

## Where to Learn More about Bilingualism and Bilingual Education: A List of Electronic Resources

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This resource list describes websites that focus on issues of bilingualism and bilingual education. Special thanks to Colin Baker, as many of these websites are included in his book Foundations of Bilingual Education and Bilingualism (2001:426-427), and to Carol Lethaby (an author featured in this special edition) who included references to the school-specific sites. An attempt has been made to briefly describe the sites and their key points, as well as to classify them according to focus (linguistics, bilingual schools, organizations, etc). Enjoy!

### Websites oriented to families

**The Bilingual Families Web Page** <http://www.nethelp.no/cindy/biling-fam.html>  
This web page provides visitors with a number of resources and some basic information on bilingualism as seen from the perspective of families. It provides definitions of common terms, talks about myths often associated with bilingualism, sets some general guidelines for language use at home, and offers opportunities for seeking out useful books, websites or even forums for interested parties. Very helpful, basic website that would be easy to understand for a "layperson" seeking information on bilingualism. As a member of a bilingual family, the issues brought up are ones that, in reality, do pop into one's mind, even when one has a background in bilingual education. Talking about bilingualism and living bilingualism feel very different and this page offers a space to share those common concerns or practices.

### Websites focused on linguistics and languages in general, multilingualism

#### Center for Advanced Research on Language Acquisition

<http://carla.acad.umn.edu>

This page is sponsored by the University of Minnesota and its Center for Advanced Research, which focuses on "interrelated programs of research, training, development, and dissemination of information related to second language teaching, learning, and assessment." The site describes the many projects and resources involved in the Center's work. There are descriptions of programs including: professional development, testing, content based language, studying abroad, development of ELT materials, immersion, and less commonly taught languages. Through this page, the visitor is able to learn about the work of the center and to have access to material related to the specific programs. For example, there are links that lead to virtual photo albums, questionnaire results, grant information, results of investigations, and other resources such as web sites, publications and presentations. This is a great site to explore the exciting work of the Center as well as to benefit from their findings and perhaps, even, to take part in a project. Recommended for those interested in reasearch, professional development

program and materials development or in working directly with students in EFL or ESL.

**Multilingual Matters** <http://www.multilingual-matters.com/> is a website that offers a directory or catalogue of publications in a number of areas related to language such as child development, dyslexia, sociolinguistics, TESOL, deafness, and second language learning. Listings are by subject, series, journals, and new books. Good resource for seeking out materials on language related subjects. Materials can actually be purchased on line and delivery service to Mexico is generally excellent.

**Center for Applied Linguistics** <http://www.cal.org/> includes information on current CAL projects, book reviews, publications and products, latest news, job opportunities, information by topics, databases and directories (newcomer programs, immersion programs, testing), clearinghouses (ERIC, K-12 Foreign Language Center, CREDE), services (curriculum development, evaluation, dissemination, school services), and links to other pages. This is a great page for resources of various types related to language learning and teaching, research, development and evaluation.

**I Love Languages** (previously The Human Language Page) <http://www.ilovelanguages.com/> Wow! This page is wonderful. You'll find detailed information about a number of languages (not just the more common ones), links (including a list of top links), conferences, dictionaries, free translation, language lessons, linguistics sites and information, multilingual resources, organizations, and teaching resources. Within each language listing you find schools, literature, on-line courses, products, software, and translation. This page is an excellent and well-organized resource for people interested in the teaching of a foreign or second language whatever it may be!

**Ethnologue Database** <http://www.ethnologue.com/web.asp> This site is a good place to look if you are interested in descriptive linguistics and in the distribution of languages and their speakers around the world. In addition to information on a large number of languages and dialects, the site describes language families, pinpoints geographical locations with maps, and discusses extinct languages. There are also several on-line questionnaires, including a "second language proficiency estimate for vernacular speakers," that could serve as models for students and researchers interested in creating their own language use and language proficiency surveys. Excellent resource for linguists and those who want to explore language in general. The site is maintained by SIL International, affiliated with the Wycliffe Bible translators.

### **Websites on language policy and planning**

**Center for Research on Education, Diversity and Excellence (CREDE)** <http://www.crede.ucsc.edu/> CREDE is a "federally funded research and development program working to assist America's diverse student populations in achieving academic excellence. From 1996-2001, 31 research projects around the

country focused on improving the education of students whose ability to reach their potential is challenged by language or cultural barriers, race, geographic location, or poverty". The center conducts investigation, provides synthesis in key topics, produces products (print materials, online directories, multimedia, tools for assessment and implementation of programs and policies), and works with demonstration schools. There are 5 standards for promoting effective pedagogy which are based on the center's work each is fully described within a link. Interesting page for those interested in investigation and application in the schools.

**Center for Language Minority Research and Education** "promotes equity in schools and society and is dedicated to serving the needs of professionals and community members as communities of learners and social change agents". <http://www.clmer.csulb.edu/> The Center focuses its work on: community learning, critical pedagogy, language acquisition, anti-racist education, standards and technology. A number of projects are described on the page, focusing on professional development, evaluation, research, policy setting, and program development. Several presentations are included with a focus on topics of current interest to educators. The page also includes announcements and news related to minority education issues. An interesting page for those interested in program and policy development. There are also opportunities for on-line discussion.

