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Library Tech Notes

The UNLV Libraries Technology Committee

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Camille’s Comments

The most notable news for this month is the development of our new NEON and online catalog screens that are searchable via the World Wide Web. See the separate article “World Wide Web and Electronic Full Text” elsewhere in this issue.

Internal Web Pages
The Dean recently approved the development of Web pages for staff (or internal) use. Items such as the POP Manual, Library Faculty Bylaws, lists of library committees and their members, Library TechNotes, meeting minutes, and the UNLV Libraries Planning Document will appear on these pages. There will be no links from our current Library Web pages to these internal pages. Staff will have to type in the URL directly (and then “bookmark it” for future reference). I have solicited ideas on content for these pages from the Library Web Development Team and members of the Library Technology Committee and have forwarded these to the Technical Services Web Team. They will develop a structure for the organization of these materials and will create a home page so staff can easily find specific documents. As with our Library Web site, if you have a suggestion for a document that could be posted on these in-house pages, please get approval from your supervisor. If your supervisor is unsure of the appropriateness of the material, they will check with their supervisor or they can ask me for guidance. Of course, materials must be work-related and be presented in good taste. Posting of individual personnel information (such as the resumes of applicants for any of our open positions) is not acceptable due to their confidential nature. Once your suggestion has been approved, contact Lamont Downs, who leads the Technical Services Web Team, and he will arrange for his Team to get the document ready for posting. The URL for the in-house Web pages will be distributed via email to all library staff when it is ready.

New Products for INNOPAC
Five members of the Library Technology Committee agreed to serve as members of the INNOPAC New Products Task Force. Their assignment: to review software products available from Innovative Interfaces, Inc. that could enhance our current INNOPAC system. Chris Wiatrowski, Cheryl Taranto, Laralee Nelson, Susan Biery, Aimee Quinn, (and myself as chair) served on the Task Force. Task Force members met with Section heads and other library staff to solicit input. Products of interest were divided into two categories. The final list was then submitted to the Dean for her consideration. I am happy to report that the Dean has approved the purchase of both “Priority II” products: an interface to the OCLC Passport software for use by our Cataloging staff and an additional 40 “slots” for use by all staff when creating lists of records on INNOPAC. Thanks to the members of the Task Force, now disbanded, for their efforts!

Upgrade for John Fox
I am pleased to announce that John Fox was recently upgraded from a Computer Systems Technician III to an Information Systems Specialist I. The scope of activities defined in the Information Systems Specialist class series better describes the responsibilities and level of work that John is performing. Please help me congratulate John on his well-deserved (and long overdue) upgrade!
Technology Booklist


Kathy Rothermel

PC Mechanic

Printing Practicalities, Part III

Last month I discussed one of the more common problems encountered when printing, which is that nothing prints. This month, I'll start with a slightly different problem, but equally frustrating: namely, that something does print, but it's pure gibberish. This can range from one line of gray splatters on forty or fifty blank sheets of paper spewed out of the printer (possibly with a few token characters tossed onto each page).

If you address another person in a language they do not understand, or understand imperfectly the results can be rather unpredictable. While such a failure to communicate between persons can cause anything from your car being towed away to thermonuclear war, with a computer and printer it's (thankfully) more likely to result in some wasted paper.

Last month I mentioned that both DOS and Windows programs use software modules called "drivers," and that setting this driver to the wrong printer port usually resulted in no printing. Similarly, if the wrong driver is chosen (that is, the driver for some other printer than the one you're printing to) the printer will receive the commands, but they'll be in a language that it doesn't understand. Doing its best, it will regurgitate various bizarre shreds of output, some of which may or may not be recognizable as text.

With DOS programs, you are limited to whatever printer drivers came with the program you are using. DOS programs often came packaged with dozens of printer drivers on one or more floppy diskettes, none of which would work with any other DOS program. If your printer was not included, you had to either choose a compatible driver (many printers have their own language and will also speak that of one of the more popular brands, such as IBM or Epson) or a generic text driver.

In Windows, individual programs do not require their own drivers; instead, they send their print jobs to Windows. As long as the correct driver is selected in Windows, your print job should print. (By the way, this only applies to Windows programs running in Windows: if you run a DOS program in Windows, it will still handle its own printing and ignore the Windows print driver, so you still have to select the correct driver for it.)

The "official" way to choose a printer in Windows is to open the Control Panel applet (usually located in your "Main" program group, double-click the "Printers" icon, and select a printer from the available list. Once you click the "Set as Default" button and exit from the "Printers" window and Control Panel, any printing you do from a Windows program should automatically go to that printer. However, printing from Windows programs can be rather confusing, because many Windows programs also let you choose the printer from within the program (usually an option in the "File" menu called "Printer Setup" or some such thing).

