

LLTI Highlights

David Pankratz
Loyola University—Chicago

Introduction

Welcome again to "LLTI Highlights," a column featuring summaries of selected discussions which have taken place on the LLTI—the Language Learning and Technology International listserv. This electronic forum is used by language lab professionals and others to discuss issues relevant to their everyday work. For information on how to subscribe to the LLTI, see the end of this column.

The discussions summarized here have been paraphrased; any omissions, errors or misinterpretations are mine. For each topic, the number in parentheses which follows it was assigned by Otmar Foelsche, LLTI moderator. This number can be used to facilitate a search of that topic in the LLTI archive, which can be a valuable research tool; details on accessing the archive are explained in a section below.

Regarding housekeeping, Otmar has asked me to include this important note about re-distribution lists: Please do not set up a so-called automatic re-distribution list for LLTI on your own campus. These lists cause a lot of problems with returned mail going back to the LLTI editor rather than to the originator of the re-distribution list.

Robert Henderson (#2892), July 1996

News of Robert Henderson's untimely death, reader reactions, and announcement of the memorial service for him all appeared on LLTI.

Chris Jones wrote, "For many on this list, Bob would need no introduction. He was Director of the Language Acquisition Institute at the University of Pittsburgh, current President of IALL and had been active in language lab circles for many years. He was a steady and supportive figure both for the national organization and for many of us as individuals in the field."

From all of us, Bob, we miss you.

**Japanese/Chinese
with Windows
(#2882), July 1996**

Roger Ganderton posed the question, "...I've been asked by colleagues how one can configure web browsers (mainly Netscape) and email programs to view and write in Japanese and/or Chinese script in a Windows setting (3.1 and/or Windows 95). As a Mac user I'm familiar with using the Japanese and Chinese Language Kits in Netscape and Eudora. Is similar system software needed for Windows or is it just a matter of having the right fonts?"

Roger received several helpful responses. The short answer is that it is not just a matter of having the right fonts; rather, it is a question of having the right underlying "system program" or "language kit." Also, the inputting (keyboarding) of the text becomes an issue when dealing with hundreds of characters.

Dave Ashworth suggested, "Pacific Software sells a program called KanjiKit that works beautifully with the English version of Netscape 2.0 and with English versions of Windows 3.x and also with Windows 95. If you go to www.moshix2.com, there is a link to their new url. You can download and try the bitmap font version."

More than one reader explained that one possibility is to use the actual Chinese or Japanese Windows, either version 3.1 or 95. Of course this means that all menus, help screens, etc., will be in that language, which may be a problem for English speakers. Another drawback is that you cannot switch back and forth easily between Chinese or Japanese and English.

Another option mentioned for Chinese is to use a program called "Chinese Partner" (formerly "Twinbridge"). Steve and Laura Spinella noted that this program "runs in English Windows...[and]...supports Chinese text input, reading, and more.... You can turn it on and off, so you don't have to keep it on when you're not using it. It works with almost any application and uses unicode character codes, so you can use it with Netscape, Word, Access.... Twinbridge now includes a large dictionary, also sold separately, and an optional speech processing module which will convert character strings into wave files (Jun de ma? Jun de! = Really? Really!)."

Steve and Laura also explained, "The big issue is not so much displaying the text, but inputting it. As you can imagine, with thousands of characters to learn, most people do not want to also learn a unique keyboard code to locate it. So instead, input methods include everything from drawing the character, to typing in its sound, etc., and add all kinds of associative techniques including showing you what you picked last time, guessing from context, and even typing in English and picking

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the Chinese character you want!"

Donald Clark suggested using "Japanese Language Kit for Windows 3.1." He said that information was available at <http://www.interchange.ubc.ca/gregsmi/winhome.html>

Peter Yang wrote, "There are several Chinese/Japanese system programs for Windows that will allow people to read Chinese/Japanese using Netscape: Union Way, NJStar, Chinese Partner (previously Twin Bridge), Chinese Star."

Akemi Dobson offered this possibility: "For reading Japanese on the Net, try the following page: <http://www.lfw.org/shodouka/>. I have not tried it myself as my computer is a Macintosh with Japanese Language Kit but apparently through that page, you can browse Japanese pages without Japanese Language Kit or Windows-J [Japanese Windows]."

