



CITations #152

CITations

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CITations is a report featuring information technology-related news of interest to UNC-Chapel Hill faculty members, graduate instructors and the staff who support them. *CITations*, published twice a month, is an electronic service of the Center for Instructional Technology.

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PRESENTATIONS FOR FRESHMAN ON ELECTRONIC DATA BACKUP STRATEGIES

"My hard drive crashed and I lost all my work" is today's version of "the dog ate my homework." Empowering students with strategies to protect their data, from software crashes or other threats, is another example of the services provided by the ITS Response Center located in the R.B. House Undergraduate Library basement on the Carolina campus.

In the coming weeks, Bruce Egan, associate director for ITS Response Center, is leading the effort to present a range of methods to back up electronic data to hundreds of new Carolina students. With assistance from Todd Taylor, director of composition, department of English and Kathy Maboll, director of the oral communication program, department of Communications, Egan and his staff will speak to every freshman section of English 10, 11, and 12, and Communications 9 about electronic data backup strategies.

The message from Egan is simple, "Computers, regardless of brand or model, have an annoying habit of failing at the worst possible time, and students need to understand the importance of backing up their important documents and files if their hard drive has crashed. The ITS Response Center and Computer Repair Center can fix software and hardware problems, but often we are unable to recover lost data."

Taylor sees the academic advantages of students backing up their data. "Lost documents not only affect the student who often must redo the assignment from scratch, but also affects instructors who must keep the class moving forward."

Maboll echoed Taylor's comments, noting that "Many students neglect taking even the simplest steps to ensure that they don't lose their work due to crashes, viruses, or hardware failures. This is especially puzzling when it's so easy to protect digital work against loss."

The freshman presentations are scheduled to begin September 2005 and conclude by November. Feedback gathered from students following the sessions will be shared with the presenters to further refine the presentations that are expected to become a part of each new academic year.

Additional information:

Bruce Egan, ITS Response Center
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Kathy Maboll, Department of Communications
email: maboll@email.unc.edu; tel: 962-7720

WIKIPEDIA PUBLIC TALK

Next month Jimmy "Jimbo" Wales, the man who invented and sustains Wikipedia and Wikinews -- the world's most popular encyclopedia and news source, will give a public talk on Wikipedia. Wales set up the Wikipedia project in early 2001. The project has now grown into the largest freely-available online encyclopedia and is available in more than 100 languages. In mid-2003, Wales set up the non-profit Wikimedia Foundation to support Wikipedia and its sister projects. Wales is the foundation's president and chairman of the board. Wales was appointed as fellow of the Berkman Center for Internet and Society at the Harvard Law School earlier this year.

When: 3:30 p.m., Wednesday, October 5, 2005

Where: Room 209, Manning Hall

The talk is sponsored by [ibiblio](#), the School of Library and Information Science, the School of Journalism and Mass Communication, and the UNC-Chapel Hill Scholarly Communication Working Group.

All faculty, staff, and students are invited to attend this talk. A flier for printing out and posting in your department is available at http://ibiblio.org/pjones/Jimmy_Wales_poster_v4.pdf.

For more information about Wikipedia, see: <http://www.wikipedia.org/>

For more information about Jimmy Wales, see: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jimmy_wales

LISTING OF AREA TECHNOLOGY USER GROUPS

Not surprisingly, the Research Triangle area supports a large number of user groups for a wide range of computer and IT-related interests. Consultant Steve Burnett maintains a website that lists and links to local user groups, both those covering computer interests as well as other scientific, research, or technically-oriented groups. Areas covered include operating systems and networks, programming and development, hardware, sciences, and engineering. Burnett also maintains a "perpetual" calendar for groups that have regularly-scheduled meetings. The resource is online at <http://www.neverwhere.org/~steve/triangle/groups.html>.

