

November 2000
Vol. 5 No. 7

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JMP News

New versions of statistical software

JMP 4 “Statistical Discovery” software is now available for both Microsoft Windows and Apple Power Macintosh.

Information about this statistics/graphics software’s new features and system requirements is available at http://www.jmpdiscovery.com/product/jmp4_intro.shtml

Information about licensing JMP at the University of Minnesota is available at <http://www.umn.edu/statsoft>

■ Curt Squires,
Academic and Distributed
Computing Services

Information Technology

Newsletter

Rent a Laptop for a Day

Why?

Imagine a classroom – like many classrooms on campus – with no computers and no connections for Internet access. Imagine the instructor wants to add new technologies to facilitate communication and collaboration. Then, imagine not wasting time finding a computer lab to help explain these new tools to students because Academic and Distributed Computing Services is bringing computer technology to the classroom with its new daily laptop rental program.

Daily laptop rentals are not just for in-class work. Students can rent laptops and work on assignments in an environment that works best for them. Faculty members can rent laptops for PowerPoint presentations. Students can bring laptops to the library and be assured they will have a computer to work on. Group projects will become easier, too. You may have noticed groups of students crunched together in a computer lab, an approach that often interferes with work other students are doing.

How?

The list of uses for renting a laptop goes on, but how about the particulars? Students, faculty and staff all can rent a laptop from 8 a.m. until 5 p.m., Monday through Friday. There are no overnight rentals and rentals must be turned in by 5 p.m.

How much? Students pay \$3.50. Faculty and staff pay \$5.00 for the daily rental.



To help make this project possible, the College of Liberal Arts Infotech Fees Committee is offering all CLA undergraduates two free rentals to assist with classroom assignments and research.

What?

The laptops currently being offered are the Dell Inspiron 3800. Each Inspiron has a 500 MHz Celeron (Intel) processor with 64MB memory. A wireless PCI (Ethernet) card will be included, enabling Internet access in select locations around campus. You can use a floppy drive or a CD-ROM drive. If you can't find a power plug-in, you can run about four hours with the batteries provided or return to a rental center and get replacement batteries at no extra charge. To foster school spirit and make them easy to identify, laptops are maroon.

The standard software available includes Office 97 professional, which includes Word, Excel, PowerPoint and Access. The current versions of Netscape and Internet Explorer are installed; and bookmarks to WebMail allow students to check email without having to figure out how to configure email. If research is your forte, you can use SPSS 10. Other software could be installed if you make a request early enough for us to secure a copy.

Where?

A Rental Service Center is located on the West Bank in Blegen Hall, room 93. In the future we'll add East Bank and St. Paul locations. The Service Center phone number is 612-625-2975. The Laptop Rental Web site is: <http://lighthouse.micro.umn.edu/laptoprental>

■ Office of Information Technology, P. Oberg

POPmail: Then and Now

Email software's evolving



Email software has evolved over the past five years to include new features, such as various forms of mail enclosures, methods of sorting and storing messages, hot links within messages and greater security for passwords and for the messages themselves.

The University of Minnesota was a leader in supplying email access to its students, faculty and staff and created one of the first user-friendly email programs: POPmail for the Macintosh and Windows environments.

More choices

With the introduction of products like Netscape Messenger, Outlook Express, Outlook and Eudora and Eudora Pro which include many of these desirable features, the development of POPmail has been discontinued. These newer products continue to add new features and are superior in their handling of email, security and address lists.

Without continued development, bug fixes and security provisions, POPmail is a far less desirable alternative to the newer, highly maintained products.



Consider changing

Because we have ceased all modifications to the POPmail products for a few years, we encourage all users of the POPmail products to select one of the current email programs instead of POPmail.

We have email configuration guides on-line for many popular programs at <http://www.umn.edu/adcs/help/email/clients.html>

If you need assistance in switching mail clients, please contact the University Technology Helpline at 612-626-4276 or 612-301-4357.

■ Simin Hickman, University Technology Helpline



Email configuration guides are at:

<http://www.umn.edu/adcs/help/email/clients.html>

WebCT 3

Now Available to University Instructors and Students

The Office of Information Technology (OIT) is pleased to announce that an upgraded version of WebCT, version 3, is available for University of Minnesota instructors to use to create course Web site materials. WebCT is a popular course site management system used by over 1,500 higher education institutions in over 50 countries. Version 1.3.1 has been used at the University since 1999; over 750 course sites accessed by over 29,000 students have been created with it.

