

Language Laboratory Update

Last year at this time, the Language Lab announced that renovations were underway. Since then, many successful changes in the lab facility have been made. The first major change was the addition of carpet to reduce noise. This acoustic improvement benefits not only the students who listen to audio tapes, but also those students who wish to take advantage of the newest equipment installation, the microcomputer.

The lab now has seven Apple IIe microcomputers as well as a terminal for the Texas Tech campus mainframe. With the Apple micros, students may practice German, French, or Latin language drills. The German computer program, which was written by the authors of the current first-year textbook, offers students a choice of practice drills, games in which the student and computer are "opponents," and German tests. The computers have proved to be very popular, and during any given week, approximately one-third of the German students who visit the lab do so in order to use the computer. Students have reported that the computer is valuable for its immediate correction of incorrect answers, and for its ability to structure a comprehensive review of vocabulary, of a grammar topic, or of an entire chapter.

The next stage of lab renovation will be the replacement of the cassette recorders and headsets in student listening carrels. Lab Director Greg Geis said, "we look forward to being able to report at this time next year that our new, comfortable listening carrels are in place and encouraging more and more students to practice, practice, practice!"

If you have any questions regarding the Language Laboratory, or if you have comments or suggestions, please write to Greg Geis in care of the department.

Kevin Spinhome and Becky O'Connor practice German drills on the Language Lab's new Apple IIe computers.

