From MMLL to Global Studio: Everything Is Changing
Thanks to the evolution of technology, students of language, literature, and culture learn not only from resources confined to a dedicated technology space (often in the basement) but from people and media around the world. During the 2008-2009 academic year, the Multimedia Language Laboratory is becoming the Global Studio, where members of the University of Richmond community encounter and interact with these global resources. The inhabitants of Puryear are looking forward to August 2010, when we will move into the new Carole Weinstein International Center, and the Global Studio will physically emerge from the basement, making concrete the changes brought about by the new technologies. This newsletter is only one of several ways to learn about this evolution.

New Ways to Communicate
An essential part of the transition from MMLL to Global Studio is the use of social networking or Web 2.0 tools for learning. If you use Facebook, Richmond's own Groups tool, or podcasts, you are already acquainted with some of these. More are arriving every day. To help you explore these tools for teaching, the MMLL will offer a series of Tech Bytes throughout the year. To help you learn the basics, the MMLL / Global Studio will use a few of them to communicate with you in new ways. Although the MMLL's official University website continues to offer links to services, up-to-date information about hours, workshops, new resources, and interesting activities will be posted on the Out of the Basement blog at http://globalstudio.wordpress.com. There is also a Global Studio Twitter feed that provides the same information in capsule form. Later this semester we'll begin occasional webcasts of the Tech Bytes sessions.

The New Virtual Lab
Did you know that the MMLL distributes SCOLA's Insta-Class lessons? This resource is the first to be released as part of the new 'virtual lab' under construction in the the MMLL / Global Studio webspace. The goal is to provide links to entertaining and useful cultural content that is accessible any time. Watch for more news, and please send suggestions and links to Sharon Scinicariello.
Where's the Audio?

The MMLL continues to deliver text-related audio--and sometimes video--via the University's computer network. For some texts, this is the only way to deliver these materials to students. In other cases, publishers deliver materials via free "companion web sites" or within online workbooks, but it can be convenient for these materials to be available on the UR network as well. The MMLL is now delivering audio and video materials via Blackboard. A list of materials in Blackboard and links to companion sites is available at http://langtech.richmond.edu/resources/audio.html. If you have materials to distribute and have not been contacted about this, please contact sscinica@richmond.edu immediately.

Do you want to deliver music to your students? The Music Library has a system for delivering commercial music legally through Blackboard. Contact sscinica@richmond.edu for assistance.

Think Video!

The MMLL now has 3 small Flip Ultras. Flip cameras are small and user-friendly; they are designed to capture moving images in good light. The MMLL's 3 mini-DV cameras offer more features. All are available for class projects.

Multimedia projects engage students in both the use of language and in the content they are learning. In addition, they allow students to show their creativity. The MMLL supports projects that use a variety of technologies with equipment, instructions, workshops, and peer assistance in the form of Student Technology Fellows. If you're interested in exploring the possibilities for your classes, come talk to Sharon Scinicariello.

Wimba Voice Tools are coming! The University has agreed to fund a year's pilot of the Wimba Voice Tools; they will be installed soon as part of Blackboard. With these Tools you can add oral communication to Blackboard discussion forums and oral recording without separate applications. Look for more information shortly!

Instructions

Are you struggling with Office 2007? Do you need to help your students type in the languages they are learning? The MMLL routinely creates and publishes instructions for everything from multilingual computing to GarageBand. Look for links on the blog and the MMLL web or ask.

Tech Bytes

Tech Bytes are short practice sessions on tools you can use. Each will be offered several times to suit your schedules. Session dates and times will be posted on the blog and sent via e-mail and the Twitter feed.

Topics for fall include:

- Audacity, Skype, and the Mixxer
- Managing information with RSS
- Creating networks with groups.richmond.edu and the Ning networks
- Using world television
- Wimba Voice Tools

Tools for Oral Practice and Testing

Oral communication is an essential part of our programs, but taking oral practice beyond the classroom can be difficult. The MMLL already has several tools that can be used for oral homework and oral assessment. Using Audacity, students can record themselves responding to questions or reading texts. To record conversations, they can use Audacity and one of the MMLL's new table microphones OR they can record Skype conversations. Recordings can be converted to MP3 and uploaded to Blackboard for you to hear. All the MMLL computers are equipped with Audacity, Skype, and applications to record Skype calls.

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