From MMLL to Global Studio: It's All About Connections

Welcome to a new beginning! During the 2008-2009 academic year, the Multimedia Language Laboratory is becoming the Global Studio. Why the change? Because you learn not only from people and resources in Richmond but from people and media around the world. The role of the MMLL / Global Studio is to help you use technology to get out of Puryear's basement and connect with a multilingual, multicultural world.

Connecting to Global Networks

You probably already use Facebook, a global social network. An essential part of the transition from MMLL to Global Studio is the use of social networking or Web 2.0 tools for learning. New tools appear every day. To help you explore these tools for connecting with the world, the MMLL / Global Studio will offer a series of Tech Bytes throughout the year. It's also using some of these tools to communicate with you. The new Out of the Basement blog at http://globalstudio.wordpress.com publishes up-to-date information about hours, workshops, new resources, and interesting activities—and you can make suggestions and comments. There is also a Global Studio Twitter feed that provides the same information in capsule form. Later this semester we'll begin occasional podcasts and webcasts of the Tech Bytes sessions.

Web: http://langtech.richmond.edu
Blog: http://globalstudio.wordpress.com
Twitter: http://twitter.com/global_studio

What Can You Do in the MMLL?

1. Learn to type in many languages.
2. Use multilingual spelling and grammar checkers.
3. Improve pronunciation by recording your own voice.
4. Practice speaking by conversing on Skype.
5. Use language-learning software.
6. Watch film in the Screening Room.
7. Watch television from around the world.
8. Create multimedia presentations.
   And much more!
Where's the Audio?
The MMLL delivers text-related audio—and sometimes video—via the University's computer network. For some texts, this is the only way you can use these materials. In other cases, publishers deliver materials via free "companion web sites," on DVDs or CDs bundled with the textbook, or within online workbooks. But it's often 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 are at http://langtech.richmond.edu/resources/audio.html. If you need to use textbook-related materials and cannot find them, please contact sscinicara@richmond.edu immediately.

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Think Video!
Would a short video be useful in a class project or presentation? Would you like to put together a story about an experience abroad? Are you interested in having a multimedia portfolio to demonstrate your language skills to a prospective employer? The MMLL can help you do all this and more! To learn more, join us for a Tech Byte or contact Sharon Scinicariello.

To help you create 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 language-related projects.

Connect with World TV
Did you know that you can watch television from around the world in the MMLL? Our sets may look almost as old as the one pictured here, but they are connected to a sophisticated television system that receives 40+ channels of international programming: game shows, soap operas, cartoons, talk shows, and movies are available in all the languages taught at the University.

Five channels are rebroadcast on channels 7 - 11 of the University cable system, but they're only available in academic buildings. Each channel broadcasts in a different language: French (7), Russian/Italian/Hebrew (8), Chinese/Japanese (9), Arabic (10), Spanish (11). In the residence halls, you can watch international programming on SCOLA (13), Deutsche Welle (14), and HITN (15). For more information, see the MMLL's web.

Come watch individually or with a friend! Small groups are welcome to use the Screening Room.

Instructions
Do you know how to use your computer to type in another language? Are you struggling with Office 2007? 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 schedule. Session dates and times will be posted on the blog and sent via e-mail and the Twitter feed.

Topics for fall include:
- Exploring the world with RSS
- Watching the world on television
- Talking with the world via Skype and the Mixxer
- Creating podcasts with Audacity and GarageBand
- Networking with Ning