A Note from the Interim Dean

The issue of promotion and tenure in academic life continues to spark debate. Some aspect of this issue seems to be analyzed in almost every issue of The Chronicle of Higher Education.[1]   As universities use technology to bring courses and supporting library services to learners at remote sites, they seek to recruit talented faculty who are committed teachers and scholars and are technologically
 sophisticated. At the same time, some academic departments in these universities may continue to use traditional methods of assessing scholarship in promotion and tenure reviews. Debate and discussion on this issue has sharpened with the expanding role of electronic journals. Writing in 1994, Julene Butler argues that many faculty are concerned that an electronic journal, even if it is refereed, may not necessarily be considered as prestigious as traditional journals that are more established.[2] Her concern is supplemented by Lizbeth Langston's concern that "such journals may not be mainstream and, in fact, may be experimental, avant-garde, or perhaps even controversial, thus raising larger political issues within a department or university of the appropriateness of particular research areas." [3] These concerns were repeated by Blaise Cronin and Kara Overfelt of Indiana University's School of Library and Information Science. They conducted one of the few studies of promotion and tenure policies by surveying the deans and chairs of academic
departments at fifty universities. They concluded: "If there is implicit bias toward print in the academic reward system . . . then it is probably in the interests of all concerned to encourage open and prompt debate on the topic. Were we candidates for promotion and tenure, we would most certainly welcome such a conversation."[4] We should all welcome this conversation. If we ask faculty to incorporate technology more deeply into their instructional and scholarly lives, then we must be willing to rethink the academic rewards system accordingly.

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Mark Weber

Interim Dean, Libraries & Media Services

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[1]   For example, see Guernsey, L. (1999, February 26). With Web skills – and now tenure – a professor promotes improved teaching. The Chronicle of Higher Education, no.25, A24-A25. Also: Kiernan, V. (1999, May 21). Why do some electronic-only journals struggle while others flourish? The Chronicle of Higher Education, no.37, A25-A27.
[2] Butler, J. H. (1994). Where does scholarly electronic publishing get you? Journal of Scholarly Publishing, 26, 174-186.
[3] Langston, L. (1996). Scholarly communication and electronic publication: Implications for research, advancement, and promotion. (ERIC Document Reproduction Service No. ED 403 892). Also available at: WWW.library.ucsb.edu/untangle/langston.html.
[2] Cronin, B., & Overfelt, K. (1995). E-journals and tenure. Journal of the American Society for Information Science, 46,

Your feedback, please!

We are reviewing our subscription to *LEXIS/NEXIS Academic Universe* and its usefulness to the Kent State University community. If you have not already done so, we ask that you complete the short survey available on the Web at:

www.library.kent.edu/planning/lexis/survey.html

Any additional comments are welcomed and may be forwarded to Jeanne Somers (672-2962, jsomers@kent.edu).

Footnotes

Update on Services

Spring Series Sixty-Minute+ Seminars

Another series of instructional seminars will be offered to the University community this spring by experienced seminar leaders from Libraries and from New Media—offering a blend of topics including effective searching of key information resources, use of various multimedia applications, and strategies for getting organized. Selected seminars are scheduled to be distributed to multiple campuses.

Also, for the first time, all registrations will be done using the Libraries' new online system. Seminar descriptions and the online registration form are available at:

http://www.library.kent.edu/60min/

NOTE: Instructors of College English are encouraged to require new students to attend the seminars on "*KentLINK* and *OhioLINK* on the Web" and "Help! I need three articles." No registration is required for these two seminars only, and attendance vouchers will be provided.

Converting Multinational Video Tapes to US Standards

Do you have a video cassette tape produced in a foreign country that will not play on your VCR? Teleproductions can convert the tape to the American standard so it can be used on your equipment. The cost for such conversion is $15.00 for the first hour. For assistance, contact Jeff Mezmar at 672-2810. Teleproductions is located on the first floor of Music and Speech.

