Contribution ID: **154**   Type: **Research-oriented Oral Face-to-face presentation**

The potential role of immersive technologies in enhancing the SALC experience

Saturday 17 May 2025 16:20 (25 minutes)

TITLE

The role of immersive technologies in enhancing the SALC experience

RELEVANT SIG

Learner Development

FORMAT

Research-oriented Oral Face-to-face presentation (25 minutes, including Q&A)

Short English description

KEYWORDS

virtual reality
self-access
intercultural communication
immersive technologies

First-time presenter?

ABSTRACT

Self-access learning centers (SALCs) in Japan tend to focus on three main aims: fostering learner autonomy, providing opportunities for communication in target languages, and enhancing international exchange (Thornton et al., 2021). Through offering opportunities to engage in immersive intercultural activities, virtual reality (VR) may have the potential to meet all three of these aims. Previous studies have shown how VR enhanced the implementation of self-directed learning strategies (Wu et al., 2021), and provided opportunities for language use and international exchange (Chateau et al., 2019). AUTHORS (2024) have also shown how VR activities enhanced learner motivation and engagement.

This study examined the impact of a VR workshop program at a SALC in Japan, where international students worked with SALC staff and faculty to prepare and deliver an immersive tour experience. Surveys and reflection data from faculty, workshop facilitators and participants were analyzed to reveal the viability of the SALC-based VR workshop program, and the affordances it may offer for enhancing intercultural communication skills, and providing motivation for language learning and SALC participation. The presenters will also share practical suggestions for the implementation of VR programs in similar contexts.

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