Valverde's Vision

Asian American Studies Professor Charts a Unique Course

A swinging monkey grasping a star is the logo gracing Caroline Kieu Linh Valverde's Web site. This simple symbol reflects Valverde's approach to academia and to life outside the academy. Playful and intelligent, Valverde combines research, teaching, and technology in a unique and stylish mix. Her personal Web site (www.kieulinh.com) displays an image consciousness that's decidedly postmodern, reveals her penchant for social activism and her quirky fashion sense, and blends a sense of humor with serious scholarship—scholarship befitting her role as Assistant Professor of Asian American Studies.

Valverde's work focuses on Vietnamese Americans, her native Viet Nam (she elects the less-Westernized spelling), and the interaction between two cultures forever linked by a war. Her current project—revising her doctoral dissertation for publication—hints at the role technology plays in this interaction. Titled *Making Transnational Viet Nam-Vietnamese American Community: Viet Nam Linkages through Money, Music and Modems*, the manuscript covers "cyber communities," that connect those who left Viet Nam with others who stayed. Valverde finds that the Internet provides a "safe space for Vietnamese and Viet Kieu (overseas Vietnamese) to discuss controversial topics," such as communism, dual citizenship, and financial investment.

In fact, professor Valverde has been instrumental in fostering one such cyber community by acting as cofounder of the Viet Nam Women's Forum. This non-profit organization began in 1998 as an email list (a common email address through which members can communicate) and has grown into a Web site (www.geocities.com/vnwomensforum) that acts as an archive for academic and popular essays, a fledgling gift store, and a means for women to share experiences and resources, both professional and private.

Valverde and her cofounders intentionally designed the site to be spare—in form if not in substance—so that women with limited technology training might act as site moderators, in the process gaining highly valued job skills and Web experience. (It should be noted that the Viet Nam Women's Forum listserv is open to women of all backgrounds but, in the interest of maintaining a comfortable setting, is not open to men.)

From the Computer to the Classroom

More than just a resource for women, the Forum Web site serves as a teaching tool for professor Valverde. In her Asian Diasporas course, for example, Valverde uses this site to display what social activism can accomplish via technology.

When it comes to class research projects, Valverde puts her method where her modem is: she permits students the option of composing a Web site in lieu of a more traditional research paper. While the project still involves the requisite writing requirement, it also permits students to expand what they're learning and to share it with an audience greater than one: that is, a limitless readership rather than simply their instructor.

Other technological tools augment her teaching: Valverde sometimes holds virtual office hours at 3 a.m. the night before an exam; she shows videos covering Asian youth parodies of pop culture and underground ethnic comedy skits; and, like many other instructors, she makes use of PowerPoint to round out her lectures. She finds that this particular tool helps curb her tendency to speak at New York speed, slowing her lectures to a more amenable, note-taking pace.

UC Davis Prepares for New Course Management Tools

3 Pilots in the Works

In an unprecedented move, UC Davis joined forces last summer with several other institutions around the country to create open-source course management tools and related software for the higher education community.

This landmark venture, called the Sakai Project, began in January 2004 and now counts 65 institutions worldwide —UC Berkeley, UCLA, UC Merced, and UC Santa Barbara among them. A year after joining the consortium, UC Davis is poised to launch several Sakai course management pi-

lot projects starting Fall quarter.

Sakai: A Collegial, Collaborative Approach

The Sakai Project is a $6.8 million community source software development project founded by the University of Michigan, Indiana University, MIT, Stanford, and the uPortal Consortium, with the support of the Mellon and Hewlett Foundations. The project seeks to develop an integrated collection of open-source Collaborative Learning Environment software for higher education, including course management and assessment tools and a research collaboration system.

