



The IALLT Journal

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FROM THE PRESIDENT OF IALLT



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This is an exciting year for IALLT! We are celebrating our 50th anniversary and preparing for our FLEAT VI conference to be held at Harvard University in August. This conference is jointly hosted by IALLT and the Japan Association for Language Education and Technology and will draw presenters from around the world. I invite you to join us there for workshops, presentations and exhibits, August 11-15, that will showcase the latest advances in language learning technology.

Certainly the use of technology for language teaching and learning has evolved greatly from the time of IALLT's beginnings. Then, the latest technology was expensive language laboratories where students simulated language use in a specially equipped room. Today, technologies are held in your hand, worn on your wrist, or part of your eyeglasses. More importantly, these

technologies are increasingly used to bring language learners and native speakers together, not in simulations, but in actual conversations. An example of such conversant technologies is described by Gabriel Guillén in this issue through a study of tandem conversations and the use of social CALL. This study finds that the benefits of such interactions should encourage a wider implementation of tandem experiences.

Another study by Fusako Ota continues the evaluation of the use of mobile apps for Japanese language learning in Australia. Not surprisingly, students are finding many generalized, free programs and making use of them on their own, but their expectation is that apps that specifically apply to their assignments should be forthcoming.

One such specific application is discussed by Jianxiong Wu, who looks at the use of crowdsourcing to improve Chinese vocabulary learning. Through the use of spaced repetition, students can review the specific vocabulary needed for current assignments and retain those learned from assignments already completed.

Truly we are blessed with wondrous technologies and individualized opportunities that were beyond the dreams of our early IALLT pioneers. It is an exciting time to be involved with language learning technology, and I invite you to consider what you might be able to contribute to IALLT's future through service to the organization. There are several council positions open at this time. Please contact me if you would like to join the many volunteers that have made IALLT a leader in language technology in the past and on into the future.

Harold H. Hendricks
President