

News and Information from the Language Learning Center

POLYGLOT

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We at the LLC want to partner with you to develop effective multimedia language learning materials and to ensure the pedagogically sound integration of technology into the language classroom. We welcome your ideas, comments, and inquiries at any time. Contact the LLC or your department's SA.

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LLC receives STF grant for digital media labs

The Language Learning Center will soon be making the exciting transition into an all-digital facility.

We are excited to report that the Student Tech Fee (STF) Committee and the College of Arts and Sciences have funded a proposal to upgrade the audio listening lab and the video booths.

The facilities allow students to work at their own pace with language learning audio and video resources. The switch to an all-digital format will support not only digital audio and video, but also computer-aided language learning (CALL) and foreign language web browsing, email, and word processing.

This upgrade consists of replacing the analog audio listening lab in Denny 114 and the analog electronic classroom in Denny 122. The upgrade includes PCs equipped with software that not only allows students to listen to audio and watch video individually, but also allows a group of computers to function together as an electronic classroom.

Denny 114 will be exclusively dedicated to digital audio and video, while Denny 122 will operate in a similar fashion to the current CALL lab,

available for individual student use except when reserved by an instructor for use as an electronic classroom. Digital audio and video as well as CALL software and foreign language computing will be available in 122.

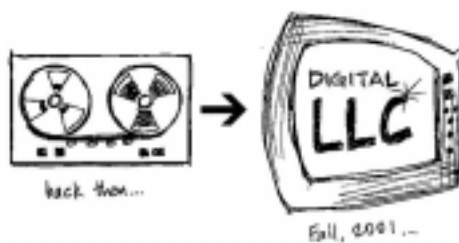
Why does the LLC want to upgrade the analog labs in 114 and 122?

Firstly, the world of audio and video is moving steadily towards an all-digital format. Already, the LLC receives many audio series from publishers in CD form, which must be converted to analog form for student listening. These new labs will place LLC in a position to welcome the digital transition.

Secondly, making all of our audio and video material available in digital form in 114 and 122 is a huge step towards making the same materials available via the Web, which will vastly improve student access to LLC resources.

Thirdly, the current labs in 114 and 122 are aging and in need of replacement.

The Digital Frontier



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Using the LLC resources:

E-classrooms offer a wide range of choices

With the new electronic classroom being added to room 122 (see article, page 1), the Language Learning Center will have three e-classrooms available for use by any language class beginning in Fall 2001.

E-classrooms allow students to work with language-related audio, video, courseware, and software, giving them “virtual” experience with different speakers and situations. The instructor is available to answer questions and direct the students’ activities.

Because each LLC e-classroom will have a different set of capabilities, when you bring your class to the LLC it is important to understand what each classroom is capable of.

Denny 109

Room 109 is a digital audio classroom with many functions. For example, in one class an instructor can first play an audio file to all students at once. Then, students can individually work with the audio file, answering questions by recording their own voices.

Students with questions can speak to the instructor by pressing a button on their consoles. The instructor can then pair students up to have a conversation about the audio file.

Finally, the instructor can transfer all of the student responses to an audio tape that can be taken away for grading.

Denny 112

The CALL lab, room 112, consists of 44 Macintosh G4 com-

puters with a teacher computer linked to a large presentation screen.

Using the CALL lab, instructors can demonstrate any of the LLC’s wide range of Macintosh-based Computer-Aided Language Learning (CALL) software, as well as show students how to use foreign language web browsing and computing software. Students can then work with these resources using their own computers.

All of the computers support a wide range of non-roman character sets, and LLC staff are always on hand to assist if necessary.

Denny 122

Room 122, which will be available for Fall 2001, will combine many of the features of room 109 and the CALL lab, as well as offer some of its own. Room 122 will consist of 30 Windows 2000 machines plus a teacher console.

The room may be used as an audio-video classroom, where an instructor has students listen to or watch language learning material and respond to it in ways similar to 109.

In addition, teachers will be able to use PC-based CALL, word processing, and web browsing software in a class-based setting, taking advantage of the full Unicode compatibility of Windows 2000 for non-roman character computing.

The LLC offers training for instructors interested in taking advantage of the wide range of re-

sources and activities offered by the LLC’s electronic classrooms.

To schedule a training session or to reserve an e-classroom for use by your language class, please contact your department’s staff associate or send email to llc@u.washington.edu.

Projecting presentations and demos in CALL lab

The Language Learning Center CALL lab can serve a wide variety of purposes for language instructors, including use of the overhead projector.