Each partnering institution may use any of the tools developed through the consortium, integrating and customizing them to
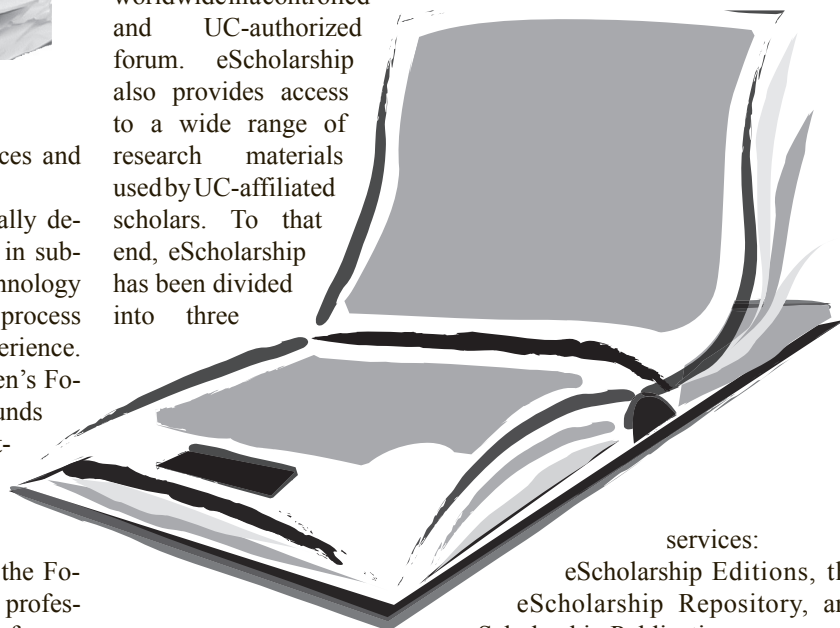
eScholarship

UC Provides Research & Publishing Alternatives

At a recent standing-room only talk at Shields Library, Dr. Dan Greenstein, executive director of the California Digital Library, discussed the rising costs of scholarly journal subscriptions for UC libraries, and encouraged researchers to turn, instead, to new online tools, which strengthen scholarly publishing capacities and ensure access for all. The CDL has created a set of publishing initiatives, called eScholarship, to provide alternative ways to share scholarly research.

What is eScholarship?

Begun in 2002 as a UC-wide initiative funded by the California Digital Library, eScholarship deals with the creation, peer review, management, dissemination, and preservation of scholarly research. It is designed to help instructors and researchers share and discuss their work with colleagues and peers worldwide in a controlled and UC-authorized forum. eScholarship also provides access to a wide range of research materials used by UC-affiliated scholars. To that end, eScholarship has been divided into three services: eScholarship Editions, the eScholarship Repository, and eScholarship Publications.

Editions: Peruse, Print, or Purchase Books

The Editions portion of the eScholarship program, located at texts.cdlib.org/escholarship, provides free online access to hundreds of books from academic presses. Editions houses texts as varied as *The Dinosauria*, an international collection of paleontologic essays on our reptilian predecessors, and *Hitchcock on Hitchcock: Selected Writings and Interviews* with the master of cinematic thrillers. Readers can view full-text versions of these and 1,400 other eScholarship Editions, and can search within a book's contents, print portions of the book, or purchase it from the publisher.

Repository: An Intellectual Cornucopia

The Repository (repositories.cdlib.org/escholarship) is another avenue for researchers to share their work, from in-progress collaborations to post-publication filing of the research. The author's department or research unit acts as gatekeeper to the site, and access to the work is predetermined by the author.

UC Davis' Center for Health Services Research in Primary Care provides a batch of reports in the Repository arising from research prepared for the State of California. These papers and all other Repository papers can be downloaded for review and citation.

Meet Dr. Yellowlees
Interim Vice Provost for IET

Dr. Peter Yellowlees is greatly interested in combining two seemingly incompatible fields: health services and information technology. His quest has led to an illuminating and unique career, culminating most recently in his appointment as IET's Interim Vice Provost, a post he began April 15.

A professor of Psychiatry and Director of Academic Information Systems at the UC Davis Health System, Dr. Yellowlees worked in Australia for twenty years after undertaking medical training in his native England. In January of 2004, he took a position at UC Davis to continue his research in telemedicine and eHealth, an emerging field covering healthcare supported by computer- and Web-based communication.

Dr. Yellowlees brings with him an international reputation in telemedicine as well as in long distance health and education delivery, and will provide leadership in managing the myriad forms of information technology used on the campus, including instructional technology; computing systems; data, voice, and video communication services. He has laid out a preliminary roadmap for IT priorities at UC Davis, focusing on three main themes: establishing a more standardized approach to IT infrastructure, driving the campus' educational technology program, and supporting the campus' research mission.

We're very pleased to welcome Professor Yellowlees to IET.

