

Interactive Language Resource Center (ILRC) Annual Report 1997-98

Special Projects and Events

The New Computer Teaching Laboratory:

The past year has been a productive and exciting one. With the generous contributions from Miami alumni and Miami's renovation of our computer area coupled with ongoing support from the Phelps and Beverly Wood Endowment to the IRLC, we have installed a new computer teaching laboratory in 50 Irvin Hall. Room renovation began in July 1997 and was completed in early October. Our computers arrived in September and we began using the lab for a few classes in October. We ordered and installed *Microsoft Office*, *WordPerfect*, the *Japanese Language Kit*, *Chinese Language Kit*, and the *Cyrillic Language Kit* for each new computer. We ordered and installed *MacAdministrator*, software to maintain the integrity of each hard drive. Over Christmas break we secured cables to the tables, installed new power strips, and by spring term, the lab was ready for classes as well as open lab use.

New Electronic Attendance Tracking System:

During the holiday break the ILRC director wrote a computer tracking system using *File Maker Pro* for *Windows*. This software automates the attendance recording historically done with paper and pencil. At the end of spring term she added reporting and querying capability to the system. Below is the main tracking screen and one of the report screens. All recording is done with a mouse click. The tracking system contains a reserve list database to help track media stored in the ILRC. The ILRC staff has found the tracking system to be much easier to use than the paper system.

Technology Internship:

During spring term at the ILRC, Carl Moyler, a Ph.D. graduate student from the Union Graduate School and a professor from Wilberforce University, came to Miami to accomplish one third of an internship on integrating technology into foreign language teaching. Carl had observed our lab first hand at the Midwest Association of Learning Laboratories (MWALL) Conference we co-sponsored with the University of Dayton in fall 1996 and approached us in January with a request to learn from us. We hope that this will open the door for further collaboration with Wilberforce University as well as the possibility of formalizing an internship for area graduate students who desire to learn about integrating technology into the foreign language curriculum.

German Computer Project:

The German Computerlabor Team met weekly all year in the ILRC director's office to plan for the beginning German classes taught once each week in the ILRC. This has been an exciting project. Our team included two instructors from the German Department, three undergraduate student associates, one Systems Analysis graduate student, the ILRC director, and a visiting instructor from Munich. The team focused on writing and refining computer learning activities and on improving teaching methods as they relate to technology. The ILRC director taught one of the undergraduate associates to digitize video. This student then created computer exercises using the video clips. Weekly, the president of Miami's chapter of Delta Phi Alpha, a German honor society, enlisted members of the group to make digital recordings of themselves speaking German vocabulary and sentences that were then added to computer exercises. The German project has become a model for a collaborative approach to technology integration. Carl Moyler, the visiting doctoral student intern, stated in his final report that the German Computerlabor

group, “represented visionary educators...working on the cutting edge of where modern language instruction/learning ought to be headed in the tewenty first century.”

Plans for Hosting a Conference:

The ILRC director has been making preparations to host the Computer Assisted Language Instruction Consortium (CALICO) conference at Miami University in the summer of 1999. This conference will draw about 500 attendees from all over the world. She met with the CALICO conference planner who visited our campus in May, 1998, and she has been working with Pam Vanness, a Miami University conference planner. Thus far rooms have been reserved in Shriver Center, computer labs have been reserved for workshops, dormitories have been reserved for housing, and a written plan has been prepared to present to the CALICO board at their conference in San Diego this summer.

Other outreach activities include presentations and workshops given by the ILRC director at the Central States Conference in Wisconsin, at the FLEAT III Conference (combined conference of the International Association of Learning Laboratories and the Japanese Language Laboratories Association) in Canada, and the Lilly Conference here at Miami.

Attendance

The Interactive Language Resource Center (ILRC) was open 56 hours per week during the fall and spring semesters, and 12 hours per week during summer terms I and III. The attendance figures for last and this academic year are shown in Table 1.

| Language | Fall 1996 | Spring 1997 | Fall 1997 | Spring 1998 |
|--------------------------------|--------------|-------------|--------------|--------------|
| French | 1194 | 666 | 1581 | 477 |
| German | 715 | 355 | 1162 | 381 |
| Spanish | 3465 | 1809 | 6058 | 2161 |
| Russian | 111 | 115 | 59 | 28 |
| Italian | 428 | 224 | 897 | 320 |
| Chinese | 162 | 15 | 210 | 52 |
| Japanese | 785 | 510 | 1094 | 701 |
| Total Audio & Video | 6860 | 3694 | 11061 | 4120 |
| Live SCOLA/Other | 159 | 141 | 76 | 84 |
| Computer Use in ILRC | 3735 | 3732 | 2693 | 5965 |
| Totals for All | 10754 | 7567 | 13830 | 10169 |

Table 1: Audio cassettes, video tapes, and computer usage

The numbers beside each language in Table 1 reflect visits to the ILRC to listen to audio tapes or to view video tapes. Visits range in time from 20 minutes to more than an hour. The figures for live SCOLA viewing are low, because most students viewed a recorded copy of the broadcast. The computer lab attendance is calculated by hour. Since an individual may use a computer for a two hour block, a single person may be counted as an attendance tally of two, one for the first hour and one for the second hour.

