

Technology Used to Support Sign and Spoken Language Development (NTID Self-Instruction Lab)

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The NTID Learning Consortium is housed in the Center for Research Teaching and Learning. The Self-Instruction Lab (SIL) and the Learning Center (NLC) are the Consortium resources.

The NTID Self-Instruction Lab was established to support signed and spoken language communication instruction. Improving and maintaining communication and language skills requires drill and practice. The SIL serves as an environment for both expressive and receptive practice of these activities within a self-instruction format. Established in 1977, the SIL was one of NTID's earliest interactive learning spaces.

The SIL is an Institute wide resource that is available to RIT students, faculty and staff. Members of the Rochester community taking American Sign Language courses also may use the SIL for the drill and practice needed to support their coursework. In addition, the lab offers standardized testing for reading, English language proficiency, and speechreading with and without sound. The lab is open weekdays, as well as evening and weekend hours during the Academic year. During the year the lab has more than 1,500 users for more than 5,000 hours of utilization.

When the SIL was originally established there were 21 individual instructional carrels equipped with a color TV Monitor, videotape player, audiotape recorder/player and headsets with boom microphones. Currently, learners have access to 16 state-of-the-art instructional carrels. Each one is equipped with a color TV monitor and VCR. The following equipment also is available in individual carrels: videodisc players, Macintosh and PC computers, audiotape recorders, CD ROM and DVD players. Learners can use instructional materials in videotape, videodisc, audiotape, CD ROM and DVD formats. Many of the SIL's materials are designed to supplement classroom instruction, but materials may also be used for independent practice and study.

Individuals seeking to improve their expressive practice skills can use the two video production rooms for videotaping themselves individually or interacting with another person using split-screen technology. There are four flex cams connected to VCRs available in SIL carrels for similar purposes. One carrel contains a flex cam connected to a Mac G3 computer which allows learners to record digitally.

The technology resources available in the SIL are continually evaluated, modified and refined. The challenge facing the lab is one of being ready to support new innovations as well as the technology needed to support current materials.

The SIL is staffed by a Coordinator and student lab monitors. The SIL staff interacts with others at NTID to implement computer-based and multi-media instructional innovation for communication skill development. The lab provides an opportunity to share information about communication instruction with local, national, and international educators. The student lab monitors are available to help locate materials and equipment needed to use the lab effectively. American Sign Language faculty and teaching assistants are available to support ASL learning.

<http://www.rit.edu/~482www/sil>

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Multimedia Learning Station Self Instruction Lab/NTID



Equipment Description

ITEM	DESCRIPTION	APPROXIMATE COST
13" Color Monitor	Monitor connects to the video outputs of videodisc and VHS player.	\$270
VHS Player	Dial forward and reverse feature.	\$390
Videodisc Player	Videodisc player connected to computer via cable.	\$835
Mac Computer 6773	A multimedia computer with a large hard drive, sufficient RAM and CD player.	\$2,725
Quick Cam	Low resolution video input to computer system.	\$130
Flex Cam	Higher resolution video input to VCR.	\$400
Power Switch		\$50
Headphones with Amp		\$491

Questions/More Information

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Video Production Room Self Instruction Lab/NTID



Equipment for individual and split screen videotaping capabilities –

ITEM	DESCRIPTION	APPROXIMATE COST
2 color Panasonic Cameras with zoom lens and wall mounts	Captures video input	Subject to manufacturer's specs
13" Color monitor	Monitor connects to video outputs of VHS player	\$495
2 Sony VCRs	Commercial grade with shuttle search capabilities	\$400
Audio Cassette Deck	Record/play capabilities	\$195
Microphone and Audio Mixer	SM58 Cardioid microphone with line in and out capabilities	\$325
JVC Video Effector TKC50U	Individual or two-camera control	\$552
Stereo A/V Selector	Controls audio and video signal	\$25
Power Cord	6 outlets	

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