

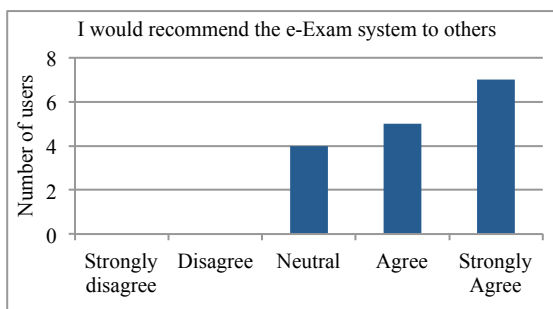
Case study: The University of Queensland - French Language (2017)

Summary

The e-Exam system was trialed in an on-campus French language class (semester 1, 2017) taught in a language computer laboratory. During the in-class revision and practice exams all students (n=19) were afforded an informed choice to either complete an e-exam or hand write. The majority of the students opted to use the e-Exams system for the translation exam task and noted that it was easier for them to make corrections and changes compared to when they handwrote. The exam used a word processor document formatted into two columns for language translation. Students selected 'French' language tools at system start up and had a choice of AZERTY keyboard or US International keyboard layouts. The exam took place in the same computer lab normally used for class using a mix of student's laptops and some lab computers. The majority of students preferred to use their own laptop due to their familiarity with their device.

Discipline	French Language
School	Languages and Cultures
Institution	The University of Queensland
Level	Undergraduate, Second year
Class size	19 students enrolled; 16 students typed, 2 students hand-wrote and 1 student did not take exam.
Mode	Twice a week, face-to-face at St Lucia campus
e-Exam	Typing was optional; administered by the School. Done in a language computer lab with BYO laptops.
Assessment	One hour, 50 minute mid-semester test worth 10% of the unit. Translation of a 200 word text from French to English.

During the practice session students were encouraged to find errors in the system. Following this process they were reassured that the system would be reliable. The majority of the students expressed support for the project because it would reduce the use of paper and enable authentic work practices using computers for assessment. Some students, however, were concerned about using new technology in summative assessment. The main concern for students was the risk of technical issues interrupting the exam. Following the exam most students reported that they would recommend the e-Exam system to others (see chart).



The main frustration for the academic staff was not technological but related to being unable to run the final exam as an e-exam due to percentage value limits placed on e-exams at the university. These limits were later removed. From a logistical point of view, the first time set-up of the administrative infrastructure was

time consuming but ongoing use was easily manageable once working. Further refinement of the technical administration process of setting up USB sticks will help those of varying technology skills to make use of the system in their classes.

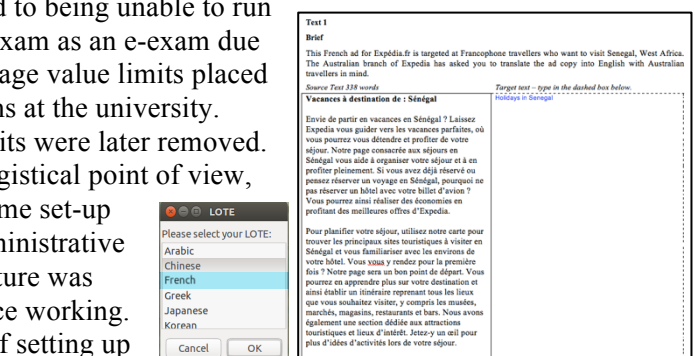
Key features of this case study include:

- French language using a choice of AZERTY keyboard or US International keyboard with shortcuts for accented characters.
- A mix of bring your own laptops and lab room computers were used by students.
- Collaboration between technical and academic staff.

Example:
Accent agiu é: type a 'single quote' then type the letter e.

Acknowledgements

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Language selector. Example translation exam layout.