Virtual Tune-Up
Tips on Improving Your Computer's Performance

Is your computer running more slowly than it used to? Or perhaps it's sluggish when launching software or searching for files? A virtual tune-up could help alleviate such problems. By tune-up, we mean taking some relatively simple actions to make your computer run as smoothly as possible, thus making your daily computer (hard) drive less stressful. The following list should help you get started.

Add RAM to Your Computer: Random Access Memory (RAM) is your computer's short-term memory. It provides temporary storage for currently opened processes. There are many RAM types available, so you might want to talk to a professional, such as a consultant at a computer or electronics store, to help determine which type of RAM your computer uses.

Scan for Computer Viruses: To keep your computer virus-free, you'll want to obtain an anti-virus software program. Staff and faculty may download a discounted copy of Symantec AntiVirus at my.ucdavis.edu/software, but before doing so, should check with their department as a virus scan license may already have been obtained for office computers. Be sure to run your virus scanning software frequently—at least once a week.

Remove Adware and Spyware: Spyware is software that gathers and reports information from your computer without your consent. Adware mimics its predecessor, but often appears in the form of pop-up ads and redirected homepages. Two effective—*and free*—removal programs are Ad-Aware (www.lavasoftusa.com/software/adaware) and Spybot Search & Destroy (www.safer-networking.org). As with virus detecting software, spyware programs should be at least once a week.

Shut Down Unused Services: (This relates primarily to Windows operating systems.) Identify which background processes constantly run on your computer. Some, such as anti-virus programs, are important, but others may just be slowing your system down. For help in telling the difference, consult is-it-true.org/nt/utips/utips76.shtml, a Windows Networking article outlining "unnecessary services."

Remove Infrequently Used Software from Startup: If your computer starts up programs you rarely work with, it's using memory that could be employed on other programs. Removing programs can be simple, but sometimes requires a registry edit on a Windows system; in these cases, consult a computer specialist.

Delete Unnecessary Files: After deleting unused files, be sure to empty your computer's recycling bin. At a minimum, empty the recycle bin weekly.

Defragment Your Computer's Hard Drive: Defragmenting amounts to reorganizing the files on your hard drive, which then frees up space. This function is located in the "Accessories" folder for Windows operating systems, and automatically launches in Mac OS X whenever you install a new program—provided the program uses the Apple installer. Users of older Macs will have to buy a separate defragmenting program, such as PlusOptimizer from Alsoft or Norton Utilities from Symantec. Defragment your computer once a month.

Choose a Less Vulnerable Browser: Microsoft's Internet Explorer is the browser most targeted by hackers and spyware creators. Mozilla, Firefox, and Safari (Mac OS X only) are popular alternate browsers, and all are supported by IT Express. (See *IT Times* Winter 2005 for browser features articles: ittimes.ucdavis.edu/pdf/ITT_Winter_05.pdf.)

Use a Firewall: Firewalls assist your computer in deflecting hackers' efforts. A firewall is present on your computer if you have installed Windows XP Service Pack 2, but users with other Windows operating systems and Mac users will have to acquire a firewall program. Two popular options are ZoneAlarm's Security Suite and McAfee's Personal Firewall. Mac OS X users will find their computer equipped with a firewall but need to make sure it's enabled. For more information on firewalls, visit security.ucdavis.edu/firewalls.cfm, and for information on upcoming departmental firewalls, see the "Firewalls Protect Campus Data" announcement on the next page. ⌘

Mix, Pour, SITT, Sip

Summer Institute on Technology in Teaching Serves Up Teaching Tech Tonic

Professor Ben Norman might be describing a bartending class when he relates, "I enjoy the 'mix and pour' format." But it's the Summer Institute on Technology in Teaching he's speaking of "that brings together so many techniques and real time experiences from 'front line' users."

Now in its 11th year, SITT is a week-long seminar that aids instructors in using technology in the classroom and beyond.

The Teaching Resources Center is now accepting applications for this year's institute, which runs from July 18 to 22 (8:30 am to 4:30 pm daily). It features plenary sessions, hands-on workshops, small group brainstorming, independent projects, and group discussions. Participants will engage in lab sessions, broaden their understanding of technology, and learn new tech tips and tricks.

