

MCGILL UNIVERSITY

FACULTY OF ARTS



ARTS MULTIMEDIA LANGUAGE FACILITY

ARTS MULTIMEDIA LANGUAGE FACILITY (AMLF)

ANNUAL REPORT 2016

**NATALIA LIAKINA
DIRECTOR**

MAY 2017

FACILITIES

Three multimedia labs



LAB 1		40 stations
Examinations	Placement tests	
Supervised oral training	Autonomous work	
LAB 2		21 stations
Autonomous work	Placement tests	
LAB 3		35 stations
Teaching and guided oral practice, group labs	PhD comprehensive exams	
Exams and evaluations	Autonomous practice	
Introduction to the AMLF sessions	Mercury course evaluations	
French placement tests	Professional development events	
Presentation of multimedia projects	Recording sessions	
Film screenings	Interviews: candidates' presentations	
Conversation groups	Training sessions for language instructors (Can-8)	
Workshops on language learning tools for students	Lab assistants' orientation and meetings	

The **Help Desk** is the assistants' work station.

The **AMLF meeting room**, created in 2016, is a collaborative space for students and instructors that can be used for conversation circles, study groups, workshops, conferences and meetings. The room can accommodate 9-10 people.

The **AMLF lounge**, created in 2016, is a collaborative space for students and instructors that can be used for movie screenings, conversation circles, study groups and informal meetings. The room can accommodate 10-12 people.

The **microlab or lab for research and creation of multimedia materials** offers 5 stations reserved for language instructors, a color printer and a scanner. It is located on the third floor of the 688 Sherbrooke building (room 317).

▪ **USERS**

PROFESSORS

SEMESTER	NUMBER OF LANGAGES TAUGHT	NUMBER OF PROFESSORS	NUMBER OF COURSES	NUMBER OF SECTIONS
Winter 2016	3	13	12	23
Summer 2016	2	6	4	6
Fall 2016	5	23	18	38

STUDENTS

NUMBER OF STUDENTS WHO USED THE AMLF BY YEAR AND BY SEMESTER				
Year	Winter	Summer	Fall	Total
2016	1135	401	1226	2762

The Arts Multimedia Language Facility (AMLF) is part of the French Language Centre.

Since it began operating in 2001, the AMLF has been used for computer-assisted language teaching and learning by departments within the Faculty of Arts.

The AMLF has 100 workstations and offers the most recent language-learning technology to students and instructors within the Faculty of Arts.

In addition to labs specifically adapted to language courses, a new collaborative space has been added in 2016.

The main facilities of the AMLF are located in the McLennan Library building.



- **AMLF SOFTWARE UPDATE**

- **CAN-8**

The material of the majority of language courses has been created and disseminated using CAN-8, which has been installed on the AMLF network for several years now. Access to CAN-8 is restricted to professors and students from language departments. The management of student accounts and the management of the system in terms of network and data storage are part of the IT Customer Services (ICS) computer technicians' responsibilities.



Training

The training of instructors is the responsibility of the Educational Technology Consultant. Two workshops for language instructors were offered in 2016: one on Microsoft OneNote and Office mix in June, and one on how to create listening exercises that are graded automatically by the CAN-8 system in December.

Number of hours

Whether it is in class, for tests or autonomous work, the number of hours spent using CAN-8 is significant: **595 hours or 58% of reservation time.** (See detailed statistics in appendix).

- **ANTIDOTE 9 bilingue**

The AMLF is used by many students whose first language is neither English nor French. In order to support them in their learning and to assist them in their academic writing, the AMLF offers **Antidote 9 bilingue**, which is available on the AMLF computers since summer 2016.



- **YABLA – Language immersion online for Spanish, French, German, Italian and Chinese**

The free trial of Yabla, a web-based immersion program, has been extended until December 31st, 2016 so that McGill language instructors and students could have a year-long access to its extensive collection of videos and games and to have an opportunity to practice listening skills outside the classroom.



- **LIMESURVEY PLACEMENT TEST FOR FRSL COURSES**

In 2016, *LimeSurvey* was again used as a temporary means for evaluating the French level of students interested in taking FRSL courses at the French Language Centre.

Number of hours

The number of hours reserved for the new *LimeSurvey* placement test for FRSL courses is significant. In 2016, French placement tests represented **111 hours or 11% of AMLF reservation time** (see detailed statistics in appendix).

