

Connecting Deaf Web Sites and ASL Classes
<http://wally.rit.edu/internet/subject/deafness.html>

The internet has created an E-volution in the area of ASL and Deaf Studies. As the NTID Librarian, I evaluated hundreds of web sites and created a deaf resources web page to support and meet the curricular needs of the ASL and Deaf Studies department. In designing the website, I wanted to create topic headings the user could click on to go to a group of related links and used a table format.

In order to make the community more aware of this resource, I collaborated with Barbara Ray Holcomb, an ASL professor who invited me to her classes to present the Deaf Resources website. We created a print scavenger hunt activity to assist users in navigating the site. After some discussion, we decided to experiment with creating an interactive online scavenger hunt activity.

At this time, I was exploring the IdeaTools webcourse package designed by Simon Ting and created an interactive quiz that students could complete online 24/7, which is a more convenient option than the print format. The quiz is automatically graded and is a time-saver for instructors. Instructors can post this interactive quiz into their webcourses and assign it to their classes.

<http://idea3.rit.edu/jxnwml/libres/index.asp>

We found that when students completed this activity, they were more comfortable exploring the site which opened their eyes to unusual topics that piqued their interest. In addition, the videos of signers available on the fingerspelling and ASL websites are superior to print material. The interactive exercises allowed students to practice receptive and expressive skills.

In addition to the RIT – NTID community, many other groups would benefit from this resource. Researchers, educators, counselors, the deaf community, deaf schools, and librarians can use this free 24/7 resource to explore deaf studies.