Title of Session: EuroLang - Electronic Schoolbag
Moderator: Bee Dieu
Guest Speakers: Mary Vernet and Bernard Garcin
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BeeD: So...shall we wait...are there more people expected...or do we start now?
BJ: before we start, May I do a couple housekeeping comments?
BeeD: please BJ
BJ: to make your text window larger and easier to read...
BJ: click on the ACTIONS drop down menu in the upper right of this chat window...
BJ: scroll down to Larger Text or all the way down to detach
MaryGuest5 joined the room.
BeeD hugs Mary warmly
BernardG joined the room.
BeeD: Welcome everybody to another Euro Language Forum. Today I am happy to greet our guest speakers: Mary Vernet and Bernard Garcin from France. They will introduce the Electronic Schoolbag and tell us how they are using it with their students.
BernardG: Digital Working Areas - International Web Conference - the electronic schoolbag of the Lycee L?Oiselet in Bourgoin-Jallieu France, Sunday June 1st 2003 (Monday June 2nd 2003 Japan time)
BeeD looks around smiling at today's participants
BernardG: This web conference is organized by Barbara Dieu, coordinator foreign language dept, Lycee Pasteur, Sao Paulo, Brazil, member of A.S.O. (After School Online) TappedIn community.
BeeD: We usually start our discussions with everyone introducing themselves...so would you please say who you are, what you do and where you come from and then we will listen to our guests
BernardG: The subject is presented by Mary Vernet teacher of English and Bernard Garcin teacher of marketing at the Lycee l?Oiselet in Bourgoin-Jallieu, France.
BeeD: You are too fast for me Bernard...lol
MercedGuest6: Hi. Mi name is Mercedes Rossetti, I am a CALL consultant logging in from Toluca, Mexico. BTW CALL stands for Computer Assisted Language Learning.
BJ: I'm a teacher in Pennsylvania and a helpdesk volunteer for TAPPED IN
LilianGuest3: My name is Liliana and I am from New Jersey. I teach Spanish to 6th, 7th and 8th graders
DavidP: My name is David from Southern California. I teach high school German
AtsushGuest4: Hi all :-) I'm Atsushi Hirano a teacher of Shiba commercial High School in Tokyo, Japan. I'm a teacher of business education.
BJ . o O (Atsushi wins the early bird award!)
BeeD: I am coordinator Foreign Language Dept and EFL teacher at the Lycee Pasteur, Franco-Brazilian school in Sao Paulo, Brasil - also representative of This is Our Time project (www.timeproject.org)

BeeD: So...welcome to this forum and Bernard and Mary...you have the floor

BernardG: Please open :

BernardG: http://www.ac-grenoble.fr/wkto/p/whatesb.htm#04

BJ . o O (the url is a hyperlink...just click on it)

BeeD: Bernard...could you tell us what the Electronic Schoolbag is?

BernardG: What we call an electronic schoolbag is a communication platform installed on a server and designed to support all the school activities.

LilianGuest3: what type of activities

BernardG: With an electronic schoolbag you can develop new school activities that you were unable to organize in the past. You can make students who live in different countries work together.

BeeD: What does it offer?

BernardG: 3 areas

BernardG: 1, you can store school stuff

BernardG: 2, you can monitor students' work

BernardG: 3, you can make your students work with foreign students

BernardG: The electronic schoolbag can be accessed from everywhere the Internet is available : computers at school, cyber-cafes, from home computers of some of our students and from teachers' home computers.

LilianGuest3: I am interested in how they can work with students in other countries and from their age group

BernardG: Mary ?

MaryGuest7: Students are allotted to different virtual classes

BeeD: So you can leave files and assignments online which students from all over the world can access and then they can leave their homework there and you can mark it...

BernardG: We organize virtual classes : http://wkto.free.fr/as/organization02.htm

BeeD: what criteria do you take into account to form these classes?

MaryGuest7: Your class is divided into 8 groups three or four students, my class is divided into 8 groups too

BernardG: ages

MariaJ: so, is it a platform, or something like that?

BeeD: level of language?

BeeD: interests?

BernardG: it's a communication platform

MaryGuest7: Group 1 has 3 of your students, 3 of my students etc

MaryGuest7: and they work on the same subject

BernardG: The electronic schoolbag project involves 54 virtual classes composed of 523 students from Brazil, Finland, France, Germany, Iceland, Italy, Japan, Mexico, United-States, Spain and Sweden.

LilianGuest3: so instead of assigning written homework to bring in the next day, the students can do it on the computer and I can check it on the computer

MaryGuest7: yes

MaryGuest7: projects are usually longer term

BernardG: Four languages are in use in the international electronic schoolbag : English, German, Italian and French.

BeeD: And what kind of tasks do they work on?