▪ PERSONNEL

In 2016, the administration of the AMLF and its daily operations were managed by the Director, Prof. Natallia Liakina and the Educational Technology Consultant, Michael Butler.

The AMLF Director is responsible for the strategic development of the AMLF. She leads and supervises special projects related to the use of technology, organizes professional development activities, workshops and other special events for both Faculty and students, plans and oversees all the activities of the AMLF, including the deployment of new processes and services, and coordinates the activities of the AMLF with other departments and units within the university and with partner institutions.

Under the direction of the AMLF Director, the Educational Technology Consultant develops and coordinates activities and executes policies related to the administration of the AMLF, provides ongoing support to teaching faculty members from all language departments, handles the reservation of the labs, and oversees the work of lab assistants.

To enhance the pedagogical aspect of the trainings offered by the AMLF and to respond to the needs of experienced language instructors, Prof. Suzanne Pellerin, a Senior Lecturer at the French Language Centre has been actively involved in the preparation of CAN-8 workshops since fall 2016.

Since the AMLF is rapidly evolving into a language resource center that offers a wider range of language learning, teaching and research activities, the unit would benefit from hiring a professional—an academic associate, a language learning technology expert with L2 teaching experience – with a strong background in the field of e-learning and computer/mobile-assisted language learning (CALL/MALL) to work on pedagogical projects involving educational technology, to support the AMLF Director in the strategic development of the lab and to provide quality training and instructional development to McGill L2 instructors.

In order to assist instructors and students during classes, exams, placement tests and autonomous work sessions, a team of **17 assistants** worked at the AMLF from January to December 2016 (see appendix). The funds allocated for their salaries in the Faculty of Arts budget are insufficient. As a result, we weren't able to assure the presence of two lab attendants at the help desk at all times. Also, this year again, we had to significantly reduce the lab opening hours during the Summer semester.

All members of the team have a unique set of skills which allowed them to be actively involved and lead a variety of projects, such as programming an online reservation system for the AMLF, designing a website for the 6th International Conference on Second Language Pedagogies, organizing special events, and designing and editing a variety of documents. Having the coordinator of the student run organization LingoBuddies as part of our team also brought the collaboration of the AMLF and LingoBuddies to a new level: organization of workshops, events promotion, and more.

▪ **HIGHLIGHTS AND INITIATIVES**

○ **AMLF Newsletter**

Still published online twice a year, the AMLF [newsletter](#) keeps the McGill community informed and updated on the new activities and resources coming at the AMLF, and presents in every issue professional development opportunities for L2 instructors and researchers in the field of CALL.

○ **Language Learning Tools Workshops for Students of French**

In June 2016, the AMLF prepared a [workshop on French multimedia resources](#). Students were invited to discover free online and mobile resources complementary to their language courses. These resources included dictionaries, vocabulary and grammar tools, learning platforms, as well as relevant cultural websites about Quebec and the francophone space at large.

Following this, a second workshop was held on November 10, 2016. Again, the objective was to provide tools for FRSL students who would like to know more about the language and wish to pursue their learning outside of the classroom.

Both workshops were prepared and led by two French Language Monitors hired by the French Language Centre, Joannie Poisson Proulx and Pierre-Gabriel Dumoulin, in collaboration with Lingobuddies. Over 60 students from McGill and Concordia attended these events.

○ **Language Learning and Technology Professional Development Series**

In spring 2016, a new [series of professional development events](#) featuring second/foreign language instructors from the Faculty of Arts was successfully launched and workshops as well as research talks were presented in both spring and fall.

On March 11th, Bill Wang from the Department of East Asian Studies presented a research talk entitled “The media and the message: what does educational technology mean to us, the language teaching community?” in which he addressed the technological impact of computer-based and internet supported educational technology on teaching and learning. Shortly after, on March 29th, Sarah Anthony and Prisca Fenoglio from the French Language Centre lead a workshop entitled “Web 2.0 Tools in the Language Classroom: Why and How to Use Them?” in which they evaluated the impact of the integration of 2.0 tools in the classroom on instructors and learners’ motivation.

