

News and Information from the Language Learning Center

POLYGLOT

Volume 2, Spring Issue

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We at the LLC want to partner with you to develop effective multi-media 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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Success! LLC's Student Tech Fee Proposals Funded in Full

The Language Learning Center just took three more steps into the future. The Student Technology Fee (STF) committee approved the LLC's three proposals for the 2001-2002 funding cycle:

1. Completing the digital transition: Digital media laboratory
2. Web-based digital streaming of language learning television
3. Language-specific keyboards

Together, these enhancements to the LLC mean a substantial influx of new technology—tools we are using to improve the way languages are studied and taught at the UW.

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Language Audio on CD

In response to requests from LLC users, all LLC audio materials will be produced and distributed on CDs instead of cassette tapes, beginning in Fall Quarter, 2002. This is another step in transforming the LLC into a completely digital facility. By converting to CD duplication, we are able to provide crisp, clear, high-quality audio for language learners.

Students will be able to order their CD audio materials through a convenient online order form on the LLC website. Then, they can come to the LLC to pick them up when they are ready. The turnaround time for single orders will still be only about one day, with a day or two more during peak times (e.g., first week of class) or if ordering full sets of audio ma-

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Il est très facile d'écrire
des caractères français.

寫漢字很容易。

Писать по-русски легко.

Es muy fácil escribir en español.

漢字で書きやすいです。

Success! LLC's Student Tech Fee proposals funded in full

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Proposal 1: Completing the digital transition: Digital media laboratory

Our one remaining audio classroom will be upgraded to match the capabilities of the all-digital labs we installed this year. This will complete the transition of LLC student language laboratories from analog systems to software-based digital systems. The new lab will leverage existing resources at the LLC by using the same server, client software, and digital media, and the LLC's gigabit Ethernet backbone. The lab will be open for drop-in use as well as classroom use.

Proposal 2: Web-based digital streaming of language learning television

The LLC currently makes several language learning television stations available to students via our video booths. This proposal dramatically increases the availability of language learning television by using real-time digitization and web streaming. Any UW student with a broadband internet connection can access the streaming video, inside or outside the LLC. We are pleased to

broaden student accessibility to our resources as we increase our web-based "virtual LLC."

Proposal 3: Language-specific keyboards

One basic need of language students in the area of foreign language computing is the need for the correct typeset for their respective languages. This proposal enhances students' ability to engage in foreign language computing by providing language-specific keyboards for use within the LLC.

We'll be implementing these changes during Summer, 2002. We anticipate successful installations and full functionality in time for Fall Quarter, 2002. We are grateful to the STF committee for funding our proposals. The LLC staff has been working hard over the last few years to transform our center into a state-of-the-art digital facility. We'd like to acknowledge, in particular, the work of Staff Associates Gabe Webster and Hande Solakoglu for their leading roles in our digital revolution!

Language audio on CD

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material. We will be able to duplicate approximately 50 CDs per hour with our new equipment.

We are currently in the process of contacting the publishers of the audio materials distributed through

the LLC to encourage them to create their original materials in a high-quality digital format. Materials which are shipped to us on audio cassette reproduce with sub-optimal audio quality when burned onto CDs (or prepared for web-based ac-

cess). We also encourage faculty and instructors to contact your publisher representatives to indicate your support of the creation of full-bandwidth digital original materials.

**Have you checked out the LLC's website?
<http://depts.washington.edu/llc>**

Teaming Up with the LLC: Teaching with Technology

Building a Website: Training Sessions at the LLC

In March and April, the LLC hosted four website-building sessions. A trainer from Catalyst led the attendees through the complete process of building and uploading a website using Catalyst's free tool, SimpleSite (<http://catalyst.washington.edu/tools/>).

The sessions were organized in response to the increasing need for website know-how indicated by the faculty and TAs in the departments served by the LLC. The initial interest was very high, and we received a large number of RSVPs for the sessions; however, actual attendance was quite low. Those who attended said they found the sessions very helpful, and they appreciated the trainer's patience and clarity. The LLC will offer more

sessions in the future, but first we need to figure out how to maximize actual attendance. (If you have suggestions, please contact us!)

The LLC is working with language coordinators and the Language Technology Steering Committee to integrate website building training into TA training in the future. A website can add tremendous organization to course sections. In addition to posting a syllabus, assignment schedule, and grading policy on the web, TAs can also host online discussions and post answers to individual student questions, benefiting the whole class.

LLC Computer Labs: Reservations Increasing

More and more teachers are bringing their classes down to the LLC to take advantage of our computing labs. Language classes work through web-based scavenger hunts to help them negotiate linguistic meaning and experience cultural realia in a well-defined task. Phonetics students use our labs to analyze linguistic data. Presentations and training sessions are held here, such as the website building sessions held in March and

April. This summer, several language instructors will be holding their classes in our labs a few days a week to take advantage of the interactive audio features of our newest lab, or to lead students through CD-based instructional materials.

If you are interested in using our labs for classes or presentations, contact your Staff Associate!

**Interested in teaming up with the LLC on a project?
Contact your Staff Associate!**

**Language Learning Center
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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.

Language Learning Center news:

STF proposals funded in full



New CD audio duplication



**Building a website:
Training sessions at the LLC**



Lab reservations increase

**read all about it inside this quarter's
edition of Polyglot**