

The university for the knowledge society

Annual Report 2006–2007

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Presentation

The academic year 2006-2007 represented the culmination of a stage of the Universitat Oberta de Catalunya (Open University of Catalonia, UOC) that began a year previously with the arrival of the new team. This academic year, we have assured the sustainability of the University and completed the strategic plan that will bring shape to our aim of transforming a great project into a great university, a university where assured quality, transparency and accountability are inherent throughout.

Adaptation to the European Higher Education Area (EHEA) offers the chance to transform the entire university system and we should stress that the UOC has an advantage here given that, since its founding, it has been able to adapt its structure, methodology and strategies to the cutting-edge.

The UOC's aim is to continue to be the benchmark for quality e-learning throughout the world and to lead the opportunity that the EHEA represents for transforming universities. As a result, this academic year the governing team is also to be supported by the Vice President's Office, Innovation, which will work transversally to ensure that this is possible. Its scope will embrace education methodologies, use of advanced technologies, organisational culture and any subject that represents an opportunity to redesign an institution that has to adapt its mission to the needs of a changing society and student profiles that have very little in common with those it faced when it was founded twelve years ago. We must make full use of the advantages that we have in this physical and virtual environment, where changes in technology and society take place at breakneck speed. And this is what we are doing, thanks to our extraordinary team and dedicated, enthusiastic students.

Imma Tubella
President

We are proud to present the UOC Report 2006-2007. The UOC has been, and continues to be, an innovative and dynamic institution, which maintains the challenge of constant adaptation to new technology, in both the fields of teaching and research. This is a university rooted in the scientific, cultural and social reality of Catalonia, but with an international reach, which is enhanced by its invaluable network of business and institutional alliances.

The work that you will find described in the following pages, the milestones that the University has reached, in both teaching and research, clearly reflect the UOC's entrepreneurial and committed spirit. Since 2007, the UOC, as set out in the Strategic Plan 2007-2012, has prioritised the fostering of innovation to ensure continuous transformation of the University in its teaching and management.

With regard to research, it has continued to promote international collaboration in RDI programmes and projects with prestigious external institutions and groups, whilst also supporting the research work carried out by the University's own faculty. The governing team, led by President Tubella, has worked tirelessly to continue to make the University grow, both in terms of the number of courses and students, and in terms of research and collaboration with society. In this vein, the UOC will most certainly continue to be a quality university in the Catalan university system.

Josep Huguet
Chair, Board of Trustees

The UOC was born out of the coinciding of the interests of the Catalan government and civil society. This can be seen clearly in the Fundació per a la Universitat Oberta de Catalunya (Foundation for the Open University of Catalonia, FUOC),

of which I am chairman. This union has lasted and been strengthened over the twelve years that the UOC has been in existence. A result of this understanding is the stand-out success of a quality, distance university model that has made it possible for thousands of people to access higher education and lifelong learning. Likewise, it has also been productive in terms of research. The UOC Report 2006-2007 contains the main results from Project Internet Catalonia (PIC), a research programme carried out between September 2001 and July 2007 by the IN3, the UOC's research institute. The UOC has sought to find out about the impact of information and communication technologies on society and on strategic areas of the knowledge society: business, schooling, the health system, universities, the administration and the media.

PIC was a national project, funded by the Catalan government, and backed by three of its presidents: Jordi Pujol, Pasqual Maragall and José Montilla. From a quantitative point of view, it was probably the most in-depth research project into social sciences carried out in Catalonia, and the research project into the information society that we feel must be the most important ever conducted in Spain. The UOC is currently working on making the results of the research available to the whole of the university community and society in general.

The FUOC Council includes business and union organisations and a number of figures from the fields of research and culture. It is, therefore, a broad representation of Catalan society, which the University, due to its public service nature, has the desire and the duty to serve. The UOC hopes that PIC has constituted an appropriate way of fulfilling this commitment to society.

Josep Vilarasau
Chair, FUOC Council

The UOC in summary

The course of the year

The UOC's inaugural lecture for the academic year 2006-2007 was given by the professor from the University of Algiers and former Minister for Education, Mustapha Cherif, entitled "Learning to Live Together". The speaker made a passionate and eloquent call for mutual understanding between peoples and cultures in search of a dialogue that opens us up to others. Philosopher and professor Xavier Rubert de Ventós, who recently joined the UOC as a researcher, offered a response as a way of accepting this invitation to dialogue.

September » October 2006

- The UOC, together with Barcelona Autonomous University, organises the 9th Spanish Meeting on Cryptology and Information Security.
- A website on Civil War authors and texts and another on the inner world of a writer win the 2006 Lletra Award.
- Professor Manuel Castells awarded St George's Cross 2006 from the Catalan government and an honorary doctorate from the University of Quebec.
- More than 26,800 students invited to the get-together for the first semester of the academic year 2006-2007.
- The Law and Political Science Department and the International Governability Institute jointly organise the "Governance in Catalonia Today" seminar.
- The UOC jointly organises the 4th EDEN conference on e-learning in Europe.

November » December

- The UOC to assess and accredit the digital skills of the Catalan police force.
- Martorell Support Point opened.
- Nearly four thousand students graduate in Barcelona and Madrid.
- The second phase of the e-administration research project made public.

- The UNESCO Chair in E-Learning organises a seminar on open education resources.
- The UOC jointly organises MINIPUT 2006 to debate the current state of public television in Catalonia and worldwide.
- L'Hospitalet Support Point opened.
- The UOC and the House of Languages create a chair in multilingualism.

January » March 2007

- The UOC erects the peace pole, as part of an initiative from the UN and the World Peace Prayer Society.
- The UOC and Oxford University start a joint PhD seminar taught exclusively over the internet.
- The UOC supports the creation of an innovation network of more than thirty Latin American universities: RIU.
- 4th Anatomia: Catalan literature, taking stock and looking ahead.
- The UOC and Google organise an open face-to-face debate on the future of books.
- The UOC jointly organises the 3rd International WEBIST Conference.
- The UOC hosts the presentation of the White Paper on Humanities, for the first time in Spain.

April » May

- José Montilla speaks at the Terrassa Open Tribune.
- The UOC publishing house launches Tic.cero, a new collection focusing on the new technologies.
- Collaboration agreement signed with the Open University.
- The first UOC-endorsed qualification in English on education and ICT.
- A website on the scientific production of Professor Manuel Castells presented.
- "Peace Culture" campaign.
- More than ninety summer courses for 2007 presented.
- New Gironès Support Centre.
- Música de poemes, a new interactive website for poems set to music.

- The UOC's Law degree celebrates its tenth anniversary.

June » July

- Pasqual Maragall gives a talk about the evolution of cities.
- The UOC Campus for Peace and Solidarity sets up a new website.
- Investiture of Alain Touraine as an honorary doctor
- The results of Project Internet Catalonia (PIC) presented.
- New website for the IN3, the UOC's research institute.
- Creation of a UOC channel on YouTube.
- The UOC receives its Erasmus university charter.

