

valuable habitat for wildlife; moreover, forests foster medicinal conservation and the recharge of aquifers.

Shrinking forest cover lessens the landscape's capacity to intercept, retain and transport precipitation. Instead of trapping precipitation, which then percolates to groundwater systems, deforested areas become sources of surface water runoff, which moves much faster than subsurface flows. That quicker transport of surface water can translate into flash flooding and more localized floods than would occur with the forest cover. Deforestation also contributes to decreased evapotranspiration, which lessens atmospheric moisture which in some cases affects precipitation levels downwind from the deforested area, as water is not recycled to downwind forests, but is lost in runoff and returns directly to the oceans.

Long-term gains can be obtained by managing forest lands sustainable to maintain both forest cover and provide a biodegradable renewable resource. Forests are also important stores of organic carbon, and forests can extract carbon dioxide and pollutants from the air, thus contributing to biosphere stability and probably relevant to the greenhouse effect. Forests are also valued for their aesthetic beauty and as a cultural resource and tourist attraction.

THE INTERNET AS A POWERFUL TOOL IN FOREIGN LANGUAGE ACQUISITION

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Initially the Internet appeared as the means of communication among American intelligence services, but now it has grown up to the greatest international net. It has subverted the ability of different institutions and factors to control the flow of information. Today any individual, any small group can reach millions of others directly with a message, an ad, an image, a song or a video.

The emergence of the Internet and its rapid gain in popularity has facilitated a change in the medium used in learning foreign languages. As a result, it is common now for anyone to use the

Internet as a language learning platform. Websites are aplenty, many of them offering various forms of learning platforms, facilities and materials.

Some websites specializes on a specific language and caters only to a targeted audience while other language portals present a wide selection of language choices to students. There are many language learning packages that offer a common structured language learning program that is applied onto a range of different languages. For example, the Rosetta Stone website offers language learning packages for almost 30 languages, with each package complete with audio CDs, videos and instructional manuals, all of which can be purchased off the Internet.

Perhaps one of the greatest benefits the Internet has brought is the ability to practice conversing in a foreign language with a native speaker of that language. If you are interested in a particular field you can discuss it with native speakers at different chats, forums or guest books on special sites. You can also use some international-communication programs, such as ICQ, to be in touch with native speakers and to improve your language.

The large volume of material posted on websites over the Internet, which are found in many languages, are a great source of free reading material for language students. Just by surfing and reading website material, students have the opportunity to practice their reading skills. Apart from that, as e-books become more popular, it is relatively quick and easy to obtain books in another language, as they can be purchased and downloaded off the Internet free of charge or with just the use of a credit card.

The distance learning approach in obtaining an education has been enhanced with the power of the Internet. In fact, this channel of learning has been extended to include online language learning through the Internet. Online lectures equipped with lecture notes have already been made possible for distance learning in many other academic fields. Now language lessons are also conducted this way with some portals offering 24 hour discussions with a teacher.

One of the most important and difficult aspects in the foreign language acquisition is its understanding. It isn't enough to know

words to understand the speaker well; you should also practice your listening skills. To help the language students there are a lot of audio materials in the Internet with different speed of speech, different lexical set etc.

There are languages which have many dialects – regional types of a language - and sometimes these dialects differ a lot from the literary language. For people to cope with them is a big problem, and in this case the best helper is the Internet. For example, the Italian language is rich in dialects: southern informal speech dialects such as Neapolitan or Sicilian are different from official Italian, which is taught at schools and universities. They are difficult to understand. There are not many available printed textbooks of these dialects but in the Internet we can find some sources such as manuals, dictionaries which can help get some knowledge. Here are some links: <http://www.duesicilie.eu/index.html> - manual of the Neapolitan dialect, <http://xoomer.alice.it/golfo37/vocabolario.htm> - dictionary of Neapolitan, <http://www.linguasiciliana.org> - manual of Sicilian.

Educators and teachers consider some pros and cons, regarding the Internet use in language learning. No doubt the Internet is an excellent tool for distance courses and homework assignments. It provides easy access to current events, authentic teaching materials, reflects different aspects of the target culture. Nevertheless, the Internet community considers some technical cons as well as language ones. The most evident cons are: computer labs and technology are expensive, maintenance and training is time consuming, the Internet still lacks a speaking feature.

PROTECTION OF INFORMATION

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Rapid development of automation processes and the penetration of the computers in all fields of life have led to appearance of a range of peculiar problems. One of these problems is the necessity of providing effective protection to information and means of its