The series continued over the Fall semester. On October 27th, Dr. Ludmila Klimanova, Russian language program coordinator in the Department of Languages, Literatures, and Cultures, lead a workshop on Technology-Enhanced Project-Based Language Learning (PBLL) and its potential to transform foreign language education. Later in fall, on November 10th, Gabriel Michaud, FRSL coordinator at the French Language Centre lead a workshop on task-based language teaching and presented the theoretical foundations of this approach as well as practical ways of implementing TBLT in the classroom.

All events were well attended and welcomed over 50 second/foreign language researchers and practitioners, graduate students, and educational technology specialists from McGill, Concordia, UdeM and UQAM Universities.

- **Grants and Funding**

ARTS STUDENT EMPLOYMENT FUND (ASEF)

2 800 \$

Natallia Liakina, summer 2016

Project: The hiring of two research assistants, Joannie Poisson Proulx and Pierre-Gabriel Dumoulin, who worked on the creation of a language learning multimedia resources repertoire for the 20 languages taught at McGill, for a total of 400 hours.

ARTS UNDERGRADUATE IMPROVEMENT FUND (AUIF)

18 855,81 \$

Natallia Liakina, march 2016

Project: Renovation at the Arts Multimedia Language Facility and creation of two new multifunctional rooms equipped with modern furniture, smart TVs, computer stations and white boards.

- **Language Learning Resources Repertoire**

Following the throughout revision of the AMLF website, a research project was conducted in summer 2016 with the goal to create a new [repertoire of free online language learning resources](#) on the website.

This project, led by the AMLF Director Natallia Liakina, was realized by two research assistants, Joannie Poisson Proulx and Pierre-Gabriel Dumoulin, both students from the Département de langue et littérature françaises, and was funded by the Arts Undergraduate Employment Fund and the French Language Centre. Along with the help of a web designer, Alexandre Nunes, and in collaboration with various language instructors from the Faculty of Arts, the two research assistants created an extensive database of multimedia language learning resources for the 20 languages taught at McGill University.

Students from and outside of McGill are now able to navigate through all the languages taught at McGill through different categories of resources available such as: dictionaries, vocabulary and grammar tools, learning platform, cultural websites, etc. A Multilingual section offering resources that cover multiple languages as well as a section dedicated to less commonly taught languages have also been created in order to provide students with supplementary material to accompany them in their second language learning and practice. Students have now access to a rich database of resources which will help them consolidate and enhance their learning experience outside of the classroom.

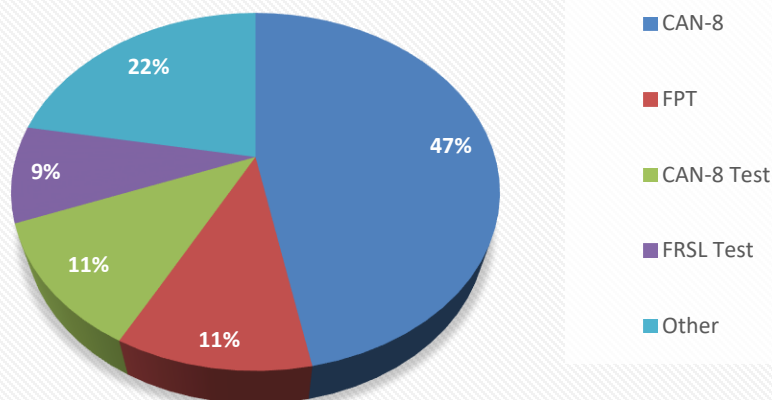
- **The AMLF Redesign Project**

Thanks to the generous support of the Arts Undergraduate Improvement Fund (AUIF), two connected offices (MS-01 and MS-02) located in the AMLF have been converted into a modern and well-equipped multi-functional collaborative space, a new [lounge and meeting room](#). Open to both students and faculty, these new rooms are now used for a variety of language learning and teaching activities such as tutoring (approximately 240 hours in the Fall semester 2016), conversational circles, conferences, workshops, movie screenings and more. While language learning reinforcement activities are organized throughout the semester by the AMLF and the French Language Centre, these rooms can also be used as lounges and study space.

