



COMPUTING NEWS

January, 1987 The Computing Center University of Oregon Eugene, Oregon 97403 Vol. 2 #4

Student Records Now Online

This past fall term, the Registrar's Office began using the first online, query access to student records available at the U of O. Registrar Herb Chereck, in an interview for *COMPUTING NEWS*, described the new Student Query System (SQS) as a "huge leap forward." People in the Registrar's Office no longer have to consult a massive card catalog for information on present and former students. A Master Index of 80,000-plus students—everyone who has attended the U of O since the summer of 1980—is now easily and quickly accessible to authorized persons via terminals or microcomputers connected to the IBM 4341.

In addition to the Master Index, which includes name, id, class level, and term last enrolled, more detailed information is available for some 25,000 students enrolled for the current or previous term or admitted for a future term. Administrative offices are using the system to keep up to date with changes of address and major, enrollment drops and adds, and other information that is updated twice weekly. In just one term of use, the Registrar's Office has seen a noticeable decline in phone calls received, and in the number of requests for copies of records such as transcripts.

As personnel from each school are introduced to the SQS, Chereck hopes it will also become a useful tool for academic advising. For example, an advisor can display the courses a student has taken by department and see, at once, whether area distribution requirements have been met.

At present, some 125 authorized users are making about 1000 queries a day. Confidentiality is a concern, and has been addressed in several ways. Individuals authorized to use the system are assigned unique CMS userids. Access for each userid can be limited by type of information, population, day, and time of day. In addition, every query made by each userid is tracked.

SQS was developed by the Student Information System group at the Computing Center. According to Chereck, Alice Chan and her staff members, especially Kelly Griffin and Sharon Collins, deserve the credit for developing the system. SQS runs on CMS on the IBM 4341, and is based entirely on existing CMS utility software.

\$500,000 Grant Received

The U.S. Department of Education has funded a \$500,000 grant to the U of O to be used for a new central research computer and to provide campus-wide electronic communications. The computer is currently being selected (see "RFP Committees Appointed," *COMPUTING NEWS* October, 1986). The University's existing broadband

network will be extended across campus to connect existing research facilities to each other and to the central computer.

The new computer will replace the DEC 1091, serve as the controller for the network, and provide a gateway to outside networks and research facilities. Funds from the grant will also be used to acquire high resolution, high performance workstations. Current plans call for selection of equipment this spring and installation in the summer.

University Calendar Goes Electronic

Events at the University, such as athletic meets, concerts, lectures, colloquia, art exhibits, and other happenings are now listed in an electronic calendar. This comprehensive online database is intended to keep the campus and public informed, and to facilitate the planning of future events.

The calendar can be viewed by anyone with access to the DEC 1091, with or without an account. Just access the DEC and type CAL. You will see a short menu of commands. Type LIST to see events in order by date. Type HELP to display other available options, such as restricting the dates or subjects of the events to be listed.

CAL is maintained by the University News Bureau. Please contact them at x3134 to have your events added to the calendar.

New Documentation

The '86 holiday season generated a bumper crop of new documentation at the Computing Center. Among the new offerings is an introductory handbook for Faculty Forum (FF), the University's electronic conferencing system for faculty and staff.

A revision of the MAIL write-up reflects MAIL's access to the UUCP network and the new link to the BITNET network (see "BITNET Accessible from the DEC," page 2). The BITNET write-up has also been substantially modified to include information for the DEC 1091 BITNET user.

All the above documents should be available for sale or study in the Computing Center's Documents Room (205, x4406) around mid-January. If you've purchased a MAIL or BITNET write-up recently, bring your old copy in and we'll exchange it for a new one.

Finally, there are a number of new DEC online files:

- HELP NODES local network nodes
- HELP UUCP UUCP nodes
- HELP BITNET BITNET nodes
- HELP STAFF faculty/staff network addresses
- DOC FF the FF handbook

DEC 1091 NOTES

BITNET Accessible from the DEC

The 1000-plus nodes of the IBM-based University network, BITNET, are now accessible to our DEC 1091 users. The MAIL program, together with a local link to the IBM 4341, provides a medium for exchanging mail messages with people at BITNET sites worldwide.

BITNET messages must be addressed in the standard network format `receiver@node`, identifying the receiver by name or number and the BITNET node by its name. Your DEC network address is your userid at node "oregon2."

For details on this new capability, pick up copies of the Center's newly revised MAIL and BITNET write-ups in the Documents Room, and refer to the updated online documentation. (See "New Documentation," page 1.)

BITNET joins UUCP, the DEC's 7000-node VAX/Unix network, in providing an extensive range of message destinations for DEC MAIL users.

Output Available Via Campus Mail

DEC users can now have files they send to the DEC 1091 printer, laser printer, and plotter delivered via campus mail. To do so, include the NOTE and DIST switches in the print (or plot) command as follows:

```
print/note:"campus mail"/dist:"department" file
```

Identify your department in 11 characters or less. The output will be addressed to the name associated with the userid you are logged in on, so be sure it is accurate and recognizable.

For more information and instructions on how to avoid typing the switches every time, type HELP ROUTE.

MICRO SCOPE

Hardware and Software Discounts

Microcomputer hardware and software manufacturers often offer discounts of as much as 30 to 40% off list price to University departments. Local computer stores may also offer discounts to individuals associated with the University, as well as to departments. Discounts from various sources may differ. To find out what discounts, if any, are available for a product you or your department want to purchase, ask for the manufacturer's or store's educational sales representative. For information on departmental discounts available from Hewlett Packard, AT&T, Lotus, Ashton-Tate, Xerox, and WordPerfect, contact Pam Prichard at the Computing Center (x4394).

Currently, Apple, IBM, and Microsoft offer discounts to University of Oregon departments, and eligible U of O faculty, staff, and students through the Microcomputer

Purchase Plan and the Microsoft Software Purchase Plan. For information, contact the Computing Center's Micro Support Lab (Room 105, x4412, 1:30 - 4:30 weekdays), and see "Microsoft Software Purchase Plan" below.

Microsoft Software Purchase Plan

The University Bookstore is offering Microsoft micro-computer software at substantial discounts to University of Oregon departments and eligible U of O individuals. Price lists and pamphlets describing the Plan are available at the Bookstore's Electronics counter and in the Computing Center's Micro Support Lab (Room 105).

Technical support for the plan is provided in the Micro Support Lab between 1:30 and 4:30 weekdays. Most of the popular Microsoft packages are available there to try, and staff can assist with questions on software selection.

Discounted software includes recent updates to Word, Microsoft's popular word processor for the IBM PC and Macintosh. Two new products, the Basic Interpreter for the Macintosh and Learning DOS for the IBM PC, are also available. For more information, pick up a pamphlet.

STAT CORNER

Survey of Statistical Software Use

The Academic and Research Computing group at the Computing Center will be distributing a survey to users of statistical software in January. It will ask about computing habits and needs, the quality of existing support services, and the desirability of potential new resources and services. Please fill out your questionnaire and return it via campus mail to University Computing. If you don't receive one, please pick one up in the Consulting Office (Room 207). Make yourself heard as the campus computing environment undergoes radical changes.

Programmer Referral List

University Computing maintains a list of statistical programming consultants who can be hired to help with analyses. The list is informational only, and is not an endorsement. If you want to receive a copy, contact Susan Hilton (x4394). Those who would like to be on the list, even those previously on it, should also contact Susan.

COMPUTING NEWS is published monthly during the academic year by University Computing, Computing Center, University of Oregon, Eugene, OR 97403. Telephone: (503) 686-4394.

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