The UOC in figures

Students

1. Students by course type

Diploma (first cycle)	16,418
Degree (second cycle)	22,424
PhD (third cycle)	194
Official Masters	556
UOC-endorsed qualifications	652
Masters	957
Postgraduate courses	1,189
Specialisations	835
Summer and Winter courses	4,477
University @thenaeum	1,847
Seminars	552
Total	50,101

2. Students by age

2a. Undergraduate

Under 25	3,580
Between 25 and 30	12,144
Between 31 and 40	15,629
Over 40	7,489
Total	38,842

2b. Postgraduate

Between 21 and 30	20
Between 31 and 40	55
Over 40	119
Total	194

3. Students by gender

3a. Undergraduate

Men	18,948
Women	19,894

3b. Postgraduate

Men	127
Women	67

4. Students by campus:

Campus in Catalan	31,957
Campus in Spanish	6,885

5. Evolution of enrolments

5a. Undergraduate

Enrolments between 2000 and 2007

2000-2001	14,837
2001-2002	21,374
2002-2003	25,783
2003-2004	33,423
2004-2005	33,307
2005-2006	36,381
2006-2007	38,842

5b. Postgraduate

Enrolments between 2000 and 2007

2000-2001	72
2001-2002	178
2002-2003	160
2003-2004	160
2004-2005	281
2005-2006	305
2006-2007	194

6. Students by programme

6.a. Students on Official Masters

Official Masters in Education and ICT (e-learning)	213
Official Masters in Free Software	178
Official Masters in the Information and Knowledge Society	165

6.b. Undergraduate students

Business Science	8,893
Educational psychology	1,626
Law	4,172
Humanities	2,485
Management IT	2,342
Systems IT	3,256
Catalan Language and Literature	531
Business Administration and Management	1,746
Documentation	974
Psychology	4,532
Computer Engineering	1,107
Political and Administration Sciences	390
Labour Sciences	1,902
Market Research and Techniques	927
Tourism	1,251
Audiovisual Communication	597
East Asia Studies	762
Advertising and Public Relations	673
Telecommunications, Telematics	676

7. Growth in the range of accredited qualifications and official masters on the Catalan and Spanish Campuses

Year	Catalan Campus	Spanish Campus
1995-1996	2	
1996-1997	4	
1997-1998	6	
1998-1999	8	
1999-2000	9	
2000-2001	10	6
2001-2002	13	9
2002-2003	16	10
2003-2004	17	13
2004-2005	17	14
2005-2006	19	16
2006-2007	22	20

Faculty and management staff

In-house faculty	153
Teaching collaborators	1,952
Management staff	550

Graduates

1. Graduates by course type (academic year 2005-2006)

Diploma (first cycle)	600
Degree (second cycle)	1,551
PhD (third cycle)	74
TOTAL	2,225

2. Evolution of the number of first-, second- and third-cycle graduates (1999-2006)

1999-2000	118
2000-2001	142
2001-2002	431
2002-2003	954
2003-2004	1,466
2004-2005	2,094
2005-2006	2,225

Government and institutional activities

Governing team

Governing Council expanded

The Governing Council is the highest collegiate body at the UOC. The duties of the council are to plan and assess the University's work and establish general lines of action in all its fields. The Governing Council is chaired by the President, who is the highest UOC authority and ultimately responsible for its government, administration and representation. The President is assisted by the Vice Presidents and General Manager, who is responsible for overseeing the ordinary management of the UOC and the appointment of directors of studies and departments.

During the academic year 2006-2007, two new Vice President's Offices were created: namely that of Postgraduate Studies and Lifelong Learning, and that of Innovation.

President: Dr Imma Tubella

General Manager: Dr Òscar Aguer

Vice President, Research: Dr Eduard Aibar

Chair of the Research and PhD Scientific

Committee: Dr Manuel Castells

Vice President, Cultural Promotion and

Multilingualism: Dr Mavi Dolz

Vice President, Postgraduate Studies and

Lifelong Learning: Dr Josep Maria Duart

Vice President, Innovation: Dr Begoña Gros

Vice President, Faculty and Academic

Organisation: Dr Josep Lladós

Vice President, Technology:

Dr Llorenç Valverde

Governing bodies

The FUOC, the University's backbone

On October 6 1994, the Catalan government established the FUOC with the aim of offering distance university education. It was from here that the UOC originated.

Since then, the FUOC has looked after the inspection, assessment and monitoring of the UOC to ensure the highest levels of quality in the education offered.

The Foundation has the Board of Trustees as its maximum representation and governing body, including well established and renowned institutions from throughout Catalonia. The Board of Trustees has the Permanent Commission as an executive body and the Advisory Board as a consultative body.

The duties of the Board of Trustees are to approve and, where necessary, amend the UOC's Organisational and Operating Regulations, appoint and dismiss the President and the General Manager, approve the University's budget and balance sheets and approve the plan of action submitted by the President and assess the results. The Chair of the Board of Trustees is the Catalan Minister for Innovation, Universities and Business.

Permanent Commission and Advisory Board

The Permanent Commission is the Foundation's administrative and management body and its mission is to direct its tasks. The Advisory Board comprises representatives from parliament, public universities, business and union organisations and a number of figures from the fields of research and culture, alongside the President of the UOC and the Director of the FUOC. It is a consultative body which, in addition to offering advice, reports on the budget, programming and the appointment of the President.

Bases of the Strategic Plan

The priorities for the Strategic Plan 2007-2012 established

July saw the internal publication of the bases of the Strategic Plan 2007-2012, drafted after an extensive period

of analysis in which academic and administrative managers took part. The internal publication of the bases constitutes the start of a consultation phase open to all teaching, research and management staff.

- Strategic priority 1. Develop distance education adapted to the needs of society and with an innovative, quality learning model.
- Strategic priority 2. Build a culture for creativity and knowledge dissemination among the academic staff in the field of the information society.
- Strategic priority 3. Ensure technological diversity and innovation in the Virtual Campus and the information systems architecture.
- Strategic priority 4. Foster innovation throughout the University as part of a system and culture of continuous transformation.
- Strategic priority 5. Promote cultural and linguistic diversity, solidarity, participation and commitment to society through ICT and presence throughout the territory.
- Strategic priority 6. Create the International Graduate Institute to become a benchmark centre for quality, distance lifelong learning.
- Strategic priority 7. Introduce a new organisational culture, transparent, flexible and efficient management and quality services for a sustainable university.

The UOC in the university system

Collaboration with Catalan and Spanish university institutions and bodies

The UOC has representatives on all the committees of the Joan Lluís Vives Institute, the network that brings together the Catalan language universities.

It is also a member of ACUP, the Catalan Public Universities Association, and meets the guidelines set by the

Catalan Inter-University Board and AQU, the University Quality Agency.

Within Spain, the UOC takes part in CRUE, the Council of Spanish University Rectors, and CCU, University Coordination Council, meetings.

Participation in international networks

The UOC has taken part in a number of European university networks and networks from other parts of the world.

It forms part of the following

European networks:

EADTU. European Association of Distance Teaching Universities
EDEN. European Distance and E-Learning Network
EUA. European University Association
KALEIDOSCOPE. Kaleidoscope Network of Excellence
EFQUEL. European Foundation for Quality in eLearning
YASMIN. Your Arts Science Mediterranean International Network

Outside Europe, it has taken part in the following networks:

CINDA. Centro Interuniversitario de Desarrollo
CREAD. Inter-American Distance Education Consortium
EDUCAUSE
EPUF. EuroMed Permanent University Forum
ICDE. International Council for Distance Education
HACU. Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities
NMC. New Media Consortium
RIU. Red de Innovación Universitaria

Over this year, the UOC has applied to form part of the following bodies:
IMS GLC. IMS Global Learning Consortium
OCW. OpenCourseWare Consortium
GUNI. Global University Network for Innovation

International activities

The UOC and the University of Oxford begin online PhD seminar

The University of Oxford's Oxford Internet Institute (OII) and the UOC's Internet Interdisciplinary Institute (IN3) have joined forces to launch a pioneering experience, a virtual seminar that lasts six months and that combines the resources of the two PhD programmes run at these university institutes.

The seminar will be run jointly by Professor William Dutton, Director of the Oxford Internet Institute, Fellow and Professor of Internet Studies at the University of Oxford, and Professor Manuel Castells, Research Professor at the UOC. Eight PhD students from Oxford and eight from the UOC will be taking part.

