# AMLF | LLMFA

Arts Multimedia Language Facility | Laboratoire de langues multimédia de la Faculté des arts

## Updates on all the latest news & activities from the AMLF
## Les dernières nouvelles et activités du LLMFA

Welcome to the Fall issue of the AMLF Newsletter which highlights our language lab's new developments, informs the McGill community on recent events, and provides you with information on new publications in the field of computer-assisted language learning, future conferences, and professional development opportunities.

## LATEST NEWS

## NEW! Language Teaching and Technology Discussion Group

We had our first meeting for our brand new Language Teaching and Technology Discussion Group on Oct. 25th. We had a great turnout and it was wonderful to meet everyone.

From our discussion, we have decided that our content will be informed by both research and practice, and, for the most part, will take the form of a "Show & Tell" in which 2-3 members will informally present new tools to the group with time for demonstrations and discussions. In the future, we may also pilot new tools as a group and report back, or have some hands-on testing of tools during the meeting.

Our second meeting was held on Tuesday, December 11th, and we discussed several websites and apps for language learning and

teaching. If you would like a copy of the meeting's resources, please contact Jennica Grimshaw.

If you have a tool that you would be interested in sharing with us in future meetings, or if you are interested in participating in future events, please contact Jennica Grimshaw.

# Language learning resources





**iSpraak**

iSpraak is now 100% free for McGill instructors and students! It is a web-based (Chrome only) activity generator that allows students and instructors to create pronunciation exercises that can be shared with a unique URL. First, select a language and then write or paste a short text to be read. You can provide an audio file to serve as model or simply use iSpraak's text-to-speech software. When practicing speaking, students receive immediate feedback and audio help from native speakers for difficult words. Visit www.ispraak.com to try it for yourself!

**Google Cardboard™**

Thanks to Prof. Kevin Papin's research on virtual reality and language learning, we will soon have a set of Google Cardboard™ virtual reality headsets for instructors to reserve and use! To use, you simply need to download the free Google Cardboard™ mobile app and insert your smartphone into the headset, which acts at the viewer. The user can then use the headset to interact with a virtual environment. How can this be used for language learning? There are several websites and apps available which allow students to interact with their environment and characters in the environment. If you are interested in learning more, please contact Jennica Grimshaw.





## Updated: Language Learning

## Follow us on Facebook and

## Resources

Our lab attendants have been hard at work checking and double-checking our extensive list of language learning resources on our website to update links and resource descriptions. Check it out here: Language Learning Resources.

## Twitter!

We have established a Facebook page and a Twitter account (@AMLF_LLMFA) for the AMLF to share information about events and workshops at the AMLF, updates, and posts related to language learning and technology.

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## PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES

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# Professional Development Series

## Incorporating Student-Produced Videos in Foreign Language Teaching: A Pilot Application of YouSeeU

On November 8th, faculty lecturers, Alejandra Barriales-Bouche and Sun-Young Kim, presented a workshop on "Incorporating Student-Produced Videos in Foreign Language Teaching: A Pilot Application of YouSeeU". Workshop participants had the chance to take part in hands-on activities and engage in a discussion on the pedagogical potential of YouSeeU (and instructor/student-created videos) for second language teaching and learning.

If you missed the workshop but would like more information, contact Jennica Grimshaw for workshop resources.

If you are interested in presenting your research, making a presentation on educational technology you use in your classes or wish to suggest a guest speaker, please contact the AMLF Director, Natallia Liakina.

# Learning Branch Workshop

On December 11th, we offered a workshop on Learning Branch, a web-based learning management system that targets oral production, listening, and pronunciation through tasks and assessments (for more information, visit: www.learningbranch.com).  Several French and Chinese classes at McGill are in the process of piloting this tool, and we have received positive feedback.

If you were unable to attend but are interested in learning more, please contact Jennica Grimshaw for an individual consultation.

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# RECENT PUBLICATIONS

## Task-Based Language Learning in a Real-World Digital Environment: The European Digital Kitchen
*Paul Seedhouse (Editor)*

As described on the Bloomsbury website:
How can you use the latest digital technology to create an environment in which people can learn European languages while performing a meaningful real-world task and experiencing the cultural aspect of learning to cook European dishes? This book explains how to do this from A to Z, covering how a real-world digital environment for language learning was designed, built and researched.

The project makes language learning motivational and fun by tapping into people's interest in both cooking and technology – you can learn a language while cooking and interacting with a speaking digital kitchen. The kitchens provide spoken instructions in the foreign language on how to prepare European cuisine. Digital sensors are inserted in or attached to all the kitchen equipment and ingredients, so the digital kitchen detects what learners are doing and gives them feedback. Learners are also able to communicate with the kitchens and can ask for help via photos and videos if they don't understand any foreign language words.

Based on two research grants, the book provides five research studies showing the learning experiences of users in five European countries. The book explains the principles and procedures involved in the project, enabling others to design and implement a real-world digital learning environment in the same way. It includes numerous photographs of the system in use and evidence of how and what 250 users actually learnt.

## Language Learning and Technology

October's issue contains an array of articles on topics such as the use of clickers in learning German, focusing on form in task-based oral computer-mediated communication, and vocabulary learning from YouTube and blog posts, as well as an article by Jennica Grimshaw, the AMLF's Educational Technology Consultant, on mobile gaming and language learning.

Open access.

# Call for Papers

### Eighth International Conference on Task-Based Language Teaching
TBLT: Insight, Instruction, Outcomes
August 19-21, 2019
Carleton University, Ottawa, Ontario
**Submission deadline: Dec. 1, 2018**
For more information, click here.

### International Association for Language Learning Technology (IALLT)
Crafting Communities of Learners
University of Oregon, Eugene, OR
June 19-22, 2019
**Submission deadline: Dec. 3, 2018**
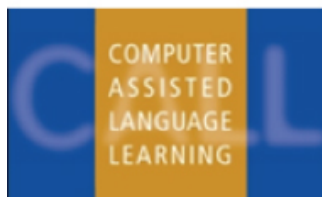For more information, click here.

### EuroCALL 2019
CALL and Complexity
August 28-31, 2019
Louvain-la-Neuve, Belgium
**Submission deadline: Jan. 15, 2019**
For more information, click here.

### The XXth International CALL Research Conference
Social CALL
July 10-12, 2019
The Education University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong
**Submission deadline: Jan. 31, 2019**
For more information, click here.

# Conferences to attend

### MOBILLE Language Learning Experience International Conference
February 21-22, 2019
Lycée Français de New York, New York, NY

For more information, click here.

**AAAL 2019**
March 9-12, 2019
Atlanta, Georgia
For more information, click here.

**CALICO Conference**
Make It So / Fais ce que doit
May 21-25, 2019
Montreal, QC
For more information, click here.

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