WORKSHOP 1

Online Testing Resources & Computer-based Assessment

by

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Number of participants: min 10 and max 30

Overview

It is refreshing that our field is recognizing and beginning to discuss the importance and underlying theoretical and practical underpinnings of online testing resources and computer-based assessment, an area that is gradually coming into its own.

Objectives

The **objectives** of the proposed workshop are to provide information on computer-based assessment issues (terminological and procedural) and to give participants the opportunity to experiment with online instruments such as Mahara e-Portfolio System, Omnium classroom, Moodle, Riddle and Wikispaces along with open technologies such as Blogger and Twitter while reflecting on their use for assessment purposes.

Contents

The **contents** of the workshop will include**:**

a) basic information on aligning assessment with learning outcomes and designing assessment instruments for various learning purposes,

b) brief introduction to assessment of learners' language competencies, assessment of different language competencies and assessment in heterogeneous contexts,

c) considerations of using online resources to enhance classroom-based assessment while discussing its benefits to the instructor and the students,

d) issues concerning assessment feedback and practical affordances provided by open online technologies, and

e) using e-Portfolio as a reflective learning, teaching and assessment tool.

Target audience

The workshop is **targeted** at EALTA members (researchers, language testers, teachers and teacher trainers) who feel the need to have a better grasp of the most recent online testing tools and computer-based assessment principles and strategies and to share their experience with colleagues working at the same or other levels of education. Convenors of the workshop will employ a variety of **modes** to deliver the workshop such as mini-lectures, seminars that will involve participants in individual/group work and hands-on-practice with online tools that participants will be asked to use for scenario-based assessment purposes.

Background knowledge

Participants are expected to have no prior knowledge on computer-based assessment but they will be encouraged to contribute their expertise and teaching/testing experience to the sessions. Participants should have their laptop with them on Wednesday and Thursday.

Workshop facilitators

Dr. Jenny Liontou holds a Ph.D. in *English Linguistics* with specialization in Testing & Computational Linguistics from the Faculty of English Studies, National and Kapodistrian University of Athens and an M.Sc. in *Information Technology in Education* from Reading University, UK. She also holds a B.A. in *English Language & Literature*, a B.A. in Spanish Language & Literature and an M.A. in *Lexicography: Theory and Applications.* She has worked as an EFL tutor in online and distance-learning courses and as a freelance expert test consultant, item writer, oral examiner and script rater for various international examination boards. She has published widely and presented in numerous local and international conferences. Her current research interests include theoretical and practical issues of computational linguistics, on-line testing practices and classroom-based assessment. Jenny has experience in delivering workshops given the fact she has offered a range of workshops and seminars at the Faculty of English Studies, National and Kapodistrian University of Athens.

Dr. Dina Tsagari is an Assistant Professor in Applied Linguistics/TEFL with specialization in the area of Language Testing and Assessment (LTA) at the Department of English Studies, University of Cyprus, Cyprus. Dina is the director of the Language Testing and Assessment Lab of the University of Cyprus and the coordinator of the Classroom-based language assessment (CBLA) Special Interest Group – EALTA. Dina teaches undergraduate and postgraduate courses in language testing and assessment, EFL teaching methodology, qualitative research methods and supervises postgraduate students (MA and PhD) students in language testing and assessment at the Department of English Studies, University of Cyprus. Dina has experience in organizing and delivering training events. For instance she has successfully delivered another EALTA pre-conference, e.g. *Classroom-based assessment Pre-conference workshop (with Dr Neus Figueras Casanovas & Oscar Soler-Canela). 10th Annual Conference of the European Association of Language Testing and Assessment (EALTA), Istanbul, Turkey.* Dina has also taught on the *2nd EALTA Summer School* and on the *3rd EALTA Summer School, Università per Stranieri di Siena (Italy).*