

**Annual Report of the
Interactive Language Resource Center
2001-2002**

Submitted by Daniel E. Meyers, Director

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The Interactive Language Resource Center (ILRC) at Miami University is a restricted reference laboratory open to students, faculty, and staff of the following departments: French and Italian; German, Russian, East Asian Languages, and Hebrew; Spanish and Portuguese; and Classics.

The ILRC's mission is to serve the four language departments in actively implementing computer assisted language learning technology into foreign language education, to act as a central repository of foreign language related materials and multimedia resources, and to promote technological advances related to foreign language education through workshops, individualized assistance, conferences, and regular announcements.

Total officially logged attendance figures for this year indicate that **14,835** students visited the ILRC facilities. This brings an estimated **821,655** students who have visited the ILRC and its predecessor, the Language Laboratory, since these facilities began operations in the late 1950s. Attendance figures for this academic year by language and activity are shown on the bottom of this page and on the next page.

Though physical lab attendance has been down this year, the vast majority of students are beginning to use the Virtual ILRC server to access their core language learning materials in places other than the ILRC. These places include King Library, various computer labs around campus, and their dormitory rooms.

Since the ILRC will be switching to a completely digital environment for this coming academic year, attendance-keeping procedures will rely more on server access visits than on actual physical visits, though statistics for physical visits will still be kept in the future.

Attendance Figures for 2001-2002 Academic Year

Language	Fall 2001	Spring 2002	Totals
Chinese	93	54	147
Classics	27	11	38
French	1486	801	2287
German	2450	1842	4292
Hebrew	74	48	122
Italian	421	275	696
Japanese	883	971	1854
Portuguese	15	45	60
Russian	76	45	121
Spanish	2591	2497	5088
Guest	28	102	130
Totals	8144	6691	14835

Attendance Figures by Day of Week and Time of Day

Day	Fall	Spring	Totals
Sunday	310	97	407
Monday	1894	1286	3180
Tuesday	1627	946	2573
Wednesday	1482	1180	2662
Thursday	1773	1360	3133
Friday	1058	1822	2880
Saturday	0	0	0
Totals	8144	6691	14835

Time	Fall	Spring	Totals
08-09 am	731	435	1166
09-10 am	1218	734	1952
10-11 am	1303	1377	2680
11-12 pm	1214	1083	2297
12-01 pm	432	802	1234
01-02 pm	923	680	1603
02-03 pm	818	377	1195
03-04 pm	574	314	888
04-05 pm	347	319	666
05-06 pm	249	194	443
06-07 pm	199	286	485
07-08 pm	136	90	226
Totals	8144	6691	14835

Attendance Figures by Activity

Activity	Fall	Spring	Total
Audio Listening	2868	1479	4347
Computer Usage	3918	4372	8290
General Homework	156	271	427
Satellite Viewing	34	32	66
Tape Duplication	678	188	866
Testing	5	9	14
Video Viewing	485	340	825
Totals	8144	6691	14835

Attendance figures are the results of raw numbers of students working in the ILRC. The time that students worked in the ILRC ranged widely, from an average of 20 minutes for students checking their E-mail to several hours for students working on term papers or students listening to the audio component of their assigned homework. No attempt was made to justify students on an hourly scale (for example, one student working in the lab for three hours would equal three visits).

During the course of the semesters, several classes had reserved the computer classroom. Attendance figures under "computer usage" incorporate students present for these classes. While the classes were in progress, a student assistant made a head count of participants in that particular class and logged them in under the appropriate language and activity. Likewise, several classes had reserved the audio laboratory. Attendance figures under "audio usage" incorporate these students in like manner.

Attendance figures for satellite conferences and for faculty and staff using the ILRC facilities were not incorporated into these figures. For reference purposes, however, these figures are given by the activity requested:

Activity	Fall	Spring	Totals
Video Duplication	69	71	140
Audio Cassette Duplication	46	36	82
SCOLA Taping Request	81	84	165
Miscellaneous Equipment Checkout	8	12	20
Materials on Reserve Request	20	18	38
Attendance at Satellite Teleconferences	0	0	0
Totals	224	221	445

Montgomery File Server Statistics

Listed below are statistics for the Montgomery File Server Project (<http://montgomery.cas.muohio.edu>). The Montgomery file server project houses several foreign language initiatives, the largest being the "Virtual ILRC." Every audio tape, most videos, and several multimedia projects which could be found in the ILRC this past academic year could also be found on the Virtual ILRC. This has led to all ILRC materials being available to students 24 hours a day, seven days a week so long as the server did not crash during the evening or late night hours. Along with the Virtual ILRC, the Montgomery File Server also housed several other projects and department web sites.

