

CeLTIE Polycom Unit:

CeLTIE recently purchased a Polycom unit to help with distance learning and conferences. Roger found that those who were trying to teach less commonly taught languages were not getting the support and technology that they needed. After much discussion and research, Roger decided that the best way to support it would be to purchase this Polycom unit and install it in BH 106. The language table room was ideal for this because we needed a large, good quality monitor for the unit. Once we get this started, we believe many other departments will find this useful for distance learning classes, conferences or special projects. Roger then conducts a demonstration of the Polycom unit. Roger explains that in the spring, this unit will be used for a medical Russian class. He explains that this can be used anywhere in the world because it uses the internet. The class will link IU Bloomington, IUPUI and a University in Russia. UITS will be able to record and save the classes for future viewing. The monitor will show all the classes connected on the screen, so the instructor will be able to see everyone in each class. In the original demo, the monitor showed 4 classes at once, our own classroom and 3 remote classes. Roger believes that we can connect up to around 12 classes. UITS is loaning CeLTIE the computer interface device interface and a ceiling mic. An instructor will be able to hook a laptop to the Polycom unit and show a PowerPoint presentation or video clip to all the classes at once while he is teaching. UITS will also be providing our security for the system. If anyone has questions on the Polycom unit or would like to schedule a class, conference or special project, they can talk to Roger.

ACTFL:

Kelly Sax asks if anyone went to ACTFL. Some of the coordinators had been to ACTFL, but they were unable to attend today. Jeff Holdeman had the idea to look through the catalogue and see what the trends were and how we measure up. The main things that jumped out at her were the number of Chinese sessions and to a lesser extent, Arabic. Kelly was particularly interested in technology. She has the catalogue from ACTFL. Anyone is welcome to look at it. If you see something that interests you, you could contact the presenters. There were presentations on: podcasts, using cell phones in the class room, You Tube, smart classrooms, podcasts in the syllabus, blogging in 3rd year, live interaction projects that communicate through video, desktop conferencing, design process and evaluation, etc. These are the kinds of things that Kelly is interested in and she is wondering what all of the coordinators here are doing with technology.

Sungok Hong asks Kelly to tell us about her presentation. Kelly's talk was on a critical look at the language they teach in the French text books. If you look at common practice language that they use for students in textbooks, it doesn't match what native speakers really say. The coordinators discussed the differences between written language and informal spoken language and how the language should be taught. It was agreed that language teaching should use the language appropriate to the context. It was suggested that this topic might be a good one for an entire meeting.

Using Technology in the Classroom:

Yackpack:

Linda Abe explains what she is doing with Sanako in her ESL classes. She conducts class using sound files that the students have recorded. She says that you can spend class time on the sound files as a whole and then you can work with the individual using the student's own sound files. She schedules lab times, has the students record their assignments and then the instructor can listen to them whenever and wherever they want. Students record assignments twice a week. The instructor listens and gives feedback. The students record again using what they have learned. Problems can be brought up and discussed in class. Linda also said she went to a TSOL presentation on double channel Audacity. The instructor's voice is recorded on one channel and the student uses the other. Julia thought it was difficult to use. Lucinda says Sanako will do the same thing.

Roger tells the coordinators that Sanako has been heavily used this semester and that there are over 6000 Sanako media files on the server.

Yackpack Voice Bulletin Board:

Julia Luo is using Yack Pack for her classes. Yack Pack is a voice bulletin board. The instructor can send out a recorded audio message to the students and they get an email telling them they have a Yack Pack message. The students can get the message and reply with an audio recording. There is also a walky-talky function.

Kelly says that they have a French 300 level conversation class where they will be keeping an audio journal. It will be graded on content only so they won't have to worry about correcting every grammar mistake.

Youtube:

Kelly wants to know if anyone is using You Tube. Some use it for listening exercises as well as culture. You Tube can offer entertainment value as well as cultural value. Kelly had students do a series of oral presentations, one of which was to write and perform your own commercial. One student asked if they could just film it. The commercial was filmed. It had different scenes, edits and credits. Then the students put it on You Tube. It turned out great. Kelly thinks there is a lot of potential for student learning in this. Julia told about the Chinese film projects that her students did. Celtie purchased 10 Pinnacle units and gave workshops on how to use the Pinnacle software. Julia said that it was a lot of work for the students, but that the results were great. Roger showed the students how to use the program, edit and put subtitles on their work. Someone said that Spanish students had done a similar project at Notre Dame. Roger will show the Chinese students film projects at the next meeting.

Useful Mac Technologies:

Jeff says that as a Mac user, it is sometimes difficult for people to find the right software. He has several suggestions that he has tried and proven to be useful:

Keepvid (free website)

<http://keepvid.com>

Enter the URL, click the button, then link to download a .flv of the video. Then use a converter program like Visual Hub (see below) to convert it to whatever format you need.

Visual Hub 1.23 (\$24 download)

<http://visualhub.net>

Convert video files to and from: iPod, PSP, DV, DVD, AVI, MP4, WMV, MPEG, Flash

Audio Hijack Pro 2.8 (\$32 download)

<http://www.rogueamoeba.com/audiohijackpro/>

With Audio Hijack Pro, you can...

- * ...create enhanced podcasts, with audio from many sources including multiple microphones, sound effects from QuickTime Player, and even interviews conducted via Skype.
- * ...record any application's audio, from sound bites out of DVD Player to web-based audio streams and everything in between.
- * ...record Skype, iChat, and Gizmo with a single click - the perfect way to save your audio chats.
- * ...save audio from records (LPs), cassette tapes, and other analog sources into your computer.
- * Put simply, if your machine can play it, Audio Hijack Pro can record it.
- * And that's not all - Audio Hijack Pro will also enhance any audio, using industry-standard VST and AudioUnit audio effects to make your music sound incredible. Record. Enhance. Enjoy

Roger mentions that Moyea will also strip audio from a video file.

Conference on Less Commonly Taught Languages and Globalization:

Alwiya Omar wanted Kelly to tell everyone about the less commonly taught languages and globalization conference coming up in April. If you are interested, contact Alwiya Omar in African Languages.

World Language Day:

Kelly attended a talk at ACTFL on World Language Day. The people at Wisconsin and Michigan have created a book about putting on a world languages day. It has everything from budgets to advertising to scheduling to how to get volunteers. It can be downloaded online. Roger will put a link on the coordinator page. Kelly believes this will be a great asset when we begin to plan the World Language Fest at IU. Kelly wants to talk more about this during the next meeting.

[A Guide To Creating A World Languages Day Event: http://clear.msu.edu/clear/store/](http://clear.msu.edu/clear/store/)