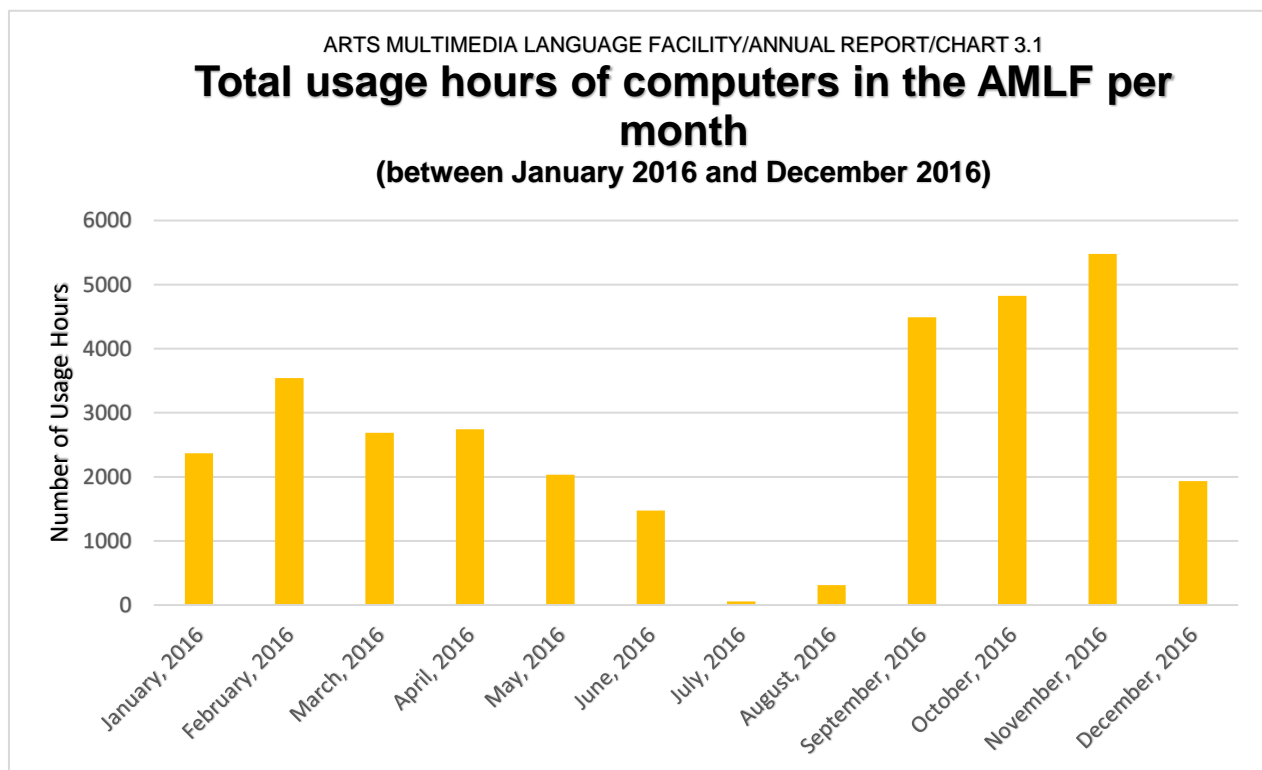
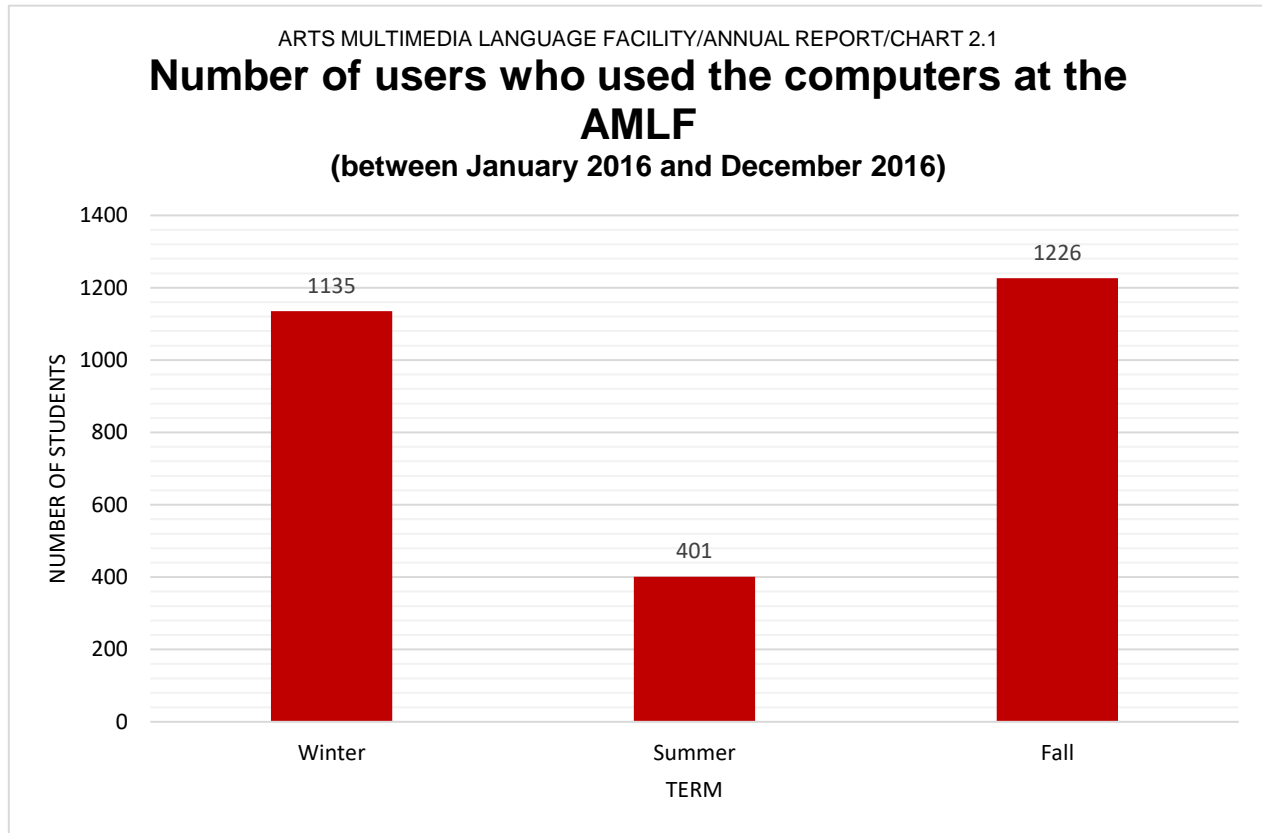
APPENDIX