Finally, Adam Sullivan suggested, "I highly recommend New Jersey Star for Chinese, Japanese and Korean viewing. You can download a free trial version: <http://www.njstar.com.au/> My OS is Windows 95 big5 [?] Chinese so I use NJStar for Chinese GB and Japanese viewing. It lets you flip back and forth. The trial version limits the size of the fonts.... Referring back to Akemi's suggestion, he commented, "Thanks also for <http://www.lfw.org/shodouka/>, which works well but has speed problems."

Screen Capture on the Mac (#2950), September 1996

Joel Goldfield initiated this exchange by asking, "Does anyone on this list know what the screen capture utility operated by CMD-SHIFT-3 is called or is located on the Mac (at least some Macs)?"

Marc Siskin responded, "That is part of the operating system. In other words it is built-in in every Mac. There are control panels that allow you to bypass that function and enhance it (Flash-it is one that I particularly like)."

"Flash-it" was mentioned by several other readers as well. Bernardo Colo wrote, "I have been using a utility called Flash-it 3.0.2 for some months and have it running on 68K and PPC Macs with good results. It allows the user to select shift-command-1 to send to the clipboard, shift-command-2 to send to the scrapbook, shift-command-3 to save as a pict image, shift-command-4 to send to the printer. It is copyrighted by Nobu Toge, 1990-1993."

Kelly Nelson added, "We have a product called 'Capture' for the Mac that uses the key combination you mentioned. It's a commercial product by Mainstay that we bought maybe four years ago at our local bookstore. Very nice, simple application that continues to work on all Mac models and

operating systems."

In summary, although the Command-Shift-3 key combination is a 'built-in' function that will work on most or all Macintosh computers, products such as the ones mentioned above will provide more control over the captured picture file.

"Fetch" (#2953), September 1996

Mark Knowles wrote, "A colleague of mine who teaches Latin would like to know if there is a handy data base package for cataloguing slides that includes visual data with language. He thinks it should be fairly easy to put together a slide presentation with the kinds of software we have now, but these would not be good for retrieving certain slides from his entire collection upon demand. He also claims that a friend of his recommended something called 'Fetch.' Does this correspond to anything you've heard or know about 'Fetch'?"

Mark received helpful responses about two programs called "Fetch," each quite different. Michael Heller explained, "There are two fetch tools. One is the file transfer tool that comes from Dartmouth. The other is a tool that catalogs image files. The now defunct Aldus published this second tool, then Adobe published it, and recently I read that Adobe has passed it off to someone else, but I cannot remember who.... I would try calling Adobe at (800) 628-2320. You may also try finding out who has "Fetch" the image tool by checking sources such as Macintouch at: <http://www.macintouch.com/>.

Wendy Baker Davis may have provided the name of the new distributor of "Fetch" when she added, "Extensis Corporations's 'Fetch' allows users to customize an image database, giving each picture a catalogue depth that enables open-ended searches and rich displays."

As Mike Heller made clear, the two "Fetch" programs do entirely different things. Know your "Fetch" file transfer program from your "Fetch" image tool!

Zip Drives (#2978), September 1996

As a precursor to this discussion, I would like to offer this note. The term "zip drive" is sometimes used as a generic term for several of the recently available compact removable storage drives. In fact, however, the term "zip" actually derives from a specific product named the "Zip Drive," which is manufactured by the Iomega company.

Tamra Hjerstad started this exchange by asking for advice on purchasing a zip drive for moving and storing computer files. Some good information was offered on possible uses of this type of storage device, as well as a discussion of the companies which produce them.

Fawn Whittacker commented on uses at her institution, "I've found zip drives convenient for storing language sound and video files. We have initiated student language recordings to be prepared and submitted on zip disks to instructors or tutors for evaluation, using a digital sound editor for recording. Each Center computer has a zip drive beside it for student usage—the digital replacement for audio cassette tape recordings."

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Korean viewing."*

Jack Burston wrote on his use of zip drives using both platforms, DOS and Mac: "I have two Iomega zip drives, a parallel port model for my PC and a SCSI port version for my MAC, which I've been using for the last six months. Since the MAC can read PC files, I was pleased to discover that the DOS formatted zip disks can be used on the SCSI drive as well. This allows me to transfer large multimedia files back and forth between my two computers (I'm currently developing a dual platform CD-ROM). So far both units have performed with no problems. I would add, however, that the Language Centre technician has been less fortunate. He has had considerable problems as a result of connecting a parallel port zip drive to an IBM clone equipped with a SCSI card. Apparently, the zip drive gets into strife trying to work through a parallel port in a SCSI environment."