In addition to the computer lab facilities, the room also has the capabilities for computer presentations and demonstrations.

From the main console, the language instructor can use the overhead projector to demonstrate class assignments, new programs, show digital audio and video, or use PowerPoint presentations.

The projector allows the instructor to operate in a central location which can focus the students’ attention.

With the capabilities for demonstrating programs and the Internet, and with connections to a speaker system, the projector can be used for any number of purposes.

The CALL lab can be scheduled by contacting your department’s staff associate.

Demonstration Day a success

The LLC seeks to empower language instructors to maximize the potential of technology as a language teaching tool.

Last month, the LLC held a demonstration day to show instructors how they can use technology to help their students learn. The demonstration day included a sequence of three hands-on sessions, repeated in the morning and afternoon, and an all-day discussion room that was open for language instructors to discuss technological and pedagogical issues with LLC staff and the graduate student Staff Associates.

The hands-on sessions included Computer-Based Flashcards; Online Audio and Video; and Computer-Based Courseware. Materials developed by the LLC for several different language departments were demonstrated in our classroom-style computer lab

equipped with a presentation screen.

In the Computer-Based Flashcards session, participants saw flashcard-style tutors designed to help students with orthography, pronunciation, and vocabulary retention.

The Online Audio and Video session showcased streaming audio assignments that students can access from their home computers, plus interactive video exercises they can use in our lab.

The Computer-Based Courseware session presented various types of programs, including reading and listening comprehension exercises, games, and instructional tools.

The participants were given references to some tools for designing their own computer-based flashcards and courseware. The participants raised great questions about the technological aspects, as well as the pedagogical value, of

various technologies. The participants were also able to share their thoughts and ideas about language technology with one another.

For those of you who made it to the demonstration day, thanks for your participation! Please feel free to contact us with your feedback and suggestions for future events. We are excited about the ideas that you have already brought up during the sessions and in the discussion room. We would like to stay in contact with you and to develop materials to enhance your language curricula.

If you have any ideas for projects you would like to see for you language program, please contact your department Staff Associate. The SAs are happy to meet with you to develop your ideas and set up a project plan. Contact information is available on the first page of every issue of Polyglot.

LLC acquires new video digitizing system

The LLC has dramatically increased its rate of digitizing audio and video resources.

In order to meet the increased demand and keep up with technological advances, the LLC will be adding a new video digitizing and editing system, which will be more versatile, more compact than the system currently in place.

The Adobe Premiere system offers a wide array of features which will allow for increasingly professional results. It will allow LLC staff and language departments to work on smaller projects, utilizing many of the common tasks and procedures that exist in the current system.

The new system, which is PC based, provides cross-platform sup-

port for all of the leading Web video and conventional formats. The station will be able to work with digital and analog video formats.

The Premiere system is being offered through an agreement between Adobe and the College of Arts and Sciences, allowing for licensing at a fraction of the normal cost.

It is hoped that the LLC's use of the new digitizing facility will demonstrate to faculty and language departments the possibilities of digital video at small work stations.

The new video digitizing setup will also show faculty, language departments, and the rest of the campus that it is possible to create video-digitizing and editing stations within their own facilities on

a limited budget. The program is able to work on powerful, high-end computers, as well as on less-powerful machines.

The video digitizing equipment currently in use is overloaded, due to the high demand and the desired high quality of projects. Although it is a high-end system with the latest developments in technology, there is a need for a more versatile, more compact video system which will allow for working on smaller projects.

The new PC-based system is less costly, more versatile, and involves less hardware than the current setup. However, it is limited in the type and scope of projects.

If you have an idea for a small video project, please contact your staff associate.

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POLYGLOT

If you would prefer to be removed from our mailing list,
or would rather check the newsletter on-line, please contact the Language Learning Center.

Planning on using audio next year?

**Contact your Staff Associate
immediately with any audio needs**

**This is your last chance for
Audio Requests needed for
Fall Quarter 2001**

See the article on page 1 for complete details.

Digitizing needed for Fall 2001

Continued from front page...

Ultimately, the new labs will result in far greater availability of LLC resources. In the short term, the LLC staff must digitize all of the analog audio before the new labs are installed (the current video booths in room 112 will remain until all video has been digitized).

This is a huge task that will take close to a year to complete. Instructors absolutely must tell their Staff Associate which tape series they will be requiring students to use in the Fall of 2001, since these tape series will be digitized first.

If an instructor does not give us adequate advance warning about a tape series, it will not be available for student use.

Help us make our transition to an all-digital format as smooth as possible!