**The Office of English Language Acquisition, Language Enhancement, and Academic Achievement for Limited English Proficient Students (OELA)** (previously OBEMLA) <http://www.ed.gov/offices/OBEMLA/> includes information on its page related to funding opportunities, federal documents, legislative fact sheets, a link to a professional development website, technical assistance information (agencies), links to government educational programs, statistical information, and a link to NCELA (Nat'l. Clearinghouse). Useful page for grant and agency information as well as statistics on bilingual and ESL instruction and policy in the U.S.

**Yahoo Bilingual Education** <http://dir.yahoo.com/Education/Bilingual/> provides links to other pages that relate to legislative information, government agencies, resources, grant information, professional development, views on policy, National Association of Bilingual Education (NABE), and research journals. This is a mixture of different things, mainly focused on U.S. bilingual education issues.

**Websites that provide resources (publications, links to other sites, etc)**

**ERIC Clearinghouse on Languages and Linguistics** <http://www.cal.org/ericell/> provides access to resources such as journals, brochures, book reviews, ERIC publications, on-line digests, websites, news bulletins, directories (including items such as assessment instruments, program descriptions), databases, and opportunities to ask questions of the language experts. A great resource for up to date language related materials of various types, mainly focusing on U.S. bilingual education.

**National Clearinghouse for English language acquisition and language instruction educational programs** (previously National Clearinghouse for Bilingual Education) <http://www.ncele.gwu.edu/> is funded by the U.S. Department of Education and provides technical assistance (agencies or offices that can assist in particular areas such as civil rights or parent education), access to an on-line library, language and education links, databases and success stories, and “in the classroom”. There is a section that gives news information on latest legislation, top stories, speeches related to language education. There is access to on-line newspapers and Education Week. The on-line library lists by subjects and publication types. It also includes on-line articles and resource pages. There are links leading to job opportunities, funding, technology projects and instructional materials. More than 20 databases are included as links. The “in the classroom” section offers lesson plans, websites of schools, and tips from teachers. This site is great!

### **Websites related to specific organizations**

**NABE** <http://www.nabe.org/> This site from the National Bilingual Education Association offers information on upcoming conferences, on frequently asked questions (with responses in detail), what's new (grants, programs, teacher training), legislation, state information on bilingual education (you select a state and it gives you specifics), products and publications, access to links of various types (National Library of Congress, PTA, Education Week, American Federation of Teachers, etc), and discussion forums. Very informative, well organized site for people interested in U.S. bilingual education.

### **NABE Annual Journal of Research and Practice**

<http://njrp.tamu.edu/manuscripts.htm>

This page offers a new electronic journal published by NABE's Research and Evaluation Special Interest group. The purpose of this free Journal is to promote and make accessible state-of-the-art research in bilingual education. Sections are devoted to research, applied/action research, and position papers/reflections. Full-text versions are available in PDF format. There are also links to SIG newsletters and to other leading journals dealing with the education of linguistic minorities, including the [Bilingual Research Journal](#).

### **Websites that link you to bilingual schools**

**Hispanolink** <http://www.hispanolink.com/Mexico/educacion/colegios.htm> This page lists links for nearly 100 bilingual schools in México. It would be useful for those interested in exploring what schools offer in terms of programs for themselves or their children, or in exploring possibilities for work in Mexico. Basic page of links.

**Instituto Minerva** <http://www.cananea.com/minerva/minerva.htm> This page gives us a brief overview of an institution that offers bilingual education in México. It explains how and why it was founded, describes the program in general terms,

and offers some observations. This page could serve as a springboard to contact school authorities in order to find out more information.

**Greengates School** [http://www.greengates.edu.mx/Gall\\_visual\\_arts.htm](http://www.greengates.edu.mx/Gall_visual_arts.htm) This page describes the Greengates School in Mexico City. There is information on history, programs offered, PTA information, an art gallery of students of different ages, and a chart that shows how the grade divisions compare with UK and US groupings. This page is quite detailed and would allow the user to contact the school for more information about how they operate and about the degree of success they experience.

**Colegio Inglés Hidalgo** <http://www.cih.edu.mx/> This is a very detailed and well-organized webpage that highlights this particular school in the state of Jalisco, Mexico. It includes history, successes, philosophy, objectives, information on special projects, details about middle and high school levels offered at the site, events, parent association news, calendar, and even forums. This would be an interesting site to wander around in to find out about what a bilingual school does and what it represents. It would also serve as a springboard to contact the school for more information.

As you can see there are a great number of electronic resources available in the area of bilingual education and bilingualism. The pages deal with various facets of bilingual products and processes ranging from tips for bilingual families to policy setting for governments. The majority of the pages deal more with bilingualism in the US, although many materials, project ideas, and lesson plans available on line could be adapted for use in Mexican bilingual schools. Hopefully these sites will be of interest and utility and will lead you to other useful sites.

We especially hope that a glance into these and similar electronic resources will inspire bilingual educators in Mexico to create their own sites. If you are aware of other interesting web sites focused on bilingual education and bilingualism in Mexico, please send them to the author ([ksingh@itesm.mx](mailto:ksingh@itesm.mx)) for compilation and publication in a future number of the Journal.