

Project Year

2002

Project Team

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Project Title

Italian Drill Program - Continuation

Audience

All Peabody students must complete four semesters of foreign language study. This project is targeted to first-year Italian language students at Peabody. *Introductory Italian* enrolls 60-80 students every semester; German and French enroll similar numbers. With minor modifications (additional buttons for other types of diacritical marks) the completed program could be used, in the future, for any language.

Pedagogical Issue

Language study requires regular, individual practice in a number of skill areas. Immediate feedback is beneficial, when possible. A solid grounding in vocabulary and grammatical concepts among introductory language students allows more efficient use of class time and more focus on interactive verbal skills.

Solution

In this project, this team proposes to complete the creation of a virtual language laboratory where students will be able to test themselves at their own pace and on their own time. The software offers immediate feedback through a computer medium. The tool provides the following resources: a complete set of drills for Italian I and II that match chapters in the text being used at Peabody; a notes field, which reminds students of grammatical concepts as they are needed, and improves response matching over time to allow for drills of more complicated concepts; an online form, where students can give feedback on the program; and a program with a user-friendly interface, downloadable by students for use on their home computers. Once the program is completed, we anticipate that it could be of future use to other language courses and first-year language students, beyond its original audience of *Introductory Italian* students, because the drills are written in simple text files, and could be adapted to match any textbook.

Technologies Used

Web Programming (Java Servlets/JSP)