



Call for Proposals

Language and Culture: Finding, Assessing, and Exploiting Online and Media Resources for Language Teaching Grinnell College, March 13-15, 2008

- Deadline for submission of proposals: December 8, 2008
- Notification of acceptance: January 9, 2009
- Conference registration deadline: January 16, 2009

NITLE is currently accepting proposals for [“Language and Culture: Finding, Assessing, and Exploiting Online and Media Resources for Language Teaching.”](#) This conference will address the challenges of locating, evaluating, and manipulating electronic and media resources for teaching culture in the language classroom. Both technical and pedagogical issues will be addressed; workshop sessions will teach skills at both a beginning and intermediate level.

Faculty, instructional technologists, and librarians from participating colleges interested in presenting on or leading panels, workshops, and discussions about teaching or supporting the teaching of foreign languages are invited to submit proposals. Proposals should be submitted electronically at <http://tinyurl.com/Lang-Cult-Proposals> by Monday, December 8, 2008.

If you are interested in assisting in planning this conference or in reviewing submitted proposals and the conference agenda, your contributions would also be welcome. Please contact Michael Toler at michael.toler@nitle.org to find out how to get involved.

Proposals for presentations or workshops may address any of the following:

- *Location of resources.* How does one locate and navigate through resources in another language? What particular challenges are there to searching for resources in non-western alphabets? How do librarians help faculty find resources in languages in which they themselves are not specialists and which they may not speak?
- *Assessment of resources.* New technologies and the array of resources available via the Internet have provided language faculty members, their academic support partners, and their students with an embarrassment of riches. From opportunities to converse with native speakers of non-English languages in their home countries to access to non-English newspapers, an overwhelming amount of resources are available to the language teacher. Even simple access to ordering and paying for a DVD from an overseas distributor presents new options. How do we assess these resources and determine which might be pedagogically useful for which purpose, particularly given the challenges of limited time? What are the advantages and disadvantages of using authentic or real-world materials instead of materials produced explicitly for instructional purposes?
- *Exploitation of resources.* What are best practices for exploiting resources, technical and pedagogical? Authentic language materials are not graded for levels: how does one compensate when making use of them? Also welcome: proposals that address such

pedagogical and technological issues as converting analog to digital media, storing digital media and student projects, and using online resources for courses given those resources' temporary and changing nature.

Suggestions for other topics in these or related areas are welcome and may be sent to Michael Toler at michael.toler@nitle.org.

Session Formats

Proposals should suggest one—or more—of the following formats as appropriate for the topic. During the conference, moderators will introduce and close each presentation or panel session on time, distribute handouts, and facilitate questions from the audience.

Presentation Sessions (1-2 presenters): 60-75 minutes

Proposals for presentations of this length should include both a narrative of the project/program being described and lessons learned that would be of use for another campus interested in a similar project or program.

Workshop Sessions (1-2 workshop leaders): 60-120 minutes

We would welcome a proposal for a short workshop that would enable participants to learn a new skill or technology for using digital technologies in language teaching.

Panel Presentation: 10-15 minutes

We encourage participants to submit proposals for briefer presentations on specific projects or good ideas. These may be combined with those of other participants to facilitate comparisons of programs and discussion of trends, and to focus on approaches to broader issues that campuses face in teaching languages and cultures. Panels will be composed to promote interaction among panelists and the audience.

Submission and Review of Proposals

Proposals should be submitted electronically at <http://tinyurl.com/Lang-Cult-Proposals> no later than December 8, 2008.

You will be asked to provide the following information:

- Title: please give your proposed session a simple and descriptive title.
- Description: the description should be 200 words or fewer. It should explain the central idea of your session.
- Type of session: presentation, workshop, or panel.
- Target audience: who will benefit from participating in the session you propose?
- Name, title, institution, address, phone and fax numbers, and e-mail address for each session presenter. Proposals for group presentations—both intra- and inter-campus—are especially welcome.

Acceptance

Proposal submitters will be notified of the results of the review process by January 9, 2009.

Location

Conference sessions will take place mainly in the Joe Rosenfield Center and the Noyce Science Center at Grinnell College in Grinnell, Iowa. Grinnell is located roughly 60 miles from the Des Moines International Airport (DSM) and the Cedar Rapids International Airport (CID).

Important note: Presenters and others interested in attending this conference must register to participate by January 16, 2009. Please consult your institution's liaison to NITLE about your institution's policies on purchasing program units and using them to participate in NITLE events. Registration is first-come, first-served and is a separate process from proposal submission; the registration fee is 7 program units. NITLE is a not-for-profit organization. The viability of its events depends upon the registrations of all participants, including presenters. Only the names of officially registered participants will appear in the conference program.