

Lab Manual for the SLLA lab

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 Lab Manager *aka the PI's on-the-ground trainer and supervisor*: Janina Piotroski

Welcome to the Sign Linguistics and Language Acquisition lab in UConn's Linguistics Department, also closely affiliated with UConn's ASL program! We hope you'll learn a lot about linguistics and language analysis, develop new skills (coding, data analysis and professional communication, among others), make new friends, enjoy tasty snacks, and have a good time throughout the process.

For general, public-facing information about the lab and our main projects, reference the SLLA website at slla.lab.uconn.edu.

This lab manual was inspired by other lab manuals, most notably [this one](#). It's a work in progress. If you have ideas on things to add, or what to clarify, talk to the lab manager.

This particular manual is designed to focus on undergraduate research assistants, and doesn't contain much mention of other people affiliated with the lab such as our postdocs and graduate students. This isn't because they're not important. They are very important! This guide, however, is for undergrad RAs.

Expectations and Responsibilities

For Everyone:

- Researchers and scientists have to be careful. Don't rush your work. Think about it. Double and triple check it. Ask others to look at your file if you need help or something looks off. It's ok to make mistakes, but mistakes shouldn't be because of carelessness or rushed work.
- If you do make a mistake, you should definitely tell your supervisor or any collaborators (if they have already seen the file or the results, and especially if the paper is being written up, is already submitted, or already accepted). We admit our mistakes, and then we correct them and move on.
- Ask questions!! Don't worry about disrupting the quiet of the lab if you need clarification on your work. It's important for you to know how to do your work correctly, including all special circumstances that you run into.
- Communicate. Don't be afraid to share information or questions with other lab members. If you share a computer or share a project assignment with someone, do let them know about anything that happens relevant to that project or that computer. The lab manager will sometimes do this but it's highly recommended that you maintain the habit as well.

- Support your fellow lab-mates. Help them out if they need help (even if you aren't on the project), and let them vent when they need to. Science is collaborative, not competitive. Help others, and you can expect others to help you when you need it.
- Respect your fellow lab-mates. Respect their strengths and weaknesses. Respect their desire for solitude when they need it, and for support when they need that. Respect their culture, their religion, their beliefs, their gender, their sexual orientation, their career plans, and their life choices.
- Respect the communication needs of lab visitors and of other lab members. Not everyone is hearing. Not everyone signs ASL. Many lab members speak and sign other languages that you don't know. Meet them where they are at.

- If you're struggling, tell someone. Your health and happiness come first. Our lab looks out for the well-being of all its members.
- If there is any tension or hostility in the lab, something has to be done about it immediately. We can't thrive in an environment we aren't comfortable in, and disrespect or rudeness will not be tolerated in the lab. If you don't feel comfortable confronting the person in question then tell the lab manager. In any case, tell the lab manager.
- If you have a problem with the lab manager and are comfortable telling them about it, do so! If you aren't comfortable, then tell the PI.

- Show up. Show up to your shifts; show up to your meetings.
- Respond to lab-related email messages in a timely manner. Generally this means within one business day (during any semester you are working).
- Be on time. Arrive on time for your shifts and meetings, and stay the full length you are scheduled for. "9 to 11" means 9:00 to 11:00, not 9:05 to 10:45. (8:55 to 11:00 is also fine. You will be credited for the extra time.) If you can't show up, then tell the lab manager as soon as you know about the conflict, illness, etc.
- If you're sick, stay home and take care of yourself. Because you need it, and also because others don't need to get sick. Let the lab manager know that you won't be in.
- If you need to miss a shift or find yourself running late, then let the lab manager know when you will arrive, and/or work with the lab manager to re-schedule your missed time. See "Absences" for more information on this.

- Make sure the door to the lab is fully shut if no one is inside. Turn off the lights and shut the door if you're the last person to leave. If you're the first person to arrive, prop the door open so that other workers can get in too.
- Keep the lab tidy. Eating in lab is fine, but clean up food waste, crumbs, spills. Put lab equipment back where you found it. Keep common areas uncluttered.
- Dress code is casual (though you can dress up if you'd like to!), but not too casual. Avoid dirty or torn clothing. We want to make a good impression on our lab's occasional visitors. Don't wear pajamas, but jeans are totally fine. If

you're going to be interacting with participants then try to dress a little bit nicer than normal, though still casual. Jeans are still fine. (Exception: Halloween, on which costumes are certainly allowed.)