Of relevance to this report is that individual login data for each student viewing or listening to materials were not counted in the attendance figures above. Since the server does not yet have the capability to track individual usage, the following tables are listed to reference total usage of the Virtual ILRC as compared to other projects housed on this server.

For this academic year, the data obtained from the file server indicates that the 39% of total number of pages seen by users belonged to the Virtual ILRC. Of total file transfer requests by the server, 63% belonged to those using the Virtual ILRC. This is due to the increase of projects and department web sites that have migrated to the Montgomery File Server over the course of this academic year, due in part to the decommission of the MIAVX1 server in Computing and Information Services. The breakout of statistics for the Montgomery File Server is as follows:

Directory Report	#Pages	#Requests	GB Data
Virtual-ILRC	181516	442146	366.08
Root	15851	78488	0.45
Other	261634	456916	210.77
Totals	459001	977550	577.30

Daily Summary	#Pages	#Requests	GB Data
Sunday	42209	111070	90.56
Monday	50844	141721	125.76
Tuesday	56735	137084	102.78
Wednesday	64236	137705	95.02
Thursday	159917	296225	76.54
Friday	37291	78092	50.32
Saturday	47769	75653	36.32
Totals	459001	977550	577.30

Hourly Summary	#Pages	#Requests	GB Data
12:00 AM	12444	26127	21.97
1:00 AM	10685	18788	16.51
2:00 AM	9944	15569	10.27
3:00 AM	9242	13163	7.67
4:00 AM	9249	12763	5.47
5:00 AM	11295	14671	4.96
6:00 AM	11700	15793	5.09
7:00 AM	12394	17496	5.66
8:00 AM	14312	27190	11.38
9:00 AM	27195	54755	22.08
10:00 AM	37859	75658	26.90
11:00 AM	37921	77513	26.18
12:00 PM	23042	52909	33.56
1:00 PM	37036	80559	37.88
2:00 PM	41884	84657	38.20
3:00 PM	17490	48221	35.34
4:00 PM	20486	53290	43.19
5:00 PM	17788	43660	30.97
6:00 PM	16329	41445	28.93
7:00 PM	16673	44695	34.26
8:00 PM	16454	41696	33.31
9:00 PM	15433	40924	32.94
10:00 PM	15950	39756	33.19
11:00 PM	16196	36252	31.41
Totals	459001	977550	577.30

Monthly Report	#Pages	#Requests	GB Data
May 2001	4106	15321	4.92
June 2001	8076	23658	54.41
July 2001	25317	39480	28.09
August 2001	46224	87091	40.28
September 2001	49283	132108	110.07
October 2001	61083	128375	117.80
November 2001	31999	67654	52.14
December 2001	30742	55142	25.04
January 2002	37159	86047	33.69
February 2002	61316	107065	31.74
March 2002	39492	110545	42.98
April 2002	64204	125064	36.15
Totals	459001	977550	577.30

Services Provided by the ILRC

In addition to the topics already mentioned, the ILRC provides many different services to students, faculty, and staff throughout the academic year. The most common services performed are:

- Audiocassette and video tape duplication and distribution
- Video translation from PAL or SECAM into NTSC format
- Provision of foreign language materials, dictionaries and reference resources
- Archival of weekly SCOLA broadcasts in foreign languages
- Digital camera, camcorder, tripod, and video editing services
- Scanning, printing, digital video conversion, and server maintenance services
- Computer classroom upkeep and maintenance
- Various workshops on aspects of technology related to foreign language learning
- Technical support services to students in the ILRC
- Basic technical support services to faculty and staff in language departments
- Promotion of various satellite teleconferences and guest lectures
- Assistance to language classes utilizing ILRC resources
- Procurement of funding opportunities when available

Accomplishments Held This Academic Year

Committee Meetings and Commitments

The ILRC was involved in several Miami Computer and Information Systems committees this year. This year the director of the ILRC was selected to serve on Miami's Technical Support Representative steering committee. This committee directed the monthly activities of the TSR Program, which is a university-wide initiative run through Computing and Information Services. The director's expertise on Macintosh and PDA technologies helped to further technical research at the university level for new and coming initiatives.

