

Voces e historias compartidas: An OER for heritage speakers in the Midwest

Abstract:

This presentation explores the transformative impact of online educational resources on heritage Spanish learners. Highlighting flexibility and cultural integration, it introduces a tailored platform for Midwest heritage students. Student contributions' enduring impact on learning and development will be discussed, inspiring audience engagement in fostering innovative approaches to heritage Spanish education.

Description:

In today's educational landscape, online resources have transformed language learning, providing students, particularly heritage Spanish learners, with unprecedented convenience and adaptability. This presentation aims to underscore the advantages of online educational resources for heritage Spanish students, emphasizing the flexibility they offer for self-paced learning tailored to varying proficiency levels. Additionally, we will explore how these resources can seamlessly incorporate cultural elements, significantly enhancing engagement and motivation among learners.

Moreover, we will introduce an innovative platform designed to meet the unique needs of heritage Spanish learners in the Midwest. This platform not only offers personalized learning experiences but also fosters collaboration among students, harnessing the collective input of the community. As we delve into the presentation, we will emphasize that while research in this field is still evolving (Ceciliano, J., & Notman, L., 2021; Durán Urrea, E., & Meiners, J. G. (2019, among others), there is a burgeoning interest among scholars and educators in investigating the impact of digital tools on heritage Spanish students. We will also delve into the potential long-lasting impact of student contributions to their own learning and development.

Ultimately, the presentation aims to inspire the audience by sharing insights on how to create learning materials from local resources, embark on an Open Educational Resource (OER) project of this nature, and conduct investigations into the effectiveness of online resources in heritage Spanish education. We look forward to engaging in a symposium format with the audience and encouraging them to explore similar innovative approaches to enhance heritage Spanish education through digital tools.

References:

Ceciliano, J., & Notman, L. (2021). Fulfilling a wish list: Creating an OER beginning Spanish textbook and curriculum. *Second Language Research & Practice*, 2(1), 129–139.
<http://hdl.handle.net/10125/69862>

Durán Urrea, E., & Meiners, J. G. (2019). Creating and implementing open educational resources for the Spanish as a Heritage Language classroom. In A. Comas-Quinn, A. Beaven & B. Sawhill (Eds), *New case studies of openness in and beyond the language classroom* (pp. 23-36). Research-publishing.net. <https://doi.org/10.14705/rpnet.2019.37.964>