As far as manufacturers are concerned, two major companies were discussed: Iomega and Syquest. Cleve Friedman stated that he was confused as to why the Iomega 'Zip' drive seemed to be more popular than the Syquest 'EZ' drive. He wrote, "I bought the SyQuest EZ135 Drive thinking it was the better drive for the money. I still do but now I see everyone going Zip Drive crazy, WHY? Am I missing something?" He went on to say that a comparison of their specifications showed that the "EZ" drive provided more storage, had faster access time, and had faster data transfer rate for the same price.

Several readers suggested that the main reason may simply be the name recognition that Iomega "Zip" drives have. Mathew Mattingly summed it up with his response: "I think it's mainly because they came out about a year earlier and filled a crying need. They are becoming a 'standard' in that you are more likely to find a 'Zip' waiting for you at another location than a SyQuest (remind you of any other recent platform debates?). The 'Zip' also comes with some nice file management software; I don't know how the SyQuest stacks up in that respect."

In the course of this discussion on brand name, some readers commented—at times vehemently—on the very poor customer service they had received from the Iomega company, the manufacturer of “Zip” drives.

Derek Stearns Roff posted the final comment, “We just bought an Epson zip drive. I have not yet had any reason to contact them (the drive works fine), but Epson has been fairly good at tech support and customer service over the years.” I find it interesting how in this discussion customer service became an issue as important as technical specifications or even price. One reader advised us all to beware of those rebate coupon offers....

The LLTI Archive

All discussions which have taken place on the LLTI have been archived. This archive is a valuable and time-saving re-search tool. There are various ways to access the archive:

1) Listserv commands. You can retrieve the actual files by sending commands via email directly to the listserv: listserv@listserv.dartmouth.edu. To get a list of the archive files, send mail to the listserv with the contents: INDEX LLTI This will return a list of files which are the monthly archives. To request a particular month’s archive, send the command: SEND LLTI LOGymm. After downloading one or more of these monthly archives, you can search them for particular words or topics using your own search tools, such as the “find” or “search” features in any standard word-processing program.

2) Gopher. Conduct a Gopher search through these menus in this order:

- “Other Gopher Servers” (or some similar rubric—in other words, Gopher servers other than the one you are using locally)
- North America
- USA
- New Hampshire
- Dartmouth College
- Research Resources
- The Humanities
- International Association for Learning Labs
- LLTI Archive

At this point, chose one of the files, such as LLTI_1700-1799. This will bring up all those files which had the topic numbers 1700-1799.

3) FTP. The archive is also available via anonymous FTP to <ftp.dartmouth.edu/pub/LLTI-IALL>. You can download the

- LLTI-IALL Folder
- LLTI Archive

4) WWW. Go to the IALL homepage at URL <http://eleazar.dartmouth.edu/IALL/> which will also access LLTI. As with Gopher and FTP, WWW access will present the files grouped by topic number.

How to Subscribe to LLTI

First, you must have access to the Internet so that you can use electronic mail. Your email ID and hostname, which become your email address, must be obtained from your institution's computing services department.

To subscribe to the LLTI, send an electronic message to the listserv address. Use your name in the subscribe message:

To: listserv@listserv.dartmouth.edu

Subject:

Message: SUB LLTI John A. Doe

When your message is received, the listserver will respond with a message describing various basic procedures. You can now begin receiving messages posted by the other users.

Postings to the LLTI may not be sent to the listserv address, but must be sent to: LLTI@dartmouth.edu. To start a new topic, send your message to this address. You can respond to a discussion in progress by sending a reply to a posting on that topic.

If you want to unsubscribe or simply stop mail while you are away from the office, use the SIGNOFF command. (You do not need to give your name.)

To: listserv@listserv.dartmouth.edu

Subject:

Message: SIGNOFF LLTI

To learn more about the LLTI, send a message REVIEW LLTI.

Important! Please do not set up a so called automatic re-distribution list for LLTI on your own campus. These lists cause a lot of problems with returned mail going back to the LLTI editor rather than to the originator of the re-distribution list.

If you have problems using LLTI, you may send an email message directly to Otmar Foelsche, list moderator, at otmar.foelsche@dartmouth.edu or contact a fellow LLTIer!

Changes are anticipated in the procedures for searching the LLTI Archive. Please watch for information in the next issue of the *Journal!* ■

David Pankratz is Director of the Language Learning Resource Center, Loyola University—Chicago.

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