For undergraduate students:

- All of the above ("Everyone" section).
- Assist other lab members with data collection, coding, and analysis (unless you are working on your own independent project under the mentorship of another lab member, in which case you should work on that). You may work on a large project and be directed by the lab manager, or you may work assisting a graduate student on a personal project, or a combination of both.
- Develop and make any necessary changes to your weekly schedule by talking to the lab manager.
- Maintain your work log on a daily basis, making sure that it is both neat and informative. In your initial training you will be shown exactly where to find and how to fill in your work log.
- Attend lab meetings as often as your academic schedule permits, actively participate in these lab meetings, and be open to the possibility of presenting at a lab meeting once you've worked on a project long enough to do so.
- If you are earning course credit, submit a write-up of your experience and what you've learned at the end of the semester.

For lab managers:

- All of the above ("Everyone" section).
- Be present in the lab on a daily basis, and typically be in the lab whenever undergraduate students are in the lab. Exceptions are made due to meetings, appointments, illness, and other unavoidable commitments.
- Help new lab members adjust to the lab by answering whatever questions they have that you can answer. If you can't answer, help them find the answer from another source such as the PI.
- Generally oversee the hiring, scheduling, and training of research assistants, undergraduate and otherwise.
- Give lab members access to the appropriate accounts and data necessary for the project(s) that they are assigned to. This includes work logs.
- Assist with the maintenance of IRB protocols for the lab, as well as the recruitment and scheduling of participants on relevant projects. Assist lab members with equipment usage and data collection, storage, and analysis.
- Regularly assess the work of all research assistants and provide assistance, reminders, and trainings as needed.
- Liaise between other lab members and the PI. Keep the PI up to date on all progress and any issues occurring relating to the lab.

Code of Conduct

All lab members are expected to follow UConn's codes of conduct for students or employees, as applicable.

Student code: community.uconn.edu/the-student-code-preamble/

Employee code: policy.uconn.edu/2011/05/17/employee-code-of-conduct/

In addition, we as researchers must conduct our research responsibly. We must get approval from the Institutional Review Board (IRB) for any research, and keep the IRB apprised as to our progress including any accidents or setbacks. As required by the IRB, all lab members viewing sensitive data (typically videos) must complete CITI training before they begin work.

Info about UConn's CITI requirements: research.uconn.edu/irb/citi-training/

The general rule to follow is "don't talk about things in the lab, outside of the lab." Your CITI training will give you a good idea of what is private and confidential. It's better to err on the side of caution when discussing your lab work with others who aren't lab members, or while you're not physically in the lab.

Acceptable outside of the lab	Not acceptable outside of the lab
"I work in Prof. Lillo-Martin's lab."	"I know someone with that last name – that's the last name of a child whose videos I've worked on in the lab."
"At this job I watch videos of bilingual children and transcribe their English."	"In a video I was working on in the lab they were talking about an aunt who was diagnosed with cancer."
"The children I work with are between about 1 year old and 5 years old."	"I think I've seen you before in a video – I work in Diane Lillo-Martin's lab."
"I've seen a child do that; once in a video in the lab I saw a child signing STAY towards a toy."	"The kid that I mostly work with is named Emily / their pseudonym is LIV."
"Participants in our studies come from all over the country, it varies."	"Kevin's hearing children are 2 of the participants in the study I work on."
"I've coded IX before, which basically means all kinds of pointing."	

General Information and Policies

The SLLA lab is located in Oak Hall on the UConn Storrs campus, adjacent to the Homer Babbidge Library on the side of the library that is closest to Mirror Lake. The building is shaped like a backwards, block S. We are in the bottom (or top) of the S on the south side, that is, the wall of the building that's closest to campus landmarks such as the South residence halls, S lot, and the psychology building (Bousfield, BOUS). There are 2 elevators in the building. If you use the south elevator, then you will find the lab if you walk straight down the hallway in the direction you will be facing when you exit the elevator on the 3rd floor. The wall on your left will be all glass, and the lab is on your right. **Our room number is OAK 372.** We also share a small meeting room adjacent to our lab's main space, OAK 373. This room is used for lab meetings, data collection, videophone calls, and other meetings.

