

Computer labs offer a wide range of equipment

Some software available at campus labs would be too expensive for the typical student to own

By Leanne Nelms
Associate Editor

Student fees fund many services, but one that students use the most is the campus computer labs. Even at midnight, students can be found in the labs reading e-mail, writing papers, building Web pages or working on architecture projects.

Although many departments have labs tailored specifically for their students, there are five public labs on campus accessible to students in any major: the EMU Computing Lab, Knight Library ITC, Science Library ITC, Klamath Computing Lab and Millrace Computing Lab.

EMU Computing Lab

One of the most centrally located labs on campus, the EMU lab, has undergone many changes during the summer.

Returning students may notice the lack of dedicated e-mail terminals and older Macintoshes, which have been replaced by new Power Macs and Micron Pentiums.

The lab now has 51 Power Macs, 43 Pentiums and 12 older 486 PCs. Two Macintosh scanners are also available — one for color and one for black and white.

Also, air conditioning has been installed to provide a cooler environment. Doug Simpson, manager of the EMU lab, said the addition was more to keep users comfortable than to prevent computers from overheating. "We had several students faint in here last year," he said.

Many students use the EMU lab primarily for word processing and other academic projects. Some of

the lab's software includes Microsoft Word 6.0, Microsoft Excel 5.0, ClarisWorks 4.0 and Netscape 3.0. Adobe Photoshop is also available on the Power Macs.

Another major change this year is the EMU lab's hours, which may be extended significantly. The lab's potential fall hours are 8 a.m. to 2 a.m., Monday through Thursday; 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. on Friday; 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. on Saturday; and noon to 2 a.m. on Sunday.

Simpson said that the availability of lab assistants may affect the final decision on hours. He also said the hours may fluctuate during the first couple weeks of the term.

Knight Library ITC

Located on the second floor, the Knight Library's Information Technology Center has 43 Macintoshes and 28 PCs available for student use.

The lab's software includes Microsoft Office, Netscape 3.0 and Fetch, an FTP program. Adobe Photoshop, Pagemaker and Illustrator are also available on several computers reserved specifically for graphics work, along with three color scanners — two for Macintosh and one for PC.

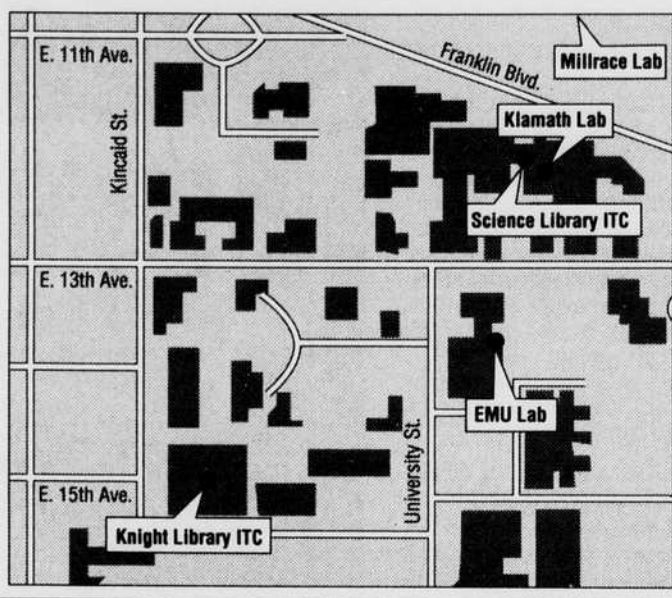
For local network access, 3 X-terminals and 8 text-only terminals are available as well.

One recent change in the ITC is that a block has been placed on Web-based e-mail providers, such as hotmail.com. "The whole library system has decided to disable access to outside e-mail," said Andrew Howell, ITC technical assistant. According to Howell, easy e-mail access at the library was drawing an increased number of community members who were using computers meant for student use only.

The lab's hours are identical to

Campus computer labs

The five major public labs are located in high-use areas around campus. All labs offer Internet access and are equipped with laser printers.



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those of the Knight Library. During fall term, it will be open 8 a.m. to midnight, Monday through Thursday; 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. on Friday; 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. on Saturday; and 11 a.m. to midnight on Sunday.

Science Library ITC

The Science Library, located in the basement of the Onyx Bridge, is the home of another ITC. This lab, however, is designed for more high-end use than other campus labs.

The ITC contains 13 X-terminals and 6 Power Macs. The Macintoshes are equipped with graphics, multimedia and video editing software, as well as modeling software such as Mathematica and RasMol.

Two color flatbed scanners are also available along with the only publicly accessible scanner for slides and negatives on campus. Jill Holman, the ITC's coordinator, said a new scanner capable of scanning documents as well as slides and negatives is expected to arrive by fall.

In addition to the available computing equipment and software, digital cameras can be checked out for 24 hours. The pictures can then be downloaded and edited on the lab's computers.

The lab and the Science Library keep the same hours. During fall term, it will be open from 8 a.m. to 11 p.m., Monday through Thurs-

day; 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. on Friday; 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. on Saturday; and 11 a.m. to 11 p.m. on Sunday.

Klamath Computing Lab

This lab, located in the basement of Klamath Hall, is composed of three instructional labs and one public lab. The instructional labs are open for public use any time they are not in use by a class.

According to coordinator Mary Bradley, about 100 computers are in the four labs — approximately half Micron Pentiums and half Power Macs.

The lab also has four scanners — three for color and one for black and white.

Klamath lab software includes basic word processing programs such as ClarisWorks and Microsoft Word, as well as software like Aldus Pagemaker and Microsoft Frontpage, a Web publishing program. AutoCAD and PowerCAD are also available, Bradley said.

The Klamath lab's fall hours are 8 a.m. to 11:30 p.m., Monday through Thursday; 8 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. on Friday; 1 p.m. to 7 p.m. on Saturday; and 1 p.m. to 9 p.m. on Sunday.

Millrace Computing Lab

The Millrace lab may be one of the most difficult labs to find, but it has the newest computers on campus. Bradley said she recently replaced the Micron Pentiums with 40 Macintosh G3s — 20 in the public lab and 20 in the nearby instructional lab.

The software in the lab is identical to Klamath lab software, she said.

The Millrace lab is located across the bike path from the urban farm, on the Burger King side of Franklin Boulevard. Its hours are 8 a.m. to 11 p.m. Monday through Thursday; 8 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. Friday; and 1 p.m. to 9 p.m. on Sunday.

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