



2021

Review: *LLC (Language, Literature, Culture) Commons: Open Resources for Online Teaching Slavic*

Jennifer Bown
Brigham Young University

Follow this and additional works at: <https://scholarsarchive.byu.edu/rlj>



Part of the [Slavic Languages and Societies Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

Bown, Jennifer (2021) "Review: *LLC (Language, Literature, Culture) Commons: Open Resources for Online Teaching Slavic*," *Russian Language Journal*: Vol. 71: Iss. 3, Article 11.

Available at: <https://scholarsarchive.byu.edu/rlj/vol71/iss3/11>

This Book Review is brought to you for free and open access by the Journals at BYU ScholarsArchive. It has been accepted for inclusion in Russian Language Journal by an authorized editor of BYU ScholarsArchive. For more information, please contact ellen_amatangelo@byu.edu.

Qiunn (Spasova), Shannon Donnally, and Liudmila Klimanova. 2021. LLC (Language, Literature, Culture) Commons: Open Resources for Online Teaching Slavic. Ilcommons.arizona.edu.

The web resource LLC (Language, Literature, Culture) Commons: Open Resources for Online Teaching Slavic, created by Shannon Donnally Spasova and Liudmila Klimanova, allows instructors to share quality online materials that can endure over time. LLC Commons organizes a set of online Russian language modules developed primarily by the authors. All of the materials on the website are licensed under a Creative Commons license, allowing instructors to revise, reuse, and redistribute the lessons as long as the authors of the lesson are given credit.

The modules are organized in a variety of ways, allowing users to search them by keyword, category (level, activity type, format, focus), or tags. The modules are also helpfully organized according to the sequences found in popular textbooks, including *Beginner's Russian*, *В пути*, *Между нами*, *Голоса* (books 1 and 2), and *Тройка*. Judged by this list of textbooks, the LLC Commons collection currently focuses on lower-level Russian language courses, though the authors hope to expand the collection and offer more upper-level materials. The modules are also flexible; they are not specifically built for any particular textbook. Instructors may need to modify materials to better fit their own students, curriculum, or teaching style.

The online lessons are generally interactive and multimodal. The interactive videos allow learners to test themselves, and they receive immediate, targeted feedback. The modules vary in their pedagogical approach. Some modules follow a more deductive pattern of presenting grammatical explanations in English first before asking students to practice what they have learned in Russian. Others are more inductive by presenting Russian examples first, though explanations in English typically follow. Regardless of the approach, the modules represent a helpful way for learners to get explanations, linguistic input, practice, and immediate feedback. The modules can be used for flipped, blended, or fully asynchronous Russian language classes.

Included for each module is a link to an embeddable version of the material. The link can be inserted into most learning management systems (LMS). The authors also helpfully list all technology used in creating the lesson. To help instructors learn more about creating similar content on their own, the website includes a “Resources for Teachers” section. This additional resource includes instructions on how to use H5P and integrate YouTube activities into lessons. It also includes numerous links to webinars and media that discuss topics such as how to use Twitter or virtual reality in the classroom and how to gamify a course. The link to sample syllabi and lesson plans is empty as of August 2021, but these resources will certainly be a welcome feature for instructors developing or refining their curricula.

Instructors can use these materials in a variety of ways: (1) give students links to the activities on the LLC commons, (2) embed the activity into content pages in the LMS, or (3) with an H5P account, use the materials “natively” within the LMS. The first two options do not allow instructors to connect the activities to the gradebooks of their LMS. The third option does allow the connection, though the technical aspects will vary depending on whether the instructor has the free or paid version of H5P. A free account at H5P.org requires that H5P content be hosted on a separate, approved site, such as Moodle and WordPress. Getting these activities to work on the LMS may involve a bit of technical wizardry. For example, uploading H5P files from WordPress to Canvas involves translating the H5P to SCORM and then uploading the SCORM files to the LMS. Premium access to H5P.com, which is better done at an institutional level, will simplify this process and should allow H5P exercises to be linked to the gradebook.

To contribute material to the collection, instructors are directed to contact the authors, who presumably will do the work of tagging and organizing the materials. The site already has about 400 modules, and the authors hope to add many more.

All in all, the LLC Commons portal is a tremendous resource for teachers of Russian, especially at the elementary and intermediate levels. As more instructors add material to this website, the LLC Commons will benefit the wider teaching community.

*Jennifer Bown
Brigham Young University*