

LAB NOTES

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“The K:drive” p.2

Director's Corner

by Marcus Kurtz

The PRL has a new look for academic year 2005-06, with strong team of several new people, the further renovation of two computer-equipped teaching rooms (125 and 150 Derby), the new multimedia facility in room 2049C, and the transition to a more stable and higher-capacity file server. Thank you very much for bearing with us as these changes are completed; I am confident the result will be better computer support for the department at less expense.

Starting with personnel, as most of you know, I assumed the role of PRL Director June after Herb Weisberg was appointed Chair. We owe Herb an enormous debt of gratitude for steering the lab through an important transitional period, while at the same time acquiring substantial new (and ongoing!) university funding to support a series of existing and continuing technological improvements. Around the same time, seasoned computer expert Fred Crouner joined professional staff members Bill Miller and David Sweasey to augment our capabilities still further.

Our graduate student staff continues with some new and some returning faces. Dino Christenson joins us as new Webmaster, while Jeff Martinson and Jim DeLaet start second terms as assistant director and human subjects coordinator, respectively. Our new undergraduate work-study student is Stephen Sayre – new to this “upstairs” role but a familiar face to many after two years service as a room monitor in 150 and 125.

It is with much appreciation that we say goodbye to Zach Mears, Yared DeBebe and Matt Thompson after their years of service in the Lab. Each has moved on to other challenging endeavors and we wish them the best of luck.



Above: Picture of the Renovated Derby 150

As to our less “personable” additions, we have completely new facilities in room 150 and renovation is underway for the new media lab in 2049C. David Sweasey led the whole team in translating the funds from a three-year undergraduate technology improvement grant into these wonderful multimedia centers. Room 150 is set up for teaching small sections (not more than 25 students) with full presentation capabilities for the instructor, 13 workstations for students and a local printer. Room 125 has been equipped with computer workstations for all students, and will soon have a state-of-the-art presentation system that will permit instructors to use PowerPoint (or similar) presentations and annotate them on the screen, freehand and simultaneously. Room 2049C is still getting the finishing touches, but will shortly be complete with laptops and projectors for borrowing, color printers, scanners (for both books and via document feed), still and video cameras, audio recording equipment and more. Faculty and grad students teaching classes are encouraged to use these facilities for the preparation of classroom or other relevant materials.

Turning to our network, I am pleased to say that we have successfully transitioned to the new Windows based server for our departmental file sharing. Bill Miller led the effort with Fred and David to move faculty, staff and grads to the new system in extremely short order. Kudos to them for their excellent work!

An important part of our on-going quality improvement effort will be moving all of our computers to the Windows XP operating system. It is much more stable than earlier versions of Windows and permits automatic updating for virus checks, critical updates for Microsoft, and so on. This should result in our computers operating better, with less investment of staff time fixing problems on individual machines. Similarly, we are engaging in an ongoing effort to upgrade faculty software to current versions of the MS

Office suite as well as providing software to produce Adobe Acrobat .pdf files.

Turning to PRISM, we also welcome some new faces in senior fellow Sean Williams and junior fellow Lyndsey Young. Jan Box-Steffensmeier continues to lead the group. We look forward to seeing speaker and brown-bag announcements from PRISM as the year progresses.

As a last note regarding what’s new, we’ve recently added a ceiling mounted projector and a large white-board to the seminar room (2078). As in the Spencer room, it is therefore no longer necessary to arrange for a projector to be brought there for talks and presentations. Of course, we ask everyone to use common sense with these resources by locking the door when the room is not in use and reporting problems or suspicious activity related to the equipment.

Finally, please beware of viruses, spyware, and other malicious attacks on your computers. A number of computers were taken over so seriously during winter quarter that they had to be rebuilt. If your computer seems to be operating less efficiently than it used to, please have our staff check whether it has been hit by one of these problems. We will happily check it for problems and make sure that all proper defenses are operating and are up to date.

Projects, Plans, and Services

The Departmental File Server (K:\ drive) and Why We Should All Use It.

There are two principal reasons for using this capacity. First, by keeping a copy of all your relevant files on your K:\ drive you at once keep them readily accessible anywhere in the world *and* you make sure that they are backed up every night. Second, by using ftp to access the K:\ drive rather than emailing files to yourself you reduce the load on our already-overcrowded mail server. Finally, for graduate

students who share computers, the K:\ drive has the added advantage of not being shared. Files stored there are yours individually. Those stored on C:\ drives in graduate student offices or in the lab are potentially corruptible, and may be erased as these machines are regularly re-cloned.

As a final encouragement, I should point out that the local hard drives on computers fail quite regularly. We have had three failures in the past six months on department computers. It is always essential – regardless of where you store your primary copy of a file – that there be backups stored elsewhere.

How do I connect?

There are two ways to access the K:\ drive – through an ftp client or via a web browser.