Worse yet, when you do this, some programs will also set that printer as the default printer (for all Windows programs), while others will only use that printer for that program, leaving your choice in Control Panel/Printers unaffected. If your print job doesn't print, or prints gibberish, you need to check both places to see which printer your program is actually trying to use.

What else can go wrong? Well, one of the most common problems is when you try to print in "Landscape" mode (i.e. wide rather than tall). Most word processing programs have a "Page setup" screen where you can select the paper orientation, size, etc. However, just because your word processor is set up to create your document in the orientation and size you want doesn't mean the printer is. Most printer drivers have an option to select paper size and orientation as well, and if the setting in your printer driver doesn't match your document page setup, you may wind up with your document printed "wide" on a "tall" piece of paper or vice versa (some programs are smart enough to switch the printer settings as well automatically, but by no means all). You can usually find the size and orientation settings for your printer driver by going into Control Panel/Printers and clicking the "Setup" button.

Next month: Printing over a network...
NEON & INNOPAC...

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from CCSN. The subcommittee looked at many other WebPACs in use around the country and applied the best features to our WebPAC screens -- from background colors and buttons to instructions on doing a keyword search and examples on how to search for course reserve materials. The URL for the online catalog is http://webpac.nevada.edu. It will be ready for use by patrons sometime in February.

The second subcommittee began work on developing screens for NEON (referred to as NEON Web to distinguish it from our text-based NEON). Many of the electronic resources available through NEON, like our online catalog, are now available via the World Wide Web. A new interface for NEON was needed to provide a central point of access to these resources. The NEON Web subcommittee members are Susan Biery, Shelley Heaton, Paulette Nelson and me. Many hours were spent reviewing our current NEON screens and expanding them to better represent new Web resources now available to our patrons.

As the content for the screens was identified, Paulette put them in HTML format for display and review. The Technical Services Web Team then began to experiment with the screens. They proposed a design and layout that NEON Web should be ready for public use on or around February. The URL is http://www.nscee.edu/unlv/Libraries/neonweb. Although we don’t have workstations capable of displaying NEON Web in the public areas, students can use NEON Web in our classroom and at campus computer labs, and faculty can search from their offices. From home, faculty and graduate students will have to get a PPP account on a university machine and connect to NEON Web from that account in order to have full access to all of its resources. Refer patrons to User Liaison for further information.

The NEON Web subcommittee will continue to make corrections and small refinements to the screens throughout the semester. No significant changes will be made, however, until the summer. This will give our staff and patrons a chance to use the new interfaces and to identify areas that need clarification or improvement.

We will continue to have the text-based NEON and the text-based online catalog for quite some time. Some of the screens in these two original interfaces need to be revised so that are as up-to-date as the Web screens.

Over time, more databases and resources will be accessible via NEON Web as more database vendors/ producers make their products available through the World Wide Web. This is an exciting time for our staff and patrons as we all learn how to use these new and colorful interfaces.

Camille Clark Wallin

The New NEONWeb Logo is Cool, Blue & Totally Tubular

Library TechNotes is a monthly publication of the UNLV Libraries Technology Committee.
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Locating People on the Internet

It isn't that easy yet, since there is no centralized directory of email addresses. Here's a list of some of the methods I've found most useful for searching for netizens.

**Finger**

At the Pioneer prompt, type `finger person@place`

*Remember to add an extension such as .gov, .org, .edu to the place. If I were searching for John Jones at UCLA, I would type `finger jones@ucla.edu`.*

Also keep in mind that some institutions may not allow an outsider to finger their account holders (People from outside of pioneer can't finger us, for instance, the sysadmin at pioneer has disabled the finger command for outsiders).

**Whois**

At the Pioneer prompt, type `whois placename`

*Whois is a good way to figure out domain names. Try whois nevada, or whois unm.edu. Remember that there are interchangeable alpha and numeric addresses - you may use either one in an email address.*

*Whois works best to discover information on domains on the net, not people, unless you are looking for military personnel. For people in the service, telnet to the military whois server at nic.ddn.mil, then type in the name of the person you seek.*

*Knowbot* (telnet cnri.reston.va.us) is also a whois server.

**Web Sites**

There are several easy-to-use "People Finder" sites.

**Who is Who**

http://www.ictp.trieste.it/Canessa/whoiswho.html

*The online version. If you are looking for professional folk, this might be a good place to check. It includes curriculum vitae, papers and other offerings.*

**Four11**

http://www.Four11.com/

*A rapidly growing site. Four11 asks you to register information on yourself before allowing you to search for others.*

**WhoWhere**

http://www.whowhere.com/index.html

*Since Netscape points to this site, it is rapidly growing. Be sure to add your email address when you visit.*

**How to Find People's e-mail Addresses**

http://sunsite.oit.unc.edu/~masha/p.html#comm

*This site has much more information than I've listed above. A definite must-visit, comprehensive site.*