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### Academic use of new UM computer has rocketed

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ACADEMIC USE OF NEW UM COMPUTER  
HAS ROCKETED

MISSOULA--

Use of the University of Montana's new DECSYSTEM-10 computer by UM students and faculty members has rocketed, according to Dr. Frank Greenwood, director of the UM Computer Center.

"Academic use as opposed to administrative use of the new computer will increase even more as the University completes its conversion from the old computer system during the next two years," Greenwood said.

"We have had scheduling problems in the past few months due to the additional workload caused by the conversion process," Greenwood explained, "but as more and more of the University's systems are re-programmed, the number of problems should diminish.

"The 70 hours per week devoted mainly to academic work represents a tremendous increase in computer power available to students and faculty," the director said.

UM academic departments and the administration share the use of the computer. The administration uses it weekdays from 10 p.m. to 8 a.m. and on weekends. Academic departments use it the rest of the time, including Saturday morning.

Greenwood said students are benefitted by the administration's use of the computer through processing of grades and paychecks.

The \$640,000 computer, installed in October of last year, is being leased from the Digital Equipment Corporation. It can process 24 different jobs simultaneously and works on the principle of time-sharing.

"The tremendous advantage is being able to utilize the computer's speed to carry on multiple functions all at the same time. UM's previous computers could only carry on one job at a time," Greenwood said.

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"The University has been able to consolidate administrative and academic use of the computer into a single location in the basement of the Liberal Arts Building and personnel can assist both academic and administrative users."

There are nearly three dozen remote terminals housed in various buildings on campus. The remote terminals allow students, faculty and administrative members to use the facility via telephone.

Greenwood is assisted by a faculty-administrative committee established by UM President Robert T. Pantzer to determine computer priorities and to help allocate the resources.

"Use of the new computer has freed two other smaller computers for instructional use and the University administration is in the process of selling one, an unneeded IBM 1620, which will reduce the total cost of the new facility.

"UM becomes one of 70 major universities throughout the United States utilizing the DECsystem-10 for academic use and it will serve as a great boon to the growing number of undergraduate and graduate students using the computer each quarter," Greenwood said.

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