Remixing and Adapting OER Creatively to Fit our SHL Students' Needs

Abstract for conference:

Although creating OER for our SHL courses might seem daunting, there are many currently existing OER for SHL instruction that can serve as the base for the creation of new materials and curriculum. In this presentation, I will show how instructors can creatively adapt and remix resources to serve their students' needs.

Presentation description:

In the past decade, the use of Open Educational Resources (OER) has gained popularity in the field of second language instruction (Blyth & Thoms, 2021). For Spanish as a heritage language (SHL) instruction in particular, it has proved to be quite useful, as there are no "one size fits all" textbooks available for the wide variety of growing populations of SHL learners across the country (Durán-Urrea & Meiners, 2019), and instructors are eager to find low-cost or free materials for their SHL students. Many SHL instructors have created their own OER materials and even OER textbooks, making significant contributions to the field. However, for many, the idea of creating their own resources is quite daunting, since they believe they need to start from scratch and create all new materials. It is important to remember, though, that the OER movement encourages not only creating materials, but also remixing and adapting existing materials to fit one's own needs.

In this presentation, I will show how SHL instructors can use currently existing OER and adapt and remix them creatively to fit their students' needs. I will provide a list of resources that are already available and show how I used them, remixed, and adapted them, and added my own materials to create all the texts and activities necessary for an intermediate SHL course at a university.

The goal of this presentation is to inspire SHL instructors to use their creativity not only to create and share new resources, but to also tap into the wealth of resources that already exist, and adapt and remix them to make them fit their own students' needs. Finally, the hope is that instructors will share their work, which will continue to grow the bank of available SHL resources and thus provide students with low-cost or free resources for their language learning process.

Learning objectives:
1. Participants will learn about currently available OER for SHL instruction.
2. Participants will learn about the possibilities afforded by creatively remixing and adapting currently existing resources for their SHL courses.

References

Blyth, C. & Thoms, J. (2021). *Open Education and Second language Learning and Teaching: The Rise of a New Knowledge Ecology*. Multilingual Matters. [Open Education and Second Language Learning and Teaching by Carl S. Blyth (multilingual-matters.com)](#).

Urrea, E. D., & Meiners, J. G. (2019). Creating and Implementing Open Educational Resources for the Spanish as a Heritage Language Classroom. *New case studies of openness in and beyond the language classroom*, 23.