# UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

**Office of Information Technology**

## December 2002

*Faculty, teaching assistants, and staff members:*

*Are you engaged or interested in using technology effectively for teaching?*

*If yes, you can get and share ideas and network with others. See new Teaching with Technology Forum information on page 2.*

# Information Technology

## Newsletter

## Lab in a Bag comes to the St. Paul Campus

**An Adaptive Technology Solution for Students with Disabilities**
**Phil Kragnes, Adaptive Technology Specialist, http://cap.umn.edu/**

We are pleased to announce the availability of adaptive technology for students with disabilities on the St. Paul campus. Since no suitable location could be found on the St. Paul campus to establish an adaptive technology lab, we put the equipment in a bag, creating a flexible solution we're calling Lab in a Bag.

These portable "labs" contain all the adaptive technology found in the adaptive technology labs on the Minneapolis campus, except for a Braille printer and refreshable Braille display.

### Who can use it?

On a per day or semester basis students with disabilities taking courses on the St. Paul campus can check out the "bag." The equipment is also available for employees with disabilities who may need access to a computer and adaptive technology for a conference or other off-campus work-related activity.



**Adaptive Technology at the University of Minnesota**

**http://www.umn.edu/oit**

Excerpts from the University News Service, "U of M Pilots 'Lab in a Bag' Program," Bob Sans

With an investment of nearly $37,000, Kragnes created six Labs in a Bag. Four include a lap top computer equipped with a modem, a standard network card and wireless network capability; a flatbed scanner; speech recognition software and a headset for dictation and hands-free computer operation; a trackball, an optical wheel mouse and other pointing device options that make it easier for students to move about the screen and interact with the computer.

The Lab in a Bag can be carried like a briefcase, worn like a backpack or pulled on wheels like many traveling luggage bags seen in airports. The remaining two "bags" contain a computer loaded with adaptive software, but do not include a scanner or a headset for speech recognition. This allows equipment to be swapped among bags, increasing flexibility and decreasing cost.

Borrowers are responsible for the well-being of the equipment.

## More information

To learn more about adaptive technology that is available on the Twin Cities campus visit our Website: http://cap.umn.edu/.

# Instructors Get and Share Ideas
## At new Teaching with Technology Forum meetings

Addiction usually isn't a laughing matter. But when Peter Dimock, a teaching specialist in the School of Social Work, talked about the experiences of students in his Web-enhanced course Alcohol, Drugs, and the Brain at the first meeting of the new Teaching with Technology Forum, the audience responded with appreciation and humor.

More than thirty faculty members, graduate students, and staff members came to the meeting on October 30. They made a few new acquaintances, enjoyed seasonal goodies, and listened appreciatively to Dimock's description of his students' online struggles with giving up their attachments to shopping, nail biting, and coffee.

### Forum goals

The staff of the Digital Media Center, Office of Information Technology, created the forum to provide opportunities for faculty members, teaching assistants, and staff members engaged or interested in using technology effectively for teaching to get and share ideas and to network with others. At each session, an instructor will give an informal presentation and lead a discussion about a teaching with technology topic. Initial topics will focus on building learning communities, developing learning objects, and working on collaborative project teams.

### Next meeting

Meetings will be held monthly throughout the calendar year; the next one will be in early January (the date, time, and location will be published on the DMC home page at http://dmc.umn.edu). Beverages and desserts will be provided. Please bring your lunch and join us!

### More information

For more information or to sign up for the mailing list, contact Sabra Waldfogel, DMC instructional technology consultant, at waldf003@umn.edu or 612-625-9348.

Sabra Waldfogel, Digital Media Center

## http://dmc.umn.edu

# Update: PeopleSoft 8.0 Upgrade

In case you missed it, here are excerpts from the November, 2002 issue of "On the same page."

## excerpts

## ■ Questions from readers

***Will the PeopleSoft downtime have any impact on my paycheck?***

No. Paychecks will be distributed and deposited as usual during the upgrade. Employees will be able to view their Pay Statements online as usual.

***Is the upgrade still on schedule?***

Yes, the upgrade remains on schedule for Feb. 23, 2003. The current PeopleSoft system will be down beginning Friday, Feb. 14. The new Version 8.0 system will be in production no later than Monday, Feb. 24, 2003.

***What are other schools saying about PeopleSoft Version 8.0?***

Jim Steele, Assistant Registrar for Student Records at the University of Wisconsin, Madison shared that the colleges seem to find the new system easy to use with great navigation. They have found that printing is somewhat easier. If the printer is set up to print from the web it can handle printing from PeopleSoft.

