

NAIRTL lecture capture equipment

Equipment specification

- Sony handheld video camera with DVD tape and USB output
- Sony cabled lapel microphone
- Tripod
- Laptop with Camtasia 5 software (Dell D630, 3 Gb RAM, Windows XP)
- 2 x USB slide advancers
- 4 x 500w fresnel (not profile) theatre lamps with limited focusing capabilities allowing sidelighting positions for better facial modelling
- 6-way lighting control board
- 4-way lighting dimmer rack
- Flightcase on wheels
- 2 x lighting stands
- Cable trips and control cables for lighting equipment
- Sound rack with power supply, mixer and amp built into travelling case
- Sound earth noise cancellation box
- 4 x wireless mics (2 handheld with table stands, 2 lapel)
- 2 x portable speakers with stands
- Sound control cables and power cables plus long network cable for Internet-enabled presentations.
- Pull-up stand and portable 3m-wide display stand/backdrop in wheeled case
- Transport box for sound equipment and wheeled "dolly" for sound rack
- Consumables: AA mic batteries, DVD tapes, PVC tape and Gaffer tape, 2m length of theatrical black tat for hiding items unwanted in shot. Ladder.

The total cost, excluding the display stand, was just under €7000. It would have been preferable to purchase a high definition (HD) format system but at the time of purchase the Camtasia software could not utilize HD recordings. The equipment is easily upgradable to HD by purchase of a new camera.

Time and organizational aspects

In order to maintain "popular mass support", there is little extra burden on the lecturer apart from the need to sign a video release form, allowing distribution of the recording . Because it is necessary to copy the speaker's PowerPoint slides onto two laptops, (the one controlling the lecture room projector, and the one recording the video), extra preparation time takes two to five minutes.

When the lights and radio microphones are used for conferences or formal lectures, light focus, radio microphones and sound levels must be checked, which requires that speakers and those introducing the session allow 10-15 minutes of their time, particularly if they plan to use an Internet connection or link to content held on disk which may need to be copied to the recording laptop.

The full paper and Powerpoint presentation are available on the NAIRTL website under the Resources heading.