The Use of Technology in the South Asian Language Classroom

An SALRC workshop · December 3-4, 2004 · Duke University · Durham, North Carolina

Friday December 3, 2004 (130/132 Franklin Center)

8.45 AM Coffee, Tea, and Light Breakfast at the Franklin Center [room 130/132]

9-12 AM Session 1: Technology and Pedagogy

Introductory discussion:

• How can we best mesh available Internet technology with the best language pedagogy?
• How should technology be appropriately applied to pedagogical tasks?

Chris Jones, Carnegie Mellon University
“Digital media and new technologies for language teaching”

BREAK

Robert Blake, University of California, Davis
“Effective use of technologies in language classrooms: Spanish and Arabic without Walls”

12-1 PM CATERED LUNCH at the Franklin Center [room 130/132]

1-4 PM Session 2: Tools, Technicalities, and South Asian Languages

Robert Smitheram, Consultant, Center for Education Technology, Middlebury College
“Fostering and Expanding Faculty Involvement in Applying Technology to Language Learning: The Experience of the Center for Educational Technology”

Discussion: Authoring Tools, Fonts, and other Technical Matters

• Authoring tools: What are good and easy to use?
• Is there existing courseware that can or should be adapted or copied? What are the fair use and intellectual property issues involved?
• Fonts and other technical issues: What are the compromises between font standardization (Unicode) and accuracy? How should fonts be used in the classroom?

BREAK

Discussion: Speaking of South Asian Languages

• What success stories do we have so far?
• Where are we in South Asian languages compared to others, and why?
• Do we need better workshops for materials development?
David Germano, University of Virginia
“Incorporating the Tibetan and Himalayan Digital Library into the Language Classroom”

4.15 PM Shuttles from Franklin Center to Marriott

6.30 PM DINNER, hosted by the North Carolina Center for South Asia Studies, Tosca Ristorante Italiano, 604 W. Morgan St.

Saturday December 4, 2004 (130/132 Franklin Center)

8.45 AM Coffee, Tea, and Light Breakfast at the Franklin Center [room 130/132]

9-12 AM Session 3: Policy, Standards, and Future Directions

Discussion: Policy, Quality, Evaluation

• Can we set down some policies about what we will support?
• Can we put in place some evaluative mechanisms to use when making decisions about what are good materials?

BREAK

Concluding Discussion: Effectiveness and Future Directions

• How should we convince colleagues about using technology?
• Was this a profitable discussion? Will continued discussion be productive?