

Languages in the News

Enrollments in Languages Other Than English in United States Institutions of Higher Education

The MLA 2009 Enrollment Survey presents data on the number of students enrolled in languages other than English in institutes of higher education in the United States. The site provides links to the full enrollment report, the more concise press release and a database of enrollment figures that can be searched by language, survey year, and state. Finally, the unique Language Map link combines census data with enrollment data, allowing users to view in great detail what languages are taught and what languages are spoken in different regions of the country.

Click here to read [*Enrollments in Languages Other Than English in United States Institutions of Higher Education*](#).

Bilinguals Score Higher on Intelligence

This brief cites a study conducted by researchers at the University of Haifa in Israel of sixth graders who spoke Russian and Hebrew and who were learning English. It found that bilinguals learn a third language easier than monolinguals and bilinguals also score higher on tests of intelligence. The researchers recommend that language learning begin early.

Click here to read [*Bilinguals Score Higher on Intelligence*](#).

Language and Culture Summit: A Strategic Imperative

Outcomes from the *Language and Culture Summit: A Strategic Imperative* sponsored by the Department of Defense endorse the enhancement of language and cultural capabilities within the United States. Leaders from the Department of Defense, industry, and universities established initiatives that prioritize the learning of languages and cross-cultural competence by making them core competencies. Initiatives include:

- Building the cultural knowledge of our military personnel.
- Prioritizing the recruiting of military personnel who are proficient in another language.
- Promoting military personnel who possess cultural and linguistic skills.
- Prioritizing language learning in Department of Defense schools located on military bases.
- Increasing recruitment of native language speakers.
- Developing partnerships between the Department of Defense and universities in order to increase the number of students who study other languages and cultures.

The key conclusion from the summit stated that knowledge of other languages and cultural competence are crucial for the United States' future national and global security.

Click here to read [*Language and Culture Summit: A Strategic Imperative*](#).

Tips and Tools for Early Language Learning

Byki 4 Express

Byki 4 Express is a downloadable web-based program to help people learn a multitude of languages. Learning takes place through a number of mini lessons which include:

- Listen to the word while viewing a flashcard.
- Practice saying the phrase when the flashcard is shown in English.
- Practice writing and speaking the new vocabulary.

The program tracks your progress and your accuracy.

Click here to access [Byki 4 Express](#).

World History Matters

This site can help support three of the “C’s”—Cultures, Comparisons, and Connections recommended by the Standards for Foreign Language Learning in the 21st Century. Though the site is in English, it has many links to primary sources that could yield target language references. It is a self-purported “portal to world history websites” developed by the Roy Rosenzweig Center for History and New Media of George Mason University.

The initial page offers several portals: Finding World History, Unpacking Evidence, Analyzing Documents, and Teaching Sources. In the teaching sources portal, one finds many subtitles under Case Studies: Material Culture—Images, Material Culture—Objects, Maps, Music, Official Documents, Personal Accounts, Newspapers, and Travel Narratives.

Spanish teachers may be interested in the *Huejotzingo Codex* page that comes with a teacher’s explanation of how it can be used in class, along with links to other primary sources connected to the codex. French teachers will want to research the French Revolution resources, which include 12 essays, 250 images, 350 texts documents, 13 songs, 13 maps, a timeline and a glossary.

The Women in World History link is broken down by geographical region, and includes experts from primary sources like—*One Woman’s Jihad: Nana Asma’u, Scholar and Scribe*.

The Analyzing Documents link can be supportive of language study by giving students original pieces of art or texts to connect and analyze in comparison to historical references studied in class.

Click here to access [World History Matters](#).

This issue of *Newsworthy* was compiled by Tammy Dann. Send any comments, questions, or information for future issues of *Newsworthy* to Tammy Dann at trdann@q.com.

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