The ILRC Director was also involved in regular weekly meetings with the College of Arts and Science's Information Technology group.

Conferences, Services, and Workshops

As usual, the Director of the ILRC was involved in many faculty initiatives and projects. Those projects which received increased assistance from the director included the development and guidance of material development for the Portuguese program, assistance and integration of technology in the Russian Program, as well as assistance in various Spanish departmental projects.

The Director was also tapped to be the lead equipment and technical coordinator for the yearly Computer Assisted Language Instruction Consortium (CALICO) conference. Miami University had hosted CALICO in 1999 and a professional relationship between the director and the executive directors of CALICO has led to this appointment. Duties of this position will be to coordinate all technical aspects of the week-long conference, assess the needs of workshop leaders and hourly presenters, and to closely work with the hosting institution to make sure that all technical needs of the conference have been appropriately met. The CALICO conference has been growing steadily in recent years. The last conference, held at the University of California – Davis, had over 500 participants from 22 different countries.

Equipment Upgrades and Maintenance

Throughout the academic year, the Director assisted several faculty in the migration of web pages for their sites. The departments of GREAL and Classics have opted to move their department web sites to the Montgomery File Server. The Classics department, in particular, has adapted their web site to make use of PHP and MySQL technologies, which are readily available through the Mac OS X server software that runs the Montgomery File Server.

The Director has also been quite busy with the ILRC advisory committee in planning the renovations to the ILRC facilities, which are scheduled to take place in May 2002. New computers have been purchased through the generosity of the College of Arts and Science via Dr. John Hughes and Dr. Reed Anderson. Network improvements, electrical additions, and physical infrastructure items have been made possible through the Provost's Office via Dr. Joseph Cox. The Director wishes to thank and acknowledge these persons for their support and commitment to the ILRC.

Once this project is completed, the ILRC will be a completely digital Language Resource Center. Materials will be served through Miami's network and through the Internet. Traditional technologies and legacy technologies will still be maintained to a lesser extent, however, audio tape listening from audio cassettes has been now deemed extinct and only recording capabilities will be supported by the ILRC.

Issues pertaining to the ILRC

The ILRC has had no major issues for intensive discussion this past year. The main problem that was encountered was that of reliable student assistants and graduate assistants. Our major concern this year was the withdrawal of one of our graduate assistants due to medical problems. Because of her condition and many absences from work, the ILRC has had to expend much more in undergraduate student wages than what was expected. As a result, the ILRC will be facing a deficit in student wages and will try to compensate for this by withholding undergraduate employment for the summer sessions. Normal undergraduate employment will resume in the fall.