Our PI, Prof. Diane Lillo-Martin has an office in Oak Hall as well. Starting from the south elevator on the 3rd floor, walk down the hallway in the opposite direction that you would take to reach the lab. (Left instead of right.) Turn right at the T intersection and find her office a few doors down the hall, just past the offices of the ASL professors. **Her office is OAK 352.**

Lab meetings

Lab meetings are scheduled regularly, typically monthly, throughout the fall and spring semesters. One of their purposes is to help lab workers see what their work is being used for and how transcribing & annotating fit in with the research process as a whole. Their purpose is also to educate lab workers about research methods and developments, and to showcase new research from inside the lab. Undergraduate workers are expected to attend all lab meetings unless there is a known conflict with their class schedule or another excused commitment (see "Absences" section for more information on excused absences).

Lab hours

The lab is generally populated from 9 AM to 4 PM from Monday to Thursday, emptying out earlier than 4 PM on typical Fridays. The lab manager will be in the lab during most if not all of these hours. Graduate students and postdocs may work in the lab at any times convenient to them. Undergraduate research assistants and other research assistants are expected to work their individual schedule as agreed upon by them and by the lab manager. Any make-up or additional work hours will take place during times that the lab manager is in the lab, usually between 9 and 4 but possibly as early as 8 AM or as late as 5 PM.

The lab is generally closed in the evening, overnight, and on the weekends. Exceptions are made a few times a year for special meetings, training sessions, and data collection.

Taking breaks

There is no need to ask for permission to take a bathroom break or a similar break to get a snack, stretch your legs, or give your eyes a brief break from the computer screen. Take breaks as needed while you're in the lab. I recommend stretching in some manner once per hour. See "Best place..." sections for information about the nearest locations for different kinds of food and drinks.

You are allowed to have a cell phone or other electronics with you while you work in the lab – we don't collect them from you. Do try to avoid use of your cell phone, smart watch, tablet, etc. during your work hours. If your shift is 1 hour long, all but the most urgent messages should be able to wait. However, if your shift is 4 hours long, it is understandable that you might occasionally need to open and respond to a message while sitting in the lab. Relatedly, you may use the lab computers to briefly check your personal email (similar to checking your phone), but never leave personal files on lab computers, and never leave your personal accounts (email or otherwise) signed in.

Absences

If you can't make it to a shift or a meeting (or need to arrive late or leave early) then let the lab manager know as soon as you're aware of the conflict, either in person or via email. If you're running late but are on your way, it's helpful if you email the lab manager to let them know as well.

If you know about a potential conflict far in advance (i.e. 1-2 weeks), it's likely that the lab manager will be able to work with you to rearrange your shifts to accommodate.

Once the lab manager knows about your absence, they will work with you to re-schedule your missed hours as long as the full lab schedule permits it.

Acceptable anytime (give notice if able)	Only acceptable with advance notice	Not acceptable (see note about * items)
Personal illness	Medical appointment	Forgot about lab schedule
Illness of a dependent	Meeting w/ advisor	Raining outside
Car accident	Performing in an ensemble	Too hot, too cold
Ice/snow on roads	Rehearsing w/ an ensemble	*Errands
Medical emergency	Presenting for a class, etc.	*Lunch date
Family emergency	Study group meeting	*Concert tickets
Academic emergency	Attending an academic- related event	*Personal grooming appt.

For those reasons marked with an asterisk* in the table above, this excuse is not generally permissible, but we recognize that there may be a time when there's absolutely no way to reschedule or get around a commitment that is very personally important. In these cases your planned work hours may be re-scheduled if ample advance notice is given, or in other extraordinary circumstances.

A few words to explain the reason for your absence are sufficient. Your personal business is your own. Here are some examples.

Too little info: “I can’t come to work today.”

Enough info: “I can’t come to my shift at 9-10 today because I woke up sick.”

Too much info: “I can’t come to my shift at 9-10 today because last night I ate dinner at the dining hall and at 2 am I was awake puking, and when I woke up this morning I threw up again so I’m going back to bed for now.”

Too little info: “I want to re-schedule my Friday shift.”

Enough info: “Could I please re-schedule a few of my hours for next week? I’m scheduled to come in from 9-10 on Friday 8/17. Can I swap that to sometime on Thursday? I’m available for any hour from 1 to 4 pm on Thursday, or Friday 1-2.”