## ■ Web Browsers

PeopleSoft has a formal certification process for browser versions, and they have certified browsers to work with different combinations of hardware and operating systems. A partial list of the certified web browsers is provided [in the table shown here].

- ■ To view the full standard published on the University's PeopleSoft V8 Web Site, log on to http://onestop.umn.edu/Peoplesoft8/.
- ■ Click on the "News Items" link (left of the web page).
- ■ Scroll down to "Desktop system/requirements."
- ■ Click on the link "Web Browsers for PeopleSoft V8."

### Certified Web Browsers, a partial list

| Operating System | Internet Explorer | Netscape |
|---|---|---|
| ● **Macintosh** | | |
| 7.5 & above | 5 | 4.72 |
| 7.6.1 & above (8, 9, X) | - | 4.7, 6.1, 6.2 |
| ● **Windows** | | |
| 2000 | 5, 5.5, 6 | 4.7x, 6.1, 6.2 |
| XP | 6 | 6.2 |
| 98 | 5, 5.5, 6 | 4.7x, 6.1 |

While PeopleSoft has certified both Internet Explorer and Netscape, they recommend using Internet Explorer 5 and above.

The Version 8.0 development team has been using both Internet Explorer and Netscape during the development project. There have been some problems with Netscape that have been reported back to PeopleSoft. As of this time, we are waiting on PeopleSoft to resolve these issues or perhaps retract their certification of specific Netscape versions. The development team has found Internet Explorer 5.5 and above to be the most stable browsers to use with PeopleSoft V8. The team will be doing further testing and will report the results as they are known.

You should also be aware that other web-based applications have different browser requirements (e.g., Financial Forms Nirvana currently works best with Netscape 4.7). If you use multiple web-based applications, you may need to have more than one browser on your desktop. The browser requirements for different University enterprise applications are also published at http://onestop.umn.edu/Peoplesoft8/

- ■ Click on the "News Items" link (left of the web page).
- ■ Scroll down to "Desktop system/requirements."
- ■ Click on the link "Web browsers-what works, what doesn't (draft)."

# Sociological Abstracts Get a New Interface and New Features

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

Sociological Abstracts (SocAbs) is one of the core scholarly databases here on campus and one of the most popular social science indexes for searching.

SocAbs indexes and abstracts the international literature in sociology and related disciplines in the social and behavioral sciences. The database provides abstracts of journal articles and citations to book reviews drawn from over 1,700 serials publications; it also provides abstracts of books, book chapters, dissertations, and conference papers. Records added after 1974 contain in-depth and non-evaluative abstracts of journal articles.

## A deal we couldn't refuse

Cambridge Scientific Abstracts (CSA) made the Libraries an offer this summer that I, as the Sociology bibliographer here on campus, couldn't refuse: greater coverage of the database, along with important new features and unlimited access (numbers of users able to access the database at the same time) *for $1,000 less than we had been paying our current supplier*. Given the high annual price increases we face each year for serials, this seemed too good to be true!

After months with the product we are even *more* happy with this key scholarly tool; and a new, even more improved interface is coming out at the end of 2002. We know that you will be pleased with it too!

### SOC ABS

SocAbs is a core scholarly database for sociologists and any researcher hoping to understand human social behavior and the evolving development of human society. Our new supplier for the online version of this key index is also the company that *produces* the online index.

I began this article after a graduate student in environmental sciences joked with me about how pretty soon sociologists would be studying his field. Well, they already are. I found 423 articles by searching under the keyword *environmentalist\**.

He called back the next day to say the information he was getting was great and helped him learn more about himself and his field. There are also 151 under *librarian\**, and there was certainly some thoughprovoking information there, as well!

# Assignment Calculator    http://www.lib.umn.edu/help/calculator/

now students can request that the University's Assignment Calculator send them e-mail reminders for each of the 12 deadlines in the research/writing process. For example, if a student's research paper is due on December 3, on November 20th they would get an e-mail message reminding them that Step 6, "Find, review, and evaluate journal/magazine/newspaper articles" is due. The

reminder message would include links to the myriad of resources and support available on campus to help a student with that step. At each of the other deadlines, the student would receive a similar e-mail message.

This new feature may make the Assignment Calculator even more popular with students and researchers. This past September and October the Calculator got

about 6,500 hits with about 4,800 completed calculations. Not too shabby!

The Libraries have just begun working on a dissertation version with the Writing Center and the Center for Teaching & Learning, so stay tuned. If you have any questions, comments or suggestions, please send them to Jerilyn Veldof, University Libraries, jveldof@umn.edu.

