

ACS Information Fluency Project Final Report
May 2003

Web Activities for Intermediate Spanish: A Collaborative Project

Director and developer

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Supporting personnel

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Faculty Contributors

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Abstract

This project features a web site that furthers the scope of knowledge of the intermediate level student of Spanish. It brings authentic and pertinent information from the Spanish-speaking world into the learning environment. Students research

selected web sites in Spanish for information covering various disciplines and at the same time complete online activities that serve as facilitators to help students analyze and synthesize the online information. The web site consists of a total of twenty activities, a bibliography and credits. The texts of the activities were created by the Spanish professors and developed into web format by the director of the project. Each activity focuses on a country that is presently studied in the intermediate Spanish classes and links to the web site chosen by the professor for the activity.

Rationale and Benefits

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 is 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. The project precipitated the launching of the Modern Foreign Language Resource Center web site at <http://www.morehouse.edu/dept/mflres> which provides a virtual location for materials for the “Web Activities for Intermediate Spanish” and also for many other foreign language resources for all students. The online web activities provide information fluency and literacy not only within the Spanish language, but likewise lead the students to information that complements the liberal arts curriculum. The web site has provided a forum for a collaborative approach to information fluency among faculty, library and media center with a focus on content- based instruction. The authoring of materials for the online activities and the bibliography have enhanced faculty development. While optimizing the strengths of individual scholarship and research, this project has encouraged the collaborative approach to information fluency.

Description

The intermediate level Spanish classes had already integrated technology into coursework. Web sites are currently searched and online assignments are in use. The innovative aspect of this project has been 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, a bibliography and acknowledgements at http://www.morehouse.edu/dept/mflres//spanish/web_activities.html enhances our present offering of materials for the intermediate level Spanish classes.

Every professor of Spanish with the exception of one has authored at least one activity for the project. The activity that studies the specific country is accompanied by an authentic web site chosen by the author of the activity. Twenty countries studied in the intermediate level Spanish classes have each received one activity.

Professors searched for authentic web sites and received support from the library, the media center and the director of the project. There were two meetings of the director, supporting personnel and collaborators. One meeting was held on October 22, 2002 and the final meeting was held on May 19, 2003. The collaborating professors submitted the prepared activities in ASCII text to the developer along with the desired URL. The developer organized, developed and uploaded the web page for the project which consists of the twenty separate activities with the corresponding web site viewed simultaneously, the bibliography and the acknowledgements. The web site resides at Morehouse College at http://www.morehouse.edu/dept/mflres//spanish/web_activities.html

Timeline

The following reports were submitted to ACS as the project progressed:

Quarterly Report: September 9, 2002 **María P. Vickery**

During the summer months, the project began and the following progress was made:

- The grant proposal was described at the Department of Modern Foreign Languages meeting
- Professors began choosing the countries that they would research
- Organization of the web work as far as design and implementation took place
- The creation of one prototype web activity for use in the Fall semester was planned and begun
- Student input in the selection of the prototype web site and student reaction to the activity will be key elements in the ongoing process
- Contact was made with former ACS project leaders for their future input
- Plans were made for Professor Vickery to attend the National Conference “Foreign Language Collaborations and the Web” sponsored by the Consortium for Language Teaching and Learning at the University of Pennsylvania in October

Thank you very much for the opportunity to implement this project through ACS funding.

Quarterly Report: Winter 2003

María P. Vickery

During the fall months, the project continued and the following progress was made:

- In October, Professor Vickery attended the National Conference “Foreign Language Collaborations and the Web” sponsored by the *Consortium for Language Teaching and Learning* at the University of Pennsylvania.
- On October 22, Professor Vickery sponsored an informational session for the faculty of the Spanish department who gathered at the MFL Resource Center with the support of Mr. Merchell Bellinfanti. Mrs. Helen Threatt of the Woodruff Library presented valuable resources as she demonstrated online materials. Professor Vickery spoke about the collaborative project with an online presentation showing examples of several activities for intermediate Spanish which were critiqued by the group. She provided guidelines for the project and the deadline for the submission of the activities.
- In November, the website for the Modern Foreign Language Resource Center which organizes and provides a format for the web resources needed for our students was launched. The idea and form for the website was proposed by Professor Vickery who also edited it for launching and who maintains it. Here the *Web Activities for Intermediate Spanish* will be posted. <http://www.morehouse.edu/dept/mflres>
- Students continue to use and evaluate web activities for further improvement of the activities of the ACS project.
- Professors are presently completing the activities for the countries that they have chosen.
- In March and April, the activities written by the professors of the faculty of Spanish will be posted.

Quarterly Report: Spring 2003

During the spring months, the project continued and the following progress was made which led to its completion on April 29, 2003:

- In February, the web activity texts began to be submitted by the faculty participating in the project. Revisions and editing for web posting followed.
- María Vickery progressed through the necessary steps for the successful implementation and completion of the project.
- The twenty activities were programmed so that a student first **must** type his name at the prompt. His/her name will then appear at the top of the form that he will complete and submit for this online activity. The exercises were programmed so that a student accesses the authentic web site selected by the professor and at the same time views and completes the written online exercise that helps him to analyze and synthesize the material of the web site.
- Once in web format, the director of the project resubmitted the activities to their authors for approval. These exercises were then uploaded to the MFL Resource Center web site.
- The *Web Activities for Intermediate Spanish* has a page with the links to the twenty activities by name of country and a link to acknowledgements. The *Acknowledgements* page includes: Director and Web Editor, Faculty Contributors, Support Staff, Bibliography and Sponsor.
- You will find the Information Fluency Grant collaborative project at:
http://www.morehouse.edu/dept/mflres/spanish/web_activities.html

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

This web site is available as a component to Spanish classes. It is maintained and updated as needed under the direction of the project leader. Communication with the developer is available at all times on the site via e-mail. This project serves 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 is available for posting on the ACS Information Fluency Web Board. The project leader is available to communicate our experience to other institutions and invitations to report on the project will be considered.

Budget

María Pujals Vickery, Instructor of Spanish	\$2500
Mrs. Helen Threatt, Research Librarian	\$ 150
Mr. Merchell Belinfanti, Media Center Director	\$ 150
Teaching Faculty of Spanish	\$2000
Light refreshments for meetings	\$ 85
Total	\$4885

Faculty contributors, support personnel and project director have received the designated funds. The refreshments consisted of two luncheons which have been paid. The disbursement of the funds, fund # 26392 with records at Morehouse is as follows:

Support personnel:

Mrs. Helen Threatt, support	\$150
Mr. Merchell Belinfant, support	\$150

Director:

María P. Vickery	\$2500
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Faculty:

María P. Vickery, one activity	\$100
Karen Williams Jones, three activities	\$300

Patricia Pogal, five activities	\$500
Mónica Marsten, five activities	\$500
Diedra Cecile Haydel, two activities	\$200
Lee Gallo, three activities	\$300
Joseph Agee, one activity	\$100
Refreshments:	
Gourmet Services at Morehouse College	\$ 42.50
Groceries for homemade lunch	\$ 42.50
Total:	\$4885

Mrs. Helen Threatt and Mr. Merchell Belinfanti served as support personnel for the project . Mrs. Threatt was involved in the research component of the project and Mr. Belinfanti contributed additional time in the Media Center which supported the project. The director accomplished the goals set forth in the proposal. The faculty authored the activities and meeting participants were provided two luncheons.

Thank you very much for the opportunity to create this information fluency collaborative project.

Respectfully submitted,

María P. Vickery
Instructor of Spanish