The connection can be made using an ftp client (e.g., FileZilla, which is installed on all departmental computers and is available for free at <http://sourceforge.net/projects/filezilla>) by going to the following address:

[ftp.polisci.ohio-state.edu](ftp:polisci.ohio-state.edu)

If you are using Internet Explorer (or another browser), you can utilize the following URL:

<ftp://ftp.polisci.ohio-state.edu>

In either case, enter your username (your OSU name.##, with the same password you use to log into your computer in your office) when prompted. This should then take you to the files on your K:\ drive. You can then copy these files locally (drag and drop onto a local drive) and edit them. When you are done working, the updated versions can be moved back to you K:\ drive in the same fashion.

Further Questions?

Please get in touch with the PRL and we'll help you through any difficulties you might have. We are available at prl@mail.polisci.ohio-state.edu or via telephone during normal

business hours at 292-1814 (Bill Miller) or 688-3732 (Fred Crowner).

Summary of K:drive Advantages

<i>Functional Capability</i>	<i>C: drive</i>	<i>K: drive</i>
online access	No	YES
connect from all Derby Hall computers	No	YES
personal use only	No	YES

Autumn Quarter PRISM

All of us at PRISM hope everybody had an enjoyable

summer break and also hope you will find some of the upcoming PRISM events of interest. Stay tuned as we announce our methods lunches, brownbag series and guest speakers in the coming months.

As always, our doors are open to address your methods related concerns and questions to our attention, so please don't hesitate to contact us.



2005-06 PRISM Fellows:

Sean Williams is a senior graduate student in American Politics. His research interests focus on institutions and formal theory, with a particular emphasis on EITM (Empirical Implications of Theoretical Models). His current projects include a formal analysis of

how the US Senate's rules slow down a president's confirmations, and another formal model of signaling behavior between actors in a judicial hierarchy.

Lyndsey Young is a Ph.D. student in the Department of Political Science at the Ohio State University. She holds a B.A. in English and an M.A. in Political Science from the University of Louisville. As a third year student of American Politics, she possesses specialized research and teaching interests in four subfields: (1) legislative organization and behavior, (2) political parties and interest groups, (3) state politics, and (4) gender and identity politics. Lyndsey's current research projects examine the impact of elite behavior on institutional design, the effect of gender on party campaign finance, and the consequences of party decentralization on electoral outcomes. Lyndsey also has a methods interest in areas such as duration models, spatial models, multilevel models, and survey research design, and she hopes to further her methodological interests as the departments PRISM junior fellow.

PRISM Fellow Office Hours

Sean:	Lyndsey:
TWF 1:30-5	M 12:00-5:00, T 2:00-5:00, R 3:00-5:00



Free(!) Grad Printing

Take steps to ensure this benefit remains

The PRL has been given permission to provide paper for graduate student course- and research-related printing needs. We will keep the graduate printer supplied with paper during normal business hours (9:00AM to 5:00PM, Monday through Friday, except holidays). In order to ensure that we are able to continue offering this benefit beyond the probationary period, we have implemented the following printing rules.

1. Please no printing of multiple copies (Use the copier instead).
2. Please printing double-sided. (Ask the staff if you are unsure how to do this.)
3. Please print large jobs after 5 PM. The front office will print one copy of your dissertation free of charge.
4. Copies of journal articles should be printed double-sided, with two pages to a side (See the examples in the PAL).

In order to maximize benefits for everyone, individual violators of these rules will be subject to cancellation of their printing privileges. Of course, a pattern of collective disregard will result in the suspension of the free-paper trial for everyone.

Please contact PRL staff if you have any questions regarding printing.

Open Study Hours (Current as of 10/24/05)

	DERBY 0125 STUDY HOURS						DERBY 0150 STUDY HOURS				
	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri		Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
7:00 AM											
7:30 AM											
8:00 AM											
8:30 AM											
9:00 AM	9:00-9:30		9:00-9:30	9:00-9:30							
9:30 AM											
10:00 AM							10:00-2:00		10:00-2:00		10:00-2:00
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12:00 PM											
12:30 PM											
1:00 PM											
1:30 PM											
2:00 PM	2:00-6:30	2:00-6:30	2:00-6:30		2:00-6:00						
2:30 PM											
3:00 PM											
3:30 PM											
4:00 PM				4:00-6:30							
4:30 PM											
5:00 PM											
5:30 PM											
6:00 PM											
6:30 PM											

PRL Staff Information

At least one staff member is on-call between 8:30 AM and 6:00 PM, Monday through Thursday (until 5:00 PM Fridays)

Email us at prl@mail.polisci.ohio-state.edu

To contact the HELP DESK, go to:
<http://inet.sbs.ohio-state.edu/>
and click on "HELP DESK."

Previous issues of Lab Notes and other valuable information can be found at the Lab's website:
<http://psweb.sbs.ohio-state.edu/prl/index.htm>

PRL Contact Information

Name	Office	Alternate	Email
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Marcus Kurtz <u>Director</u>	292-0952	598-7845 (cell)	kurtz.61@osu.edu
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Dino Christenson <u>Webmaster</u>	292-0511	NA	christenson@mail.polisci.ohio-state.edu
Bill Miller <u>Systems Manager</u>	292-1814	519-9542 (cell)	miller@mail.polisci.ohio-state.edu
David Sweasey <u>Systems Manager</u>	292-8786	731-0888 (pager)	sweasey@mail.polisci.ohio-state.edu