The Computer Research Lab

Mission

The mission of the Computer Research Lab is to provide leadership in integrating technology with instruction and research in writing, language, and literature. The CRL will serve as a bridge between the Department of English and the Division of Rhetoric and Composition.

Rationale

Most writing instruction, like other instruction in language and literature, takes for granted an infrastructure and a pedagogy supporting and supported by print as the primary medium for disseminating knowledge. Increasingly, however, new information technologies exert pressure for change. The technologies of print and information will continue to exist side-by-side for some time, with information technologies becoming increasingly dominant as time goes on. The mission of the CRL is thus to help manage this change by assisting in the development of new courses and computer-based materials for courses in writing, language, and literature. The CRL will also carry out on-going development and evaluation of methodologies that enhance students' ability to work successfully in an environment that calls for proficiency in the assumptions and techniques of both print and information.

Administration

The Computer Research Lab will be administered by a faculty Director reporting to the Dean of Liberal Arts. The CRL's budget will consist of funds from the College of Liberal Arts, the Department of English, the Division of Rhetoric and Composition, student fees, and outside sources.The Director will establish research and development priorities in close consultation with the Chair of English and the Director of Rhetoric and Composition or their representatives, and will be responsible for budget preparation; encouraging faculty and graduate students to undertake computer-assisted instruction; for recruiting and training graduate students to serve on the staff; and for maintaining relations with other campus computing facilities. The Director will receive released time equivalent to one full course per semester. Day to day operations of the Computer Research Lab will be the responsibility of an Associate Director chargd with overseeing the operation of all computer classrooms as well as the CRL itself.

Staffing

The CRL will be staffed by a team of AIs, TAs, and RAs from the Department of English and the Division of Rhetoric and Composition. The staff will provide support for teachers and students in the computer classrooms and carry out development and research projects under the Director's supervision. The CRL will also provide training on a contract basis to enable graduate students from other departments to support instructors teaching in computer-based instructional facilities currently located inthe Flawn Academic Center, Jester Center, Waggener, and Garrison Halls, and other humanities computing facilities as they come on-line.