

Content Services

Student learning tools need to be innovative and engaging to encourage students to enjoy and gain from the learning process. They need to make the most of ICT and help students to achieve clearly-defined aims. The design and development of such products needs much more than just a flair for ICT and web design; a deep understanding of the needs of the student is also required, together with knowledge of subject-specific pedagogy.



Background

No matter the age of the student using these tools, the criteria of innovation, clearly-defined aims and an understanding of learner needs still apply.

There is an increasing emphasis now on encouraging interest in foreign languages among children as young as seven, and from 2010 all KS2 pupils should have the opportunity to learn a foreign language. Among the most important is Spanish, one of the four major world languages together with Mandarin, English, and Hindi.

learnirect, developed by the University for Industry (Ufi), has a Government remit to provide high quality post-16 learning and deliver it innovatively through the use of new technologies. Work-based learning packages for adults are a vital element of this provision, to equip people with the skills they need for employability, and to engage those unlikely to participate in traditional forms of learning.

KS2 Spanish Digital Education Service – Sonica



The need

The DfES wanted a sophisticated digital education service for teaching and learning Spanish at KS2, a key project in the development of foreign language teaching in primary schools. The product was to cover 2 years' worth of Spanish teaching for non-specialist teachers, and to be aligned to the KS2 framework for MFL.

The solution

3T was awarded the contract to develop the Sonica Spanish multimedia software package. This resource is mapped against the QCA scheme of work for KS2 Spanish and covers all four attainment targets of listening, speaking, reading and writing. It consists of 240 different activities, ranging from simple 'print and do' resources to media-rich adventure games which push the boundaries of kinaesthetic learning. Many of the activities have cross-curriculum relevance, so that Spanish can be a medium through which pupils can increase their knowledge of other subjects too.

Sonica is designed to enable both non-specialist and experienced teachers of Spanish to teach the language. The resource provides a full range of support materials as well as access to online e-mentors who can answer questions and offer support on any aspect of the service.



In developing the Sonica Spanish resource, 3T brought together a range of leading organisations and experts in the field of languages.

Sonica was launched in January 2005.

Work-based numeracy learning package – Measuring Up

The need



Ufi wanted a work-based numeracy learning package for adults, to be delivered online via learnirect. Mapped to the measurement elements of the Skills for Life curriculum, the package needed to offer 10 hours of content aimed at users from Entry Level 3 up to Level 2.

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The solution

Ufi commissioned 3T to develop Measuring Up, an online learning package designed to show a student how to take measurements safely and accurately.

The learning content is set within a work-based environment, so the student can see the practical relevance of the skills being learned. The "Skills Route" shows how to take any particular measurement – for example, time, length or capacity. The "Professional Route" demonstrates the whole range of measuring skills needed in healthcare, construction or catering.

Ongoing assessment is built into the package, and 3T has also developed a supporting Tutor Information booklet to ensure that Skills for Life tutors can help learners get as much out of the package as possible. Measuring Up is screen reader compatible and has full audio support.

Measuring Up was launched in January 2005.

RM's strengths

3T is one of the UK's leading specialists in the design of interactive learning materials, with over 20 years experience in the development of interactive teaching materials for pupils and teachers.

This specialism, coupled with 3T's extensive experience in communicating information using electronic media, means that our student learning tools combine educational focus with technical brilliance.

Because 3T has worked with educationalists for many years, the company has a deep understanding of the curriculum, national strategies and QCA schemes of work, so that student learning tools will often deliver more than just the core element. For example, Sonica was specifically developed to provide cross-curriculum relevance, so that pupils increase their knowledge of other subjects through learning Spanish.

Having built strong long-term relationships with clients such as the DfES, Ufi, the QCA, and the TTA, 3T has access to leading organisations and experts throughout the development of such products, ensuring educationally-rigorous products which provide support for QCA schemes of work and national strategies.



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