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**Factors Contributing to Effective Language Laboratory Use
in New Zealand Tertiary Institutes.**

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Abstract

This study focuses on how language laboratories in New Zealand tertiary institutes can be used more effectively. The language laboratory is an excellent tool of learning which can be used to aid the development of both listening and speaking skills as well as a range of competency skills.

Clear guidelines for use and management of this complex equipment with focus on full integration with classroom language teaching are not currently available to users of the language laboratory. The issues are:

Our ability to use the language laboratory to its full extent

Our ability to effectively manage the language laboratory

Our ability to keep pace with the changing nature of language teaching

Our awareness of the value of the language laboratory as a learning aid.

The importance of the language laboratory to our teaching programmes

Self-paced student-centred learning versus teacher control

Discussion of the above with particular emphasis on training, preparation of materials, organisation and management, and integration with the classroom, help provide basic guidelines for improved language laboratory use and a basis for future research and debate.

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