Improvements

WebCT 3 offers the same suite of course management and authoring tools as WebCT 1.3.1 plus an improved designer interface, more functional and flexible development tools and a more user friendly navigational structure, according to members of the six teams of University of Minnesota instructors that have used a pilot version of the program since the beginning of October. For example, Deborah Alexander, Web coordinator for the Department of Epidemiology, states: "The 3 interface is a great improvement over the previous version of WebCT." She also is pleased that she can now incorporate more elements created with cutting-edge applications into her WebCT 3 course sites, such as Macromedia Flash animations.

Maureen Smith, an editor for Distance Education, also is pleased with the new version. "The site map and 'breadcrumbs' features make navigation much easier for

Used by over 1,500 higher education institutions in over 50 countries.

students. The new assignment tool really clarifies what students need to do and when, and provides an easier way for them to upload their assignments."

New and conversion course site requests

University faculty members may request new WebCT 3 course sites or have their existing 1.3.1 course sites converted to version 3 by filling out an on-line form at: <http://webct.umn.edu/webct3/instructors/request-site>

Those who do not want to convert their 1.3.1 sites at this time may continue to use these sites through the current academic year. All 1.3.1 course sites will be converted at the end of July 2001.

Support

WebCT support for University of Minnesota faculty is listed below.

Support Web site

OIT has updated the WebCT Support Web site to include such information as WebCT 3 features, on-line student support as well as access to a demo WebCT 3 course. You can access the site at: <http://webct.umn.edu>

The existing version 1.3.1 support pages will be available through the

academic year 2000-2001 via a link from the support site.

Training

Instructor-led training is offered by the University Technology Training Center and the Digital Media Center. Hands-on WebCT classes for Fall 2000 have been upgraded to version 3. For faculty who are already familiar with previous versions of WebCT, we offer a seminar introducing the new features of version 3; and we have scheduled additional "new features" seminars on November 15, December 1 and January 9. WebCT 3 training will be offered during Spring semester. For more training information, visit <http://www.umn.edu/adcs/training>

Those interested in arranging custom training for their group may call 612-625-2005 to discuss content, scheduling and fees.

Consultation

WebCT course site design assistance is available from Digital Media Center consultants. Instructors who would like to set up an appointment with a consultant should call 612-625-5055.

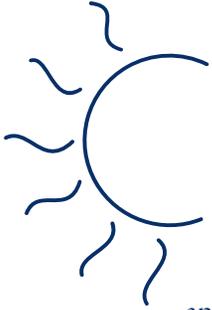
Technical assistance

To request technical assistance if you're experiencing difficulties using WebCT, send email to webct@umn.edu. If you have University Internet account issues, call the Technology HelpLine at 612-626-4276.

■ Office of Information Technology

New and Improved – Top Ten Electronic Products and Services from the Libraries

Nancy K. Herther, University Libraries, <http://www.lib.umn.edu>



What were you up to this summer? Here in the Libraries we've been very busy working to get new products and services in place

and retooling existing products and services to better meet your needs!

What's up? Here's a very brief tour — in no particular order — of some of the best and most exciting changes and features you will want to check out!

Mark Twain — The man who doesn't read good books has no advantage over the man who can't read them.

1. MNCAT hours extended

Due to changes in how we schedule downtime for various house-keeping operations with our on-line catalog, MNCAT hours have expanded greatly. Since August you've been able to access MNCAT for 23 hours a day from Monday through Saturday — that is, MNCAT is available except for the 5:00 to 6:00 a.m. time slot reserved for maintenance; and on Sunday the only downtime is from: 5:00 a.m. to 11:45 a.m.

For everyone with all-night studying or wait-to-the-last-minute papers to do, the Libraries have made it possible to still get your papers in on time! Check us out *almost* anytime at: <http://www.lib.umn.edu>

Gore Vidal — Today's public figures can no longer write their own speeches or books, and there is some evidence that they can't read them either.

