German programs

Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) are now a mandatory key competency in the new **K-10 German syllabus**. The specific skills to be learned and developed include using word processing skills to produce texts, using software packages designed for the language classroom, collecting and interpreting electronic information, designing multimedia presentations, communicating via the internet and understanding the ethics of communicating information through technology.



There are many advantages to including ICT in your programs, including access to current and authentic information, and having students create texts which can be easily manipulated and look professional. As German teachers, it is vital that we learn to incorporate ICT into all our teaching and learning programs. Below are some ideas which may help you to do this.

The best way to start is to **use software** with which you are already familiar. For example, you could have your students use Microsoft Word or Microsoft Publisher to design a brochure, menu, invitation or advertisement. Students can also use Microsoft PowerPoint to create a slide show, introducing their families, their homes or even school life. They can include sound, animation or video images. If you're not already familiar with PowerPoint, spend 15 minutes having a play with it at home, and you'll see how easy it is to use. Remember that the DET has an agreement with Microsoft which enables teachers to have school software on their home computers for a small fee. Visit Software Sales at software.det.nsw.edu.au/index.htm for more information.

There are many **online resources** available free of charge to DET teachers. For years 5-8, have your students look at the Online Readers at: <https://detwww.det.nsw.edu.au/directorates/profcurr/readers/index.htm> The Centre for Learning Innovation (CLI) has developed *Beginn mit Deutsch*, a print course for students and teachers of the 100 hours, and has included many interactive online activities to support the course. They have also developed a series of learning objects called *Vielen Dank*, which supports Stage 5 students of German. Both of these resources can be found at http://www.cli.nsw.edu.au/cli/products/products_k12.shtm The Department of Education and Training in Victoria has also developed *Languages Online*, a great resource to support Early and Middle Years students. *Languages Online* can be found at www.eduweb.vic.gov.au/languagesonline

Interactive CD-ROMS provide students with the opportunity to practise their language skills in a different arena. There are many excellent CD-ROMs already available, including *Super!!!* (developed by the NSW Department of Education and Training), *Unterwegs*, *World Talk*, *Talk Now!* and *The Language Market*. Most courses now come with an interactive student CD-ROM, including *Katzensprung* and *Geni@l*. Contact the German Consultants if you would like to have a look at these and many more CD-ROMs.

WebQuests provide teachers with a simple scaffold to incorporate the internet into culture projects. If you have never used a WebQuest or are not sure what they are, contact the German Language Consultants and we can give you more information. There is a WebQuest for Stage 4 German students at: http://www.cli.nsw.edu.au/cli/e-learning/studentsites/webquests/zwei_wochen/student/orientation.htm

Web sites which can facilitate finding **e-pals** and penpals for your students, or can assist in setting up a **class email project** are www.letternet.de or www.studentsoftheworld.info

Our list of **internet sites** in each edition of *Deutsch im Koffer* is a great way to incorporate technology, without having to spend hours surfing the net yourself. These web sites can be used with all levels for many different types of activities, including building the field for a particular theme, culture projects, grammar drills and establishing email contact with other schools.

Puzzlemaker is a great resource for creating a variety of puzzles. At www.puzzlemaker.com you can encourage students to make puzzles for classmates, or you can use the site to make your own puzzles. The site is very easy to use, and creates puzzles at the click of a button. Contact the German Consultants if you would like a sample of the five different puzzles we created in less than 2 minutes!!

Other useful web sites for German teachers include

- Curriculum K-12 Directorate: www.curriculumsupport.education.nsw.gov.au
- Board of Studies: www.boardofstudies.nsw.edu.au
- Goethe Institut: www.goethe.de
- *Deutsch als Fremdsprache in Australien*: <http://www.ausdaf.edu.au/>
- Victorian German Teachers Association: www.trinity.vic.edu.au/agtv
- Bayswater Primary School: www.bayswaterps.vic.edu.au/lote/BLOTE.htm
- Learn German – Speak German: german.about.com