GIS SHORT COURSES

Spatial analysis of data is becoming an important and powerful tool in social science research. For years, GIS (Geographic Information Systems) has been an important tool for researchers in geography and city and regional planning, but it is rapidly gaining importance in sociology, economics, history, public health, and related fields. Because of GIS's growing importance to researchers, the Odum Institute for Research in Social Science is offering a new GIS Short Course Series. Several courses in the series are designed to give new GIS users an overview of tools and methods and introduce them to basic concepts. More advanced short courses introduce users to topics in spatial analysis, GIS data sources and data collection, and case studies of using GIS in social science research.

For more course details and location, go to <http://www2.irss.unc.edu/irss/GIS.html>. At this time no registration is required to attend. However, you are advised to arrive early to get a seat before the class fills up.

Courses still available this Fall semester include:

Finding Data for GIS Projects

September 27

This short course introduces the Davis Library spatial data collection and online sources of GIS data. After completing the workshop, students will be able to use the GIS Data Finder to search the spatial data collection at UNC; find and download spatial data from the Internet; and use data available online by connecting to online mapping services through ArcMap/ArcCatalog.

Advanced ArcGIS Techniques

September 29

This short course offers a hands-on learning opportunity for experienced ArcGIS users. Participants will create and explore Geodatabases and how they can be applied in GIS research projects, and they will also examine and employ ArcGIS Topologies within these GIS databases.

Introduction to GPS Data Collection for GIS

October 6

This lecture-format class introduces principles and mechanics of collecting spatial data using the U.S. Global Positioning System. Topics covered include GPS operation, receiver types, fieldwork planning, data accuracy, and data transfer to a GIS.

Applied GIS Programming

October 13

GIS has been widely used by many disciplines. This short course provides examples of how GIS can be used in academic research, business and service planning, and everyday life. Major approaches of integrating spatial models with GIS will also be discussed.

GIS and the Mapping of Social Development

October 31

This course offers a case study of the application of GIS and spatial statistics to research "Indigenous Peoples in Chile: Mapuches." The workshop shows how GIS and mapping can be used as practical tools to visualize the poor, where they live, and strategies to improve targeting and outreach through social programs.

Spatial Statistics with GeoDA

November 10

This hands-on course introduces concepts of exploratory spatial data analysis, including spatial autocorrelation statistics, basic spatial regression using GeoDA. GeoDA is a user-friendly program for creating data maps, plots, and spatial weights matrices; generating spatial clustering statistics; and performing regressions that correct for spatial autocorrelation. Basic GIS skills are recommended as a prerequisite.

In addition to its short course series, the institute maintains a lab equipped with advanced hardware and software configured specifically for GIS applications and data files. The institute also offers limited GIS consultation. For more information, go to <http://www2.irss.unc.edu/>.

NEWS FROM IBIBLIO

ibiblio is a collaboration between the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill and the Center for the Public Domain. For more information and links to all ibiblio collections, see <http://ibiblio.org/>.

New resources of local interest include:

Jewish Sparks

<http://www.jewishsparks.net/>

Jewish Sparks is an educational site which contains lectures and talks from Jewish Scholars and leaders. Part of its collection includes material from the Carolina Center for Jewish Studies.

Carolina Soul

<http://www.carolinasoul.org/>

Discography of soul 45s from North and South Carolina.

EXPRESS YOUR INTEREST IN CAMPUS COREL LICENSE

The ITS Software Acquisition office has been asked to investigate a volume license for Corel software tools [<http://www.corel.com/>]. Corel products include:

Word Perfect -- combines word processing, spreadsheets, presentations, and address book applications

Corel Draw -- used for design, page layout, digital imaging, and motion graphics

Paint Shop Pro -- set of photo editing tools to help you create professional-looking photos

Painter -- painting and illustration software which features unique digital brushes and art materials

Designer Technical Suite -- for the immediate and long-term needs of organizations who create technical documents

If you are interested in the purchase of Corel products, send email by October 3 to software@unc.edu with the

following: (1) a list of the products that you are most interested in and (2) a list of the products that you are least interested in.

