

Obstacles, Solutions, and Unresolved Issues in the Absence of a Language Lab

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Roadmap

1. Institutional/program background
2. Ways students could use the lab to enhance their learning experience
3. Ways teachers could benefit from the lab
4. Ways we have worked around the absence of a language lab
5. Obstacles we have yet to overcome



University of California, Santa Barbara (UCSB)

- UCSB is a comprehensive doctoral university.
- One of the 10 campuses in the UC system.
- 87 undergraduate degrees/ 21,600 students, 55 graduate degrees/ 2,800 students.



Ways students could use the lab

- Pronunciation practice
 - Pratt (checking pitch/tone); Audacity
- Online activities in lieu of textbook
 - Guided practice, drilling
- Institutionally licensed software
 - Captioning programs, video editing, games
- Synchronous/tandem sessions
- Centralized place to send students
 - Additional resources, extra credit opportunities, club meetings
- Computer access
- Video rentals / uploads to LMS
- Equipment checkout

Ways teachers could benefit from the lab

- More equipment available
 - High quality, state-of-the-art
- Demos/workshops
 - Training, professional development
- Help in transitioning from F2F to online formats
- Studios for creation of audio/visual materials
- In-class research / projects / writing assignments
 - More time-on-task; less cheating
- Connections with other campuses / LCTLs
- Community-building



Alternatives to a Language Lab

- Online resources: YouTube videos – Easy German/ LEO-pronunciation
- CLAS- tutoring services
- German Club
- Asynchronous/synchronous tandem exchanges
 - [Facebook Tandem Project](#)



Obstacles

- Video access— Skype, Face time, FB video call
- Lack of community feeling
 - Graduate student community vs. Faculty
- Centralized location to direct students to
- Affording newer technology, licenses, games and software

Conclusion

- We don't really NEED a lab...
- ...but sometimes we wish we had one!



Discussion / Questions?



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