

A Closer Look at the LLC: Autumn 2005

How the LLC Serves the Language Departments

The LLC offers a wide variety of technological resources, language tools, lab facilities, and development services. Every language department on campus has its own unique needs for LLC services and resources. Some departments rely on us for high-quality audio access to textbook support materials. Others enjoy exploring new technological possibilities for enhancing language learning and instruction. In this section, we share a sampling of how the Staff Associates supported the LLC and their language departments this Winter quarter.

ASIAN

SA: Geoffrey Cox
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Geoff has been involved in the great Moodle implementation of Fall 2005 with both the German and Japanese Moodle sites. One of the biggest hurdles this quarter was dealing with specific issues for non-Roman character sets. As the internet infrastructure at the UW and off campus improves, streaming video will soon become commonplace. With this in mind, he is also working on various production methods for delivering audio and video via the LLC streaming servers. He has also done extensive recording for original audio material for various language courses. Additionally, Geoff continues to develop Jay Munson's Vocabulator program for vocabulary acquisition and reinforcement for various languages (see pg. 5, bottom).

Delta's Key to the TOEFL Test, Targeting pronunciation, and ETS TOEFL to the LLC's in-house offering so students can listen to them in the self-study labs. Twice a week Yu-jung captured and converted video clips of lectures entitled "International Studies: Theories and Practices" for a special group of IEP students enrolled in Applied Academic Studies. In October, she participated in one of the ELP's in-service sessions by training instructors on using Audacity to make their listening-speaking classes more effective. Towards the end of the quarter, she was also involved in a project to improve the listening parts of the IEP placement test by helping with the digital recording and editing processes.

GERMANICS / NELC

SA: Gary Martin
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Gary began his Staff Associate position with the LLC this Autumn. He supports and troubleshoots the Germanics department's now numerous Moodle courses, converts video and audio for web-based streaming and embedding within Moodle, and assists in the recording studio for creating audio testing materials.

For the NELC department, Gary digitized a Turkish class video and prepared digital audio material for Elementary Persian.

Gary also prepares the publication of the Polyglot and provides assistance for updating the LLC website.

ENGLISH LANGUAGE PROGRAMS

SA: Yu-jung Chang
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At the beginning of the quarter, Yu-jung finalized the annual copyright permission renewal requests from publishers for all the ELP materials used at the LLC. She also added three new materials:

LINGUISTICS

SA: Steve Moran
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This is Steven's first year as Staff Associate for the Linguistics Dept. He has worked closely with the faculty of the new Computational Linguistics Professional Master's Program, broadcasting live informational webcasts, and coordinating the laboratory facilities. Steven is also creating an online version for the legacy software "Sounds of the World's Languages," and is developing a database of pedagogical digital materials for the Linguistics faculty.



SCANDINAVIAN

SA: Steve Moran
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Steven has obtained copyright permissions from publishers to digitize audio materials for the Scandinavian department. These materials have been added to the lab computer classroom use. He has also taken on strategic planning projects for the LLC, one of which includes the creation of a database of all audio/video materials in the LLC archives.

SLAVIC / AMERICAN ETHNIC STUDIES

SA: Laura Friend
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Laura created new Moodle courses for Russ 101 and 201. They are being used to deliver course materials, such as syllabi, handouts, and links to online movie clips. She digitized selected Russian film clips which students can view on the LLC's Online Resource page (Russian).

Laura expanded the Slavic Vocabulary Tutor by adding new lessons for Czech 401 and Russian 201. Together with other SAs and Paul Aoki, she began planning a study of the most effective vocabulary tutors for language students, and began to create a generic vocabulary tutor template.

The new Bosnian-Croatian-Serbian (BCS) instructor demonstrated an interactive handwriting tutorial in Room 109. Students can access the tutorial with Soloist in Room 114. The LLC also published a new web page with links to resources for students of BCS.

Laura is providing consultation and assistance for a planned multimedia project with a visiting scholar from Romania.

For American Ethnic Studies (AES), Laura assisted three Tagalog courses using the LLC's networked classrooms. The functions used included listening, speaking, self-recording, and recording for instructor evaluation.

For a second year, she facilitated the use of a comprehensive, online, video-based Swahili conversation course being developed at Brigham Young University.



NEAR EAST

SA: David Porcaro
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David Porcaro, a mid-term addition to the LLC, has been supporting various departments with overflow work, including Germanics and NELC. He is currently undertaking a project to capture media from the Alif Baa/Al-Kitab Arabic textbook series and publishing them to the web.



ROMANCE

SA: Patrick Blaine
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Patrick has been working throughout the quarter on a range of projects, from the implementation of the new Moodle server, to Spanish language radio broadcasts, to grant writing for the new STF grant. He has also been working on some video projects for Italian and Cinema Studies, and continues to be active in the LLC's web and print publications. Besides these activities, he has helped coordinate videoconferencing and webcasts for various departments and individuals. Patrick was proud to participate in the Early Language Learning symposium as well.

