

BRL**continued from page 1**

funded by the US Department of Education and includes three semester-long courses found on the Internet. Once a student is finished with the courses, he or she should be proficient at both reading and transcribing Braille.

Bob Gotwals is the Shodor representative who started, and is continuing to improve, the BRL project. Although the courses have been up and running since 1999, the Braille Authority of North America requested that Shodor post "specialty" codes on the web in subject areas such as music, chemistry and math. The technicalities of building the new web pages are taken care of with the help of several Shodor interns. BRL has been a great project for young or inexperienced interns to develop their HTML and web page building skills. Ben Pahl, an intern, commented that "the work on the project was sometimes a bit tedious, but I enjoyed being a part of building such a valuable project." As BRL grows, the Shodor Foundation affirms its commitment to education by teaching students how to help other students.

An even more recent extension of the BRL program is Shodor's experimental cooperation with Portland State University. Shodor is to provide the

students of the University's "Introduction to Braille" course with a specialized online Braille resource to serve as the primary instructional material of the course. Instead of purchasing a textbook, the students at Portland State will buy a user name and password to the online material. The BRL project is continuing to pursue its goal of building Braille literacy via the Internet. Explore BRL online at:

<http://www.brl.org>

INTERN OPPORTUNITIES

The following volunteer and paid opportunities are available to qualified high school and college students:

Newsletter Apprentices - help write, edit and layout stories for this newsletter

HTML, Java & Perl Programmers - make interactive web-based science and math activities

MacOs/Linux/NT - assist with regular system maintenance and backup procedures

For more information: contact Bob Panoff at 286 - 1911 or rpanoff@shodor.org

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Exciting Developments!

Shodor has undergone several major developments this summer. Whether it be increased office space or enhanced computer technology, Shodor is growing, renovating, and upgrading with the times.

GROWTH: With help from a generous donation by Mr. John Daledien, Shodor has been able to expand its office area into the upstairs portion of our building on Broad Street. Previously a medical clinic, the 1,750 square feet of space now provides offices for new staff, a work area specifically for interns, and a new classroom.

RENOVATIONS: Shodor's dreams of becoming a Science Park with access to South Elerby Creek are slowly becoming a reality. With the help of Duke fraternity, Alpha Tao Omega, Shodor staff and friends, the efforts in cleaning up the property next door have been successful. The open field now has new grass and is free of debris and the Annex House, next to the office, has a patched roof.

UPGRADES: In order to give students of Shodor the opportunity of working with some of the most advanced computers on the market, Shodor has purchased and placed 11 new wireless laptops in the classroom. The i-Book G3's have replaced the desktop Power Macintoshes and are mainly used by students participating in SUCCEED workshops.