

Somkiat Rakmanee 2011: Development of the Knowledgebase on Thai as a Foreign Language.
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The objectives of the research were to: 1) develop a Knowledgebase on Thai as a Foreign Language (KTFL) and to 2) study the opinions on the expected usages of the Knowledgebase on Thai as a Foreign Language. The sample group in this research was comprised of Thai lecturers teaching Thai language and foreign lecturers teaching foreign language at the undergraduate level in Bangkok. They were purposively selected from three university categories: public or autonomous universities under the specific acts; public universities under the control act; and private universities. Six lecturers were selected from each category, with three Thais and three foreigners per category, totaling eighteen Thai and foreign lecturers. All had good competency in IT, were willing to participate in the study, and reflected on their use of the KTFL website via the questionnaires measuring their expected usage and their satisfaction of the KFTL

The research findings were as follows: 1) The Knowledgebase on Thai as a Foreign Language had 4 main menus: Learning Thai; Expert in Thai Language; Thai Ways of Life and Dictionary and another menu of five tools sub-menus which included Usage Instruction, Google Search, Advance Search, Contact Us, and Site Map. In addition, there were also six linked menus to other institutions: The Royal Thai Institute; the Institute of Thai Studies; the Tourism Authority of Thailand; the Ministry of Culture; the National Museum of Thailand; and the National Library of Thailand. 2) The study of the sample group's opinions on the expected usage of the KTFL indicted that the most frequently expected usages would be as a supplement for teaching in class, as a supplement for teaching out of class, and as instructors' complementary media. The most frequently expected ways to use the knowledgebase were: the distribution to students in class as supplementary materials and the use as tools for information searches. The menus most frequently selected were, respectively, Learning Thai (11), Thai Ways of Life (10), Site Map (9) and Links to other institutions (8)". 3) The study on the satisfaction with the KTFL showed that the content and the presentation were rated at a high level of 3.14 and 2.98, consecutively, and the use for teaching and learning was rated at the highest level of 3.37. 4) The improvement of the KTFL according to the suggestions of the sample group were as follows : include a new introduction on the homepage; improve the users manual; make corrections of fonts, colors, pictures, buttons, English menus, links, and the conversion of Site Map to the main menu.

Student's signature

Thesis Advisor's signature