Collaboration agreement with the Open University

The Vice-Chancellor of the Open University (OU), Brenda Gourley, and the President of the UOC, Imma Tubella, have signed an agreement that involves the undertaking of strategic projects. This will include joint work on research and technological innovation projects and on educational initiatives in English or other languages.

The UNESCO Chair in E-Learning organises a seminar on open education resources

From November 22 to 24, the UOC's UNESCO Chair in E-Learning organised its 3rd International Seminar, under the title "Open Education Resources: Institutional Challenges". This conference is for academics and senior university managers.

New network for university innovation in Latin America

Through the UNESCO Chair in E-Learning, the UOC has promoted the creation of the Red de Innovación Universitaria (University Innovation

Network, RIU), which brings together thirty pioneering Latin American universities and research centres in the field of e-learning. The aim is to foster the exchange of ideas, collaboration and joint ventures in university innovation.

Teaching at the UOC

Teaching at the UOC

Progress in the construction of the European Higher Education Area

One priority this year was to define a new portfolio adapted to the EHEA in line with the new structure for education set out definitively by Royal Decree 1393/2007, of October 29 2007. These new qualifications will have to be rolled out from the academic year 2008-2009. The first steps made with the three Official Masters courses started in the academic year 2006-2007 have been added to with the approval by the Governing Council of three new degrees and another Official Masters course to be taught in the following academic year. The degree qualifications in Psychology, Law and Humanities and the masters degree in Health and Safety form part of this year's new protocol which is to be implemented through the constitution of the relevant qualification committees.

As part of the pilot scheme for adaptation to the EHEA led by the Catalan government's Department of Universities, the University set up two UOC-endorsed degree qualifications last year: Introductory Psychology and the Graduate Course in Legal Studies. These have provided valuable experience in how to present new degrees that are fully adapted to the Bologna guidelines, as set out in Royal Decree 1393/2007.

New forums for reflection and debate on teaching

The website on the European Higher Education Area and the EHEA

Newsletter have consolidated their key position. They provide constantly updated information on projects, activities and other aspects linked to teaching and the Bologna process.

Likewise, in order to face up to this process of adaptation, the UOC has opted for methodological innovation and revised its methodology to allow it to evolve, prioritising mobility, employability and comparability of European degrees.

Throughout the year, eight working groups have tackled questions related to the process of reflection on Bologna, such as ECTS credits, competencies, results assessment, practicals and final degree or masters projects, the syllabus, the classroom and learning resources, the recognition of professional experience, student mobility and the promoting of lifelong learning. This general and systematic reflection process started in March 2007 and ended with the approval in September of a final conclusions document for the methodological adaptation of the UOC to the EHEA.

2nd EHEA Internet Conference

The aim of the 2nd EHEA Internet Conference was to foster, within the Catalan university system, a virtual space for reflection, exchange of experiences and debate on this process of adaptation, which affects all of the system's universities. The four core subject areas of the conference for 2006-2007 were linked to the design of new training programmes, the definition of professional profiles, skills assessment, transversality and the quality of programmes and subjects.

Quality teaching: programmes and faculty

This year saw the continuation of the process set in motion in 2005-2006 by the Catalan University System Quality Agency (AQU Catalunya) to assess faculty and deployment of the new faculty policy and improvements to

the document, approved by the Faculty Council held in December. Meanwhile, a manual for the assessment of faculty's teaching work has been drafted, which will have to be certified and tested through a pilot trial over the next year.

Finally, and following institutional assessment, the process of assessment of the present qualifications has been completed. In the academic year 2006-2007, the Law and Political Science and the Psychology and Educational Psychology departments at the UOC were assessed satisfactorily and the UOC's favourable positioning in terms of the challenges that it has to face with the process of adaptation to the EHEA were highlighted.

Bologna Classroom

The Bologna classroom format consolidated its position over 2007. The pilot trial that began in 2006 continued and the number of subjects involved was increased.

The Bologna classroom is characterised by offering the student an overview of the semester's schedule and the content they work on at all times. Alongside this, work was also carried out on a classroom format called improved, the aim of which is to help move all subjects to the EHEA.

Teaching content available to everyone: the e-Alquimia project

E-Alquimia is a project that focuses on the actual process of the creation of teaching content and its publication, geared towards its dissemination and access and in line with the strategy of providing lifelong learning for everyone.

It is developed with the support of the Ministry of Industry, Tourism and Trade and the European Union.

Student mentoring

Student Care and Information Service consolidated

The Student Care and Information Service consolidated its place as an

simple and flexible problem-solving tool for students. The effectiveness of the Service and its design were confirmed by the user tests conducted among the UOC's students.

The Service incorporates an innovative structure and design that improve the handling of queries. Students can browse a directory showing the contents for a range of topics or the FAQs –these questions answer many of the queries directly. However, if this is not the case, they can enter a query that will be answered by the UOC personally. The system lets people see the status of queries entered and the record of previous queries at all times.

Improvement process for follow-up counselling started up

The academic year 2006-2007 saw the start of a review of follow-up counselling. This is the teaching advice that students receive throughout their time at the UOC.

The review began with a project involving programme managers and counsellors from the various departments with the aim of analysing students' needs, the services this type of counselling currently offered and which it should be offering. Among other issues, it set out the specific advice that should be given, the guidance students should receive to increase professionalism and ensure lifelong learning, and the tools that the counsellor needs in order to be able to carry out their task effectively.

The UOC analyses, reviews and improves all the tools at its disposal to offer its students information and advice on administrative, technological and teaching aspects, to ensure they are supported at all times.

Improvements to make on-site examinations more flexible

The UOC has made a series of changes to the organisation of on-site examinations to make life easier for students:

- Students can choose to be examined at any of the examination centres, regardless of whether the teaching is in Catalan or Spanish.
- A new centre has been incorporated in Andalusia, in Malaga.
- Examination sittings for accredited qualifications in Spanish have been increased with a third sitting in Madrid (IB) to provide a response to the large number of students in this region. Similarly, multimedia students can take advantage of any of the three sittings at centres in Catalonia.

New system for viewing final tests

A new system has been developed for viewing the final tests for which students have requested a review. As a result, students will have a clearer idea of the reasons behind the result, being able to consult the answers given directly.

Improvements in managing the assessment of prior studies

New rules and regulations have been approved for assessing prior studies. Among other issues, they set out parameters for recognising unaccredited activities or languages. They also establish that the assessment rulings of prior studies will not be binding and that the student can decide whether they incorporate prior studies into their academic record or whether they decide to take the subjects again.

New Support Centres and Points

The territorial network has been strengthened with the inauguration of new Support Centres and Points. Over this year, the L'Hospitalet de Llobregat Support Centre and the Martorell Support Point were opened.

The main aims of this network are to offer students services and those interested information on the range of courses offered. They also act to strengthen the University's links to the local institutions, companies and population.

New Support Centre web space created

A new, much more interactive, Support Centre web space has been created on the Virtual Campus. It allows students to reserve meeting rooms directly and Centres to convey information on activities and local news stories.

Over 11,000 people have approached the Support Centres to find out more about the UOC's range of training

More than 100 information sessions have been organised by them and over 56,000 students have taken advantage of them to make queries, handle paperwork or use the services offered.

Economics and Business Studies Department

Teaching and teaching innovation

Economics and Business Studies faculty grew throughout the academic year 2006-2007 with the incorporation of four lecturers. This growth, together with the professional evolution of the rest of the team, both in terms of innovation in teaching and research, is geared towards adapting the range of economic and business studies courses to the EHEA, in line with the quality standards defined by the AQU and ANECA quality agencies.

As regards innovation in teaching, the department has taken part in the adaptation to the European Higher Education Area project, forming part of each of the working groups managed by the Vice-President's Office, Faculty and Academic Organisation, and dealing with the different aspects of the UOC's educational model, such as the classroom, assessment, skills, ECTS, the syllabus, recognition of learning from prior experience, teaching resources and the Final Degree Project/Final Masters Project/Practicum.