ARTS MULTIMEDIA LANGUAGE FACILITY/ANNUAL REPORT/CHART 1.1

**Reservation time for all labs by
activity type
(January - December 2016)**



CODE	NUMBER OF RESERVATIONS	NUMBER OF HOURS	ACTIVITIES
CAN-8	420	479:05	Autonomous practice, group labs
FPT	60	110:40	French Placement Test
CAN-8 Test	53	116:15	Oral exams on CAN-8
FRSL Test	62	88:20	Exams and evaluations (myCourses, Faronics Insight, Antidote)
Other	183	226:20	Presentation of multimedia projects (French) Film screenings (French) Make-up sessions (Arabic) Introduction to the AMLF and training workshops (software and tools) PhD Comprehensive Exams, Department of Political Science, Faculty of Arts Workshops for students Lab Assistants' orientation Video shoot Professional Development Meetings Library Resources Workshop Tutoring In-class project (French) Regular classroom not satisfactory



2016 AMLF statistics	WINTER	SUMMER	FALL
Total reservations (hours : minutes)	314:05	99:30	610:15
Total lab users 2016	1135	401	1226
Total number of languages	3	2	5
Total number of professors	13	6	23
Total usage hours of computers	11335.42	3873.51	16723.93

Lab Assistants

January 2016 - December 2016

1. ARNEJA, Timardeep
2. BISCHOF, Marcus
3. CELAC, Roman
4. DING, Lu Ya
5. GODIL, Nabeel
6. GOODRICH, Sydnee
7. HUGUET, Hyacinthe
8. IVANOV, Konstantin
9. KHAN, Humayun
10. KHARPOUTLY, Jad
11. MIAN, Muhammad
12. PARK, Saejung (Katie)
13. SANKAR, Saranya
14. SUN, Jingzhou
15. TENDRON, Thomas
16. YASEEN, Mohammad
17. ZHANG, Junqian

Statistics: Michael Butler, Educational Technology Consultant, AMLF
Sunny Galiza, Enterprise Desktop Administrator

Graphics: Michael Butler, Educational Technology Consultant, AMLF

Editing: Joannie Poisson Proulx, McGill University

May 2017