Non-Book Materials Available for Loan through OhioLINK

OhioLINK institutions now lend non-book materials through the same Central Catalog online borrowing feature used for book requesting. These materials include compact discs, videos, microforms, and a variety of other types of media. Users from all OhioLINK institutions are able to borrow the materials. Except for microforms, all materials have a 7-day loan period with no renewals allowed. Microforms are lent for the 3-week loan period with one

Videos on Reserve

Place video cassettes on reserve in (AVS) for out-of-class viewing by students. These may be from the AVS media collection, private, or departmental tapes. The loan period for AVS collection tapes is two weeks. Private or departmental tapes may be placed on reserve for any length of time. Audio tapes may also be placed on reserve. AVS is in the Main Library, third floor, and has viewing and listening facilities. For more information or to place tapes on reserve, contact Norma Suffecool at 672-3456, ext. 25.

Database News

Addition of Some Full-Text Links to MLA

The Modern Language Association has added some links to electronic full-text within the *MLA* database. These are to electronic journals freely available on the Internet. To see an example, go to the database and do an author search for "McKenna, Andrew" and choose the article entitled "Religious Differance." You will see a URL listed beneath the citation which is a direct link to the Web-based resource.

At Last! More Full-Text for Education and the Humanities

Two research databases now offer significant links to full-text journal articles online. These are *Education Abstracts* and *Humanities Abstracts*. To see if journals you use regularly are now available online, check these listings:

Education Abstracts: http://www.hwwilson.com/journals/aedi.HTM

Humanities Abstracts: http://www.hwwilson.com/journals/ahum.htm

The Student Multimedia Studio Offers Support for Faculty

The Student Multimedia Studio (SMS), located on the third floor of the Main Library, supports the expanded use of learning technologies by providing students with access to a high-quality multimedia development facility where they can learn, explore and create multimedia projects for class or personal use. Use of the studio facilities is free and open to all students and student organizations.

The SMS has both student lab assistants and student multimedia developers on hand who can help students and faculty with just about any kind of technical or applications questions they may have.

The SMS is open during Fall and Spring semesters from 8am to 8pm, Monday through Thursday; 8am to 5pm, Friday; 11am to 2pm, Saturday; and 3pm to 8pm, Sunday.

The Student Multimedia Studio also supports Kent State University faculty through the **FACULTY TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM** which teams student multimedia developers with faculty to create Course Websites. Support is on a first-come, first-serve basis and includes the following services:

Basic Web Courseware Development

- Example: Website for a class including the following components: syllabus, course reading/reference materials; resources and links to related topics; bulletin boards; student tracking; tutorials/instructional materials that include video/audio, animations, images, text, and graphics. This could be
- delivered online or as a Web/CD-ROM hybrid.

Complex Web Courseware Development

- Example: Includes the components of basic Web courseware with the addition of simulations, interactive exercises, online testing/quizzes, database functionality. This could be delivered online or as a Web/CD-ROM hybrid.

CD-ROM Courseware Development

- Example: Course resource materials on CD-ROM that would include interactive exercises; quizzes; tutorials/instructional materials featuring video/audio, animations, images, text, and graphics.

Media Development

- Example: Development of media for website or CD-ROM courseware, such as digitizing and processing images, video, audio, creating 2D or 3D graphics, and animations.

For more information about the Student Multimedia Studio, call Gary Mote at 672-3456, ext. 22, or

Kent State University
Microsoft License Agreement

Microsoft Media Is Here!

The University has entered into a licensing agreement with Microsoft to provide Kent's students, faculty, and staff with access to many of the latest versions of Microsoft software. The licensed products include desktop productivity tools and operating system upgrades and are available on all eight campuses. It is hoped that this will enhance efficiency and resolve compatibility issues between the eight campuses and between the workplace and home. For more information, including eligibility guidelines, visit http://act.kent.edu/microsoft/.