UOC student wins award for best academic record

The academic year 2006-2007 saw UOC

student Anna Maria de Haro Martín awarded ex aequo the prize for the best university academic record presented each year by the Catalan Economists Association, in recognition of her work at the University. Her time at the UOC saw her pass as an honour student not only the undergraduate diploma in Business Sciences, but also the Business Administration and Management, and Market Research and Techniques degrees.

Conferences, lectures and seminars

The five qualifications offered by the Economics and Business Studies Department organised a series of lectures at the University's get-together focusing on aspects of special social and academic interest to each. These lectures included the first of a number of activities aimed to increase collaboration with the department's network of tutors and counsellors beyond their teaching activity at the UOC.

Together with the ACCID (Catalan Accountancy and Business Management Association), a conference was also organised on "New Trends in Accountancy and Management Control". Other activities were also developed, such as the Conference on Competition in Petrol Distribution in Catalonia, organised with the Catalan Anti-Trust Board.

Every fortnight during the academic year 2006-2007, Economics and Business seminars were organised, where lecturers shared their research and innovation in teaching with the aim of finding synergies that allow them to progress towards gaining tenure at the UOC.

Languages and Cultures Department

Commitment to foreign language learning

The UOC's Languages and Cultures Department started up the Language programme in October 2006 as part of the University's commitment to foreign language learning and the broad range of related language subjects. Over 6,000

students are currently enrolled on courses that teach the following languages: English, French, Chinese and Japanese.

Start of a Japanese language and script course

In the academic year 2006-2007, the East Asia programme introduced the Japanese language and script subject, with the support of a grant awarded by the Japan Foundation. This is the first subject planned for the teaching of Japanese.

Experts in literary studies come together at the UOC

The UOC hosted the International Conference on Literary Studies in the European Framework: Looking Ahead, organised by the Hermeneia research group, from December 14 to 16. This research team analyses the overlaps between literary studies and digital technology and investigates the cutting-edge in digital literature. The group is made up of 17 researchers from centres in Europe and the Americas and is led by the UOC's Languages and Cultures Department.

Chair in multilingualism created

The UOC and Linguamón - House of Languages have created the Linguamón-UOC Chair in Multilingualism, whose role is to foster research and training activities in multilingualism as a means of social and economic development of society.

The Management Board has four members from the UOC and two from the House of Languages. Isidor Marí, Director of the UOC's Humanities Department, is the new chair's Director and Miquel Strubell, currently lecturer in the Languages and Cultures Department, is its Executive Secretary.

Humanities Department

The UOC hosts the official presentation of the *White Paper on Humanities*

The UOC hosted the official

presentation of the *White Paper on Humanities* as part of a round table, attended by representatives of the universities from throughout Spain that teach this subject. It is not binding and, besides the different content blocks and subjects required for the new definition of the degree, covers eight professional or research opportunities.

The *White Paper on Humanities* is a benchmark that universities can use to design degrees and postgraduate courses that meet European standards.

Artnodes revamped and a new monograph presented

This year, Artnodes, the web space that looks at the intersections of art, science and technology, presented two new features. The first is the revamped format and content of the digital journal. The second is the publication of a new node or monograph entitled “Organicities”. This monograph focuses on the role of living organisms in the context of artistic practices.

The Museia research group takes part in an mNACTEC project

As part of the collaboration with the Catalan National Museum of Science and Technology (mNACTEC), Museia, a UOC research group, is taking part in the design and assessment of a pilot project in Gerri de la Sal, Pallars Sobirà. The project forms part of the mNACTEC regional system’s Industrial Landscapes and Routes Programme. There has also been collaboration on the Social Perception of Science and Technology Through the Industrial Heritage of Catalonia project funded by the FECYT (Spanish Foundation for Science and Technology).

The UOC participates in the creation of a website on the archaeology of southeast Europe

The UOC’s OLIBA research group has taken part in the creation of a portal

on the archaeology of southeast Europe jointly with other European universities and institutions. This website is the last phase of the SEEArchWeb project (South Eastern Europe Archaeology Web), the aim of which is to create a series of technological tools for the teaching and dissemination of the prehistoric archaeological heritage of Greece, Bulgaria and Cyprus. This project is funded by the EC.

Information and Communication Sciences Department

New web activities to publicise the Communication programme

The Audiovisual Communication programme increased its presence on the net with a series of innovative activities such as the creation of its own channel on YouTube (<http://youtube.com/connexion-suoc>), where students’ videos can be posted, and participation in the 1st University Audiovisual Creation Show.

Also on the internet is the Audiovisual Communication programme blog called Connexions.cav (<http://connexionscav.blogspot.com>).

Documentation and Communication students take part in CCRTV activities

Groups of students on the Documentation and Audiovisual Communication programmes attended activities offered by the Catalan Radio and Television Corporation (CCRTV), including the lecture entitled “Audiovisual heritage: digitise or die?”, given by Àlicia Conesa, manager of the TVC Documentation Services.

Professor Josep Cobarsí presents his book on information disasters

Professor Josep Cobarsí presented the book *Pequeños y grandes desastres de la información*. The causes and consequences of the mismanagement of information have generally merited less attention than the successes. This book, a collection of real-life cases,

begins with a journey to the dark side of information.

The UOC wins fourth place in the Third University Debating League

The UOC took part in the 3rd Joan Lluís Vives Institute University Debating League held in Elche. Over four days, teams representing some ten universities in the network debated: “Are we prisoners of advertising?” The UOC came a highly praiseworthy fourth.

A student on the Advertising programme finalist in the Young Creatives-FAD competition

As part of the El Sol Latin American Advertising Festival, an Advertising and Public Relations student at the UOC, Sílvia Moya, was a finalist in the young creatives competition organised by the Foundation for Aid against Drug Addiction (FAD) and the Spanish Advertising Agencies Association (AEAP).

Law and Political Science Department

Internal and external assessment of Law and Political Science

Between January and June, AQU conducted an assessment of the Law and Political Science qualifications.

The first phase in the assessment process was the drafting of the self-assessment drawn up by the Internal Assessment Committee (CAI), comprising the director of the department, the directors of the qualifications assessed, one lecturer for each qualification, one graduate for each qualification and the department administrator. The self-assessment report was made available to the whole university community so that members could make any appropriate contribution. With these contributions, it was sent to the AQU, which made it available to the External Assessment Committee, which visited the University in June and drafted the final report. This report corroborates a large

part of what was set out in the initial self-assessment.

The Law degree celebrates its tenth anniversary

The UOC's Law degree first began in the academic year 1996-1997 as a pilot test with a small team of lecturers and collaborators and around a 100 students. Ten years later, as well as Law, the Department also teaches degree-level Political Science and a high number of masters and postgraduates. Student numbers have risen to 3,500 hundred, some 680 students have graduated, and the department has a team of 250 academic collaborators, between lecturers, writers, tutors and counsellors.

The UOC organises the 3rd Internet, Law and Politics Congress

The UOC's Department of Law and Political Science organised the 3rd Internet, Law and Politics Congress on May 7 and 8. The encounter was international in nature and aimed at analysing the changes in legislation and public administration in the age of the information society. Debate centred on current issues, such as liability for content, the fundamental right to data protection and security on the internet. International experts took part.

Seminars in collaboration with institutions and companies

The Department organised a number of seminars, including "Governance in Catalonia Today", jointly with the International Governability Institute, and the seminar on "Urban Planning Act Regulations", jointly with the Pareja & Associats law firm.

