

ACS Information Fluency Project Proposal  
2002

**Web Activities for Intermediate Spanish: A Collaborative Project**

*Director and developer*

María Pujals Vickery

[mvickery@morehouse.edu](mailto:mvickery@morehouse.edu)

Instructor of Spanish

Morehouse College

830 Westview Drive, S. W.

Atlanta, GA 30314-3773

*Supporting personnel*

Mrs. Helen Threatt, Research Librarian, Robert Woodruff Library

Mr. Merchell Belinfanti, Foreign Language Media Center, Morehouse College

*Collaborators*

Teaching Faculty of Spanish in the Department of Modern Foreign Languages,  
Morehouse College

*Abstract*

This project will culminate in a web site that will further the scope of knowledge of the intermediate level student of Spanish. It will bring authentic and pertinent information from the Spanish-speaking world into the learning environment. Students will search selected web sites in Spanish for information covering various disciplines and will then complete online activities that will serve as facilitators to help students analyze and synthesize the online information. The web site will consist of a total of twenty activities created by the Spanish professors and developed into web format by the director of the project. Each activity will focus on a country that is presently studied in the intermediate Spanish classes and will have a link to the web site chosen by that professor for the activity.

*Rationale*

The Morehouse College mission statement declares that,

*Guided by a commitment to excellence, Morehouse, an historically black liberal arts college for men, assumes a special responsibility for teaching students about the history and culture of black people. The college seeks to develop men with disciplined minds, emphasizing the continuing search for truth as a liberating force.* (Mission Statement, Morehouse College)

The cultural awareness gained from the learning of Spanish will be optimized as the students visit countries online. The interdisciplinary dimension of these activities follows the mission and institutional goals of Morehouse College <http://www.morehouse.edu> as the college prepares its students for leadership and service by providing them with the skills of communication, critical thinking and problem solving along with knowledge and understanding. This project will provide information fluency not only within the Spanish language, but will likewise lead the students to information that complements the liberal arts curriculum. It provides a forum for a collaborative approach to information fluency among faculty, library and media center with a focus on content-based instruction. The selection of web sites and the authoring of materials for online activities will enhance faculty development. While optimizing the strengths of individual scholarship and research, this project encourages the collaborative approach to information fluency.

### *Preliminary Description*

The intermediate level Spanish classes have already integrated technology into coursework. Web sites are currently searched and online assignments are in use. The innovative aspect of this project is the collaboration of the faculty of Spanish, the library and the media center to create and use web activities that further information fluency and are specifically developed for our curriculum. This project of twenty activities with a designated web site to reference will enhance our present offering of materials for the intermediate level Spanish classes.

Every professor of Spanish will be offered the opportunity to author activities for the web site. The activity that studies the specific country will be accompanied by a link to a designated authentic web site chosen by the author of the activity. The twenty countries studied in the intermediate level Spanish classes will each receive one activity.

Professors will search for authentic web sites and will receive support from the library and the media center. There will be two meetings of the director, supporting personnel and collaborators. The collaborating professors will submit the prepared activity in ASCII text to the developer along with the desired URL. The developer will organize and write the web page for the project that will consist of the twenty separate activities and the corresponding links. Acknowledgement of contributions by the professors will be posted on the web site. The web site will reside on the local network.

### *Timeline*

The organizational phase of the project will begin in May of 2002 with work continuing throughout the summer. The research and design phase will progress through the fall semester of 2002 and the final phase will be concluded in the spring semester of 2003.

### *Follow-up and evaluation*

This web site will be available as a component to Spanish classes. It will be maintained and updated as needed under the direction of the project leader. Communication with the developer will be available at all times on the site via e-mail. Additionally, a web-based survey will assess the success of the project. The results will aid the professors in the development of future materials.

### *Plans for dissemination of results and suggestions for replication at other campuses*

This project will serve as a model not only for foreign language faculty, but also for all faculty interested in a collaborative approach to information fluency. The URL for the web site will be available for posting on the ACS Information Fluency Web Board and a report on the survey will also be available. The project leader would be available to communicate our experience to other institutions and invitations to report on the project would be considered.

María Vickery will serve as director and developer of the project and will be responsible for the organization and development of the web site with its twenty activities and URL's. She has used technology extensively and has developed a web site for her classes, <http://facstaff.morehouse.edu/~mvickery>. She will initiate all contacts required for the project and will coordinate the contributions of the collaborating faculty. As author of this proposal, she will disseminate the results and manage the disbursement of the stipends.

Mrs. Helen Threatt and Mr. Merchell Belinfanti will serve as support personnel for the project. Mrs. Threatt will be involved in the research component of the project and Mr. Belinfanti will contribute additional time in the Media Center which will be a necessary component of the project.