## Getting real value and great information

Officially' SocAbs covers the field from 1963 to the present and is updated monthly, with about 2,500 new records added each month. Citations added since 1974 include informative abstracts to enhance searching. However, in reality, the CSA product is updated continuously, adding records as they index and abstract more records and add them to the database. They also index relevant Websites and add these to the database.

Searching for literature on social theory, I found 4,340 hits. In a separate line on the screen, nine were listed as Recent References (items being added to the database since the last formal, monthly update). There were also 14 Websites listed. By clicking on the Websites, I retrieved a variety of reports and studies, selected by the SocAbs editor for relevance and value.

I then limited the search to citations from "earliest" to 1960 and retrieved ten citations. How can that be in a database that goes back to 1963, at least officially?

CSA is working to add older items to the database, eventually, bring the database's contents back to 1954, the earliest date for which printed indexing exists in their files. This is an added bonus over other online versions of the database and another major plus for researchers and students here on campus! Currently (depending on your topic), you can find citations in the database going back into 1958 or 1959.

SocAbs provides excellent coverage of the literature and our new vendor provides clear value in its presentation. Over the winter break, we will be updating our CSA interface for SocAbs. The new interface provides even more features and smoother operation of the database.

With the ongoing, serious crisis in journal pricing which we face, we find ourselves having to constantly examine our holdings and look for alternatives or items we can cancel. How exciting to find an alternative that provides more information for more users at a reduced price! Enjoy!

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

*How exciting to find an alternative that provides more information for more users at a reduced price.*

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### Sample
### Sociological Abstracts Record (shortened)

| | |
|---|---|
| TI: Title | Anarcho-Environmentalists: Ascetics of Late Modernity |
| AU: Author | Shepherd, Nicole |
| AF: Affiliation | School Social Science, U Queensland, Australia |
| SO: Source | Journal of Contemporary Ethnography, 2002, 31, 2, Apr, 135-157 |

AB: Abstract
This article explores experiences of environmental activism from the viewpoint of members of a radical environment group. It is based on data collected during eight months of participant observation & through semistructured interviews with ten core members & two ex-members. Working on personal feelings, attitudes, beliefs, & behaviors (self-work) was central to the strategy for social change employed by this group. Drawing on Weber's sociology of religion, this article explores the way in which high expectations the activists had of themselves matched Weber's typification of the rationally active ascetic. It is argued that asceticism is an enduring element of Western culture that takes different forms in response to historical conditions. In this case, we see a form of secular asceticism that responds to the conditions of late modernity. 25 References. [Copyright 2002 Sage Publications, Inc.].

| | |
|---|---|
| LA: Language | English |
| PY: Publication Year | 2002 |
| PT: Publication Type | Abstract of Journal Article (aja) |
| CP: Country of Publication | United States |

DE: Descriptors
* Environmentalism (D264900);
* Environmental Movements (D264125);
* Activism (D006600);
* Modernity (D531900);
* Asceticism (D051000)

| | |
|---|---|
| CL: Classification | 0514 culture and social structure; social anthropology. 0826 mass phenomena; social movements |

# MORE TIPS FOR Searching the new MNCAT

## What's in a title search?

Sometimes it's more than you think. The Basic Browse lets you choose between a handful of different title searches.

- If you're looking for a one-word title, like Science, Nature or Time, use "Main Title only begins…" on the drop-down menu. This choice is also the search to use if you're sure of the title you want.

- If your title might have an ampersand in place of the word "and," like the Journal of Law & Economics, use "Main title or title variation begins…" This search type also works well when you have a journal abbreviation like "j chem educ"

## Your results

When you use Browse searches, you will get a list of items. The one you want — the one that most closely matches what you entered — will usually appear *second* on the list.

- To see more information, click on any item in the Browse list.

- If you want to save the record, check the box on the left of its title. Then, click on "Add Marked Records to Save/Email List." You can keep adding records from other searches.

- When you are ready to save or e-mail all your records, click on "Save/Email List" near the top of your MNCAT screen.

## Large set problem:

At this time there is a known MNCAT problem saving or e-mailing large sets. To avoid losing your work, we recommended that you save or e-mail your results when you have 50 or fewer items.

## Need help?

The Libraries staff are happy to help you. Call us; e-mail us; make appointments with us! For contact information see Infopoint http://infopoint.lib.umn.edu.

