

# languages ICT

## Languages in non-Roman scripts

### Resources

#### Researching commercial software

A good place to start looking for CD ROM resources is the UK government-funded **Curriculum Online** website, which contains information on both free and charged resources for supporting and delivering subject teaching via ICT. You can also search the **CILT library catalogue**, by title or by using the Power search functions to bring up a list of commercial software titles for your language. If you intend to travel to CILT and want to ensure facilities will be available for trying out software you are interested in, you are welcome to make an advance booking by calling the CILT Library on 020 7379 5110.

Distributors in the UK who specialise in software and electronic resources for lesser-taught languages include **Lingua**, **Eurotalk** and **Mantra Lingua**. CILT offers a range of **Information Sheets**, including lists of UK publishers of language materials.

You could also try a website such as ([http://](http://language.about.com) language.about.com (substitute 'language' for Bengali, Gujarati, Japanese etc), which includes links to available software products, particularly from the USA.

Do bear in mind that teachers of lesser-taught languages can be at a disadvantage, as CD ROM and other resources may be limited in number or quality, or too expensive for your school to purchase for multiple use.

#### Finding useful websites

If you are looking for useful websites to support teaching of your language, try a web directory from the target language country, such as **Yahoo**, where websites are listed in categories. The **BBC** website also provides news in a very wide range of languages, including live radio programmes via its website.

There are also a number of websites aimed at learners and educators which offer lists of web page links collated by language. For example:

**SOAS Language Centre's Learning Support:** These pages are aimed at primarily at SOAS students and includes links for a wide range of world languages including Arabic, Bengali, Chinese, Korean, Japanese, Panjabi and Persian.

**ICT for Language Teachers (ICT4LT):** This transnational site offers free web-based training materials to teachers of languages. If you click on the Resources icon on the index page, you can access a range of useful web links from around the world for language teachers, identified by the website authors. You can also link through to the extensive listing of Graham Davies' Favourite websites, which are carefully annotated and are updated regularly.

**Lingu@net Europa:** This is a multilingual virtual centre of quality-assured resources set up with funding from the European Commission and maintained by a consortium of organisations from Europe and beyond, including CILT in the UK. The online database allows you to search for resources to support teaching and training of any language, from authentic

teaching materials to policy and planning documents and research bibliographies.

**National Advisory Centre on Early Language Learning** (Nacell): Websites selected as useful and appropriate for teaching languages in primary schools are grouped by language on this national site maintained by CILT. Many of the links are annotated with useful information on the website content.

**iLoveLanguages**: This website from Tyler Chambers in the US offers a wide range of annotated links, collected together under various categories. Many categories then helpfully list links according to language, many of which are non-commercial. Some language listings are more substantial than others, but many lesser-taught languages are represented.

**Languages-on-the-web**: This not-for-profit website lists web links by language, collected into useful categories. Click on your language under the Top 100 links heading on the left-hand side of the search page. You will find resources, many of which are free and non-commercial, for a wide range of community and lesser-taught languages.

**Yamada Language Guides**: A modest number of useful web links are listed for each language on this University of Oregon site. A very wide range of languages are represented, including those which are less often taught.

### Creating and sharing teaching resources

There are initiatives to publish materials created by teachers for free download and, where appropriate, adapting by other teachers.

The UK government-funded and moderated **Teacher Resource Exchange** is the main repository of such resources for the UK curriculum. Adapt resources from amongst the hundreds of language worksheets, PowerPoint presentations and interactive games available; or contribute your own! Another example is the teacher-instigated **MFL Resources** website, which provides a wealth of useful materials, mainly in French, German and Spanish. The **Vocational Languages Resource Bank** (VLRB) offers resources for teaching languages for vocational purposes.

