



@One

A place to meet, create and share

The Knowledge Center is bustling with innovations from its automated retrieval system for about half of its book collection to its brand new UNR-WPA wireless network. But the place that typifies most what sets the Knowledge Center apart from any other facility in the nation is @One. Pronounced “At One”—a Digital Age coinage combining the ubiquitous “@” sign used in email addresses and the fact that the facility is located on the ground floor—@One is designed with the Net Generation in mind.

It’s a place where students who have grown up digitally can work and produce in a manner that best suits their learning styles.

“This is such a departure from the other floors of the building,” Tod Colegrove, @One service manager, says. “It strikes me as being a little scary.”

Though “scary” is the word Colegrove chooses to use, his face shows nothing but sheer excitement for what the future of this facility holds. @One features two computer labs: Sierra Pacific Dynamic Media Lab and DataWorks Analysis and Visualization Lab. These labs support 18 duo-core dual processor PCs and 18 8-core Intel Xeon Mac Pro workstations with 9 gigabytes of RAM, all loaded with top-end software. The Dynamic Media Lab boasts 30-inch high-definition monitors and software such as Final Cut Studio Pro,

DVD Studio Pro and the Adobe Creative Suite 3 Master Collection, which enables students, faculty and staff—anyone with a current NetID—to do post-production work on audio, video or DVD projects. Dynamic Media Labs’ computers are linked to a 48-terabyte storage system allocated to students, so they can save their work without resorting to portable hard drives. DataWorks’ PCs are loaded with high-end mathematical, statistical, mapping and numbering-crunching software such as ArcView 3.3, ArcInfo 9.2, ArcMap 9.2, ArcGIS 9.2, IDL, ENVI, Maple6, Mathematica 5, Mathcad, MatlabR12, SAS and SPSS.

Colegrove explains that the Knowledge Center allows students to shape the direction of learning and studying. In order to do this the students must “get their hands dirty,” he notes. @One’s resources offer students plenty of



Students congregate to create, share and learn in the new @One, a multimedia study lounge in the Mathewson-IGT Knowledge Center.

a piece of carpet to stay pristine until the end of time.”


A cloverleaf-shaped table provides collaborative space where students can sit around a computer screen and share a rotating keyboard. Booths, like those found in restaurants, offer cozy spots to confer, work and study. @One also boasts collaborative work screens where students can hook their laptops to a large high-definition television to share work in the comfort of easy chairs or around a large study table.

Mark Gandolfo, manager of media design and production, says, “Philosophically, @One is an attempt to bring the typical library structure into the post-Gutenberg world.” The objective, he says, is to “synthesize knowledge into a new product” by putting high-end technology into the hands of students and providing them with the help they need to use it. Johann Gutenberg, 1400-1468, of Germany, was the inventor of the printing press.

“@One allows students to experience what it is like to work with professional quality products before they begin their professional careers,” Gandolfo says.

Duncan Aldrich, the @One administrator, notes: “We are bringing together things that we were trying to do in Getchell, but that Getchell wasn’t built to do.”

Another striking feature in @One is the large video screen composed of nine smaller screens. These screens will display work composed by students and faculty. “I’m hoping this will be a canvas for the students with which they can engage,” Gandolfo says.

The information technology and library team that developed the concepts behind the functionality of @One tried their best to include every capability they thought students would use. They are anxious to see the direction that students take it. “It will be interesting to see what happens between now and when finals roll around,” Aldrich says. “I’m expecting evolution.” 

—Josh Culpepper, Class of ’09 (English and French), is a Nevada Silver & Blue intern.

Photos by Jeff Ross.

opportunities to do so. In addition to the computers and software, @One loans multimedia equipment such as digital cameras, camcorders, microphones, digital projectors and laptop computers. The facility also boasts a 60-inch large-format photo/poster printer and a 42-inch wide laminator, as well as traditional printing services on legal and standard size paper.

@One is perfectly designed for sharing information, which is critical to learning.

“Knowledge is not in a book,” Colegrove says. “A book is basically a highly processed block of wood.”

Knowledge, in the opinions of library revolutionaries such as Steve Zink, vice president of information technologies and dean of libraries, is the reconstruction of the thoughts that were in the mind of the author when they wrote a particular book. Sharing information and

thoughts is the most important way to attain this knowledge.

With approximately 130 work stations and plenty of open space for group work, @One should prove to be one of the first locations students think of when it comes to group projects. The open and informal work environment beckons to late night study sessions around the melting cheese of a pizza or steaming coffee from the Joe Crowley Student Union, which is right next door.

“We want students to feel as at home in the Knowledge Center and the Joe Crowley Student Union as if they were in their own living room,” says Zink.

Colegrove notes that a student-directed learning environment won’t necessarily remain spotless: “It is more important that students take us where we are going than for