For more information or to submit an application, visit trc.ucdavis.edu/trc/sitt/index.html. Please note that preference is given to instructors of undergraduate classes, although TAs and support staff involved in undergraduate instruction are welcome to apply. ⌘

New Option for Commuter and Off-Campus Emailers

Beginning June 21, a new option will be available to individuals who are off campus and attempting to send email via the campus email servers using a third-party ISP connection (e.g., Comcast, Charter). Currently, off-campus emailers are limited to sending mail only to campus email addresses over campus servers. This new option, called *authenticated SMTP*, allows mail to be sent to any email address. For additional information about this service or to access setup instructions, see security.ucdavis.edu/mail_relay.cfm. ⌘

### PPS Decision Support to Use Kerberos Authentication

Beginning July 1, Kerberos authentication will be used by all employees who access the PPS Web-based reporting system. They, like those accessing PPS DS through MyUCDavis, will certainly celebrate having one less login and password to remember. New employees who wish to access PPS Decision Support will need to complete the application for access. ⌘

IT help will be available all summer. For computing assistance, email ithelp@ucdavis.edu or call (530) 754-HELP

Banner Training Continues

Banner: Error-free Create-a-Person training is now complete for existing Banner SIS users with authorization to create records in Banner. In the future, the Office of the University Registrar (530-752-2984) will schedule this required training for any Banner user requesting access to create records in Banner. Contact Lana Dancy, Banner SIS Trainer for IET (530-757-3278), with any Banner-training questions or needs in your department. ⌘
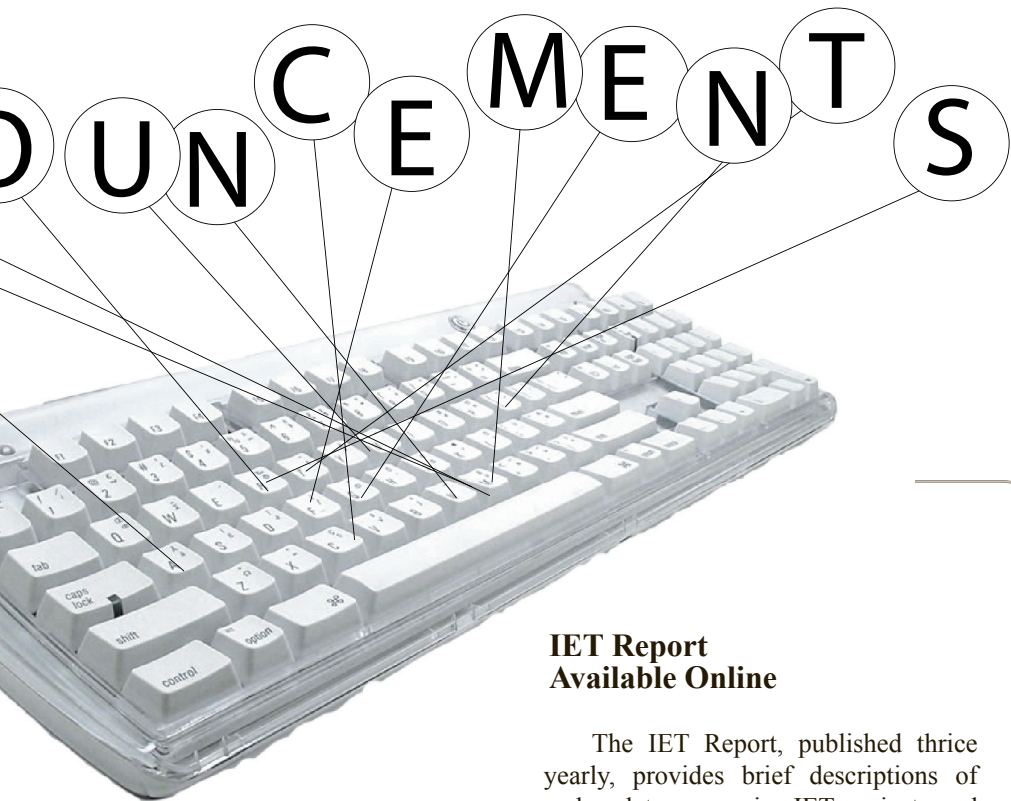
Spam Filtering Upgraded

For more than two years, UC Davis has been scanning all campus email for spam using SpamAssassin. Messages recognized as spam are "tagged," and, for individuals who have signed up for spam filtering, are filtered based on the information in the tag. Depending on which option individuals select when setting up the filter, messages are either deleted or rerouted to a spam folder. In June and July of this year, the campus plans to enhance the scanning system by implementing the following:

~ **Quarantine of High Scoring Messages:** SpamAssassin currently tags any message scoring five or higher. With the change, all messages scoring 15 or higher will be placed in a quarantined message folder for 28 days, after which they will be deleted.