The **SSAT Language Networks** offer a variety of downloadable resources for Arabic, Chinese, Japanese and Russian; and the Community Languages Network offers 50+ resources for Urdu. Look out also for the outcomes of the Community Languages Resource Sharing project, which offers worksheets and PowerPoint presentations in Panjabi, Turkish and Urdu. Look also at the the Teaching Resources section of the **Japan Foundation London Language Centre** and keep an eye out for developments on the **Our Languages** website in 2009.

Local authorities can also be a rich source of online teaching resources, particularly in the field of providing support to English as an Additional Language pupils. For example, see the **Birmingham Grid for Learning** which offers language options across some of its curriculum resources. For example, the Mathematics activities DigitWize, Booster Sea Mission and Mental Gym are identified as suitable for learners in Key Stages 1–4, 2–3 and 2–4 respectively, while the Science activity Acids and Alkalis relates to the secondary curriculum (i.e. to Key Stages 3 and 4), all of these are available in Arabic, Bengali, Chinese, Somali and Urdu, in addition to English.

The **Language of the month** resources take a different approach. Welcoming pupils to the school with a very wide range of home languages, Newbury Park Primary School decided to celebrate and utilise this resource, winning a European Award for Languages in the process. Teachers worked with parents and pupils to create video and sound clips, posters and vocabulary lists of basic everyday phrases, together with information about the countries where the language is spoken, for use by all teachers during the school day during the

designated month for that language. These materials in 40+ languages including Cantonese, Greek, Gujarati, Hebrew, Hindi, Nepali and Thai, as well as Arabic, Mandarin, Panjabi, Russian, Tamil and Urdu, are generously shared on the school website, including templates for you to replicate the resources in your own school.

When creating your own materials, do adapt ideas from teachers of other languages: see the **Technology for languages** and **Useful ICT ideas, effective language lessons** sections on the Languages ICT website. Try to find opportunities to use ICT when teaching the whole group, making good use of text, colour, images, photos, video, animation and sound to enable pupils to internalise new concepts more quickly. Try also to procure opportunities for pupils to use ICT themselves, for independent practice and/or creative work. Remember that you can link electronic resources to one another; for example, an on-screen worksheet might link to a vocabulary list or PowerPoint presentation.

### Interactive exercises

Interactive exercises enable pupils to work on games or quizzes independently, receiving immediate feedback. Some exercises provide scores and even clues to answers when pupils get a question wrong. There are some examples in non-Roman script available over the web free-of-charge, although many of these rely on sound or romanised script, or are built using software such as Flash. Matching activities are most common: text to text, text to picture, sound to picture, sound to text, sound to sound etc.

Examples in Japanese can be seen on the **Katharine Lady Berkeley's School** website. **Digital Dialects** offers activities in a wide range of languages, such as Chinese, Japanese, Korean and Russian, amongst others.

Tobu: Learn Japanese is a rare resource for KS3 teachers and learners, offering a wide range of teaching and interactive practice resources for a Japanese course over 1–2 years. It is available on CD free-of-charge via the **Japanese Language Committee** at the Association for Language Learning.

See the downloadable sheet on **Facilities** for pointers on creating your own interactive activities in non-Roman script.

### Other resources

The European Languages Portfolio is a Council of Europe initiative, published by CILT in the UK, enabling learners to record progress in any language they speak or learn. Two versions are available; one suitable for primary and early secondary, the other for adults. You can download templates free-of-charge from the **Nacell** (primary) and **CILT** (adult) websites. It is also available for purchase as a hard copy folder for £3 (2008 prices).

Becta some time ago produced useful lists of vocabulary which both pupils and teachers need when using ICT in the classroom; these are now archived on the Becta website. These **Say IT in.....** sheets are available in 29 languages, including Greek, Farsi, Korean, Kurdish and Pashto as well as many other non-Roman script languages.