MaryGuest7: they introduce themselves

BernardG: An international project on the electronic schoolbag consists in 6 steps:

BernardG: Step 1. The teacher will check that it's possible to use our electronic schoolbag from the computers at school (easy)

BernardG: Step 2. Forming international groups of students

BernardG: Step 3. Students' training and first communication

BernardG: Step 4. Presenting yourself

BernardG: Step 5. Working on subjects concerning culture, literature or economics

BernardG: Step 6 : Say good-bye.

LilianGuest3: I see. will Spanish be a possible language in the future?

BernardG: yes

LilianGuest3: what is the typical age group for students

MaryGuest7: 15 - 18 or 17 - 20

BeeD: How are the culture, literature and economics subjects chosen?

BernardG: by the teachers

MaryGuest7: we usually propose subjects

BeeD: The ones who are working together in the virtual classroom?

MaryGuest7: it can be discussed among ourselves

MaryGuest7: yes

BernardG: The environment of work is pleasant as you can see on the photographs. Please open and click to enlarge :

BernardG: http://wkto.free.fr/album/alb.htm

LilianGuest3: is this free to students

MaryGuest7: yes

MariaJ: 20? So.. it is not compulsory education...

MaryGuest7: it is part of their course

AtsushGuest4: I've been using e-school bag at my classwork since last September. I bet you that it works good for students communication platform. Especially it's good for training English:-)

MaryGuest7: we integrate our work on the project into our normal school work

BeeD: So you try to include components of each program

MaryGuest7: that's right

BeeD: Have students from different countries similar programs?

BernardG: The basis is foreign language

MaryGuest7: we propose fairly general subjects that can be useful to anyone

MercedGuest8: How do you manage school time differences between the different countries involved in the project?

BernardG: and communication with foreigners from different cultures from all over the world

BernardG: We do what we can

BeeD: Right...

BeeD: Is there an example of a task or activity you can show us?

MaryGuest7: the students enter their work at the time they want

LilianGuest3: I love the pictures

LilianGuest3: do the students take these pictures

BernardG: sometimes yes

DavidP: is there an online chat feature available in this project for group communication?

BernardG: yes but we do not use it

MaryGuest7: they do not communicate directly except by videoconference until now. We have not yet used chat

DavidP: what equipment is used for videoconferencing?

BernardG: netmeeting

MaryGuest7: there is quite a demand for chat. we are looking into it

BernardG: and a cheap web cam

BeeD: Is there any example of students' work?

BeeD: or a proposed activity?

MaryGuest7: videoconferencing allows oral communication; the other activities are reading and writing

BernardG: students' work is locked in their virtual class

BernardG: so you cannot access without students' code

LilianGuest3: are students assessed this way also, by their participation BeeD: do you use collaborative tasks like webquests?

BernardG: their virtual class include their personal communication

MaryGuest7: we have not used webquest

BernardG: the electronic schoolbag include a lot of possibilities

MaryGuest7: I did some creative writing exercises in the form of a riddle or enigma for the others to solve

BeeD: Can we have a look at that?

MercedGuest8: Are all buttons and commands in the platform in French or can schools choose language of preference?

MaryGuest7: all the work is in a closed area

BernardG: we are going to have an English version

BernardG: soon

MercedGuest8: Great!

BernardG: you can read information concerning the electronic schoolbag on this monograph : http://www.ac-grenoble.fr/wkto/p/monograph.pdf

AtsushGuest4: Hi all, I'm afraid but it's a time to leave here. I have to go to work now. It's been nice to talking to you.
Bernard,I'm looking forward to use the English version e-school bag, too.

BeeD: Thanks for being with us so early Atsushi

BernardG: have a good day Atsushi

MaryGuest7: good-bye Atsushi

AtsushGuest4: Bye-bye everyone! Have a nice day:-)

BernardG: RESULTS : The teachers note that their students have read and written impressive amounts of text in a foreign language and that it would be difficult to achieve the same result through traditional methods. This is due to the fact that pupils who are not particularly eager to write something as an exercise for a teacher will willingly produce something for someone of their own age who is awaiting their contribution.

BeeD: So...tell us Bernard...if we want our students to start using the electronic schoolbag, what do we have to do?

BernardG: just ask and we will include your students in virtual classes BeeD: How often do they have to hand in work?