~ **Real-Time Blocking List:** If a system sends more than 20 spam messages AND more than 85% of all messages originating from that system are identified as spam, that system's IP address will be added to the blocking list. The campus email servers will reject all messages from systems on the blocking list.

~ **Refined Spam Scoring:** A process known as Bayesian filtering will be used to better recognize spam. Similarly, a new bulk mail detection system, Distributed Checksum Clearinghouse, will enhance the scoring system and update it more frequently.

For more information or to sign up for the spam filtering service, visit security.ucdavis.edu/spam.cfm. ⌘

IET Report
Available Online

The IET Report, published thrice yearly, provides brief descriptions of and updates on major IET projects and initiatives. To view the report, visit iet.ucdavis.edu/pubsandreports.cfm, and click on "IET Reports." ⌘

Dual Projectors Installed
in Art History Classrooms

An experiment in advanced digital projection will take place this Fall when art history instructors use new dual projectors to show side-by-side digital images to their students.

IET Classroom Technology Services will be installing dual projectors in Art Building 204 and 217 this summer, and Mediaworks has been preparing instructors for the new system by helping them digitize their slides.

Now, when a professor wants his students to compare two examples of Gothic architecture, for instance, he will be able to project them side-by-side rather than flipping back and forth between the images or simultaneously managing a laptop and a slide projector.

The existing media cabinets in these classrooms will remain in place, so others using the classrooms can still employ the more familiar system. ⌘

Firewalls Protect Campus Data

Departments wanting to deploy network firewalls to protect their computers from hackers and other Internet dangers will be happy to learn that a campus contract with Juniper Networks will make Netscreen firewalls available in mid-June for campus unit acquisition. IET will arrange training to assist departments with configuration, and several firewall maintenance options are available; thus, every department should find a reasonable solution for acquiring and maintaining a Netscreen firewall. Those interested in more information should consult security.ucdavis.edu/firewalls.cfm. ⌘

Do Not Disturb?
Dealing with Email While Out of Town

If you're heading out of town this summer, there are a few ways of dealing with your email:

Send Out a Vacation Email Message
You may want to set up a vacation email message, automatically informing anyone who emails you that you are away and not checking your mail regularly. To do so, visit email.ucdavis.edu/vacation.php and follow the simple directions. Note, however, that the vacation message will be sent to anyone who writes you, including spammers and viruses, which may increase your spam and the number of error messages you receive while gone.

Check Your Mail While Away
The simplest way to check your UC Davis email while away from your home or office is via Geckomail (geckomail.ucdavis.edu), the campus Web-based email client. Alternatively, you can have your campus email forwarded to another account, such as your home DSL or cable modem account or a Web-based account such as Yahoo! or Hotmail; visit computingaccounts.ucdavis.edu, click on "Redirect your email address," and follow the instructions provided.

What About Electronic Mailing Lists You Belong To?
If you receive messages through an email list, you can put your subscription on hold by sending an email in plain text to listproc@ucdavis.edu with the body of the message reading "SET <listname> MAIL POSTPONE." This function suspends delivery of list messages to your email account. To remove the hold and receive list email again, email listproc@ucdavis.edu with the message "SET <listname> MAIL."

Don't Forget to Check Your Quota!
Remember that your UC Davis email account has limited space for storing messages, so to avoid going over your quota and losing new emails, you should check your email once a week—not necessarily to answer messages, but to delete those you don't need. You can find your email quota on the Web at email.ucdavis.edu. Just enter your UC Davis login ID in the "Email Quota Check" box and click the "Check Quota!" button.

Happy Trails…

Toward a Safer Cyber Campus
New Policy Focuses Attention On Digital Security

News of phishing scams, viruses, and security vulnerabilities has been buzzing around campus. Needless to say, faculty, staff, students and departments are concerned for the privacy and safety of their information.

