

Annual Conferences South and North: Register Now!

Our fall conferences are scheduled for Friday, October 9, at Cypress College in Orange College, and City College of San Francisco on Friday, October 23.

We are still accepting proposals for presentations for the meetings. Please contact Olga Moran at Cypress or Tom Blair in San Francisco.

Topics to be discussed include: Student Learning Outcomes, where we stand now; Textbooks—for rent, for sale, for free? Global Competence, a priority or a buzzword?

Join colleagues from other colleges in languages at these very affordable meetings. With all the challenges facing us this and next year, find out what sister colleges are doing to face our problems.

Publishers Announce “RentaTextbook”

Cengage Publishing announced a new program to rent textbooks to students this week. McGraw-Hill is planning a similar program in conjunction with another company. What will this mean for language classes? We’ll have a discussion at our fall conferences.

In other book news, the New York Times reported last week that many k-12 schools are considering moving exclusively to online materials and abandoning textbooks. According to some, perhaps ignorant school administrators, “Kids are wired differently these days. They’re digitally nimble. They multitask, transpose and extrapolate... They don’t engage with textbooks that are finite, linear and rote.” This may provide an interesting point for discussion at our conference, too.

“Global Competence” a new goal?

A recent article brings up the notion of educating students to be “globally competent.” After computer literacy, critical thinking, and a few other recent requirements expected of a college education, perhaps we have hit upon one which can further foreign language study. First, we’ll need a comprehensible definition and then we need to see if our courses actually contribute to such competence. It should bring lots of opinions to our discussion.