

COMPUTER LABORATORY

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Thanks to the generous support of the University's Networking Services and Information Technologies (NSIT) department, visitors to the Institute's Research Archives can now paraphrase Shakespeare's famous line "to wire, or not to wire, that is the question" whenever they wish to connect to the Internet from the Library. In May 2003, the Research Archives had wireless networking equipment installed, making most of the second floor of the Institute "wireless capable." During the fall of 2003, we hope to expand our wireless coverage into the basement, including the Archaeology Lab, the LaSalle Banks Education Center, and perhaps the museum registration and the object storage areas as well.

Continuing in this infrastructure vein, between December 2002 and March 2003 most computers in the Institute (well over one hundred) were switched from a regime of "hard" to "soft" Internet Protocol (IP) addresses without too many headaches and with no interruption to network traffic throughout the building. This was a behind-the-scenes, technical adjustment, and most faculty and staff never knew anything changed at all. Let me take this opportunity to thank NSIT's Martin Moses and Loren Wilson for their assistance in this transition to the use of Dynamic Host Control Protocol (DHCP) throughout the Institute.

The third infrastructure change which occurred this past year had been in a discussion phase for a longer period of time than either of the above changes. I am referring to moving the Institute's entire website from our own in-house web server to an NSIT-supported server. Originating with discussions in the fall of 2000, the agreement with NSIT to host the Oriental Institute website was signed in March 2003, and I started to transfer over 33,000 files (4.9 gigabytes of data) to the new website in April. Two months of periodic testing has corrected small errors and operational differences in the two hosting computers. I expect to permanently switch the Institute's website to the new server by late summer or early fall 2003. You will have to wait until next year's *Annual Report*, however, for details on the final days of the transition.

Laboratory Projects

"Lost Treasures from Iraq" Website

Following the looting of the Iraq Museum in April 2003, the Computer Laboratory joined with several Institute faculty and staff to form what became known as the Iraq Museum Project (see separate report). It was agreed among the members that the Oriental Institute should take the lead in assisting law enforcement authorities worldwide by providing them with relevant information and photographs regarding artifacts known to have been in the collections of the Iraq Museum at the time of the looting.

Electronic Publications

In conjunction with Tom Urban, Oriental Institute Publications Office, Professor Janet Johnson finished work on two additional Adobe Portable Document Format (PDF) files, the letters aleph, and B from the Chicago Demotic Dictionary, and these documents are now available on the Institute's website.

Professor Norman Golb's article, "The De Rossi Collection of Hebrew Manuscripts at the Biblioteca Palatina and Its Importance for Jewish History," was published on the Institute's website as an Adobe Acrobat Portable Document Format (PDF) document in August 2002. In March 2003, additional information was made available on our website with the publication of

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Professor Golb's article, "Further Evidence Concerning Judah b. Soloman and the 'Tower of Las Metamis' Mentioned In Ms de Rossi 1105."

Professor John Brinkman's Mesopotamian Directory, his yearly updated listing of names, addresses, and contact information for Mesopotamian scholars and students worldwide, switched from print to electronic publication via the Oriental Institute's website in February 2003.

The Epigraphic Survey has made additional Chicago House Bulletins: Bulletin X, No. 1 (September 15, 1999); Bulletin XI, No. 1 (October 1999–April 2000); and Bulletin XII, No. 1 (October 2000–April 2001) available on the Institute's website.

The Chicago Hittite Dictionary (CHD) Project wrote a progress report on the electronic version of the CHD in September 2002, available on our website, describing the multi-stage process of converting the printed dictionary files into XML documents. The electronic version, or eCHD, is a part of the Institute's XML System for Textual and Archaeological Research (XSTAR) database system being developed by Professor David Schloen and his wife, Sandra.

Work on the 1980 Oriental Institute publication *Ptolemais Cyrenaica*, by David Nasgowitz, for the Photographic Archives section of the Oriental Institute website has been temporarily put on hold while John Larson, the Institute's Museum Archivist, and his staff, track down some pesky references and cross-check photograph and negative numbers. Work on the project should resume during the 2003 calendar year.

Museum Education's Online Teacher Resource Center

In September 2002, a completely redesigned Teacher Resource Center was unveiled in the Museum Education section of the Oriental Institute's website. Teacher Services and Family Projects Coordinator Wendy Ennes, along with Nitzan Mekel-Bobrov, Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations (NELC) student volunteer/programmer, worked many long hours with teachers and educators to develop this content-rich resource. A detailed description of the Teacher Resource Center is available in the Museum Education section of this *Annual Report*.

Laboratory Equipment / Institute Resources

Three of the four Macintosh computers in the Laboratory were upgraded to System X in August 2003 (10.2.6 by June 2003), and several programs, such as Photoshop, were upgraded so as to run natively under System X. Users' responses to the operating system change on these Macintosh computers has been mixed ("takes getting used to..."; "Where's the Chooser?"), but most adapted to the changes quickly and everyone appreciates that System X is a much more stable operating system than System 9 or earlier versions.

In December 2002, two new computer systems were purchased to improve the high-end capabilities of the Computer Laboratory:

1. 2.4 MHz Dell Optiplex with 1 GB RAM, 80 GB hard disk, DVD-ROM/CD-RW, and a 19" monitor, running Windows 2000, and
2. 1 GHz Macintosh eMac, G4 processor with 768 MB RAM, 80 GB harddisk, DVD-R/CD-RW drive, and a 17" flat display, running both Systems X and 9.2

Both of the above computers were equipped with new Microtek ScanMaker X12 scanners, capable of true 1200 dpi resolution.

I want to acknowledge a generous gift by Bruce Beyer Williams to the Computer Laboratory: a 2 GB Jaz drive complete with accessories and cables. It provides a backup unit to the Lab's existing 1 GB Jaz drive, and provides us with the means to write data to an ever-widening range of media. Thank you, Bruce, a longtime friend of the Institute in general and the Computer Laboratory in particular.

http://oi.uchicago.edu/OI/AR/02-03/02-03_AR_TOC.html

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World-Wide Website

For further information concerning several of the above mentioned research projects, the Institute's World-Wide Web (WWW) database, and other Electronic Resources in general, refer to the What's New page on the Oriental Institute's website, at (URLs are case-sensitive):

http://www-oi.uchicago.edu/OI/INFO/OI_WWW_New.html

The homepage for the Oriental Institute website is at:

<http://www-oi.uchicago.edu>

See the Electronic Resources section of this *Annual Report* for the complete URL to each of the website resources mentioned in this article.
