As part of the MERLOT* family of academic community websites, the MERLOT-CATS website is an open-use repository for technical tools, training materials, hardware and software reviews, and other resources that academic technology staff have created and/or have found useful in their jobs and wish to share with their colleagues. This sharing will enable academic technologists to better serve the faculty and students on their campuses -- without having to reinvent the wheel.

You are invited to join this special community! Go to http://cats.merlot.org and click on "Become a Member." Benefits include:

- Quickly find resources that might solve your technical needs and save you hours of work!
- Get help and advice from other community members! Help is just a click away in the "Member Profiles" section. Only members can post information about their areas of expertise and interest.
- Show off your wares! Although anyone can access the materials in MERLOT-CATS, only members can contribute tools and other materials.
- Share your expertise! Only members can attach "User Comments" to materials in the collection and help others determine if, when, and how best to use them.

MERLOT-CATS features include:

- News and events of interest to academic technologists
- Links to the main MERLOT website as well as MERLOT academic discipline community sites -- with over 6,200 instructional applications and other valuable resources
- Advanced member search to look for people with specific skills
- Ability to browse by subject category
- Ability to provide comments on the materials in the collection to help identify things that are of most value
- Materials identified by type, intended audience, IT category
- Ability to locate all materials submitted or created by an individual

For more information, contact Abbe Altman:
(707) 664-4341 abbe@cdl.edu

### Website Categories Available

1. Accessibility (ADA)  
2. Communications  
   - Email  
   - Meeting Support  
   - Messaging  
   - Online Collaboration  
   - Telephones  
   - Video Conferencing  
3. Development  
   - Animation  
   - Audio  
   - Graphics  
   - Instructional Design  
   - Usability  
   - User Interface  
   - Video  
   - Web  
4. Hardware  
   - Mac  
   - Maintenance  
   - Repair  
   - Upgrades  
   - PC  
   - Maintenance  
   - Repair  
   - Upgrades  
   - UNIX  
   - Maintenance  
   - Repair  
   - Upgrades  
   - PDAs  
   - Peripherals  
5. Help Desk  
   - Tools  
   - Training  
   - Troubleshooting  
6. Information Management  
   - Access  
   - Collections  
   - Operations  
   - Support  
   - Tools  
7. Instructional Delivery  
   - AV Media  
   - Classroom Support  
   - Computer Labs  
   - Equipment Checkout  
   - Smart Classrooms  
8. Management  
   - Customer Relations  
   - Help Desk  
   - Lab  
   - Planning  
   - Project  
   - Resource Checkout  
   - Staff  
   - Student  
   - Technology Migration  
   - Technology Planning  
9. Network  
   - LAN  
   - Network Administration  
   - Security  
   - WAN  
10. Operating Systems  
   - Mac  
   - NT  
   - Security  
   - Systems Administration  
   - Unix  
11. Software  
   - Applications  
   - Databases  
   - Course Management Systems  
   - Programming  
   - Site Licenses  
   - Utilities  
12. Training  
   - End User (Customers)  
   - Staff Development

The primary goal of the Community of Academic Technology Staff (CATS) is to support its members, both individually and collectively, in increasing their knowledge, productivity, and professional effectiveness in service of their academic technology goals.

*MERLOT (Multimedia Educational Resource for Learning and Online Teaching) is a national online community project supported by 22 systems of higher education that enables faculty to share and easily locate high-quality online learning modules for their courses. Discipline- and interest-specific MERLOT sites, like CATS, are being developed by experts in their fields. For more information, visit www.merlot.org.

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