### Where to look

Curriculum Online: [www.curriculumonline.gov.uk](http://www.curriculumonline.gov.uk)

CILT library catalogue: [www.cilt.org.uk/libcat](http://www.cilt.org.uk/libcat)

Lingua: [www.lingua-uk.com](http://www.lingua-uk.com)

Eurotalk: <http://eurotalk.com/en>

Mantra Lingua: [www.mantralingua.com](http://www.mantralingua.com)

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CILT information sheets: [www.cilt.org.uk/infos/cilt\\_infos.htm](http://www.cilt.org.uk/infos/cilt_infos.htm)

Yahoo search engine/web directories: <http://world.yahoo.com>

BBC: [www.bbc.co.uk](http://www.bbc.co.uk)

SOAS Language Centre: [www.soas.ac.uk/languagecentre/learners/links/](http://www.soas.ac.uk/languagecentre/learners/links/)

ICT 4 Language Teachers: [www.ict4lt.org](http://www.ict4lt.org)

Lingu@net Europa: [www.linguanet-europa.org](http://www.linguanet-europa.org)

Nacell primary resources: [www.nacell.org.uk/resources/online\\_resources.htm](http://www.nacell.org.uk/resources/online_resources.htm)

iLoveLanguages: [www.ilovelanguages.com](http://www.ilovelanguages.com)

Languages-on-the-web: [www.lonweb.org](http://www.lonweb.org)

Yamada Language Guides: <http://babel.uoregon.edu/yamada/guides.html>

Teacher Resource Exchange: <http://tre.ngfl.gov.uk>

MFL Resources: [www.mflresources.org.uk](http://www.mflresources.org.uk)

Vocational Languages Resource Bank: [www.vlrb.org.uk](http://www.vlrb.org.uk)

SSAT Language Networks: [www.schoolsnetwork.org.uk/commlang](http://www.schoolsnetwork.org.uk/commlang)

Japan Foundation London Language Centre: [www.jpf.org.uk/language](http://www.jpf.org.uk/language)

Our Languages : [www.ourlanguages.org.uk](http://www.ourlanguages.org.uk)

Languages ICT – Non-Roman scripts: [www.languages-ict.org.uk/non\\_roman/facilities.htm](http://www.languages-ict.org.uk/non_roman/facilities.htm)

Birmingham Grid for Learning: [www.bgfl.org/bgfl/index.cfm?s=1&m=280&p=185,index](http://www.bgfl.org/bgfl/index.cfm?s=1&m=280&p=185,index)

Language of the month: [www.newburypark.redbridge.sch.uk/langofmonth/](http://www.newburypark.redbridge.sch.uk/langofmonth/)

Languages ICT – Technology: [www.languages-ict.org.uk/technology/technology.htm](http://www.languages-ict.org.uk/technology/technology.htm)

Languages ICT - Database: [www.languages-ict.org.uk/useful\\_ideas/LinksDatabase.aspx](http://www.languages-ict.org.uk/useful_ideas/LinksDatabase.aspx)

Katharine Lady Berkeley's School: [www.klbschool.org.uk/interactive](http://www.klbschool.org.uk/interactive)

Digital Dialects: [www.digitaldialects.com](http://www.digitaldialects.com)

JLC at ALL (Tobu CD): [www.all-languages.org.uk/committee.asp](http://www.all-languages.org.uk/committee.asp)

Languages Portfolio (primary): [www.nacell.org.uk/resources/pub\\_cilt/portfolio.htm](http://www.nacell.org.uk/resources/pub_cilt/portfolio.htm)

Languages Portfolio (adult): [www.cilt.org.uk/qualifications/elp/adultelp.htm](http://www.cilt.org.uk/qualifications/elp/adultelp.htm)

Becta Say IT sheets: <http://foi.becta.org.uk/display.cfm?resID=35820>

Please note that CILT, the National Centre for Languages and The Association for Language Learning (ALL) are not responsible for the quality of the content of websites listed, nor those websites which they link to. Inclusion does not imply endorsement, nor does omission imply the reverse.

Links were correct at time of publication in June 2008.

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