



INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

Successful Experiences and Good Practices
in Chemistry Education

MAY 21, 2014

Polytechnic Institute of Bragança
BRAGANÇA • PORTUGAL

Conference Proceedings

Eds. - M. F. Barreiro, O. Ferreira, A. I. Pereira



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CASA DAS CIÊNCIAS A COLLABORATIVE WEBSITE FOR SCIENCE TEACHERS

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Abstract

This project (Casa das Ciências) is a website for teachers in Science and works like an integrator vehicle of current efforts for the use of information technologies in educational process. These efforts are made by a great range of people in many ways, in many locations and at all levels of teaching, whose results are scattered. Casa das Ciências provides visibility and usefulness to the efforts of many faculty members by recognizing their merit, and have, effectively, becoming a reference website for all teachers in Science in Portuguese language. The project addresses the need to equip science teachers with a set of digital support to enable them to improve the quality of their daily work.

The sponsor institution of the project, the Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation (Fundação Calouste Gulbenkian – FCG) has a strong tradition of supporting quality education in Portugal in matters like development issues of several scientific areas, and in supporting teachers training.



The responsibility of maintaining the site and the overall coordination of it, is committed to an "Office Coordinator" (Gabinete Coordenador) that consists of a small core that will also be responsible for coordinating all the activity that is generated around the different portal components.

As a tool to support teaching activities in different areas of science, it is expected from us to support not only teachers and institutions of primary and secondary education but also of the institutions of higher education.

Casa das Ciências is gradually becoming a portal from teachers to teachers and a space where they can find materials that teachers themselves feel useful and effective for their professional activity. It is also a place where they can exchange ideas about these materials and how to use them and it is also where teachers share their experiences.

All materials placed on the portal or recommended by it are firstly evaluated from a scientific and educational point of view, according to a peer review methodology. The acceptance by the Editorial

Board, and the publication of a particular piece on this portal, is been seen as prestigious to the authors, in analogy with the usual scientific publications.

The cumulative frequency of pair's evaluation, and the respective posted comments, gives us an impact measure for the materials relevance similar to scientific publishing.

The growth of the portal over the last few years led to the emergence of innovative and complementary solutions - always digital - beyond the resources for the classroom, initially our only purpose.

Today, in addition to Casa das Ciências' resources (2,157), we have a Creative Commons image database with over 1,500 photos and scientific illustrations, edited and commented (and a few hundred more in editing), a repository of scientific articles (786, with some more hundreds in preparation) published in a page with the name of WikiCiências, which serves as a reference for the study and clarification of concepts for teachers and students and, the last but not the least, serves also for a quarterly magazine production – Revista de Ciência Elementar - of Elementary Science, that goes beyond, developed and structured as an independent site.

This magazine has in each number some opinion pieces, science news as well as references to all portal components.

At this time, the portal has over 12,600 registered members with Portuguese science teacher's penetration rate that exceeds 30 %,

With over 4 million cumulative views in all of its components, we now have a global daily demand up to 3-4 thousand visitors, with a significant impact (some components above 40 %) for teacher of other countries using the Portuguese language.

Find us in the following locations:

www.casadasciencias.org
wikiciencias.casadasciencias.org
imagem.casadasciencias.org
rce.casadasciencias.org

and as supplementary information from all portal resources, the "Casa das Ciências" is also present in social networks and in other reference sites, such as:



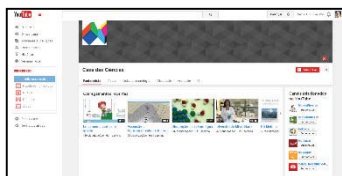
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