



COMPUTING NEWS

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Winter Term Courses Spotlight E-Mail

During Winter Term, the Computing Center is offering three courses in electronic communications for University faculty, students, and staff. Each class will be offered twice. "Introduction to E-mail on the VAXcluster" covers basic procedures for sending and receiving electronic mail messages using VMS's MAIL utility.

"Introduction to EVE in MAIL" introduces the EVE full-screen text editor, with special attention to using EVE to compose and modify mail message texts. The third course, "BITNET/Internet Electronic Mail," discusses how to use the University's

two major international network connections to send mail to just about anywhere. It includes an introduction to the WHOIS and FINGER commands, which can help you locate e-mail addresses for people at other Internet sites.

There is no fee for the classes, but participants must have an active VAXcluster account before they can register to attend. Communications accounts with no monthly charges are available for those who just wish to use the MAIL program. To open an account, stop by the Computing Center's Accounting Office (Room 107) at least one week in advance of

the class. To register for a class by phone, call x4394.

Both the introductory e-mail and EVE courses will be held in a special training room in Oregon Hall. Participants are asked to meet at the west end of the second floor foyer no later than 1:25 pm, and to know their VAX account userids and passwords. The "BITNET/Internet" sessions will be conducted in Room 245 of the Computing Center.

Flyers giving a brief description of these courses are available at the Computing Center's reception counters.

Introductory E-Mail Courses (1:25-2:30 pm, 2nd floor Oregon Hall)
Pre-registration and a VAXcluster account required

Introduction to E-Mail on the VAXcluster	Mon. 1/29 and Tues. 1/30
Introduction to EVE in MAIL	Wed. 1/31 and Thurs. 2/1

BITNET/Internet Course (10-11 am, 245 Computing Center)
No pre-registration required. Assumes basic VAX/VMS and MAIL skills. Limited Seating.

BITNET/Internet Electronic Mail	Wed. 2/7 and Thurs. 2/8
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UO Library Adds CD-ROM Databases

The convenience of CD-ROM technology has arrived on campus with the acquisition of nine popular CD-ROM databases by the University Library. CD-ROM databases are contained on compact disks, each of which is capable of storing a vast amount of encoded bibliographic data.

CD-ROM users may perform computerized literary searches at no charge, and may combine two or more subjects in one search and review several years of citations simultaneously. When a search is completed, patrons may obtain a printed copy of their bibliography or transfer the citations to disk.

The Library's current CD-ROM subscriptions are located in various Library branches on campus:

Arch. & Allied Arts (277 Lawrence)
• Art Index 1984-present

Knight Library (Ref. Dept.)
• ERIC (education) 1966-present
• MLA Bibliography (literature & language) 1981-present
• Social Sciences Index 1983-present
• Public Events, Current Affairs 1976-present
• ABI/Inform (business) current 5 yrs

Knight Library (Docs. Dept.)
• GPO Monthly Catalog (federal docs.) 1976-present

Science Library
• Science Citation Index 1987-present
• General Science Index 1984-present

The Library often has supplementary information such as printed indexes and abstracts. For references to materials the Library does not presently hold, the Interlibrary Loan service will work to assist patrons in obtaining the material. If you want further information on these CD-ROM resources, contact the Knight Library Reference Desk (Room 174, x3053).

STAT CORNER

This month's developments in statistical computing at the Computing Center include the installation of a new software package, an IMSL update, and a MINITAB bulletin noting problems in Version 7.1.

RATS

RATS, a popular econometric and time series package from TSP, Inc., is now available on the VAX 8800. Among other techniques, the package handles

- exponential smoothing
- Box-Jenkins models
- vector autoregressions
- simultaneous equation models
- non-linear least squares
- regressions
- spectral analysis
- OLSQ
- logit and probit
- ridge regression

RATS also offers an extensive battery of tests for heteroscedasticity, serial correlation, and other model specification problems.

For more information, see the RATS manual in the Documents Room (205) or type

`$ help rats`

The Latest In IMSL

The Center recently installed the latest maintenance release for the IMSL Mathematical (Version 1.1), Statistical (V. 1.1), and Special Function (V. 2.1) libraries on the VAX 8800.

Many of the changes implemented in these updates are related to improving the efficiency and accuracy of IMSL routines. Others are designed to correct relatively esoteric problems that have been noted with certain IMSL routines. While we don't anticipate that any of the latter will directly affect the average IMSL user at the U of O, those who are working with particularly critical IMSL applications may want to inspect the complete list of maintenance release changes, now available in the Documents Room.

Minitab Cites V. 7.1 Problems

Minitab recently advised us of six problems they've noted in the current MINITAB version (7.1). To access the complete text of these problems and suggested solutions, issue the command

`$ type/page minitab$disk:[minitab]bugs.txt`

Every MINITAB user should read this file to ensure that their current analyses are correct, pending receipt of Version 7.2 correcting these problems.

- Joe St Sauver

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Need an Online Dictionary?

Ever need to look up the meaning of a word while you're logged on to the VAXcluster? You can now do so online by typing the command

`$ telnet decoy 2627`

Once you've accessed node DECOY's port 2627, you may issue a variety of commands to consult its dictionary or thesaurus, e.g.,

<code>d loon</code>	defines the word "loon"
<code>en ski</code>	finds all entries beginning with "ski"
<code>i d</code>	uses just the dictionary (the default)
<code>i t</code>	uses just the thesaurus
<code>i df</code>	searches full dictionary, not just indexed entries
<code>help</code>	displays online help
<code>ex</code>	to return to VMS

Note that there is no command prompt issued by the server and you will be unable to backspace to correct errors. With the simple command syntax, these should prove to be only minor inconveniences.

Macintosh Orientations



Room 175
Computing Center

Tuesdays:

1/23

1/30

2/6

2/13

10:30am-12:30pm

Our hands-on Mac Orientations are designed to teach basic Mac operations to beginners. If you have little or no experience on a Macintosh and would like to try one out, this is the session for you! Classes are offered at no charge and no pre-registration is required.