Psychology and Educational Sciences Department

International specialists meet at Debates on Education

A number of international specialists have taken part in the Debates on

Education, an initiative of the UOC and the Jaume Bofill Foundation to analyse experiences in different fields of education. Participants have included Cèsar Coll, Doctor in Psychology and Professor of Evolutionary and Educational Psychology at the University of Barcelona; Peggy Levit, Wellesley College of Massachusetts; Salvador Cardús, Barcelona Autonomous University, and Marcelo M. Suárez-Orozco, Courtney Sale Ross Professor of University Globalisation and Education

2nd Educlip Congress analyses what can be done to make educational audiovisuals more effective and attractive

After the hugely successful 1st Educlip Congress, the UOC organised the second in June 2007.

The aim of Educlip is to find communicative ways of making the educational and cultural audiovisuals more attractive and effective by taking advantage of the expressive parameters of advertising. Educlip is organised by the UOC, Catalonia Technical University and Pompeu Fabra University. It is a competition in which students and experts in the field of communication, education and multimedia can take part.

First UOC-endorsed qualification in English on Education and ICT

The University has started its first UOC-endorsed qualification in English: the European Certificate in E-Learning Course Design and Teaching. There was a pilot test in which 13 students from a number of European countries took part, including Finland, Estonia, Romania, Italy, Portugal and Spain. The qualification is aimed at training professionals in the educational use of information and communication technologies.

Lectures by specialists in psychology and education at the get-together

A lecture was given by Dr Rosa Baños

about the "Applications of new technologies in clinical and health psychology", and another by Dr Maria Carme Boqué, "Conflict treatment and mediation in schools. An educational psychology approach" at the UOC's get-together.

IT, Multimedia and Telecommunications Department

1st Free Software Official Masters

The academic year 2006-2007 saw the start of the Free Software Official Masters, approved by the Catalan government's Department of Universities, Research and the Information Society and the Spanish Ministry of Education, Science and Sports, following the criteria for adaptation to the European Higher Education Area (EHEA).

The Masters, which came about as a consequence of the recommendation by the European Union to train professionals in the field of free software, has had 184 students enrol on it. Students are to be trained in different fields: network and operating systems administrator, website and e-commerce systems administrator, applications development expert, IT systems management in free software environments and free software economy.

New Bio-computing postgraduate training

November 2006 saw the start of the first of the UOC's postgraduate Bio-computing courses, a multidisciplinary offer geared towards students with a wide range of different profiles. Thus, this first course included students with degrees in Biology and Computing or Mathematics, Physics, Biochemistry and Agricultural Engineering.

Two KISON Group projects on IT security receive state funding

The ARES (Advanced Research on

Information Security and Privacy) and E-AEGIS/STEGO PRIVACY projects by the KISON Research Group into IT security have secured funding from the R&D and Consolider calls from the Spanish Ministry of Education and Science. The aim of these two projects is to reconcile data security and copyright protection systems in digital technologies, whilst offering the people who use these systems the right to confidentiality.

IT, Multimedia and Telecommunications jointly organises Spain-wide information security meeting

In September 2006, the UOC and Barcelona Autonomous University organised the 9th Spanish Meeting on Cryptology and Information Security. This congress, which is held every two years at Spanish universities and research centres, brought together Spain's experts in the field of information security.

Masters and postgraduate studies

International Graduate Institute created

The UOC created the International Graduate Institute with the aim of becoming a benchmark centre for quality distance lifelong learning. The Institute offers a range of open postgraduate programmes and in-company training.

The Institute has an international scope, and looks to both establish new collaborations with international universities and increase the number of international students and lecturers in the classrooms. With this in mind, it is to offer multilingual courses.

The IGI offers programmes in new fields that had not been available at the UOC to date, such as health and business, paying special attention to e-business, innovation and entrepreneurship.

It is also to expand the offer in subjects related to cooperation and city management.

One of the first initiatives will be the in-company training courses for

professionals in countries such as Chile and Mexico.

Masters and postgraduate studies

In the academic year 2006-2007, the UOC expanded and modified some of its masters and postgraduate courses. The most notable new developments were:

- Business information warehouse (SAP)
- Technical audit and forensic analysis in IT security
- Business intelligence technology: design and implementation
- Bio-computing
- European Union studies
- Law applicable to mediating hostilities
- E-administration
- Likewise, all of the programmes follow the same philosophy, structuring the contents into areas of knowledge and study plans which offer students the chance to study on shorter modular programmes.

Learning for all

Over ninety summer courses

There were more than ninety courses on offer at the 10th Summer School, organised in a range of areas of knowledge, from economics to computing, nutrition or the information society. The courses are worth 2 credits and aimed both at students from any university and professionals interested in refreshing what they know or finding out more. Some of the most popular courses (including both those in Catalan and Spanish) are:

- Nutrition and health: food as medicine (129 students)
- Photography and digital manipulation with free programs (127 students)
- Leadership and delegation. Management styles (107 students)
- Communicating to succeed (104 students)

Enrolments for the University @thenaeum treble

In all, 1,847 students have enrolled at the University @thenaeum. This is a university extension programme offering the public subjects from the various qualifications offered by the UOC, without the need to meet entry requirements.

The number of students enrolled has trebled since the first @thenaeum, going from 464 students to 1,847. This is the second @thenaeum, offering 250 subjects, compared with the 48 offered in the first year.

Seminars: new training activity at the UOC

Seminars are a new training activity at the UOC, offering practical supplementary training to anyone interested in finding out more or acquiring new professional skills and know-how through e-learning, and thus avoiding travelling and enjoying complete flexibility of timetables.

More than twenty short programmes organised in different areas of knowledge were offered.

50% higher participation in the winter courses

The UOC winter courses have been taught up to 28 February and were studied by nearly two thousand people. This figure is 50% up on the previous year. The winter courses this year offered twenty short programmes organised in different areas of knowledge: applications of the social sciences, internet and multimedia, and business, economics and law.

Research

Research

The IN3 acts as the umbrella for basic and applied social research into the information society

The Internet Interdisciplinary Institute (IN3) is the UOC's research institute. It

brings together and provides services to the research work conducted by UOC lecturers and by its own staff: researchers, PhD grant-holders and research assistants.

The research conducted at the IN3 is multidisciplinary in nature, although all of the areas researched are always related to the information society.

Many of the projects involve basic social research, but there are a number of equally important applied projects.

Some of the subject areas studied at the IN3 include the new economy, IT security, e-learning, the network society, e-governance, new media, digital culture and the legal aspects of the information society.

A fourth research programme on technology and health created

The three research programmes set up in the academic year 2005-2006 were consolidated in 2006-2007. These are the GÈNERE (Gender and the Information Society), IMSI (Immigration and the Information Society) and NEGRISC (Risk Negotiation) programmes.

Also in the academic year 2006-2007, a fourth programme on technology and health was created, involving the psychology, health and the internet research group (PSINET) and the researchers Manuel Castells, Josefa Sánchez, Francesc Saigí and Francisco Lupiáñez.

Spanish Ministry approves two KISON research group projects

The Spanish Ministry of Education and Science has approved two KISON group projects: ARES (Advanced REsearch on information Security and privacy) and

E-AEGIS (electronic shield for reconciling consumer privacy and security of transactions in the information society).

The mission of ARES is to study corporate and national security in terms of the private rights of individuals in the information society. E-AEGIS is a joint project with Rovira

i Virgili University and the CSIC's Institute for Research into Artificial Intelligence conducted as part of the National Information Society Services Technologies Programme's R&D projects. It deals with the issue of security from the point of view of individual privacy.

The KISON research group will be studying aspects of the watermarking of digital content in order to produce applications for copyright protection and digital broadcast monitoring, without this watermarking representing any breach of consumer privacy.

The UOC organises 4th EDEN research seminar

The UOC took part in the EDEN (European Distance Education Network) Research into Online Distance Education and E-Learning: Making the Difference seminar.

Experts from thirty-five different countries took part.

