



Everett W. Crowley
University of Mississippi
Office of Computing & Information Systems
User Consultant

Computer Video Classes

Abstract.

The need for the best possible service in the form of orientation classes and tutorials without draining resources and manpower as each new academic semester begins can be served by video classes.

COMPUTER VIDEO CLASSES

With the increase in computer use by non-technical students and faculty, comes the ever increasing responsibility of user services to provide the best possible service in the form of orientation classes and tutorials pertaining to computing facilities and equipment to this group. These services should receive high priority; however, they must not drain resources and deteriorate existing user services. This median frees user services from repeated drain of resources and manpower by simply scheduling play-backs in an auditorium which will accomodate many prospective users or by providing private viewing.

Production is the basis which will determine the quality of a video-taped class, however, quality is determined by several factors. Once a specific need is determined, the lecture, or script, must be written taking into consideration the knowledge and experience of the prospective viewer. The script is the most important factor contributing to the quality of the class. The necessary props (equipment, graphics, displays, and excerpts) must be coordinated with the script to provide a smooth and uniform class.

Once these preparations have been completed, the necessary camera shots must be defined to provide the best possible visual effect. "One picture is worth a thousand words" is still true. Many times a mental picture will remain with a person after the instructions are forgotten.

All of these necessary preparations provide for both a rigid yet smooth actual filming. The ability to edit is needed for no amount of preparation can insure a faultless production. Special effects should be included, however, the basic "explanation and example" still should provide the foundation of learning.

Once filming is complete and correctness is verified then accessibility must now be provided. Users must be able to access these classes at their leisure and for the amount of time they deem necessary. In cooperation with the University of Mississippi Library, such access is available. Users have private viewing carrels which consist of a lighted work area, video-cassette player and television. Utilizing this free type working atmosphere, users may stop, restart, and replay any or all parts which they deem necessary.

The Office of Computing and Information Systems has found this median to provide an excellent means of user education and partial solving of the problem of "drain of resources".