Too much info: “I can’t come in this Friday because my study group was going to meet at 10 but now we’re meeting at 9 so I can’t work from 9 to 10. It takes me about 10 minutes to walk over so can I work at 10:10 instead if we finish at 10, though we might finish late. I also need to leave by 10:45 because of my class at 11.”

Closures

As a general rule, if UConn (Storrs campus) is closed then you are not required to come in to work in the SLLA lab.

If UConn classes are cancelled due to inclement winter weather or any other safety reason such as a power outage or security breach then the SLLA lab is also closed during that time period.

During standard UConn breaks and holidays such as Thanksgiving break week, spring break week, and winter recess, the SLLA lab may or may not be open depending on the availability of the lab manager. You may optionally work during these times, as necessary or possible for the specific project(s) that you’re assigned to work on. You should discuss with the lab manager if you’re interested in working during a particular break.

Communication

You are expected to check your email on a daily basis during semesters in which you’re working in the lab, and to respond to lab-related messages in a timely manner. Lab-related messages should be responded to within one business day of receiving them, if not sooner. Exceptions are made if a different deadline is listed within the email. (e.g. “Please send your schedule information by next Monday.”)

During weeks when you aren’t regularly working in the lab such as winter recess, spring break, or summer semesters, you are expected to check and respond to your email on a weekly basis at least, with the understanding that there may be occasional weeks where you’re away on vacation or otherwise unable to respond.

Be mindful of the difference between “Reply” and “Reply All” when responding to emails. Also pay attention to the use of personal email accounts as opposed to the shared lab emails. It’s often better to email to and from your personal account, because the shared lab emails are exactly that: shared.

Communication modality

Note that each person’s name tag at their assigned computer in the lab also lists their languages. Please use these languages to communicate with them.

At all times, follow proper etiquette in relation to the Deaf community. For example, if there are Deaf individuals in the lab then do not use your voice to try to communicate with them (or with a larger group that includes them) unless they have indicated that preference to you.

The SLLA lab partakes of “voices off” days or times of day. There is a laminated sign placed close to the door to the lab that indicates whether the lab is “voices on” or “voices off” at the moment. If you are a non-signer and we are “voices off”, you may speak (quietly) if it is necessary to do so. You could also write notes.

Chatting in the lab (in any modality)

Phone and videophone calls should be taken outside the lab in almost all circumstances in order to respect the tasks that other lab members are doing, many of which require intense visual or auditory attention and focus.

On the other hand, our lab isn’t a “no conversations zone”. It’s fine and even encouraged to have small talk occasionally, ask each other about our days, etc. While doing so, we respect that others in the lab may have tighter deadlines on their project(s), and also that during work hours in the lab our primary purpose is to work on our assigned file(s). If anyone present asks for an end to a non-work-related conversation then you are expected to comply.

Note that the lab is the university-assigned desk space for graduate students, similar to a professor’s office. Grad students do all of their own work in the lab and are typically working on independent projects that may not fall under any of the main projects that undergraduate workers also contribute to.

If you’re having a spoken conversation that doesn’t relate to work and the lab manager asks you to please focus on your work, do not continue the conversation in sign language instead, or vice versa. Focus on your work.

Food in the lab

Food and drink are allowed in the lab as long as you are tidy and responsible about it, and always clean up after yourself. Coffee, snacks, and a full lunch are all completely fine to partake of while you’re in the lab. Do be respectful about types of food with a strong odor, as well as foods that contain common allergens such as nuts. You may be asked to put it away or go out to the hallway with it.

If you have a specific allergy that other workers should know about because you have an issue with it being in the air or similar, then let the lab manager know.

Shared snacks

Possibly the best thing about our lab is the delicious treats. When lab members travel, we will often bring back some food from that place and leave it out in the lab to be shared with everyone. If no one has travelled recently, lab members take it in turns to bring in various snacks to share instead. Please partake! Bring snacks if possible, but even if you can't, feel free to share in whatever snacks are out.

Kitchen

In the lab itself, we have a mini-fridge, a microwave, an electric kettle, a coffeemaker, and a panini press. There is also a stock of miscellaneous disposable and non-disposable flatware and dishes. Lab members may use any of these things with no further permission needed.