The results were published in the book entitled *Exemplary Research in Distance Education, E-Learning and on Related Competence Issues*, coordinated by Ulrich Bernath and Albert Sangrà, UOC, in the "ASF Series" collection from Oldenburg's the Carl von Ossietzky University Centre for Research into Distance Education.

The UOC publishes its research work on the internet

The Internet Interdisciplinary Institute (IN3) has renovated its website, notably improving the dissemination of the UOC's scientific and research work as well as offering information for possible new links between universities and the private sector. The website is aimed primarily at research staff (both internal and external), funding agencies, project partners, PhD students and the scientific community in general.

Besides the research work conducted within the framework of the IN3, the website also provides extensive information on the PhD on the Information and Knowledge Society.

IN3 reorganises research groups

In the academic year 2006-2007, the research groups established at the IN3 were grouped into different programmes embracing the areas for RDI fostered by the University, namely:

Computer Science and Networking Technologies

- Software engineering. GRES-UOC
- K-ryptography and Information Security for Open Networks. KISON
- Language Processing Group. LPG
- Distributed, Parallel and Collaborative Systems. DPCS

Communities and Action

- Audiovisual Communication and Digital Culture: Creation, Participation, Industry and Social Uses. COMCAD
- Virtual Communities. Interdisciplinary Research. GIRCOM
- Digital Common Culture - Knowledge, Experience and Communication. KEC
- Technology and Social Action. ATIC

Digital Culture

- Computer Applications in Cultural Heritage. OLIBA
- Literary Studies And Digital Technologies. HERMENEIA
- Museology, Museography, ICT and Heritage. MUSEIA
- New Emerging Forms of Digital Culture. GROUPWARE.CAT

Law and ICT

- Legal and Tax Aspects of the Welfare State in the Information Society. TICTRIBUTS
- European Law on Security and ICT. DEUSETIC
- International Peace Organisation. GROIP
- Intellectual Property and the Internet. PI2

E-governance

- E-governance: Electronic Administration and Democracy. GADE

- Justice in the Information Society. JusTICia

E-learning

- Sciences and Mathematics on the Net. CIMANET
- University and School Distance Learning. EDUS
- Personalisation in Virtual Learning Environments. PERSONAL
- Collaborative Work and Learning in Virtual Environments. TACEV

Information Systems

- Information Management and Knowledge Management in Organisations KIMO
- Information and Communication Systems and Services. ICSS

New economy

- Observatory of the New Economy. ONE

Technology and the educational system

- Education and Network Society. ENS
- Information Technologies, University and Network Society. ITUNS

Research and PhD Scientific Committee

The Research and PhD Scientific Committee holds its annual meeting

The UOC Research and PhD Scientific Committee is an independent body, created in 2002, which evaluates the University's academic work, monitors the quality of the PhD programme and advises the President on the research strategy that should be followed. World experts in the field of research take part in it.

In 2007, the Scientific Committee met on June 21 and 22, when, besides the normal meetings with IN3 management, a number of advisory and round table sessions were held between the managers of the University's research groups and the members of the Committee.

Made up of renowned scientists and

lecturers from a variety of disciplines and countries, with extensive and acclaimed research careers, the Committee has fifteen members:

- **Manuel Castells** (UOC)
- **Martin Carnoy** (University of Stanford)
- **Cecilia Castaño** (Madrid Complutense University)
- **Vinton G. Cerf** (Internet Evangelist Google/Regus)
- **Betty Collis** (University of Twente)
- **William Dutton** (Oxford Internet Institute)
- **Jerry Feldman** (University of California, Berkeley)
- **Miguel Ángel Lagunas** (Catalonia Technical University)
- **Vicente López** (Pompeu Fabra University)
- **Robin Mansell** (London School of Economics)
- **Guido Martinotti** (University of Milan)
- **William J. Mitchell** (Massachusetts Institute of Technology)
- **Vicenç Navarro** (Pompeu Fabra University)
- **Emilio Ontiveros** (Madrid Autonomous University)
- **Xavier Vives** (IESE Business School, University of Navarre)

PhD on the Information and Knowledge Society

Last year of the old teaching plan

The academic year 2006-2007 marked a turning point in the PhD on the Information and Knowledge Society. On the one hand, it is the last year in which courses are offered as part of the old teaching plan. On the other, it is the first year in which the UOC PhD is taught on the basis of the guidelines set out by the Royal Decree that regulates postgraduate courses (Royal Decree 56/2005, of January 21 2005).

To this effect, in the academic year 2006-2007, a total of fourteen courses per semester corresponding to the old PhD plan were offered for the last

time. As regards the research period, six research seminars were offered in the first semester and seven in the second, all focused on the UOC's fields of research.

Two PhD theses presented

Two PhD theses had their viva voce during this academic year: *ICT usage habits among Barinas university students: how they impact on their informational skills and their academic performance*, presented by Carlos Godoy and supervised by Dr Teresa Sancho; and *Barcelona City Council in the network society. Technological innovation, organisational change and public services*, presented by Esteve Ollé and supervised by Dr Manuel Castells.

Number of PhD theses grows

Throughout the academic year, the PhD Committee evaluated and approved a total of nineteen PhD thesis projects, which, added to the ones approved in previous years, means there is a total of 67 students working on their PhD theses at the end of the academic year 2006-2007.

Besides this, the Advanced Studies Diploma Tribunal was also convened twice. Between the two, a total of 75 PhD students were awarded the diploma, 32 at the first tribunal and 43 at the second. The accumulated total of advanced studies diplomas awarded since the start of the PhD programme now comes to 314.

Ten IN3-UOC grants awarded for PhDs

The second IN3-UOC call for grants consisted of ten places for completing a UOC PhD thesis, with an annual exclusive dedication grant renewable for up to a maximum of four years. Of all the applications received, thirty-one new PhD students were admitted, ten of whom received an IN3-UOC grant to complete a PhD thesis. These grant-holders started work at the Mediterranean Technology Park in Castelldefels.

Project Internet Catalonia

The results of Project Internet Catalonia (PIC) were presented between June 25 and July 3. PIC is a basic research programme from IN3 that studied the changes in Catalan society brought about by the use of the internet in all aspects of social, business and administrative life. It also studied society, the economy and the institutions as a whole to establish the relationship between technology and society. It was co-led by Manuel Castells and Imma Tubella and involved the participation of 40 researchers. The project was entirely funded by the Catalan government.

Project Internet Catalonia comprises seven research projects, all focused on Catalonia, but it works on the basis of knowledge from international research in each area.

PIC Network Society

This is a study into the uses of the internet and the effects that they have on the behaviour, attitudes and social relationships of Catalans.

PIC Health

Through thousands of internet and face-to-face interviews, the PIC Health project has studied the uses of the internet and IT in the health sector.

PIC Communication

The PIC Communication research project has analysed the processes of change in communication practices in Catalonia, identifying the most significant trends.

PIC Administration

The basic aim of the research report into e-administration is the analysis of the internal and external changes that occur with the incorporation of technological innovations in the services offered by the public administration, namely the Catalan government.

PIC Schools

The research identifies and analyses the incorporation of the internet into primary and secondary education in Catalonia and its relationship with the organisation, culture and educational practices of schools.

PIC Universities

The aim of the universities project, *Universities in the network society: uses of the internet in the higher education system in Catalonia*, is to conduct an extensive quantitative and qualitative study into the use of the internet in the Catalan university system.

PIC Businesses

The main aim of the network company in Catalonia project has been to analyse the changes to business activity linked to investment in and use of information and communication technologies (ICT).

The university community

University life

A total of 4,377 students gain degrees at the UOC

In the academic year 2006-2007, 4,377 students obtained their degrees at the UOC: 2,615 accredited degrees (degrees and diplomas), 1,534 masters and postgraduate degrees, 141 Official Masters, 82 advanced studies diplomas and Information Society Masters and 2 PhDs on the Information and Knowledge Society.

