

Secondary School Update

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The variety of technology products appropriate for foreign language learning on the secondary level has increased dramatically within the last year or so. During the course of the past school year, I have previewed some of these products and would like to provide some general information about CD-ROMs and laserdiscs that look interesting or have proven useful. I am targeting CDs and laserdiscs for discussion because of the appeal of visual images and animated sequences for secondary students. Many of our students have begun to use presentation packages, desk-top publishing packages, and multimedia authoring software; therefore, the rather "flat" appearance of regular language software is not nearly so attractive to them.

One source of information for current pricing and availability of these laserdiscs and CD-ROMs is the Z-Tek Company, (800) 247-1603. Many CD-ROMs are also available through discount sources such as MacWarehouse, MacConnection, CompUSA, etc. Another general source of product information is a compendium of multimedia products prepared by Gary Dauphin, Senior Systems Engineer for Apple Computer, Inc. The compendium provides an extensive listing with brief descriptions of the products. Although all of the products listed are for the Mac computer because of the orientation of the editor, many of them are also available on the DOS side. To receive the compendium, contact your local Apple Computer representative. You may also contact Dauphin directly at: dauphin@applelink.apple.com

CD-ROM

Note: Unless otherwise indicated, the source for the following materials is the Z-Tek Company: (800) 247-1603.

Countries of the World provides a wealth of information about 190 countries, including pictures of their flags and audio segments of their national anthems. The software also presents a variety of text and graphics such as maps, economic information, statistics on population, etc. It costs about \$200.

Language Explorer is a vocabulary game in French, Spanish, German, and English. This program arranges words into 42 topics in an animated format, which appeals to many students. There are clever animation sequences of vocabulary picture tiles which are used for matching with text. The teacher's edition allows customized word sets. This program can be purchased for about \$30 from commercial suppliers.

Encuentros a lo vivo and *Pris sur le vif* permit Spanish and French students to interact with native speakers and respond orally or in writing. The organization is topical with a variety of speaking, listening, reading and writing activities being provided. Both programs are available from Scott Foresman for about \$100 for each CD: (800) 554-4411. Documentation and site licenses are available.

The Rosetta Stone is an interactive program for the beginning language student that teaches by means of the multimedia sound-to-image method. Comparison of pronunciation with native speakers' production is possible. The software is available in French, German, English, and Spanish for about \$400 per CD. Periodically there are reduced pricing offers. A demo CD is available for \$10 from Fairfield Language Technologies: (800) 788-0822.

LinguaRom II is a two CD-ROM package that contains a comprehensive collection of language learning software with sound and recording capabilities in Spanish, French, Japanese, Italian, Russian, Chinese and German. The various modules are called Pronunciation Tutor, Tense Tutor, Verb Tutor, Noun Tutor, Word Torture, Survival Manuals, etc. Suggested retail price for this HyperGlot program is \$1,000: (615) 558-8270. The price is discounted by commercial suppliers.

LASERDISC

The following laserdiscs are useful for incorporating art units into the curriculum.

Art

The Louvre features three volumes of masterpieces from the Louvre Museum. It contains 35,000 images, 6000 works of art, and video commentary on 75 works. Volume I is Paintings & Drawings, Volume 2 is called Sculpture/Objets d'art, and Volume 3 is Antiquities: Greek, Roman, Egyptian, Near Eastern. Each volume is accompanied by a HyperCard stack to govern the motion sequences. The approximate cost is \$100 per volume or stack.

The National Gallery of Art contains images of works on display in The National Gallery with a documentary and a guided tour through the galleries. The disc includes paintings, prints, drawings and works of sculpture and costs about \$100.

Options include a bar code reference and curriculum guide (\$65) and a HyperCard stack (\$60).

Musée d'Orsay presents a complete tour of the museum with 11,000 images. One soundtrack contains French commentary; the other, English. A HyperCard stack is available for \$100. The disc is available for about \$125.

Culture/Language

A la Rencontre de Philippe is an upper-level interactive French program in which the student explores the city of Paris and French culture through multimedia interaction with situations. Laserdisc and HyperCard stack are about \$300 from the Yale University Press: (203) 432-2394.

Barcelona is a guided tour of the city and its sights. The disc includes over 200 photographs and a 43-minute video tour. It costs about \$75.

Destinos is a continuing Spanish story which students find highly attractive. Student books and teacher manuals are available so that the program can serve as either the basis for or supplement to an intermediate Spanish course. The entire laserdisc series of 52 lessons sells for \$1850 and is available from the Annenberg/CPB Collection at (800) LEARNER. Parts I & II are also sold separately for \$1000 each.

De Italia is a laserdisc with accompanying software that depicts the culture, history and architecture of ancient and modern Italy. A comprehensive manual and series of guided tours make this disc a wonderful addition to a Latin or Italian program. *De Italia* may be obtained from the Department of Classics, University of Wisconsin, for about \$145.

Lernexpress I and *II* are beginning German courses with authentic language situations that relate to the everyday world. The cost is about \$400 per level from Films Incorporated, 5547 N. Ravenswood Avenue, Chicago, IL, 60640-1199: (800) 323-4222. ■

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