On Friday, January 31, 2015, the Center for Language Excellence (CLE) presented the workshop entitled: “Keep It Simple and BYO (Bring Your Own)”. The workshop had 21 attendees in total including three CLE/CeLT staff and language instructors from ten different departments, servicing twelve different languages (Hausa, Yoruba, Czech, Russian, Hindi, Mongolian, Swahili, Italian, French, Estonian, Kurdish and Spanish). The presentation was led by Esther Ham, Director of Online Language Education for the Center for Language Excellence.

This workshop was the sixth of a series of workshops offered by CLE.

The presenter began the workshop with a brief review of the features and functions of the new learning software system, Canvas, including the browser that the system supports. The participants were introduced to different sections of Canvas which includes – “pages” where instructors can post any content material, “assignments” where students can find the exercises assigned to them, “quizzes” where assessments are uploaded and “modules” which instructors can use to structure the online course by uploading the desired alemets of Canvas per week or by chapter. Then, participants were presented with the rubrics tool connected to assignments and a function known as the “SpeedGrader” that enables instructors to correct the uploaded assignments and automatically transfer grades to the student’s gradebook. Finally, participants were given the chance to explore Canvas with Esther’s guidance and ask related questions. A number of participants suggested that a workshop on how to move content from OnCourse to Canvas will help them transition from the old to the new system better. There will be a workshop offered by CITL to help with this process.

The post-workshop survey evaluation showed that overall the participants find the workshop to be very helpful.

Below are what some of the participants had to say about the workshop:

“You are doing a very good job.”

“It was very helpful for me - who is still learning Canvas.”