UC Davis acknowledges the importance of maintaining high security standards to achieve a stable environment in which to teach, learn, and conduct research.

To that end, UC Davis has developed a Cyber-safety Program encouraging campus departments to use safe practices to help protect the integrity and confidentiality of our computing systems.

The program, adopted into the campus Policy and Procedure Manual on April 25, requires that all campus departments review and submit a report of their efforts to comply with the 14 adopted Cyber-safety standards listed below.

Level 1 Practices (Highest Priority)
Software Patch Updates
Anti-Virus Software
Insecure Network Services
Authentication
Personal Information
Physical Security
Firewall Services

Level 2 Practices (Secondary Priority)
No Open Email Relays
Proxy Services
Audit Logs
Backup and Recovery
Training for Users, Admins, and Managers
Anti-Spyware Software
Release of Equipment with E-Storage

To learn what you can do to increase the security of your data, visit security.ucdavis.edu/cybersafety.cfm. Remember that you should always check with your department or unit technical support personnel before making serious changes to your office computer's configurations. ⌘

2005 Security Symposium
UCDAVIS

Sponsored by UC Davis Information & Educational Technology and University of California: Office of the President

June 22, 2005 marks the opening of the second UC Davis IT Security Symposium. This two-and-a-half-day event provides technical professionals with practical information for enhancing computer and network security levels in a university environment.

Scott Charney, Microsoft Chief Security Strategist and the event's keynote speaker, will help kick off the Symposium. Those not registered for the conference may view Charney's presentation on campus via live-feed or on the Web. Information about the keynote presentation will be posted on the Symposium Web site (itsecuritysymposium.ucdavis.edu) as it becomes available.

Questions? Email Robert Ono, IT Security Coordinator, at raono@ucdavis.edu.

Sakai: Enhanced Teaching Technology for Today's Instructors

accommodate the needs of their faculty and students. In turn, each can contribute work done on its internally-developed course management systems to create a new set of products. By synchronizing efforts, universities can implement a wider range of modules and features, developed more efficiently and with greater cost-effectiveness than any single uni-

In the future, collaboration between students and faculty will be available through chatrooms, virtual office hours, discussion boards, and threaded discussions. (For a list of features and tools, go to sakaiproject.org, click on "Software and Resources" on the left menu and select "Features List.")

technical standards that will enable students and faculty to access, share, and export content between MyUCDavis and other Web-based learning systems.

On the functional side, a subcommittee of the Campus Council for Information Technology (CCFIT) is preparing recommendations to guide the selection of tools and features for the next

Instructors Wanted.

UC Davis Course Management Tools Pilot

IET will be conducting a small pilot this Fall to assess a set of open-source course management tools. New features include:

Streamlined Quizbuilder

Student ePortfolios

Lesson Builder

Interactive Calendar

To participate in this pilot, email Kirk Alexander at kdalex@ucdavis.edu.

versity would by working alone.

Tools: Some Familiar, Some New

The first versions of the software were released in October 2004 and March 2005. The next version (2.0), scheduled for late June, will include a number of improvements and additional tools. Using a Web browser and a broad array of features, faculty and students will be able to create their own worksites for courses, projects, or research collaboration.

The course-related system allows instructors to build and manage quizzes, grade books, course pages, syllabi, announcements, etc. On a single class site, for example, an instructor can post a calendar of assignment due dates, provide links to required readings, and share PowerPoint presentations. Students, in turn, can pose post-lecture questions, combine class calendars to see all assignments due during a quarter, and can work on and submit assignments.

UC Davis Pilots: Collaboration and Coordination

Here at UC Davis, three major organizations are collaboratively evaluating the open-source system as a potential replacement for MyUCDavis, the campus' homegrown course management system.

The UC Davis School of Medicine is preparing to launch a pilot version of the system this Fall, and the School of Veterinary Medicine plans to follow suit next Spring. Also this Fall, a third, smaller pilot will be conducted by IET with select faculty. This pilot will include the newly-developed quiz and assessment modules. (If you are interested in participating, consult the "Instructors Wanted" ad above.)