2. MNCAT changes /enhancements

If you haven't been reading your *OIT Newsletter* or using MNCAT lately, you will be surprised! We have made tremendous enhancements and user-oriented changes to our on-line catalog over the summer! Take a look and check for some of the free on-line training sessions to help you get to know the database better. Our workshop schedules are on our orientation pages: <http://www.lib.umn.edu/help/orientation>

Oscar Wilde — There is no such thing as a moral or an immoral book. Books are well written or badly written.

3. New Web site features

Check out our new Web site as well! Last spring we made major changes to our Web look, which was driven by focus group testing with students and work with library staff and design consultants. All of our great services and resources are there but in a more user-oriented design.

French management saying — It's all very well in practice, but it will never work in theory.

4. eReserves, eRecalls, eILLs, etc. Now this is service!

The Libraries are moving more and more into the 'eBusiness' of higher education.

Need to recall a book? Want to put some reserve materials on the Web for your classes? Would you like to order some material through interlibrary loan? Now you can do it all with the click of a button from your keyboard using our Web site. Find it all out by going to this site: <http://www.lib.umn.edu/borrowing>

Albert Einstein — If the facts don't fit the theory, change the facts.

Douglas Adams — There is a theory which states that if ever anyone discovers exactly what the Universe is for and why it is here, it will instantly disappear and be replaced by something even more bizarre and inexplicable. There is another theory which states that this has already happened.

5. QS/QS changes /enhancements

What is QS/QS? That's Quick Start and Quick Study!

The University Libraries have been innovators in providing on-line, self-paced tutorials and research guides as a part of our on-line catalog. Over the past few months, many important changes have been made to Quick Start and Quick Study to make them even more valuable to students groping for help as they begin research projects and for faculty to use as they develop their course-related materials.

Need to know how to tell the difference between a popular and scholarly publication?

Want some ideas on the best databases or reference books to use when studying a new topic?

We have it all!

For information on Research QuickStart, check us out at: <http://research.lib.umn.edu>

For information on QuickStudy: Library Research Guide, check out this web site: <http://tutorial.lib.umn.edu>

*Thomas Jefferson —
I live for books.*

6. ebooks

Ebooks (that's electronic books) are the hottest new technology, and we have them! The University Libraries have ebooks from various sources – most have Internet links embedded in MNCAT.

Through netLibrary (one commercial vendor that we have contracted with for services), current University of Minnesota students, staff and faculty have access to a variety of currently published books in electronic format. Each book is listed in MNCAT with a links to its location on the World-Wide Web. Under netLibrary's rules, the limitation is that only one person at our institution can view a particular book at a time; another user trying to view the same book will get a "busy" message. However, a reader can check out an electronic book for a maximum of only 48 hours as opposed to the normal library circulation times for print books, which can run as long as 13 weeks.

For more information on our electronic books, check out this Web site: <http://www.lib.umn.edu/books>

Groucho Marx — Outside of a dog, a book is man's best friend. Inside of a dog it's too dark to read.

7. New Newspapers database

The University Libraries, as a part of the MINITEX-managed Minnesota Statewide Database Access Program, now offer full-text indexing and access to five key newspapers from Gale (the same company that provides the important ABI Inform database).

The indexed newspapers are: *The Star Tribune* (Minneapolis), *Washington Post*, *New York Times*, *Los Angeles Times*, and the *Wall Street Journal*. Coverage is from 1986 to the present.

Michel Eyquem de Montaigne — When I am attacked by gloomy thoughts, nothing helps me so much as running to my books. They quickly absorb me and banish the clouds from my mind.

8. Gale Group interface /enhancements

One of our key on-line vendors is the Gale Group. The company owns the Expanded Academic Index database as well as ABI Inform and other databases that are available here in the Libraries. Over the summer the company has made many significant changes to the interface and service.

Gale Research, which now owns Academic Index, General Reference Center, etc., is making good strides to improve the quality and reputation of these indexes. Check them out for yourselves.

Einstein — If my theory of relativity is proven successful, Germany will claim me as a German and France will declare that I am a citizen of the world.

9. Changes/enhancements to the Statistical Universe database

In September, CIS made some major changes to their Statistical Universe database. This database is already an essential research tool providing on-line indexing to such core publications as: *American Statistics Index*, *Statistical Reference Index*, and *Index to International Statistics*. The vendor claims this is the “world’s most comprehensive access to statistical information.”