■ Mary Rumsey, Foreign, Comparative & International Law Librarian, University of Minnesota Law School

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# BIGGER, FASTER, CHEAPER

The December 1992 issue of this newsletter's predecessor, Computer and Information Services Newsletter, had a short article from Networking Services, the University department that registered IP (Internet Protocol) host for the University of Minnesota. (Under the expanded service group of Networking and Telecommunications Services, they still register IP hosts.)

## 1992, 2002

Networking Services reported that the University appeared to have 3.25% of all .edu (education) domain hosts, and that in October, 1992 the University had 12,085 hosts. This was at a time when the Internet Domain Survey reported that the number of registered hosts on the Internet had increased to over one million.

The Internet Software Consortium publishes an Internet domain survey on its Website <http://www.isc.org/>.

The July 2002 survey reports these numbers.

Total hosts .......................................... 162,128,493
Top 4 domains
    .net (network) ............................. 56,646,014
    .com (commercial) ....................... 43,814,657
    .jp (Japan) .................................... 8,713,920
    .edu (education) ............................ 7,381,306

**1987 holiday specials:** in December 1987 the University could take advantage of these specials offered by the Bookstore:

- $2,625 for a Mac SE with a 20MB hard disk and one 800K floppy drive
- $1,665 for a Zenith ZWL laptop with a 10MB hard disk, one floppy drive, and MS DOS 3.2

**2002 holiday specials:** check out the 2002–2003 specials at Techmart: http://techmart.umn.edu

# Peace!

The University's core mission is on-campus teaching and learning, research, and outreach. This is our central focus. In addition to the University's core mission, there are groups on campus that have as their core mission to serve specialized groups of customers. Their distinctive missions often present them with unique needs and challenges.

In this environment of differing and often competing core missions, the question that often comes up is this: to what extent should central be responsible for providing for the unique needs that some of these local groups face? If one group needs a special tool to meet the needs of their core mission, is it necessary for the whole university to use this same tool?

I think the fundamental issues here are respect and a willingness to work together. We must respect each other's core mission; one is not necessarily better than the other. They are just different. We each need to focus our attention and resources on our core mission while at the same time look for ways to work with and support each other.

It is not a matter of central's unwillingness to help these local groups; central wants to help them. Unfortunately, limited resources will often prohibit what central can do.

If you need a special tool, I must respect your need for that tool. However, you also need to respect that my core mission, being different than yours, may not require the same tool. Do not be offended if the university as a whole doesn't embrace the use of your special tool.

## Peace through respect and teamwork

Why waste time pointing fingers at and criticizing each other for doing what we should be doing: pursuing our core missions. Why pursue partnerships to fight against each other? We should spend our time and effort pursuing partnerships that will enable us to creatively fulfill our core missions! Central will never fully understand the unique needs and challenges of your group. These are your challenges to solve. However, we can join resources and work together to benefit both our core missions.

There are many examples on campus where teamwork has produced wonderful results. I feel that the College of Human Ecology, the Institute of Technology, and the College of Liberal Arts should be commended for their efforts at teamwork." Let's stop wasting time fighting each other. Let's respect each other's core mission. In this time of limited resources it is even more important that we support each other and work together.

◼ Shih-Pau Yen, Academic and Distributed Computing Services

*(The views expressed in this column are the personal opinion of the author and not the official view of the Office of Information Technology.)*

## ▼ 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@umn.edu

**1–HELP •24/7 unless otherwise noted ...... 612-301-4357**

Dial 1-HELP. Listen to the voice menu list of options.
Press the number of your desired option.

- Technology Help: http://www.umn.edu/adcs/help
- ■ Passwords: new and forgotten ones
- ■ CCO Central systems, PeopleSoft
  - by email: x-help@umn.edu
- ■ Internet, Email, Microcomputers
  - 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 Hall; 50 Coffey Hall
  - by email: help@umn.edu
- ■ Networking and Telecommunications Services: NTS
  - by email: help@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)

## ▼ Quick Guide

Modem Usage (current activity on your account)
   http://www.nts.umn.edu/services/modemusage.html
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
Technology Training Center
   http://www.umn.edu/adcs/info/training.html
UM News Servers – news.tc.umn.edu, news.umn.edu

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Threats, UM Police Department ..................911 on campus
   • off campus................................................... 624-3550
Computer Accommodation Program – voice/tty... 626-0365
U Computer Services/Computer Repair Serv ...... 624-4800
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**

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

oitnsltr@umn.edu

If you cancel or change a campus
address, please tell us the **Rec#.**
Just tear off the end page and
send the entire mailing label to
us. Or send email to:

- □ *Add*
- □ *Change Other*
- □ *Change Address*
- □ *Change Name*
- □ *Delete/Cancel*

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