N THIS month’s Showcase Steve McCarty of Osaka Jogakuin College previews the future of Web 2.0 in 3D for language teaching.

SHOWCASE

Steve McCarty

On the heels of Web 2.0 for education, authentic activities characterized as free and easy to use and share, Web 3.0 is rapidly emerging in the form of 3D virtual worlds. Before long, Web browsers will give most users this experience. Currently, provided one’s computer has powerful enough graphics capacity, a free program such as Second Life <secondlife.com> can be downloaded, or in Japanese <jp.secondlife.com>, allowing people to interact in 3D by configuring their own character called an avatar.

At the Wireless Ready 2007 conference at Nagoya University of Commerce and Business <wirelessready.nucba.ac.jp>, the author’s opening keynote address pioneered 3D hybrid reality from Japan by being conducted simultaneously in Second Life. Communication with participants abroad included some sound, text chat, and gestures such as bowing to the other avatars. PowerPoint slides had been converted earlier to .jpg images and uploaded into a player with a screen and control stand visible in the first screen shot below. The first six illustrations show keynote address slides representative of Web 2.0 technologies from the author’s vantage point within Second Life.
Flying above a slide of an online presentation embedded in a blog <waoe.blogspot.com> with its podcast, which was recorded in Sydney, for listening while clicking through the slide show.

Representative Web 2.0 site <www.mypopstudio.com> where the author’s Computer Communication students drag-and-drop clips to mash up reality TV shows and make songs. In this slide the singer is actually the author’s other avatar.

Coursecasting, that is, podcasting the lectures of a whole course on Bilingual Education.

Homemade meishi including QR Code whereby camera-equipped mobile phones in Japan can access the author’s mobile phone site, a new interface between the material and digital worlds.
Steve McCarty is a longtime Professor in Japan, lecturer for the Japanese government international agency JICA, and World Association for Online Education (WAOE) President. See his highly cited works online starting from: https://japanned.hcommons.org