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Expansion of UMM Language Laboratory

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University of Minnesota
University of Minnesota, Morris
Morris, Minnesota
April 19, 1961

For Release April 27

Use of a language laboratory greatly accelerates the learning of foreign languages, Dean Rodney A. Briggs of the University of Minnesota, Morris said recently in announcing the expansion of the UMM's laboratory from four to twenty units next fall.

A language laboratory, which is a room where students listen over ear-phones to language selections and then make responses, is designed to supplement classroom instruction.

John B. Heald, UMM instructor in French and Spanish, explains that use of a language laboratory can remove routine drill work from the classroom and allows the individual student more opportunity for participation. The student also is able to progress at his own speed when using the electronic teaching devices of the language laboratory.

A postwar development, language laboratories are an outgrowth of the armed services' use of similar methods for the accelerated teaching of servicemen during World War II.

Beginning French and Spanish students have been using the UMM language laboratory equipment since last fall. Next September advanced Spanish and French courses and Beginning German will be offered in addition to Beginning French and Spanish. The additional courses and substantially increased enrollment expected next fall make the expansion of the UMM's language laboratory necessary.