The database has become even better with the addition of ‘Power Tables’ in which you are able to search the headings (x and y axis) of key tables for specific information/data that you need. The results include the table itself, which you can download as a GIF file or print. Amazing!

*Sir Arthur Eddington —
In Einstein’s theory of relativity the observer is a man who sets out in quest of truth armed with a measuring-rod.
In quantum theory he sets out with a sieve.*

10. FirstSearch interface changes and enhancements

FirstSearch is the interface for the group of indexes that the Libraries make available from OCLC. These include *Sociological Abstracts*, *PAIS*, *Arts & Humanities Citation Index*, *BioAgIndex*, *Econlit* and *ERIC*.

Over the past summer, FirstSearch also made many significant changes and enhancements to their interface which makes searching easier, research more painless and allows you to spend less time at the computer in search of that elusive fact or citation.

Mark Russell — The scientific theory I like best is that the rings of Saturn are composed entirely of lost airline luggage.

And that’s not all

In the Libraries we have been busy getting new materials into our libraries, sprucing up our facilities for the new year and lining up a whole series of orientation programs for everyone here on campus – incoming freshmen, new grad students as well as refresher sessions for ‘old-time’ faculty and staff. Check us out on-line or stop in and see for yourselves.

We are here to serve; and today, with our array of services, resources and connections to the world at-large, we are able to assist you with your teaching, research, classes or even help with your leisure time intellectual excursions.

Bon appétit!

Gilbert Highet — These are not books, lumps of lifeless paper, but minds alive on the shelves.

■ Communications about this column should be addressed to: Nancy K. Herther, Social Sciences Bibliographer & Librarian, 170b Wilson Library, West Bank; 612-624-2020, n-hert@umn.edu

*Anthony J. D’Angelo, The College Blue Book —
The rules have changed. True power is held by the person who possesses the largest bookshelf, not gun cabinet or wallet.*

Library News

Hands-on workshop: searching the Citation Indexes on-line

Preparing your dossier? Checking out the citation patterns for some important article? This training session is for you. And the workshop is offered twice!

- **Time/dates/location**

Tuesday, November 21, 2000

- 10:30 a.m. to noon.

Tuesday, December 5, 2000

- 9:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

s30c Wilson Library, sub-basement of the West Bank library

- **Instructor:** Nancy Herther, Social Sciences Librarian & Bibliographer

- **Registration:** on-line at <http://www.lib.umn.edu/registration>

Content

The three citation indexes form the core of one of the most useful, complex and complicated research tools that we have in the University Library system. This workshop will cover the basics of what a citation index is and how the three indexes can be used together on-line, using the Web of Science interface, to evaluate the impact of specific articles, trace the development of new and emerging ideas, gauge the impact and value of specific journals and map relationships between subject areas. Users will have time on-line to do their own searches as well as follow the instructor through a series of example searches. If citation analysis is something you need, this workshop will help you gain confidence and experience using these core resources. ■

Romanization of Chinese characters: change to Pinyin scheme

Beginning October 1, the University Libraries, along with other major research libraries and the Library of Congress, joined the international community in using Pinyin as the standard romanization scheme for Chinese characters. Pinyin is an international standard that will facilitate access to Chinese materials for scholars everywhere in the world. The conversion of existing records in library catalogs will last well into the coming calendar year.

Wade-Giles versus Pinyin

The Wade-Giles romanization system, followed in American libraries for the last century, will no longer be used. In Pinyin, for example, the former Chinese leader is called “Mao Zedong,” as opposed to “Mao Tse-tung” under Wade-Giles; “Qing dynasty” (Pinyin) will be used, rather than “Ch’ing.”

Stephen Hearn, Authority Control Coordinator for the University Libraries, notes that: “When Minnesota’s records have been fully converted by the Research Libraries Group (RLG), we will acquire a ‘snapshot’ of our Chinese records from RLG and overlay them on our existing records in MNCAT.”

