Virtual Reference. Do you have a reference question you need answered right away but don’t have time to visit the library for help? Try using the virtual reference service available from the UO Libraries. The service offers a live chat that lets you ask a question and receive immediate feedback from a librarian at one of the 21 Oregon libraries participating in the program. To use the service, dubbed AnswerWeb, click the Live Help bell icon on the library’s home page at http://libweb.uoregon.edu.

FITT Center. A new yearly report from the FITT Center speaks to the popularity of the instructional technology consulting service among faculty and GTFs. During the past academic year, 849 visits by 271 individuals were recorded. About two-thirds of the visits were made by faculty members. The FITT Center offers support and consultation to educators integrating technology into their instruction. Support in the use of a variety of hardware and software is offered. The FITT Center is located in Room 59 in the Media Services Department on the ground floor of the Knight Library. Visit http://libweb.uoregon.edu/fitti/ or call 346-1942 for more information.

24/7 Program. The UO Libraries experimented with round the clock opening during dead week and finals week in spring 2003. More than 4,000 students used the opportunity to study and complete course work. About 2,500 used the facilities during dead week and finals week in fall 2003; a decision on round-the-clock opening during dead week and finals week in 2004 is pending.

Laptop Loan Program. A program for students needing to borrow laptop computers has been established, with nine new fully loaded machines available for checkout. The UO Libraries’ Media Services Department, located in Knight Library, is handling the checkout process. Complete information about the program is available at http://libweb.uoregon.edu/med_svc/laptops/.

Oregonian Indexing. Researchers needing access to Oregonian newspaper stories will be happy to learn that the UO Libraries has received a grant from Institute of Museum and Library Services to develop an online index for the Oregonian. The work will commence immediately, completion of the project is scheduled for 2005. For more information, contact Richard Bros at rbro@darkwing.uoregon.edu, 346-0763.

New Library Faculty

Nathan Gregoire has joined the library’s staff as a metadata librarian. He comes to the UO with an M.L.S. in archives management from Simmons College in Boston, Massachusetts. He has worked as an audio archivist for Minnesota Public Radio and has experience in media archiving at Brown University, WCWEB Educational Foundation, and the American Folklore Center at the Library of Congress, among other sites. He has published in Serials Review. He earned his M.A. in media archiving at Brown University, WGBH Boston, Massachusetts. He has worked as an audio archivist for Minnesota Public Radio and has experience in media archiving at Brown University, WGBH Boston, Massachusetts. He has worked as an audio archivist for Minnesota Public Radio and has experience in media archiving at Brown University, WGBH Boston, Massachusetts.

Emily McElroy has joined the UO Libraries as collection development and acquisitions librarian. Emily hails from Chicago, Illinois, where she was serials and electronic collections librarian at Loyola University Health Sciences Library, located in Maywood, Illinois. She has expertise in managing print and electronic journal collections and creating new systems for managing electronic journals. She has published in Learned Publishing and edits the Serials Conversations column in Seriality Review. She earned her M.L.S. degree at Dominican University in River Forest, Illinois, in 1999.

Jon Iahubanski is a new science librarian at the UO Libraries. He earned his M.L.S. degree from the University of Washington in 2002 and has experience working in several academic settings, including the University of Wisconsin, Northwestern University, and the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. He is the library’s subject matter specialist in biology and neurosciences.

Video Technology Arrives

The UO Libraries and Computing Center have recently launched a video streaming and content management service that allows instructors to better integrate video and other media into their classes. The service uses the Virage software suite and includes automatic encoding and indexing of video in real time, full-text search, content editing, data storage, and access control. Virage allows instructors to review and analyze their archived lectures and lets students search for and review class material online. It can also be used to stream video presentations after permission to use the material has been secured from the copyright holder.

One of the initial campus projects using Virage involves indexing television commercials for courses in the School of Journalism and Communication. Instructors and students in journalism, advertising, marketing, and other classes will be able to easily locate and play specific commercials using Virage’s extensive indexing capabilities.

Several other educational projects using Virage have been planned:

• The Educational Leadership Program in the College of Education will use Virage to deliver lectures to students in Bend, Oregon, and Alaska.
• The Virtual Language Lab in the Yamada Language Center will produce new video content for online viewing. Existing video will be moved to the Virage servers at time permits.
• Faculty in the Department of Exercise and Movement Science will use Virage to stream archived lectures in anatomy classes to students in Bend, Oregon.
• The School of Architecture will make guest lectures available to architecture students in Portland.
• The University of Oregon is an equal-opportunity, affirmative-action institution committed to cultural diversity and compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act. This publication will be made available in accessible formats on request to the editor, (541) 346-1459. © 2004 University of Oregon.

