

# Introduction

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Connecting students to the world! What an appropriate theme, important concept and honored calling. Connected-ness is the core of every relationship—the intimacy of couples, the unity of families, the networking of colleagues . . . even the harmony of the universe. It is fitting that this is the first Annual Meeting Publication to present itself on CD—a media with the capability to connect us to each other and to the world through technology. But, as you pop in the CD, remember to not relinquish the title of the first ones to connect students to the world, and don't cede that task to technology alone. We, as language teachers, have always led our students to the arts, history, daily life, and people of foreign lands. We have brought the world to our students through our stories, videos, realia and—food! In short we have established the connections that can “give peace a chance.”

In this issue, thanks to busy teachers who found time to share their special connections to the world, you will find articles championing our role as Internet providers. If I may make a suggestion about how to hook up to this service: ask your administrators for professional reading time on staff development days. It is a very valid request. It allows them to give you access to customized learning in your discipline and it allows you to learn from colleagues who speak your language.

Then, “click here” and read about bullfighting, magic, music, literature and travel. Learn how to find more time on task, how to shift from “coverage” to performance, how to connect the resources of your PTA and BOCES to establish a FLES program, and how to overcome the hurdles facing non-native teachers. And lastly, read about books. Remember books? Happy reading!