

Funding Proposal to the 2003 Associated Colleges of the South Technology Fellows Program for Producing a Photo Bank in the CD-ROM format.

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Background: Rationale for Overall Project

Just as any "less commonly taught" foreign language teacher, we, Japanese language teachers, teach Japanese all by ourselves or with only one or two colleagues at each institution. Usually we are overloaded and cannot afford to develop teaching materials of our own. In class, however, we have to utilize many photos/videos which strengthen students' understanding of what teachers are trying to convey in the first and second year Japanese courses and it takes a lot of time to collect appropriate photos/videos while teaching during the school year. Collaboration among Japanese instructors is the key to the success in teaching Japanese language, especially when we teach at a small institution. This project would offer free photos/videos to each and every Japanese instructor who teaches first and second year level courses not only at ACS, ACM and GLCA schools, but also at any institution if (s)he would like.

Project Description: Part of the Project to be done under ACS funding

Audio visual teaching materials play very important roles in classrooms, especially in foreign language classrooms. I have produced copyright-free videos over the last four years and distributed them in the CD-ROM format (4 CDs all together) through the Copyright-free Audio Visual Resource Center which was established at the Department of East Asian Languages and Literatures of Washington and Lee University in 1998. Although one CD contains approximately 430 photos, approximately 40 out of 100 instructors who had received CDs have asked me to add more still pictures to the Resource Center. In order to meet these instructors' needs, I surveyed how many institutions offer a Japanese language program. Among the 42 institutions which belong to Associated Colleges of the South(ACS), Associated Colleges of the Midwest(ACM) or Great Lakes Colleges Association(GLCA), 25 schools offer a Japanese language program on campus. In August, I asked all 25 institutions what textbook they use in the first and second year Japanese courses by e-mail, and 11 schools have responded.

The 3 most commonly used textbooks are, "Nakama", "Yookoso" and "Genki". I would like to make a photo/video bank which can accompany these 3 textbooks, so that all 25 schools can share teaching materials. Photos/videos will be grouped in categories such as "Cuisine", "Buildings", "People", "Family Life", "School Life", "Social Life", "Professions", "Entertainment" and "History". Photo samples which I that are located in the Resource Center can be seen on one of the three CDs ACS received a few years ago.

Timeline: Deliverables/Milestones for ACS Funded Part of Project

This project needs to take four steps.

1. The first step is to check what vocabulary is used in the three textbooks and to choose what photos can be taken in Japan. This step will be completed by the time I leave for Japan in mid-April.
2. The second step is to actually take photos and shoot videos in Japan. This will be accomplished next spring when I will take our students to Kanazawa, Japan through the Spring Study Abroad Program for five weeks.
3. The third step is to edit photos/videos after returning from Kanazawa, Japan. This will be done in Lexington, VA in June and July.
4. The last step is to burn the photos/videos in the CD-ROM format for distribution.. A CD (or two CDs, depending on the amount of photos and videos), will be ready to be distributed through the Copyright-free Audio Visual Resource Center by the end of September.

Technology: Technical Requirements for the Project

It is necessary to use digital camera and digital video camera in order to take photos and to shoot videos. Also, Adobe Photoshop and iMovie will be used

in order to edit them. All the necessary cameras and software have been purchased by previous fundings. Making CD-ROM copies for distribution will be done at our Tucker Multimedia Center, just as done before.

**Learning Outcomes: How the Project Will Enhance Teaching/Learning**

These audio-visual teaching materials combined with the class materials will aid the instructors to help the students learn and understand such things as Japanese culture, society, manners and customs.

**Curriculum: How the Project Will Be Integrated into the Curriculum**

Each institution has a different pace and different syllabus. Each instructor can integrate the audio-visual materials into curriculum, depending on his/her lesson plans and pedagogical needs.

**Assessment: How the Project Will Be Evaluated**

There are two methods. Associated Colleges of the South can send out questionnaire directly to each and every instructor who uses the materials. Or, a questionnaire can be placed within the CD-ROM package that is distributed through the Copyright-free Audio-Visual Resource Center.

**Dissemination: How the Project Will Be Shared with ACS, ACM and GLCA Colleagues**

Just as the Copyright-free Audio-Visual Resource Center was announced in 1998, Japanese teachers' network can be used. Announcement of these audio-visual teaching materials can be posted in the newsletter of Association of Teachers of Japanese, Associated Colleges of the South's newsletter, and Sensei Online, created and maintained by Ms. Keiko Schneider.