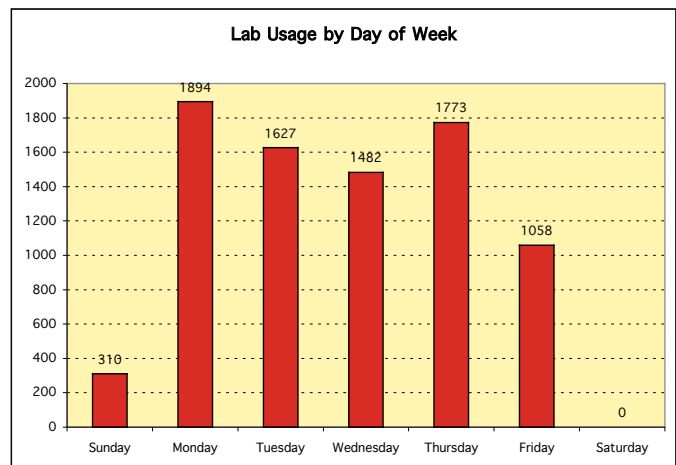
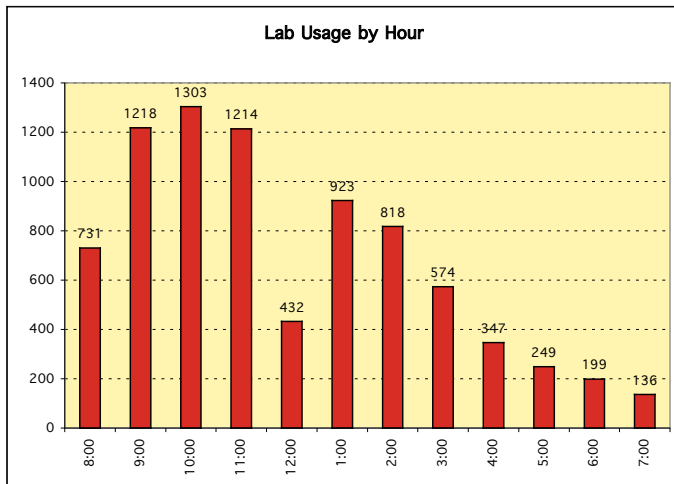
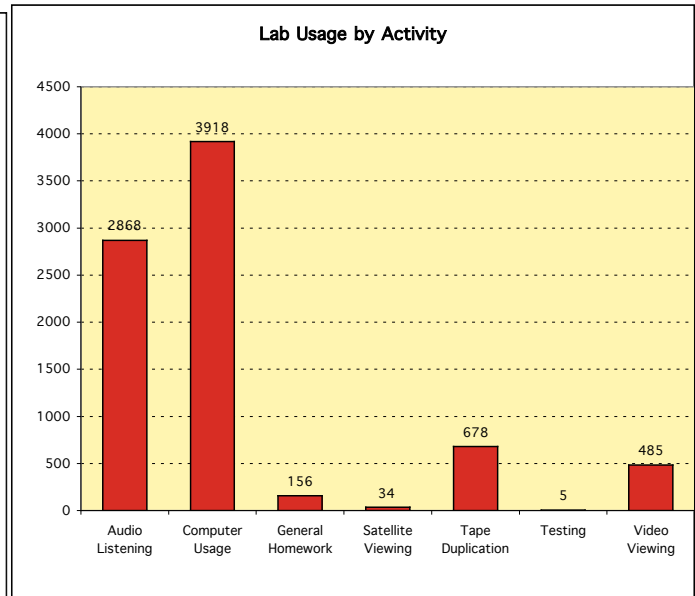
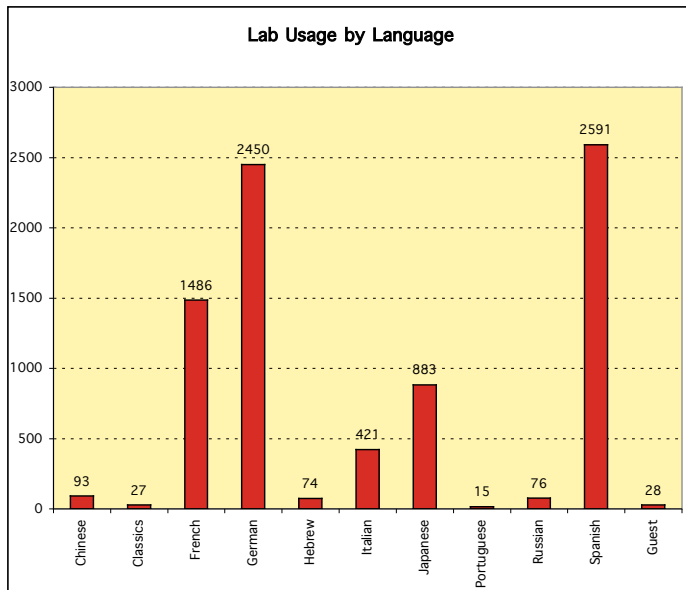
Acknowledgements

The smooth operation of the ILRC would not be possible were it not for several people who have helped and assisted at various times. The director wishes to acknowledge Paula Fogt from Arts and Sciences for her insight and generous help with complicated technical support issues and for serving as the Technical Support Representative to the four language departments, Stephen R. Sauer II from the Environmental Health and Safety Department for his assistance with guidance and planning for the ILRC renovations and upgrades, John Hughes for his guidance with space, budget, and funding issues, Reed Anderson for his guidance in matters of protocol and administrative issues, and to Guy Moore for giving his ever-helpful insight to potential solutions on various technical matters. The director also acknowledges the work performed by the various student assistants and graduate assistants in the ILRC. Were it not for their assistance, the director would not be able to work on a personal and serviceable basis.

Contact Information

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Lab Attendance for Fall Semester 2001-2002



Lab Attendance for Spring Semester 2001-2002

