

# Library adding new computers

Amy Columbo  
Oregon Daily Emerald

A new computer center located in the Knight Library will be home to 20 new computers by the end of the month, thanks to the \$50 technology fee that students pay every term.

The 15 new Dell IBM-compatible computers and five Power Macintoshes will be in addition to the 20 Macs already on the second floor of the Information Technology Center.

By June library officials hope to expand the number of computers to 60 and by July 1996 they want to fill the space with approximately 90 terminals.

The machines can be used for word processing and as a full Internet connection. The computer lab is open during all hours of library operation and is staffed by reference librarians and student employees to assist computer users.

"It's a great facility and its been packed almost since day one, since the word has gotten out to students," said Paul Frantz, coordinator of the Information Technology Center.

The new technology resource fee is charged to all full-time students. University officials have said a total of \$4-5 million will be invested during the next five years to help bring the campus into the Information Age. Money will be collected from students, grant funds and University resources.

Many students have criticized the fee as costly since it was added to tuition bills in the fall. Some students also maintain they don't use the computer resources and shouldn't have to pay the fee.



Amy Burt breaks from studying to check for messages on her e-mail.

But the University administration has not changed its policies. "For the information they're getting, I really think its a bargain," Frantz said in rebuttal.

Since fall term, computer labs have been battling crowds of people to access computers, laser printing, Internet connections and e-mail accounts at no additional charge. Many labs have established waiting lists during the busiest time of the day.

"When you consider how many thousands of students there are on campus, there is a shortage of facilities available," Frantz said. "We have a long way to go."

The computing center's lab in the EMU received 16 additional Power Macs and 14 IBM-compatible Pentium computers. The science library now has eight new X terminals and a student assistant to staff the computer area for most of the day. The Social Science Instructional Lab has 18 new Pentium computers and six 486 computers.

The Knight Library computer center is a new facility. Originally the library had planned to open a computer center on the fourth floor with 16 computers.

"We were always planning to have publicly accessible computers in the facility, but we didn't have the resources until the fee came along," said Deborah Carver, assistant librarian of public services and collections.

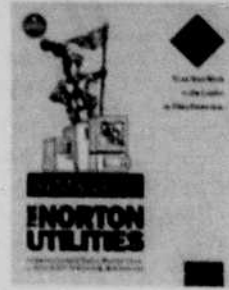
After University officials heard about the technology fee they redrew the plans to include a larger computer facility in the back corner of the second floor. During winter term the lab moved to the new location.

"We're really looking forward to expanding the collection of electronic resources, like CD-ROMs," Carver said.

Carver said the library will purchase more CD-ROMs and multimedia programs including full-text books and articles complete with images, motion and sound.

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