Library borrowing of selected titles is available from the Kent campus Main Library circulation desk and at the regional campus libraries. Only students are eligible to make these loans. Faculty and staff, including those who are taking classes, are excluded. Students may check out only one copy of one software title at a time. The loan period is seven days with one seven-day renewal. Additional titles are available for purchase through the Bookstore. Bookstore sales are open to all eligible students, faculty, and staff.

EXTRA! EXTRA!
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Tax Your Brain

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Copies of Federal Tax Forms and Instructions* is
now available and volume two will be forthcoming.
Print copies of the 1040, 1040EZ, and 1040
Schedule E will be available in the building lobby.

In addition to the print version, Federal tax forms
are also available on the Internal Revenue Service
(IRS) website at http://www.irs.ustreas.gov/
forms_pubs/forms.html . The Ohio Department of
Taxation provides State tax forms and
instructions on their site at http://
www.state.oh.us/tax/
tabforms.htm . Links to both are provided on the
Government Documents home page. Forms and
instructions are available as .PDF files and require
Adobe Acrobat for access.

If you cannot find the form you need, ask for
assistance at the Reference Center, 1st floor, or
Government Documents, 10th floor.

New in Government Documents

*United States Congressional Elections, 1788-1997:
The official results.*
Docs. Ref. JK 1967 .D77 1998

This document provides the most comprehensive
collection of election returns available from the 1st
to the 105th Congresses. It contains a brief
history of congressional elections, party
affiliations, and the official election returns. State-
by-state resources are also included.

Literacy in the Labor Force
Docs. Ref. ED 1.302 :L 71/9

The National Center for Education Statistics
(NCES) continues to compile the results of the
1992 National Adult Literacy Survey. The latest
compilation is entitled *Literacy in the Labor Force*
and joins *Adult Literacy in America* and *Literacy of
Older Adults in America* as the output of the
survey. All three publications can be found in the
reference section of Government Documents.
Literacy of Older Adults in America is also available
on the World Wide Web at http://www.nces.ed.
gov/pubsearch/pubsinfo.asp?pubid=97576 .

New on the Reference Shelf

Delury, George E. (1999). *World Encyclopedia of
Political Systems and Parties.* Third Edition.
Facts on File. Ref. JF2011.W67 1999

This three-volume encyclopedia is organized
alphabetically by country. It covers the political
systems of 170 nations and eight dependent
territories. Each entry begins with a brief history
of the country and a basic description of the
current executive, legislative, and judicial
institutions of government. A discussion of the
electoral system follows and, in articles on
countries with multiparty systems, includes a
detailed description of each major party. Entries
also briefly summarize the nation's prospects for
continuing and/or achieving stability. Finally, a
bibliography of recommended reading is included
for all countries at the end of each entry. The
third
edition is updated to include the fast-paced
political change of the 1990's. Entry authors,
who are listed in the front of each volume, have
expertise specific to each of the geographical

Chadwick, Ruth (1998). *Encyclopedia of applied
ethics.* San Diego : Academic Press
Ref BJ63 .E44 1998

Applied ethics is presented as "concerned with
furthering our understanding, and thus the
resolution, of practical issues of right and
wrong." With over 280 articles, this four-volume
resource covers a broad spectrum of such issues
found in contemporary society. Topics cover the
environment, law, politics, education, business,
medicine, science, and engineering. Each article
includes a content outline, a "defining" statement
for the article topic, a glossary of terms, the main
article, cross references to other encyclopedia
articles, and a listing of related reading for
further research. Along with the alphabetical
topic index, subtopics are listed in a "Contents by
Subject Area" index (e.g., informed consent,
abortion, under Medical Ethics). These articles
encourage discussion and thought rather than
"giving answers," making it a useful source for
papers and projects involving controversial
issues. Broad topics (e.g., Hinduism) and ethical
concepts (e.g., moral relativism) are also
included.