Web resources

Courseware

*These programs have not been tested by the authors. Commentary is based solely on information provided on the website listed.*

HotPotatoes
http://web.uvic.ca/hrd/hotpot/index.htm
From the website: “The Hot Potatoes suite includes six applications, enabling you to create interactive multiple-choice, short-answer, jumbled-sentence, crossword, matching/ordering and gap-fill exercises for the World Wide Web. Hot Potatoes is not freeware, but it is free of charge for those working for publicly-funded non-profit-making educational institutions, who make their pages available on the web. Other users must pay for a license.”

While it is possible to simply use the courseware for crosswords and fill-in-the-blanks, teachers should be able to easily include authentic materials as the central focus of the activity. This is a good tool for some basic classroom activities.

Quandry
http://www.halfbakedsoftware.com/quandary.php
From the website: “The Quandary is an application for creating Web-based Action Mazes. An Action Maze is a kind of interactive case-study; the user is presented with a situation, and a number of choices as to a course of action to deal with it. On choosing one of the options, the resulting situation is then presented, again with a set of options. Working through this branching tree is like negotiating a maze, hence the name ‘Action Maze’.”

Created by the authors of Hot Potatoes, it may be easier to incorporate authentic materials into Quandry than HotPotatoes. For example, a newspaper article (map, picture, official document, etc.) can be pasted into Quandry and the action maze can proceed from there.

MaxAuthor
http://cali.arizona.edu/docs/wmaxa/
From the website: “Without any programming, MaxAuthor lets you create language instruction courseware for Chinese, Japanese, Korean, and 44 other languages. Completed courseware can utilize audio, video, footnotes, and graphics. Student activities include MaxBrowser, Listening Dictation, Pronunciation, Multiple Choice, Vocabulary Completion, and Audio Flashcards. Lessons can be delivered via Internet or MS-Windows.”

This seems like a potentially powerful tool because of its abilities to integrate audio, video, and graphics. It is free for non-commercial use.
WALT
http://ccat.sas.upenn.edu/plc/larrc/webauthor.html
From the website: “The links provided…can be used to make online forms to be used for Web Assisted Learning and Teaching of Languages (WALT). All you need is enter your data in the fields given, and the requested form is generated on the fly. You can simply copy the source code and keep it in your web space, or even leave them in our server and use our web address.”

This addresses the needs of teachers who could use another program to provide the source code for interactive online activities.

Breaking the Silent Barrier on the Web
By Randall S. Davis
http://www.esl-lab.com/tutorials/lesson1.htm
An extensive tutorial about how to add a listening component to language learning websites. Includes sections on hardware and software, recording audio, recording video, and SMIL presentations. Each section includes links and references for further investigation.

Maker’s Pages
http://makers.cet.middlebury.edu/makers/index.htm
Tools for making interactive web activities. Includes ClozeMaker, EvalMaker, MatchMaker, MultiMaker, GlossMaker, DictoMaker, etc. DHTML Makers includes MatchMaker2, OrderMaker and OrderMaker2, PlaceMaker and PlaceMaker 2&3, MemoryMaker. An Online Workshop is available with demonstrations of the different activities. Authentic materials should not be difficult to incorporate.

Sites that provide links to more courseware:

Vidyakash On-Line Learning: Learning Management Systems
Includes commentary.

Macalester-Carleton Mellon Consortium, Mellon Project: Authoring Software
http://www.macalester.edu/~mellon/facsoft/authoring.html
Includes commentary.

Instructional Technologies in the Foreign Language Classroom: Sample List of Websites and Resources
Compiled by Esperanza Román
http://mason.gmu.edu/~eromanme/ace.htm
Includes only titles.
Example Sites

The following sites may or may not use authentic materials, but they are good examples of lessons online.

University of California, Los Angeles: Electronic Language Materials Archive
http://www.humnet.ucla.edu/web/elma/
Provides a wide variety of lessons in Spanish and French using authentic materials and computer based language activities. Most lessons are multi-part and cover a range of language skills. An introduction to authentic materials and computer aided learning. Does not have an introductory page, but the links access the lessons directly.

San Diego State University, Language Acquisition Resource Center: Digital Media Archive
http://larcdma.sdsu.edu/dma/index2.html
Presents interesting and lively lessons with materials that don’t qualify as authentic materials according to this definition here. Could potentially help an instructor to keep a clip online to present to class.

Polish Language Website
http://polish.slavic.pitt.edu/firstyear/
A twelve chapter grammar textbook in pdf format that incorporates visual authentic materials into the lessons.

University of Minnesota, Center for Advanced Research on Language Acquisition: Virtual Picture Album (VPA)
http://carla.acad.umn.edu/VPA/vpa.html
Pictures of everyday life and holidays with suggestions for pedagogical use that are helpful and insightful. Pictures are available from the Basque region, China, India, Ireland, Israel, Japan, Norway, Poland, Portugal, and Tunisia.

University of Minnesota, Center for Advanced Research on Language Acquisition: Index of Exercises Created with VPA and Virtual Audio Visual Archive
http://carla.acad.umn.edu/lctl/LCTL-tech.html#index
Exercises and lessons created in languages available in the VPA as well as Khmer, Thai, Turkish, and Vietnamese.

Randall’s ESL Cyber Listening Lab
http://www.esl-lab.com/index.htm
Listening exercises covering a range of topics and difficulty.

Boston College: Web Activities: An Introduction to Baroque Art
http://www.bc.edu/bc_org/avp/cas/romlang/art/
French, Spanish, and German lessons on Baroque art. Include pre-, while, and post-viewing activities. Uses links to target language art sites to engage students in the target
language as they search for information to complete activities. Four levels in each language are available.

**General Resources**

Online Modules for World Educators  
http://www.coe.ohio-state.edu/mmerryfield/global_resources/default.htm  
Includes many links to information laden sites. “Each module has three sections. First a list of websites, then print materials, and then films and other media.” For the LCTL this is a hit or miss site. A great deal of information is available on each target area, but the information tends to be in English.

California Language Teachers Association: Internet Activities for Foreign Language Classes  
http://www.clta.net/lessons/  
Includes sections with sample lesson plans, introductions to how to write lessons for the web, reading strategies for web activities, internet options in the classroom, and over 400 links to sites with “authentic documents.” Sample lessons are available in Spanish, French, Italian, German, Chinese, Japanese, ESL/EFL, Tagalog, and Latin.

University of Minnesota Language Software Database Search  
http://fmdb.cla.umn.edu/langcenter/FMPro?-db=LCsoftware-&-lay=Web-&-format=lc_soft_search.htm-&-view  
Searchable database of software for LCTL materials in 22 languages. Software may or may not incorporate authentic materials. Give pertinent information about the software such as price and platform.

Knowledge Design Instructional Resources  
http://www.auburn.edu/~mitrege/knowledge/index.html  
Website designed to help instructors use the internet technologies to enhance their teaching of foreign languages. Includes an extensive how-to tutorial section.