UConn Linguistics has a larger kitchen for the whole department, also in Oak Hall on the 3rd floor. Find it by walking left from the south elevator and turning right at both the first T intersection, and at the second T intersection in the hallway. You will see a glass wall and some comfy chairs up ahead on the left, and a large meeting/class room up ahead on the right. The kitchen is on your right, very close to the corner. There are sinks, paper towels, some other paper products, a large fridge, a water dispenser, a microwave, and a toaster. Bear in mind that the kitchen is used by members of the departments of Linguistics and Economics.

Restrooms

The closest restrooms to the lab are near the south elevator, before the T intersection. They are on your left as you walk down the hallway, having taken a left from the elevator (instead of a right, which would have brought you to the lab.) There are women's bathrooms and men's restrooms on the 3rd floor. There is a gender-neutral / family / accessible restroom on the 1st floor, straight across (and visible from) the south elevator. There is also a water fountain between the 3rd floor restrooms.

If you need to use the restroom then just go ahead. There's no need to ask permission.

Best places for snacks and drinks

There is a drink vending machine directly below the lab on the 2nd floor of Oak Hall. On the other side of the building there are vending machines for snacks on the 1st floor, next to the large lecture hall, behind the north-side elevator.

Best places for coffee and food

There is a café called Bookworms on the main floor of the library that has coffee, snacks, soups, and some full pre-packaged meals. There is another café called The Beanery just inside the Benton Museum of Art that tends to have a slightly broader selection than Bookworms. Finally, the largest and most diverse selection of quick food options is inside the Student Union and includes Union Street Market, Freshens smoothies, Subway, Dunkin Donuts, and One Plate Two Plates. Ask the lab manager or a more senior lab worker for directions to any of these places.

How to contact...

The lab manager is available via email as well as in-person almost any time they're in the lab working. More formal or longer meetings may also be scheduled during their regular work hours. Just ask!

The PI (Diane Lillo-Martin) is available via email and also during office hours which vary per each semester. For more formal or longer meetings, you should schedule a time in advance (e.g. for academic or career advising, discussing a recommendation letter, discussion of issues in the lab).

You can count on the PI to write you a letter if you've been in the lab for at least 2 semesters (it's hard to really know someone if they've only been around for a few months). This timeframe also applies for listing the lab manager and/or PI as a reference on job applications, including summer jobs. Exceptions can be made if students are applying to other schools or programs shortly after starting in the lab. Your graduate school or other academic applications will be better served by a letter from the PI, whereas applications for office or summer jobs may be better served by a reference from the lab manager.

If you need a letter, notify the prospective writer as soon as possible with the deadline, your CV, and any relevant instructions for the content of your letter. In some cases (especially if short notice is given), you may also be asked to submit a draft of the letter, which will be modified based on experience with you and anything else that needs to be added.

Lab resources**Printer**

Our printer is not very reliable, as you will likely observe during your first semester in the lab. It isn't for personal use but can be used for printing lab-related papers, handouts, experimental materials, consent & permission forms, etc.

Lab macs

Our lab has 8 desktop macs set up and in use on a regular basis, in addition to a few more desktop macs in room 373 and in our room in Arjona. We also have 2 Windows laptops for lab use. You will be given the login credentials for the user account that you are expected to use for your work in the lab, most likely the "transcriber" account which is standardized on all of the lab's mac computers.

The computers are to be used for lab work only. If you are taking a brief break (or if the lab manager instructs you to for, for example, scheduling reasons) you may log into personal email on the lab computers. Never leave your own accounts signed in on lab computers, and never leave personal files on lab computers. We can't guarantee their safety, and we also need to keep things tidy.

Note that this policy differs for graduate students, postdocs, and lab managers, who are permanently assigned to their own computer that isn't shared with others. They may often be signed into personal accounts in order to collaborate on work in the lab or for reasons such as maintaining HuskyCT for a class they teach.

Internet use

All of our computers have an internet connection enabled. You are welcome to use the internet to assist you in your work.

For example, if you're having trouble understanding a child's language but you can see the title of the book the child is trying to read, then you could do a Google search for that book and perhaps find a PDF version that can illuminate the child's intended meaning for you. Or if an adult participant is discussing the name of their school growing up, you may find it useful to use Google to determine the correct spelling of the school's name.

English transcribers are expected to use the Merriam-Webster dictionary, which is available online, to determine the best spelling of words in cases where they are unsure.

GMail and Google Drive

Most projects in the lab have their own GMail account. When you're assigned to a project, the lab manager will give you the login credentials for that account.

