

**LEARNING THROUGH SHARING :
OPEN RESOURCES, OPEN PRACTICES, OPEN COMMUNICATION**

**Learning Languages Out in the Open:
Creating a Worldwide Community of Learners with Wordpress...
and then giving it all away.**

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Abstract:

For the past 6 years, the Cooper International Learning Center at Oberlin College or CILC (Oberlin OH, USA) has worked with language faculty to examine ways in which social media tools can facilitate language learning. However, our experience has shown, in order for these tools to be useful and effective, they must integrate themselves closely both with the student learning outcomes as well as the teaching practices of the courses they serve. Concurrent with the exploration of tools, therefore, we have explored teaching methodologies that promote thoughtful, integrated, scaffolded learning and allow students the opportunity to weave together their knowledge along with their questions. In this way, social media extends the boundaries of learning, pushing it out beyond the walls of the classroom breaking down the discipline-specific silos of the college (university) curriculum, such that learning extends throughout the campus, even the world.

In this paper we will discuss the class blogging template combined and the integrated plugins that we developed, with feedback from faculty and students, to create a learning environment that transcends the individual classrooms and allows learning to happen across and beyond our campus. We will discuss both the features of the tools we have developed as well as the learning outcomes of the students, and how the two are mutually reinforced the other to provide a remarkable learning environment for teachers and students alike.