



AUSTRALIAN FEDERATION OF MODERN LANGUAGE TEACHERS ASSOCIATIONS

Suggestions for Language Centre Development

“Effective languages and cultures programs are characterised by the allocation of dedicated space which is suitable for languages and cultures teaching and learning.”
Professional Standards for accomplished teachers of languages and cultures

Ideally the language centres would have at least 1 classroom/language being taught in a school.

An important factor is the flexibility of the room and ease of access to a range of equipment that allows teachers to change between equipment quickly. The role of the room and equipment is to support the teaching methodology, not to direct it.

MODEL LANGUAGES CENTRE FOR SECONDARY SCHOOL

Each classroom:

- Good design/layout
- good acoustics
- good lighting
- good heating/cooling – air conditioning may be necessary for computers
- blackout facility
- soundproofed
- soundproofed withdrawal area(s) for small-group work (glass-fronted)
- flexible size of classroom (via sound-insulating movable dividers)
- light individual desks and chairs that can be readily moved into different configurations
- listening posts for individual and repeat access to listening tasks
- permanently installed data projector & screen over whiteboard (sometimes it's really useful to project onto the whiteboard and then be able to annotate the image by writing onto the whiteboard)
- lockable resource cupboard in the room
- as much of the wall as possible as pin board
- computer work station area (unless in laptop school)
- reliable wireless internet access
- simple access to Learning Federation, relevant software, etc via school intranet
- plenty of power points, including some floor mounted in centre of room
- large whiteboard
- small spaces close by for small group or individual work
- large enough rooms that space remains for card games, etc on the floor
- book shelves for student access resources
- overhead projector

- master desk to control: Region free blue ray player, digital tv tuner, Interactive Whiteboard, (all also with remote control), computer linked to TV and/or Interactive Whiteboard also wireless high-speed link to Internet and/or School Intranet
- printer(s)
- display cabinets (lockable)
- display boards
- storage: shelving and cupboards
- ergonomically suitable chairs and desks for student; if students have personal computers, suitable connections to desks, including wireless high-speed link to Internet and/or School Intranet\
- headphones/microphones

General facilities:

- data projector
- interactive whiteboard
- TV antenna(s) to allow live viewing and reception of international TV (eg NHK)
- satellite dish and de-coder to receive DSE and other broadcasts??
- self-access multi-media room for students
- video studio for filming with own digital video camera(s) and lighting equipment
- thetrette for video screening and live performances
- demonstration kitchen
- work staffroom with storage, computer(s), printer, communication links, copying equipment (video and audio)

Other:

- photocopier and fax on site
- social staffroom with kitchen facilities
- colour co-ordination
- technical/maintenance support on site
- security for building
- contingency plan/flexibility to allow for use by community education classes, seminars etc
- greater flexibility with fund to purchase laptops/tablets/docking stations for those schools that have already got ICT plans in place