BernardG: next session starts September 2003
MaryGuest7: we usually set out a time-table at the beginning of the year
LilianGuest3: is there a way something similar to this can be created but for students just beginning to learn a language where they can be exposed to other students doing the same and other cultures
DavidP: I think this can be used for that Liliana
LilianGuest3: this is for students who are more advanced in language?
DavidP: just set assignments at a particular level
BeeD: I believe one could eventually adapt it as David says
LilianGuest3: I understand
MaryGuest7: the main problem is to find partners looking for the same thing as yourself...
BernardG: French students are not really advanced in languages
BeeD: How did you find your partners?
DavidP: but couldn't there be an advantage in having a group of mixed abilities?
MaryGuest7: personally, I find the best solution is when we have only non-native speakers working together
BernardG: we ask 1000 schools, then we get 10 answers, then we normally get one partner out of the 10
MaryGuest7: then they are all faced with the same difficulty
BeeD: Yes...this is similar to what I have in This is Our Time Project
BeeD: the type of interaction I mean
DavidP: I am finding similarities in this project and also blackboard (a virtual classroom) that many schools in the US have begun using
BeeD: non-native speakers grouped by age around a common subject
DavidP: however, the schoolbag is much broader than the scope of blackboard
MaryGuest7: yes
MercedGuest8: I agree with you David, besides it is free.
BeeD: I have used Blackboard...when it was for free...but it's way too expensive now
BernardG: The ? espaces numeriques de travail ? (digital working areas) are a part of the future of the French school for the years 2010. The communication platforms such as the cartable ?lectronique (electronic schoolbag) are already in operation.
BeeD: What is the advantage of the electronic schoolbag if compared to a virtual community...like European Schoolnet for instance?
BernardG: Here is the electronic schoolbag : http://www.ac-grenoble.fr/wkto/p/whatesb.htm
BernardG: I do not know the virtual community
MaryGuest7: I think that our originality is in the use we make of the software
LilianGuest3: when did you say the English version will be available?
BernardG: tomorrow morning
MercedGuest8: WOW
LilianGuest3: serious?
BernardG: yeah
LilianGuest3: will it be the same web address
DavidP: how are instructors chosen to set up virtual classrooms?
MaryGuest7: we organize the virtual classrooms

BernardG: it will be the same web address
MaryGuest7: if you are interested, you tell us which program
LilianGuest3: great
MaryGuest7: and we indicate the virtual classes that correspond to your needs
BeeD: When do you start organizing the classes?
MaryGuest7: now!
BernardG: September
MaryGuest7: now, to begin work in September
BeeD smiles
BernardG: yes
BeeD: So I am going to enroll my son...right now
BernardG: Here is the diary : http://wkto.free.fr/as/diary.htm
MaryGuest7: we usually work in groups
BernardG: a class with their teacher
MaryGuest7: which we divide into groups
BernardG: http://wkto.free.fr/as/organization02.htm
BeeD: Do whole classes enroll or only voluntary students?
BernardG: whole class
MaryGuest7: 2 or 3 or 4 students from the same class will be in the same virtual class
BeeD: How long does a virtual module take?
MaryGuest7: we plan it for the school year
MaryGuest7: but as the school year is not the same
MaryGuest7: in different countries, it varies
BeeD: from September to June?
MaryGuest7: yes, generally
BeeD: our school year goes from February to November
BernardG: we know
MaryGuest7: we only started BBB, CCC etc in Jan this year
BernardG: we have a Brasilian partner in Rio
BeeD: I know
BernardG: the system is "open"
MaryGuest7: this is one of the problems in international programs, but not insurmountable
BeeD: So it would be difficult for individual students to join...even if they have a tutor
LilianGuest3: ok, I am logging out. I very much enjoyed this informative session. I have been exposed to new technology which I knew very little of. I will be researching this and how I can use it in my classroom
BeeD: Thank you Liliana
DavidP: this is a project I'd like to have my advanced German students involved with
BeeD: Any more questions you would like to ask Bernard and Mary?
BernardG: no problem
BernardG: for German
MercedGuest8: Not really. It has been really enlightening. Thank you.
MaryGuest7: we hope it was clear enough
BernardG: send us an email at bernard.garcin@laposte.net for the project in German language

MaryGuest7: or other

BeeD: So if there are no more questions, I'll officially wrap up tonight's Euro language teachers forum session: next week our guest speaker will be Jean Michel Chaupart , Teacher of French as a Foreign Language in Colombia

MaryGuest7: thank you all

BernardG: We thank you for your interest in our activities. We have been really pleased to meet you during this international web conference concerning the electronic schoolbag.

BJ: Thanks Mary and Bernard and Bee.

BeeD: Thank you Mary and Bernard...this was most interesting

BernardG: We thank Babara Dieu from Lycee Pasteur in Sao Paulo, Brasil, for organizing this event.

BernardG: We invite the teachers interested in the ELECTRONIC SCHOOLBAG activities to visit our web site :

BernardG: http://www.ac-grenoble.fr/wkto

BernardG: Mary Vernet and Bernard Garcin From Lycee l?Oiselet Bourgoin-Jallieu AC-Grenoble France

BeeD: and I hope I will be able to join you

DavidP: thank you for the information

MercedGuest8: Thank you all and congratulations on your work.

MaryGuest7: we look forward to it

DavidP: take care and thank you for the insight. i may want to use this in the near future

BernardG: you are welcome

BeeD: Thank you for coming David and hope to see you again with us