We often use the practice of emailing transcripts "to yourself" from the project GMail in order to keep a record of the latest transcripts between labs. This is especially useful in our collaborations with labs at other schools such as, frequently, Gallaudet University.

We also heavily use the Google Drive that is attached to every project GMail account. Each project's Drive is organized slightly differently but generally you will find folders there for how-to guides, logs of the project's progress, individual work logs, and filming logs from the project's initial collection of data.

Drobo

Drobo is the name of our main hard drive system where all data are stored, including massive quantities of videos and analyses for all research done in the lab. Ask the lab manager or another research assistant for instructions on how to connect to Drobo. You will need to be connected to Drobo any time you're working in the lab, because almost all of our files are on it.

On Drobo, the folder called "All Guides/Manuals" contains almost every how-to guide and annotation manual that we have for work in the lab. Reference these materials as often as you like. If something seems missing, tell the lab manager.

The folders called "Experimental Fairs..." contain materials related to data collected at special events known as fairs, where many participants came to a central location on one day or a few days and participated in our research.

Conversely, the folders called "Longitudinal Transcripts" and "Longitudinal Movies" contain materials related to data collected over a period of years, typically videos of the same participant as the participant grew or otherwise progressed.

If you'd ever like to revisit the initial training videos used in the lab, you will find them in the folder on Drobo called "training files".

What We Wish We Knew

Outgoing (graduating) lab members have been asked to document things that they learned or became aware of while working in the lab – things that they wish they knew when they first started. Here is that list. May it help you succeed and thrive!

The lab itself:

1. Always bring a sweatshirt! Even on a hot day! Because you will get chilly in lab- it's inevitable.
2. You will often want to take your shoes off during a long shift to get comfortable, so wear easy to remove shoes for your own benefit. Also bring socks or slippers!

Lab work in general:

1. Drobo sometimes says it can't connect; just try again. 99% of the time it will work on the second try.
2. Reading the video descriptions in the subject logs can be helpful if the session is unique or strange to get an idea of context
3. Save your file! ELAN does for you every 5 min (on most of the computers), but occasionally just in case. It doesn't hurt, unless you accidentally deleted something.
4. Learn different controls/keyboard shortcuts from the ELAN guide
 - a. The 'option' key is super helpful for side scrolling and changing the length of an already-created utterance
5. You can change the speed of your video under 'Controls' in ELAN. Faster is good for reviewing, and slower is good for making sense of things.
6. Always use ELAN's "Grid" view to read through your annotations once you finish a file to double-check if you've made any obvious errors (like typos of putting an annotation on the wrong tier). Always go back to 'xxx' and 'yyy' to see if you can figure them out on a second listen or second viewing with a fresh mind.

English annotating:

1. Always set up a .wav for your video. I think it's more helpful than the video itself. It can help you visualize the utterances (where they start and stop).
2. Always check the conventions guides first if you have questions about annotating. If it doesn't answer it there, THEN check Merriam-Webster dictionary. Rule of thumb- if a word is deemed a word in an official dictionary, then you can type it as annotation. If that still doesn't answer your question, THEN ask the lab manager.
3. If you aren't sure if something is an English annotation, always ask yourself the question – is this English? Just because a person in your video makes a noise/does something with their mouth doesn't mean it's English and should be annotated (Ex: no coughs)
4. Knowing some ASL can be helpful to figure out the English if it isn't clear

5. If you really can't understand what a person you're annotating is saying, then move on (&=vocalizes) and don't dwell on it too long. A lot of times, later context in the video will help you figure it out. Also, checking back another day will give you a fresh perspective.
 - a. Also, you can always ask people working in lab next to you if they might have some insight on the utterance!
6. Quality/better quality headphones make a HUGE difference on a tough file
7. Understand the phonetics chart (not memorize but you need to pho a lot) – especially if you haven't taken any linguistics courses like myself

ASL annotating:

1. If you're not sure if something is a lexical ("real") sign then see if you can find it on Lifeprint (Dr. Bill Vicars) or Signing Savvy.
2. Get second opinions on signs that you aren't sure about. Nobody in the lab minds if you ask them about what they think someone is trying to sign.
3. Use ASL SignBank! It has more information than you may think. Always use Search Translation, not Search Gloss. It's much more helpful.
4. Make sure you're logged in to ASL SignBank when you're trying to use it.