Groups, the new participation programme for UOC groups

The associations and other groups that have emerged from the UOC's university community have a new area for support and publicity: Groups.

Creation of Professional Area

Since September 2006, the UOC's university community has had *Professional Area*, a new service accessible

from the Virtual Campus which has been created to act as a meeting point for professional development and exchange. The Professional Area resources and services include job listings, one of the extra-curricular services most used by members of the university community.

Activities for the dissemination of knowledge and a presence throughout the territory

The UOC has organised more than 170 knowledge dissemination activities.

The events held include the Vilafranca Open Tribune and Terrassa Open Tribune series; the Debates on Education and the "The Territory is Culture" cultural activities plan to cover and strengthen links with the territory.

In addition, the activities organised by the groups included the 1st International Virtual Orientation Encounter, EIVO, organised by the APUOC (UOC Educational Psychology Association).

The university community takes part in 668 virtual forums

During this period, the members of the university community took part in 668 virtual forums: 499 on the Catalan Campus and 169 on the Spanish Campus.

With over 269,000 messages, the forums continue to be the most dynamic, active space in terms of participation and extra-curricular information sharing.

Course committees

Course committees divided into three areas

The course committees are made up of student representatives who safeguard the interests of this group in the University's many activities. A total of 54 students form part of the three existing committees, established by the UOC's organisational and operating regulations:

- **Course committees:** the body that represents the students in terms of the ordinary functioning of the courses. They ensure that the opinions and suggestions of the students on academic matters reach the course managers.
- **Support Centre committees:** the body that encourages the participation of the students throughout the territory.
- **Campus Committee:** this is the highest representative body for students, in-house faculty and management personnel at the University.

Greater transparency in examinations and assessment of prior studies

During this academic year, the student representatives have worked to improve their examinations and achieve greater transparency in the examination review process. One of the proposals that has come to fruition is the ability to consult the test or examination.

There has been meticulous monitoring of the application of the most recent improvements in the assessment of prior studies, with the incorporation of the equivalences tables to simulate results before applications are made.

The committees have also worked to improve subjects or specific aspects of the different programmes. Counselling functions were also included in the improvements, which has led in recent years to the creation of initial and follow-up counselling. Similarly, since October 2006, the Campus Committee and every course committee in its field have monitored the process of adaptation to the EHEA.

The Campus for Peace and Solidarity

International training in the field of cooperation

The aims of the Campus for Peace and Solidarity are training, research and raising awareness using information technologies. This year, it has expanded the range of cooperation training

and dozens of agreements have been signed whereby the Campus provides its knowledge, technological platform and unique educational methodology to institutions such as UNICEF, the Catalan Agency for Development Cooperation, Amnesty International, the Red Cross, Madre y Maestra Catholic Pontifical University, Engineers without Borders and the corporate social responsibility arm of “la Caixa”.

Promotion of the “Peace Culture” campaign

To commemorate the 70th anniversary of the bombing of Gernika and the creation of the legendary work by Pablo Picasso, the Campus has run the “Peace Culture” campaign, which fosters ways of constructing peace from culture and art, involving the university community, institutions and civil society.

New Campus for Peace and Solidarity website

The Campus for Peace and Solidarity has inaugurated its new website, which is published in Spanish, Catalan and English. The new site offers more information on courses, projects and activities and is the first step towards offering a customised virtual campus for NGOs.

A rise in the number of volunteers

Over one hundred virtual volunteers (including graduates, students, faculty, management and other staff) collaborated with the Campus for Peace and Solidarity in the field of solidarity, cooperation and development. This number grew significantly in comparison with the previous year.

Research and teaching support services

The Virtual Library

Library news on an RSS service

In January, the UOC Library implemented an RSS server (Really

Simple Syndication or RDF Site Summary) to syndicate the content on the new developments page. This service opens up a new channel for distributing Library news much more directly.

The following are the sections for which new developments are communicated: news of interest, new digital collection resources, new bibliographic items and tips and recommendations on the use of the Library.

Website on the scientific production of Manuel Castells created

Jointly with the Telefónica Foundation, the Library has developed a website on the scientific production of Manuel Castells, research professor and chair of the UOC Scientific Committee. Professor Manuel Castells’s website aims to compile all of the information on his scientific production and treat it documentarily with the aim of helping the work of researchers and students from the world over.

New customised services for users

The Library has created a space that provides access to a compilation of constantly updated documentation and resources on the EHEA. It offers information at regional, national and European level in a number of areas: academic, political, dissemination, etc. Visitors can consult legislation, declarations, editorials, etc. The Library has also produced an EHEA newsletter.

The second new item tailor-made to users is the renewal of the news service, with a new look and technology and more modern design. It works more efficiently and can now be distributed to addresses outside the Campus.

The Library and the departments agree on the UOC’s taxonomy

The Library has worked with the various departments to define and conceptually structure all of the subject areas on which the UOC conducts its

teaching, research and administrative work. A result of this collaboration this year was the agreement on a taxonomy for all of the UOC's branches of knowledge. This is a useful tool for the whole of the University when organising knowledge.

Informational skills course for teaching collaborators

The Library gave a course on informational skills for UOC collaborating faculty as part of the refresher courses organised by Teaching Activity Management. The contents tackled during the course were related to information access and management, one of the basic transversal skills in the context of the new EHEA.

A compilation of documents on cooperation and solidarity produced

The UOC Library has actively collaborated with the Campus for Peace and Solidarity by offering a selective compilation of specialist documentation in areas of cooperation and solidarity. The Library's participation resulted in the creation of a section on the new Campus for Peace and Solidarity website, providing access to a collection of online information resources relating to the agency's areas of activity.

Collaboration in UOC institutional events

The Library produced two compilations of online resources on the work and careers of thinker and philosopher Mustapha Cherif, on his giving the inaugural lecture, and Alain Touraine, coinciding with his investiture as an honorary doctor.

IT services and technological projects

Free software for all students

The UOC extended the free software pilot test to all of its students and

faculty. The last academic year saw the start of the experience in the IT, Multimedia and Communications Department. This year, a DVD based entirely on free software and standards was distributed to the whole of the UOC community. The use of these programs continues to be voluntary. As well as the free software, improvements were introduced to the new distribution with the aim of aiding the administration and maintenance of software associated with each subject.

The wish is for the UOC as a whole progressively to have the highest level of freedom in choosing the technological tools with which they want to get online and work.

The CAMPUS project developed

Promoted by the Catalan government's Telecommunications and the Information Society Department (STSI), the CAMPUS project was created in response to the desire to provide Catalan universities with a virtual campus based on free software with a GPL (General Public Licence) that would allow for distance higher education. The UOC is responsible for the coordination and technological leadership of the project.

The initial results of the project are now available at www.campus.cat, where user studies, descriptions of the modules to be developed and the OKI-standard system technology can be found.

Programme to develop the Joy of Learning

The UOC has started a project to promote technological services and tools that highlight the emotional component they contain. Consequently, it studies the parameters that allow for the joy of learning. Specifically, it has defined a heuristic basis of measurement, which it has presented at international conferences and which has been seen in the user tests conducted with students, tutors and counsellors.

Continuous improvement of the availability and quality of technological services

A series of projects and lines of action have been set in motion with a view to establishing continuous improvement and ensuring fully functioning technology-based services:

- Improvements in the 24/7 service and in the production stage processes.
- Consolidation and stabilisation of the internal network services.
- Stabilisation of the Virtual Campus service.
- Consolidation of the machinery infrastructure in the test and pre-production environments.

