

Courseware Review

Surf's Up!: A Website Workbook for Basic German

reviewed by Peter Yang, Case Western Reserve University

"This publication is the first pedagogically-enhanced endeavor to incorporate a wide variety of web resources into the foreign language curriculum."

Title of package (book/courseware): *Surf's Up!: A Website Workbook for Basic German*, Linda Moehle-Vieregge, et al.

Available from: Audio-Forum, a division of Jeffrey Norton Publishers, Inc. On-the-Green, Guilford, Connecticut 06437

Equipment required: WWW access

Summary: *Surf's Up!* is a workbook collecting World-Wide Web resources for Basic German. It attempts to provide elementary through intermediate level German students with necessary help in web use.

Evaluation: The resources available on the web for foreign language instruction are boundless, sometimes even overwhelming. This publication is the first pedagogically-enhanced endeavor to incorporate a wide variety of web resources into the foreign language curriculum. *Surf's Up!* is divided into twenty-four categories—"Countries," "Culture," "Environment," etc.—which are further divided into fifty mainly knowledge-based activities, typically questions and answers on themes such as "Die Bundesländer Oesterreichs," "Oktoberfest," and "Umwelt-Tips." The authors of the Workbook attempt to provide language learners with useful, fun, yet guided, web activities. Designed mainly for elementary and intermediate level language students, the topics and themes of this title are well-selected and are based on applicability to basic language instruction, interest to students, and the availability of relevant and interesting web pages.

Each activity worksheet has a cover page with didactically identifiable and meaningful goals, level of instruction, technology tips, comments, and references to related web sites. A comprehensive list of WWW sites at the end of the workbook in addition to those in its main part would also be useful. Although the Workbook is designed for class activities (fifty minutes each), it might also be used by individual students as homework assignments.

The Workbook clearly focuses on text-based information. It does not, however, provide sufficient technical or pedagogical information on how to access more complicated materials on the web such as audio-visual materials, which are increasingly-available on the Internet. The occasional use of English for some of the topics also reveals the workbook's inconsistency in which language to use.

In summary, this title will be a very useful one for German instructors and learners. It is clearly and meaningfully structured, well documented and easy to use. Due to the dynamic nature of the web, however, the workbook will require updates and further improvements on a regular basis. It might even be suggested that a sample lesson and an index of web sites be made available on the web itself so as to allow users to try the materials and comment directly to the authors and/or to make suggestions for future revisions. ■

Peter J. Yang is Jesse Hawk Shera Assistant Professor of Modern Languages and Literatures and Director of the Language Resource Center at Case Western University.