Call for Papers for CALL in the Digital Wilds Special Issue

Special Issue Editors: Shannon Sauro and Katerina Zourou

This special issue of Language Learning & Technology will explore CALL in the digital wilds, which encompasses informal language learning that takes places in digital spaces, communities, and networks that are independent of formal instructional contexts. Digital technologies, such as mobile devices, and fast connectivity coupled with social networking facilities offer possibilities for unprecedented user-driven, self- and group-initiated practices that redraw models of production, distribution, and reuse of knowledge. This can be seen, for instance, in crowdsourcing, digital activism, citizenship science, and the creative practices of online fan communities, all of which invite us to reimagine the nature of informal language learning that can occur in digital spaces. While digitally enhanced, instructed language learning and classroom language learning research are well established fields of study, there remain fewer empirical studies of informal or beyond-the-class digital language learning.

For this special issue, we seek proposals that explore and deepen our understanding of CALL practices in the digital wilds, including, but not limited to, their manifestations, processes, and outcomes (linguistic, sociocultural, cognitive, or didactic). Particularly welcome are studies which help explore the nature of self-directed learning, agency, and autonomy, as well as the tools and frameworks for understanding and analyzing the complexity of learning in the digital wilds. We especially encourage submissions about the learning of less commonly taught languages.

In order to be considered for this special issue, proposals must present in-depth empirical data and report on language learning outcomes and practices in informal digital contexts. Please note that proposals which conceptually explore digital spaces, tools, or communities without placing language learning practices as the main focus of the study fall outside the scope of this special issue.

In preparation, please consult the LLT website for general guidelines on submissions and research.

To be considered for this special issue, send a title and 300-word abstract in a Word document by June 1, 2017 to llt@hawaii.edu.

Publication Schedule:

June 1, 2017: Submission deadline for abstracts
June 15, 2017: Invitation for authors to submit a manuscript
November 1, 2017: Submission deadline for first draft of manuscripts
October 23, 2018: Submission deadline for final draft of manuscripts
February 1, 2019: Publication of special issue

For Further Information:

If you have any questions, please contact the Managing Editor of LLT at llt@hawaii.edu.