“In the interim,” Hearn asks, “please be aware that we are in a period of transition. Wade-Giles and Pinyin forms will be mixed in our indexes, in our records, and sometimes in individual headings. Database Management will work to resolve split files so that the same entity is represented by a single Pinyin heading; but many Wade-Giles headings will remain unrevised in MNCAT until the global overlay.” So please be patient with us and MNCAT as we transition to this new system.

For more information on this effort, check out this Library of Congress Web site: <http://lcweb.loc.gov/catdir/pinyin/pinyin.html> ■

Early American Newspapers now in MNCAT

Thought everything owned by the University Libraries was in MNCAT? Well, almost everything is. There are some items that due to complexity of cataloging or amount of staff and money involved have never made it into our on-line catalog. We continue to work to change that! This summer we hit another milestone in the migration of all holdings information into MNCAT.

A special team of professionals in the Libraries have been working together to finally achieve the complete cataloging of the 278 titles in the Early American newspaper microfilm set. Special computer programs were written to handle the creation of holdings information; two catalogers worked to catalog each newspaper on the various reels; and others worked to double-check the information against our holdings records, check for problems, etc.

This was a difficult project because of the many title changes that existed for many of these early newspapers and the fact that many, often completely different titles were filmed on the same reel, making “shelved as” notes necessary for many of the individual MNCAT records. However, the project is done and the materials will be far more accessible to you in the future. These materials will be shelved in S-50 Wilson separately from other microfilm. ■

Nancy K. Herther, University Libraries

▼ Help

Phone: Area Code = 612

- Computer Misuse or Abuse (also see Procedure 2.8.1.1)
- Emergency Network Help Line 625-0006
 - Non-emergency, e.g., spamming: abuse@tc.umn.edu

1 Help • 7/24/365, unless otherwise noted 301-4357

- CCO: central systems, PeopleSoft
 - web: <http://www.umn.edu/cco>
 - by email: x-help@cafe.tc.umn.edu
- Internet, Email, Microcomputers, Distributed Systems
 - call-in Monday–Thursday • 8 am–11 pm
 - call-in Friday • 8 am–5 pm
 - call-in Saturday • noon–5 pm
 - call-in Sunday • 5 pm–11 pm
 - walk-in 8 am–5 pm, M–F: 152 Shepherd Labs; 93 Blegen; 50 Coffey Hall
 - web: <http://www.umn.edu/adcs>
 - by email for U of M: help@tc.umn.edu
- Passwords: new and forgotten ones
- NTS-TAC: Technical Assistance Center
 - web: <http://www.nts.umn.edu>

▼ Dial-in Computer Access

Internet/PPP/SLIP: up to 53kps if v.90 612-627-4250
 (56k K-flex, Flex56, X.2 protocols are unsupported)
 Modem Usage (current activity on your account)
www.nts.umn.edu/services/modemusage.html

▼ Web and Internet Addresses

Quick Guide

Information Technology Newsletter
<http://www.umn.edu/oit/newsletter>

- Internet/Email account management/validation
<http://www.umn.edu/validate>
- MNCAT/LUMINA (Library) – <http://www.lib.umn.edu>
- Office of Information Technology
<http://www.umn.edu/oit>
- Onestop Services – <http://onestop.umn.edu>
- Techmart – <http://www.techmart.umn.edu>
- UM News Server – news.tc.umn.edu

▼ General

Phone: Area Code = 612

- Threats, UM Police Department 911 on campus
 - off campus 624-3550
- Technology Training Center 625-1300
 - web: <http://www.umn.edu/adcs/info/training.html>
- Computer Accommodation Program – voice/tty... 626-0365
- U Computer Services/Computer Repair Serv 624-4800
- Digital Media Center 625-5055
- Statistical Software Support:
 - including SAS and SPSS 624-3330

Associate Vice President and
 Chief Information Officer, Steve Cawley 612-625-8855

Newsletter subscription information and archives at <http://www.umn.edu/oit/newsletter>

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Twin Cities campus address label trivia: the 2nd number after the Rec# is the Campus Mail delivery code, http://umn.edu/lookup

Nov:2000 [pantone295,1205]

Delete/Cancel

Change Name

Change Address

Change Other

Add

If you cancel or change, please tell us the **Rec#**. Just tear off the end page and send the entire mailing label to us. Or send email to: oitns1tr@tc.umn.edu

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