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IMS is diversified at U of Montana

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MISSOULA——

The Instructional Materials Service is the most diversified and one of the busiest departments on the University of Montana campus.

IMS personnel have a variety of duties. They teach classes, handle graphic arts projects, repair electronic equipment and provide audio systems for special performers and speakers.

Director of the IMS is Devon Chandler, a red-haired pipe smoker who came to UM in 1967 after receiving his master's degree in educational media administration at the University of Oregon. During his year and a half at the University, IMS services and capabilities have been expanded and greatly improved.

Chandler says, "The IMS department used to be just an attachment to the library has been a switch from that to complete integration into the library." He is working toward establishment of a media program which will make available to faculty and students all the records, tapes, films and slides in stock at the department.

Excluding 16 millimeter films, UM is a repository for the entire, nonprint library of the Encyclopedia Brittanica Education Corporation. The University also has a good stock of film strips from the Jan Branning organization and a stock of about 250 films of its own. Chandler said he expects to increase the film library to more than 300 before the end of the current academic year.

The equipment inventory of the department is tremendous, including six video tape playback units, over 40 movie projectors, 60 overhead projectors, about 25 tape recorders and 20 record players. It also has a complete audio tape dubbing facility which can duplicate eight tapes at a time.
Chandler supervises a staff which includes a graphic artist, an electronics technician-engineer, the coordinator of audio visual materials for the campus and about 16 part-time students.

The graphic artist works primarily for professors who want illustration either created or copied for use in teaching. The electronics technician is responsible for practically all communication and sound equipment on the campus, excluding the UM radio station and some scientific electronic instruments. The coordinator has the responsibility of seeing to it that all audio-visual teaching aids are in the proper place at the right time. Students are responsible for most setup and supervisory work of audio systems.

Chandler also teaches a class in the UM School of Education which introduces future teachers to audio-visual teaching aids and theories of their use. He uses the IMS department as a laboratory for his class, and students are found there every day preparing bulletin boards, transparencies and practicing their machine techniques.

A recent grant under title six of the National Defense Education Act enabled the department to increase its inventory of machines to adequately serve the campus and construct six rooms outfitted for previewing films.

Some original film work is done within the department. Currently Chandler has two films awaiting editing and placement in a film loop. The film loop is put together on the same principle as a cartridge tape; it never needs rewinding and comes back to the beginning after each playing.