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RMIT links translating and interpreting students by video

Using video in the classroom is not a new concept, but Australia's leading educator for the interpreting and translating industry, RMIT University, is taking advantage of video conferencing's new affordability and portability to get their Translating and Interpreting students 'work-ready'.

The integration of video as a learning tool has been facilitated by language services company InterpreterLine and Meaningful Exchange. It was showcased by Ismail Akinci at the National Accreditation Authority for Translators and Interpreters' (NAATI) *Translator and Interpreter Awareness Day*, held in Melbourne on 21 May 2010.

Akinci, CEO of InterpreterLine and Meaningful Exchange Translation Services, explained to the NAATI conference that video conference units have been set up in RMIT's computer labs and lecture theatres for interpreter training and to give first-hand understanding of complex industry issues.

Ensuring students are 'work-ready' is of paramount importance to RMIT and video interpreting training, including industry sessions by video, enable RMIT students to be amongst the first in Australia to receive this specialised training.

Sedat Mulayim, Discipline Head, Translating and Interpreting Program, RMIT University, explains the importance in video as a tool for meeting students' and the industry's expectations of a vocational-based course.

"Video interpreting will be increasingly adopted by service providers. In the not-so-distant future, I believe that more than half of all interpreting assignments will be by video."

"As major training provider in this industry, RMIT needs to incorporate it in the curriculum to ensure our graduates are exposed to this tool and work ready."

Mulayim sites video's availability as one of the reasons for its utilization at classroom level. "The technology is so easy to access now. It's not so expensive and it's

portable, I can take it from room to room without a problem and bring the industry into the classroom.”

Classes focus on using video as an interpreting tool. Particular care has to be taken when teaching interpreting in Auslan (Australian Sign Language) where the need for high-definition visuals dictates that high quality video conferencing facilities must be used, and where web-based solutions are often inadequate.

An additional feature of video conferencing is the ability to get globally based industry professionals into the classroom by video to share their expertise with students. “This is a fantastic way to help educate students, and leads to students asking all sorts of questions.” Ismail commented.

Connecting to the Meaningful Exchange translation office during the presentation, Akinci elaborated on the practical applications for his language services business:

“Translators often work in isolation, rarely meeting their colleagues or clients. Video conferencing enables relationships between all parties, with translators describing it as a highly satisfying way to interact.”

Video conferencing encourages a stronger translator-agency relationship and the ability to intuitively connect the Meaningful Exchange translation department with interstate offices. InterpreterLine currently provides video interpreting as a service option for their clients.

With InterpreterLine and Meaningful Exchange offices located in Sydney and Melbourne, video conferencing is used weekly as a means of communication between staff, to conduct interviews and provide training for contractors and employees.

A suite of video conferencing possibilities is available, providing either hardware (installation of a video telephone at clients’ premises) or software solutions - the Tandberg Movi software that can be used with a PC and inbuilt camera.

Company profile

[InterpreterLine](#) – the Australian telephone and video interpreting specialists

Video and Telephone Interpreting is available in over 100 languages 24 hours, 7 days a week. Regardless of where you are - Sydney, Melbourne, Brisbane, Perth, and Adelaide - you can be put in contact with an interpreter.

[Meaningful Exchange](#) is a leading provider of translation and localisation services

Our Translation Project Managers are uniquely focused on your project to ensure speed, accuracy and confidentiality. Meaningful Exchange engages NAATI accredited translators in languages where accreditation is available.

Meaningful Exchange professional, qualified and accredited translators are based throughout Australia providing services some of the world's largest corporations, government departments and agencies.

InterpreterLine and Meaningful Exchange are divisions of All Graduates Interpreting and Translating Service.

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