On the technical side, IET developers are working on integrating a secure authentication mechanism, so that logging in to the new software will function in a way already familiar to MyUC-Davis users. At the same time, they are constructing a suite of

campus course management system. The subcommittee—composed of students, faculty, and staff—has consulted with several campus faculty members, with units preparing to launch pilots, and with other universities involved in the Sakai Project. The subcommittee's recommendation should be ready by mid-June. To view the recommendation, visit the CCFIT Web site (ccfit.ucdavis.edu) and click on "Course Management" under the "Working Groups" heading. ⌘

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eScholarship: Criticism and Classics Go Digital

Scholars can also be kept abreast of new research by clicking on the "Notify me of new papers" link. An email will automatically be sent to the subscriber when a paper on her chosen topic is filed. To date, the eScholarship Repository has provided over one million papers to interested readers.

What's more, the Repository provides a means for authors who've completed a chapter for a book to share that chapter with a select audience prior to the entire collection being printed. This system, points out UC Davis Librarian Gail Yokote, acts as "a reward for authors who submit their work on time." No longer do they have to wait for the entire book to be published for their individual work to be seen.

The Repository also provides Web space and layout templates for online peer-reviewed journals, including UCLA's *Nutrition Bytes*, UC Riverside's *Opolis: An International Journal of Suburban and Metropolitan Studies*, and *UC Irvine's Structure and Dynamics: eJournal of Anthropological and Related Sciences*. To access this portion of the Repository, click on "journals and peer-reviewed series."

Publications: Data Organized by Field

eScholarship Publications includes experimental interactive publications and legacy content formed by organizations (such as academic societies) wanting to provide contextual background for online data. A scholar wanting to learn about dermatology, for instance, could search the *Dermatology Online Journal* rather than entering separate search terms into the Repository. The scholar would not only find the material organized for him, but would also have it contextualized by the journal's editors.

Scholars interested in forming a subject-specific journal or legacy register should contact Gail Yokote at gyokote@ucdavis. edu or Catherine Candee at Catherine.Candee@ucop.edu.

Want More Information?

More information on eScholarship can be found at www.cdlib. org/programs/escholarship.html. See also the *Chronicle of Higher Education* article, "A New World of Scholarly Communication," available to UC Davis library card holders through LexisNexis. ⌘

Valverde

Surprisingly, Valverde still considers herself an "aspiring geek." To that end, she frequently takes technology courses offered at UC Davis. Most recently, she attended the "Spring Further Into Technology" two-day workshop offered by the Teaching Resources Center (TRC). While there, Valverde learned how to help students with their course Internet projects.

When asked what advice she'd offer to other instructors interested in employing technology in their teaching, she replies decisively: "Take a TRC class and get Mediaworks support." ⌘

A calendar of TRC courses can be found online at trc.ucdavis.edu/ trc/calendar/index.html.

Mediaworks is available to assist instructors with technology in service to their teaching. Consult their Web site (mediaworks.ucdavis.edu) or email them at mediaworks@ucdavis.edu.

UCDAVIS
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA

Secure Login

You have logged in using the old distributed authentication method, but this site requires a form-based login, so you will need to login again. For access, type your UC Davis LoginID and Kerberos password below.

thawte SECURE SITE click to verify

LoginID: [ ]
Password: [ ]

[Login]   Login help

For information about UC Davis Secure Login, see Secure Login FAQ

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Send feedback on this site to http://middleware.ucdavis.edu/contact.cfm

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New Login Form Increases Security

In April 2005, UC Davis implemented a new login format for MyUC-Davis and Geckomail. Replacing the old dialog box, the new Secure Login prompts users to verify their ID on a separate Web page. This new login ensures a more efficient logout and better safeguards users' account information.

In an environment where the majority of computers are shared, such as in the campus computer rooms, Secure Login is especially effective; for instance, it protects the user's personal information from hackers by erasing the username and password from the browser once the user logs out. The new function also creates a more secure logout; it prohibits the next user from accessing the previous user's MyUCDavis or Geckomail account by browsing back a few pages.

Secure Login has garnered positive feedback, and IET intends to implement the tool on other secure UC Davis Web pages. Currently, IET's Banner team is looking into applying Secure Login to SISWEB.

For more information about the UC Davis Secure Login Form, please see the Secure Login FAQ at xbase.ucdavis.edu/itexpress/article.cfm?art=1065. ⌘