IMG Develops Courseware

UO Libraries staff and the Interactive Media Group (IMG), housed in the library’s Media Services Department, have collaborated on several occasions in the past year to help teaching faculty add powerful multimedia tools to their repertoire of classroom and distance learning strategies. Last year, the IMG developed several course websites and other multimedia courseware for faculty members, including history professor George Sheridan. Sheridan initially teamed up with Tom Stave, head of the library’s Document Center, to develop European Studies 410—European Integration and European Union, An Historical Approach. The course required students to do extensive original research by consulting a broad selection of government and public policy documents.

After Sheridan and Stave combined their expertise to identify materials and resources, the IMG staff took up the challenge of developing a customized content delivery system. The result was the EURO 410 website at http://darkwing.uoregon.edu/gis/ eur410. The site combines the class syllabus, course management tools, PowerPoint presentations, PDF files, and other resources into a single integrated course package. “We couldn’t have offered the variety of connections and level of information the IMG supplied,” says Sheridan. “The students were astounded at the variety of materials available through the website.” The IMG plans to add interactive timelines and additional features to the course website in the coming months.

Other IMG projects during the past year included website development for three architecture courses, a set of interactive modules for a marketing class, and interface design for several other projects, such as the Data for Local Communities website (see page 3). Contact Kellie Ann Garsed-Donly, IMG manager, at khppe@darkwing.uoregon.edu, 346-1458, for more information.
New Special Collections Items

Special Collections and University Archives continually adds new material to its collections. Here is a partial list of items acquired in recent months:

- Papers of noted filmmaker James Ivory
- Papers of Northwest author Molly Giles
- Papers of political activist Portia Foster
- Audio recordings from the collection of Bob Zagorin
- Records relating to Well Creek Sanctuary, a gathering site for the San Francisco-based Radicals for Resistance
- Papers of lesbian-feminist playwright, performer, director, and activist Carolyn Gage
- Papers of the family of museum consultant and exhibitor planner Alice Furman
- Photo negatives and archives from Oregon landscape photographers Elaine Emlacker Clark and her husband Gordon Johnson Portfolio of photographs from San Powell, award-winning photographer and associate professor of art at the University of Oregon
- Historical photographs of the town of Glendale, Oregon
- Two photograph albums of historical architecture from the 1930s in eastern Oregon and Washington
- Photographs by James Cloutier, author of several books on Oregon

For more information on Special Collections and University Archives, e-mail spcare@oregon.uoregon.edu or call 346-3068.

Past Masters

provides full-text databases of the works of major philosophers. The library has purchased and installed two titles in the Past Masters series: The Complete Works of John Dewey, and Hegel Werke II (complete works). These databases have been loaded onto the library’s catalog so that users can search for any of the complete works of every philosophy class. The purchase was made possible by a gift from the UO Library.

Project Muse, a Web interface for searching for full-text articles in journals in the arts and humanities, social sciences, and mathematics, has been upgraded from its original 50 titles to the complete set of more than 200 journals. The upgrade was made possible by a gift from the UO College of Arts and Sciences.

Online Journals

Researchers needing statistical data or related information about counties and communities in Oregon will be able to learn about the launch of Data for Local Communities, a new online database recently developed and maintained at the UO Libraries. Data for Local Communities gathers in one place a wide array of high-quality web site content providing statistical and descriptive information about cities, counties, and other civil, economic, and natural regions of Oregon.

The new resource is intended to support the work and interests of university researchers, local governments, educators, students, business people, librarians, and citizens of Oregon. It was created as a project of the Oregon Community Alliance and received grant funding from the Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA), a national program of the Institute of Museum and Library Services, administered in Oregon by the Oregon State Library.

The Data for Local Communities home page consists of two parts. The LocalData database contains more than 300 records for online statistical and descriptive resources and can be searched by keyword, title, author, or subject. The tool also allows users to search by topic or by geographic level. The Additional Resources section features a Summit catalog search capability for print publications on Oregon’s cities and counties, as well as links to Web sites rich in Oregon’s richly descriptive data, and other information about Oregon.

For more information on the Data for Local Communities project, contact Tom Stave at tstave@uoregon.edu or 346-3068.

Blackboard Upgrade Complete

Blackboard 6, the newest version of the online course administration and delivery system used at the UO, is now available. Version 6 provides instructors with more flexibility in content management and sharing, better assessment and assignment management, and a new Virtual Classroom tool that facilitates collaboration and interaction in the learning environment.

Faculty and GTFs using Blackboard 6 will need to follow some new procedures when converting their courses from the previous version or when developing new courses. Blackboard 6 support for instructors is available at http://blackboard.uoregon.edu.

Students now log in to Blackboard 6 using their gladstone or darkwing e-mail address (for example, johnsonj@gladstone) and their corresponding password. Contact your instructor if you have any questions for students who are new to Blackboard or need their memories refreshed for using it can be found at http://blackboard.uoregon.edu/.

The UO Libraries administers the Blackboard program. Individuals with questions about the upgrade or departments interested in scheduling Blackboard training workshops for their teaching should contact Q Johnson, the UO Libraries' academic education coordinator, at 346-1746, or qj@blackboard.uoregon.edu.