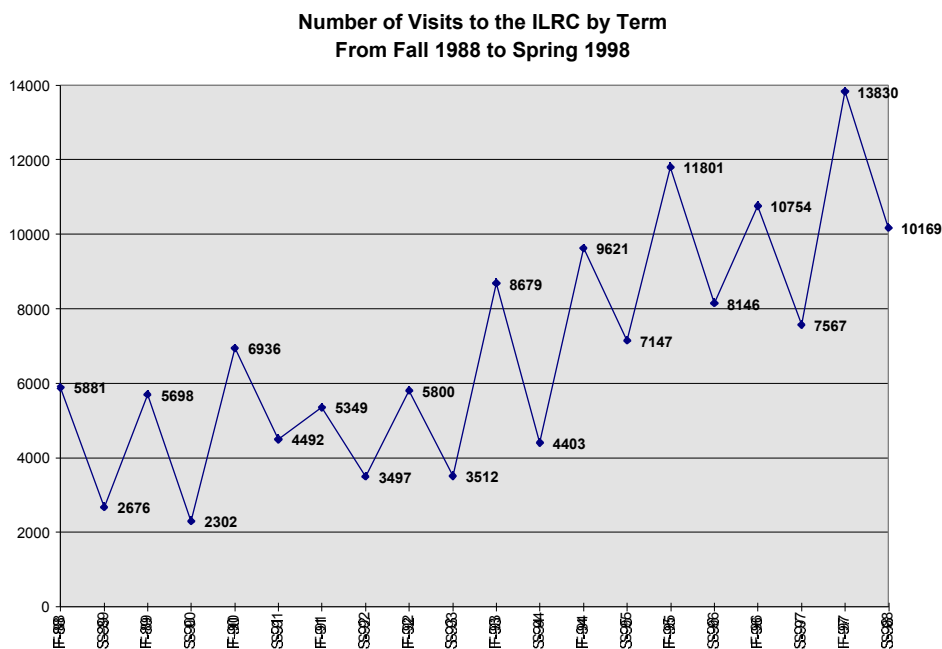
At the beginning of Fall term, we used 362 Gaskill, the Distance Education Computer Lab, and 213 Kreeger, the university training lab, each week to conduct language classes that required full computer integration. The numbers for "Computer Use in the ILRC" include use of these labs. We began using our new computer teaching lab for a few classes in middle October, 1997. However, the lab was not available for walk-in open lab until January, 1998.

During fall term three beginning German classes, one upper level Spanish class, and a Latin class met in the lab once each week. Seven French classes met in the lab every two weeks. The ILRC director attended most of these classes to set up the classroom and to assist during the class sessions. During spring term, five German classes and two Classics classes met weekly in our lab while eight French classes met biweekly. Since most classes were conducted in our conveniently located new lab, the director did not need to attend each session for the entire time, thus freeing time for other duties. In addition to the regular classes taught in the computer teaching lab, many other classes were conducted in the lab one or two sessions each term.

| Item | Fall 1996 | Spring 1997 | Fall 1997 | Spring 1998 |
|---------------------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| Audio tapes copied for students | 1040 | 427 | 1329 | 743 |
| Equipment & media loan | 46 | 63 | 28 | 31 |
| Faculty requests | 98 | 95 | 104 | 93 |
| Total Other Services | 1184 | 585 | 1461 | 867 |

Table 2: Other services

Table 2 lists other services provided by the ILRC such as equipment check out by faculty, audio and video cassette duplication, and requests by faculty for services such as video taping television broadcasts, translating tapes from PAL to NTSC format, and other miscellaneous activities. The ILRC recorded over 500 SCOLA and Deutsche Welle programs last year. This extensive activity is reflected in the data as only five or six faculty requests each term. The ILRC scheduled regular showings of movies placed on reserve by faculty. Most weeks there were at least two movies being shown multiple times. Attendances for these viewings are most often not recorded in our data and will show only as one faculty request per movie.



The audio cassette and video usage is up slightly from the previous year. Our attendance overall has continued to steadily increase over the past ten years as shown by the chart. Spring term attendance is always lower than fall term. However this past spring term's attendance is nearly as high as our highest fall attendance and our computer use has exceeded the audio and video use! "Other services" shown in Table 2 are not included in the graph above. Our grand totals including services are 15, 291 fall term and 11,045 spring term.

Services Provided:

The ILRC staff regularly checks the FAX machine housed in the lab and notifies faculty or department secretaries when FAXES arrive. The ILRC Director manages the budget and functioning of the FAX and a Risograph duplicating machine housed in Room 38 Irvin.

Normally the ILRC offers a workshop series for faculty and produces multiple newsletters. However, no newsletters were prepared nor group workshops offered this year since the ILRC was occupied with setting up the new lab and handling record attendance. The ILRC director did many one-on-one sessions with faculty on topics ranging from using *Eudora* e-mail, to how to develop a Web page. She helped a number of faculty with the transition from *MS-Mail* to *Eudora* and with the integration of technology into foreign language classes.

Workshops for Foreign Language Classes:

The following one-hour hands-on technical workshops were offered for students in many classes during 1997-98 academic year:

Introduction to Netscape and the World Wide Web

Creating Web Pages Using Page Spinner

Creating Web Pages Using Netscape Gold or Communicator

Creating Simple Classroom Presentations with PowerPoint (MAC or Windows)

Advanced Web Searching: Finding Web Sites in a Specific Language (MAC or Windows)

Working with Documents across Multiple Computer Platforms and Software

Advisory Committee:

The Advisory Committee members, Reed Anderson (Arts and Science), David Siebenhar (GREAL), Stephen Nimis (Classics), Robert Scott (Spanish and Portuguese), Michel Pactat (French and Italian), and Charlotte Wharton (ILRC), met two times each term to discuss and plan the ILRC goals. The committee's and the ILRC's emphases this past year have been technical support to faculty, development of the teaching lab, as well as ILRC visibility across campus and across the nation.

Charlotte J. Fordyce Wharton
Director