

SATELLITE FOOTPRINT

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Welcome to the *IALL Journal's* "Satellite Footprint" column! I am Marc Siskin, the Senior Media Designer for the Language Resource Center at the University of Michigan. I work with computers and video, and am the satellite engineer for the Resource Center. This column will address the growing wealth of programming that is beamed down to us from 23,500 miles above the equator. I will discuss new satellite technology, buying and operating satellite systems, sources of information about programming, and give information on new and existing programming. I will define some of the buzzwords that you may hear; for example, a "satellite footprint" is the area within which you can receive signals from a satellite.

GENERAL NOTES

This past year has been a busy one for both launches and movement of satellites. Of particular interest to language instruction have been the launches of SATCOM C4 and INTELSAT K. INTELSAT K is a high-powered Ku-band satellite that is visible from the Eastern Seaboard through the Midwest of the U.S., all of Central America, most of the urban areas of South America, and in Europe as far east as Greece. Several European broadcasters are using INTELSAT K to transmit programs to the U.S. SATCOM C4 is one of the new generation of C-Band

satellites with higher-power channels providing cleaner pictures. The sale of SPACENET 1 will result in its relocation to the Far East. Services presently on SPACENET1 are due to be relocated by January 1993. Because of this, SCOLA is moving to a new satellite, ASC1, Channel 23.

NEW PROGRAMMING

DEUTSCHE WELLE

On SATCOM C4 Transponder 5 and INTELSAT K, Deutsche Welle (DW) transmits 14 hours daily of programming to viewers in the United States. This programming is free and can be used according to the following guidelines: 1) news must be used within 24 hours of initial broadcast; 2) Deutsche Welle Magazines may be rebroadcast by prior arrangement; 3) Deutsche Welle documentaries and features can be rebroadcast within 3 years of initial DW transmission. (Deutsche Welle is trying to ease the restrictions on news and will inform of any changes.) The programming consists of newscasts in German, English and some

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Spanish. Feature programs in all three languages are also offered. Video programming starts at 10 am EST and ends at midnight. Between midnight and 10 am you see the next day's schedule, information on how to get advance schedules, and program descriptions as well. Deutsche Welle Radio is also available on audio subcarrier 7.20 MHz (after Jan. 1, 1993). For information in the United States contact Gerhard Besserer or Volker Strobel at the Deutsche Welle office in Washington, D.C., phone (202) 393-7427. For information about DEUTSCHE WELLE programs carried by MIND EXTENSION UNIVERSITY: THE EDUCATION NETWORK (ME/U), call 1-800-777-MIND. Deutsche Welle's main office can be reached at P.O. Box 10 04 44, 5000 Köln 1, Germany. By writing to this address you will be added to a mailing list and receive printed schedules.

EUROPLUS DIRECT TO HOME (DTH) AND RAI AMERICA

On October 12th EUROPLUS started feeding RAI (Radio televisione italiana) programs directly to households in the U.S. on INTELSAT K. Three and one half hours of German broadcast programming were added in November. Programming from other countries such as Portugal, Greece, France and Japan will be coming over the next year. EUROPLUS subscribers are using small dishes (26-35 inch diameter) to receive the signal. Receiving sites located towards the western part of the satellite footprint may need a slightly larger dish. The EUROPLUS signal is scrambled and you need a special receiver to be able to view this signal. If you get programming from RAI Corp., you should look into EUROPLUS. RAI will be moving its distribution to EUROPLUS sometime during 1993. If you want information about EUROPLUS, you can contact S&D Video at P.O. Box 374, Butler, New Jersey 07405, phone (201) 492-7991.

INTELSAT K

INTELSAT K, in addition to carrying programming from Deutsche Welle (probably the same programming as on C4), will have programs from Spain's Telefónica. Telefónica will provide non-scrambled Spanish-language programming to the U.S. and South America. I will attempt to provide a contact for Telefónica in my next column.

ON-LINE INFORMATION SOURCES

How do you find out about what is available on satellites? How do you get information about using satellite resources in instruction? I find the most up-to-date information from a variety of electronic mailing lists and from the Rec.Video.Satellite news group on Usenet. If your college or university allows access to Usenet (usually via an account on a UNIX-based computer), make sure to join Rec.Video.Satellite. While much of the information is geared to the satellite hobbyist, Rec.Video.Satellite provides information about new services and what is happening with new and moved satellites. One contributor posts a monthly guide to what is on satellites visible within the U.S., based on his actual observations. From Rec.Video.Satellite I have learned about several foreign language services before they even started programming!

If you don't have access to Usenet, you can get the messages e-mailed to you by joining the HOMESAT listserv at VM1.NODAK.EDU. If you don't have the time to winnow the foreign language wheat from the general satellite chaff of the HOMESAT list, you can join the Language Learning and Technology International (LLTI) Listserv (see "End of the Reel," page 71 for instructions). Watch the "Network Update" column for more information about networks and listservs.

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IN TIMES TO COME

I can't do this column alone. If you have information about services, have gone through a satellite installation and have tips, spot a mistake, or just wish to get in contact with other satellite people, please contact me. I have information about magazines and books that I find useful in searching for programming. This information will be the basis of my next column. If you want a head start, please contact me and I will send you an advance copy.

Writing this column is exciting for me, and I hope you will get as much out of it as I try to put into it.

Contributions/suggestions for the "Satellite Footprint" column may be sent directly to Marc Siskin. Mailing address: Language Resource Center, 2015 Modern Language Building, Ann Arbor, MI 48109-1275; phone: (313) 764-0424 (8 am-4:30 pm EST); email: marc_siskin@umich.edu, or USERLF9K@UMICHUM.