-- Kimberly Middleton, ITS Software Acquisition
email: kimberly_middleton@unc.edu
tel: 962-5266

ACCESSIBILITY TIP: FLASH: THREAT OR MENACE?

The short answer is "yes!", but I've seen enough broken and inaccessible Flash that it is a bit of a sore point with me. There are some things you can do in Flash--namely, mouse-dependent stuff--that are automatically inaccessible. But for the most part, with care and forethought, accessibility shouldn't be a huge deal for the Flash developer using MX 2004, which has some killer tools built in to facilitate it.

Here are the basics:

- Label everything.
- Trigger events with active input from users rather than non-active triggers--give users control.
- Provide a "NOSCRIPT" option for all scripts.
- Make scripts and applets keyboard operable, using standard conventions.
- Whenever possible, use server-side scripting rather than client-side scripting.

See? No big deal.

For more information, see:

Creating Accessible Macromedia Flash Content
<http://www.webaim.org/techniques/flash/>

and

Macromedia Flash
<http://www.unc.edu/webaccess/flash.html>

The ITS Center for Instructional Technology offers in-office and telephone consultations to help UNC-Chapel Hill faculty and staff make their instructional web pages accessible. Contact Jason Morningstar at 843-5192 or jason_morningstar@unc.edu to schedule a consultation session.

-- Jason Morningstar, Accessibility Specialist
ITS Center for Instructional Technology

ITS LEARNIT WORKSHOPS

There are still spaces available in the following LearnIT workshops. To read a workshop description or to register for any of these workshops, go to <http://help.unc.edu/tracs/>. For a list of other workshops, point your Web browser to <http://LearnIT.unc.edu/> and select the link to "Current Schedule of Workshops."

If multiple dates are listed, the workshop is offered on each of those dates.

Web Authoring with Mozilla for Students
September 26
October 12

Java: Introduction to Swing
September 26

Online Journal Entry System
September 29

Email: Ten Ways to Fight Spam
October 5

Remedy Request for Service: Advanced Users Maximizing RFS
October 7

Java: Servlets and JSP
October 10

FRED (Flexible Routing of Electronic Documents) Hands-on-Training
October 11

Accessibility: Introduction
October 14

Accessibility: Evaluation
October 14

Accessibility: Tables and Forms
October 18

PowerPoint XP/2003: Give PowerPoint a Makeover
October 18

FRS On-Line Training
October 20

Remedy Request for Service: Advanced Searching and Reporting
October 25

Calendar (Oracle): Getting Started
October 27

Calendar (Oracle): Access and Designate Rights
October 27

JavaServer Faces
November 7

CITATIONS TIPS ARCHIVE

The ITRC, CBT, and Listserv tips published in *CITations* are archived on the Web, so you can locate tips without having to search through all the back issues. The tips archive is at <http://www.unc.edu/cit/citations/tips.html>.

CONFERENCE ANNOUNCEMENTS

Stay informed about technology conferences with the CIT's "Education Technology and Computer-Related Conferences" at <http://www.unc.edu/cit/guides/irg-37.html> and "Calendar of World-Wide Educational Technology-Related Conferences, Seminars, and Other Events." The calendar is at <http://confcal.unc.edu:8086/>.

2005 CITATIONS PUBLICATION SCHEDULE

January 7 & 21
February 4 & 18
March 4 & 18
April 8 & 22
May 13 & 27
June 10 & 24
July 15 & 29
August 12 & 26
September 9 & 23
October 7 & 21
November 4 & 18
December 2 & 16

CITations welcomes announcements from all UNC-Chapel Hill campus organizations involved in instructional and research technology. To have an announcement considered for publication in *CITations*, send email to Carolyn Kotlas, kotlas@email.unc.edu, or call 962-9287. The deadline for submissions is 11:00 a.m. the day before the publication date.

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