AMLF
ARTS MULTIMEDIA LANGUAGE FACILITY

Now that the fall 2014 semester is well underway, we would like to inform you of some new developments at the AMLF, as well as some of the projects that we've been working on:

New Arts Multimedia Language Learning Centre proposal

How can the way that we teach languages benefit from leading-edge technologies and the latest advancements in classroom design? The AMLF is slated to vacate its current premises in the basement of the McLennan Library Building—moving to Wilson Hall in the summer of 2018. With this change comes a rare opportunity to re-imagine and re-design our entire facility from the ground up so as to make language learning at McGill a unique experience. To that end, the AMLF working group has been convened, bringing the various language departments together to examine key issues transforming teaching and learning at the university level.

The AMLF Working Group members

- Natallia Liakina, Director, French Language Centre and the AMLF (Chair)

- Michael Butler, Educational Technology Consultant, the AMLF

- Lucia Chamanadjian, Language Program Director, Hispanic Studies

- Adam Finkelstein, Educational Developer at Teaching and Learning Services

- Sunny Galiza, Arts - Computer Lab Supervisor

- Shokry Gohar, Arabic Language Program Director, Islamic Studies

- Liudmila Klimanova, Language Program Coordinator, Russian Studies

- Suzanne Pellerin, FRSL Coordinator, French Language Centre

- Hélène Riel-Salvatore, FRSL Coordinator, French Language Centre

- Pouneh Shabani-Jadidi, Persian Language Program Coordinator, Islamic Studies

- Bill Wang, Faculty Lecturer, East Asian Studies

We would like to thank the AMLF Working Group members for their valuable input!

CAN-8's Babilon feature is back

For those who aren't familiar with it, Babilon allows groups of students to talk to one another over the network while the instructor supervises. If you are interested in using this feature, contact Michael Butler so that we can set it up for your class and provide the necessary training.

CAN-8 is now available for students to download

Students can now download CAN-8 and use it from home during certain times of the day/week. Details can be found on the AMLF website: http://www.mcgill.ca/amlf/resources/download-can-8

New equipment for instructors

The AMLF has acquired some new equipment for language instructors who create audio-visual materials for their classes:

- One high-quality still camera with tripod (also takes video)

- One high-quality microphone with pop filter and acoustic enclosure

- Avid Media Composer professional video editing software

- Avid Pro Tools professional sound recording and editing software

- Adobe CS6 Master Collection, including Photoshop, Adobe Acrobat Professional and InDesign (and many others)

- One powerful laptop on which to run the software, including a large external monitor and good quality speakers

Tutorials for these new tools will be prepared by the end of the year. If you already have a project you'd like to get started on, however, please get in touch with Michael Butler so that we can start with tutorials that are relevant to the tools that you will be using.

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Ongoing research into new tools

On June 11th, a Sanako representative showed us the Study 1200 multimedia suite and Pronounce, which the literature describes as "an easy solution for improving oral skills in a foreign language". We have been given one 90-day license for Pronounce to try out with French, Spanish, and Russian voices. Please contact Michael Butler if you are interested in a demonstration.

On September 24th, a representative from WebSwami presented their product, and the feedback so far has been encouraging. Those in attendance appreciated the ability to incorporate video via webcam, platform independence, and the potential for integration with myCourses (D2L). We will keep you posted as we investigate this product further.

Other products we are looking at include ReLANpro, Robotel and Learning Branch, and we will keep you apprised of our findings.

For more information, please see the following websites:

Sanako:
http://www.sanako.com

WebSwami:
http://www.webswami.com/

ReLANpro:
http://www.relanpro-usa.com/

Robotel:
http://www.robotel.com/en/index.php

Learning Branch:
http://www.learningbranch.com/

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