Contents in XML

XML publishing has been used directly during this academic year for all UOC materials. Consequently, the content is prepared not simply to be posted as a web or PDF but so that it can be turned into voice or electronic ink formats.

Second year of Project Management Plan

For the second year running, the project management plan has been conducted, which incorporates projects on process reorganisation, technological architecture renewal and IT tool development to provide support to processes and optimise execution.

Improvements in level of service and reliability of internal network

During this academic year, the server structure was standardised, renewing the equipment, introducing virtualisation of servers and ensuring redundancy of the main applications, such as Exchange and Blackberry.

To prevent stoppages caused by problems on the Telefónica network, a back-up line was installed, connecting the 22@ offices with the rest of the University. Besides this, all switching equipment in the Tibidabo buildings has been changed and the interconnection wiring in these buildings restructured.

The UOC in the INES e-learning group

Information systems lead the e-learning working group on the Spanish Software and Services Initiative (INES) platform, which constitutes a scientific and technological network comprising key technological agents from business, universities, technology centres, etc.

Talaia project created

The Catalan Terminology Centre (TERMCAT) and the UOC have started up the Talaia project, a terminological observatory for the knowledge society based on the semi-automated extraction and exploitation of terminology contained in articles from the UOC's e-journals, and the subsequent open dissemination of quality terminology in Catalan, Spanish and English.

Innovation

Creation of the Vice President's Office, Innovation

The main priority for the Vice President's Office, Innovation, created in April 2007, is to improve quality and face up to the new challenges that the UOC will have to tackle in terms of e-learning. Work has been carried out to identify the different areas for innovation, both present and future, in the organisation and the mechanisms needed to enable innovation to flourish and become established in projects.

Emerging and strategic innovation

The UOC works on the basis of a model that envisages two different types of innovation:

- Emerging innovation (bottom-up) that arises from faculty initiatives. It is a case of creating systems that promote innovation as vital for teaching and to ensure that innovation has a value in the assessment and recognition processes for faculty's professional progress. In this sense, it is considered vitally important that innovation take place in group work, emphasising

the transversality and participation of faculty, collaborators and counsellors. This type of innovation also takes into consideration the proposals that may emerge from the University's management teams which are run using these bottom-up mechanisms.

- Strategic innovation (top-down) that has emerged from the initiatives of the governing team and that must be converted into pioneering projects and the driving force behind innovation processes. This type of innovation will have a development laboratory and trials that allow pilot applications to be carried out to assess and subsequently transfer it.

Three calls for innovation projects

Three calls have been made for the submission of innovation projects.

- Innovation in teaching projects (PID), for initiatives aimed at developing innovation in teaching processes based on actions that can be placed in a course or department context.
- Points of innovation (PI), for projects aimed at improving the capacity for innovation in the workplace, geared towards UOC management staff.
- Innovation in transversal actions (ATI), for projects aimed at developing transversal innovation processes.

Publishing work and new formats

Tic.cero, a new collection focusing on new technologies

The UOC publishing house has brought out Tic.cero, a new collection of books for readers who are interested in the changes that the new communication media generate in society.

New publications grow by 80%

The UOC publishing house has published 110 titles over this period compared with 61 titles last year. The publisher has made full use of the financial year 2006 to put publishing aims and collections in order. The

UOC publishing house focuses on university manuals (in Catalan and Spanish), essays on the internet and the information society and general-interest books.

Innovation in website content for mathematics

Staff teaching Introductory Mathematics for Engineering have designed and developed web study material that covers basic pre-university mathematics, guidelines for following this content successfully and recommendations on how to find back-up and further materials.

Module on intellectual property becomes a radio programme

Content Management, in collaboration with the Law and New Technologies II subject, has turned one of the UOC's teaching modules into a radio programme. The module chosen was that on intellectual property. Radio professionals and in-house lecturers took part as guests in the programme's recording.

The UOC offers open access materials via the OpenCourseWare project

This year saw the beginning of the UOC's OpenCourseWare project. This involves a website that will become part of the OpenCourseWare Consortium network where the UOC will post open access materials with free licences. The present website, still at the pre-design stage, contains the materials for the Free Software Masters.

Portal, journals and web spaces

Overhaul of the UOC's website

The first stages of the overhaul of UOC's portal have been completed over the academic year 2006-2007, following an initial revamp of the portal.

The project has been carried out with the following aims:

- Offer a user-friendly, accessible and, thus, more communicative website.
- Make continuous improvement possible by constantly responding to users' needs.
- Allow for decentralised and autonomous administration, thanks to the implementation of an open source content administrator. The new portal is expected to come into operation by the end of 2007.

E-publications, a commitment to the dissemination of knowledge

The UOC's academic e-journals adhere to standards to achieve maximum dissemination and quality.

- Compliance with the formal quality standards of scientific journals (peer review system, publication and bibliographical reference standards, dual abstract and keywords, ISSN, editorial board, etc.).
- Prioritising indexing in scientific journal directories and databases which quickly improves the journal impact factor rankings.

Creation of the Debates on Education website

Debates on Education is a forum created by the Jaume Bofill Foundation and the UOC to promote debate on current affairs and related issues linked to the challenges and problems that education has to face in the social, political and economic context in which we live.

Lletra 2006 Award

The jury of the 6th Lletra Catalan literature awards singled out *Lletres de batalles* (Letters of War), a website about authors and texts from the Spanish Civil War, and www.francescseres.net, the website of writer Francesc Serés, whose unique approach is to reflect the internal world of a writer.

The verdict was made public on September 7 during the Girona Literary Awards evening.

Figures from the world of letters dissect Catalan literature

Lletra, the UOC's Catalan literature portal, and the Institute of Catalan Letters (ILC) organised the 4th look at the state of current Catalan literature with some of its leading lights (writers, publishers and booksellers) at an event open to the public. The event, entitled "Anatomia 06-07. Catalan literature, taking stock and looking ahead", was held at the Sala Gimbernat, what was the anatomical amphitheatre of the Catalan Royal Medical Academy.

The UOC creates an interactive website for poems set to music

Through Lletra, the UOC has created the *Música de poetes* website, a virtual space for Catalan music and poetry. *Música de poetes* includes a selection of over a hundred songs by around fifty Catalan musicians and poets.

University and business

Relations with the business world

The UOC collaborates in business innovation

The UOC aims to be a benchmark for businesses intending to adapt to the changes brought about by the knowledge economy.

To ensure the progress and future of companies, they need to innovate in four specific areas in which the UOC offers support: R&D, investment in ICT, organisational and strategic changes and skills qualification of workers (managers and non-managers).

Business collaboration activities and projects

The UOC has promoted a number of programmes and activities to increase links and collaboration between the UOC and the business world. With this aim in mind, it has set in motion the UOC associate business

project, which is key to structuring the relationship with companies and creating a network among them and with the UOC.

The in-company training programmes are another way of collaborating with companies and organisations.

Finally, support services are provided by the UOC's technology springboard to entrepreneurs from the University's community.

University-Business project created

The start of 2007 saw the creation of the University-Business project with the aim of bringing together the University and the territory's companies, and of contributing to improving the competitiveness of SMEs through cooperation with other SMEs.

A network of companies, in-company training and support for entrepreneurial projects are just some of the initiatives to foster relations between the University and business that are carried out.

Strengthening of relations between the UOC and associate companies

There are now over a hundred companies that have established ties with the UOC and a network of professionals committed to the competitive improvement of their organisations and of the University itself has been created.

Two business lunches and the first meeting of UOC Associate Companies were staged over the year. These were used to present innovative e-learning experiences.

Finally, the UOC Associate Company Newsletter has strengthened communication with companies and increased the possibilities of creating synergies.

In-company training and development of initiatives

The International Graduate Institute

offers a series of courses tailor-made to the needs of institutions and companies.

Lifelong learning for health service professionals

The UOC and the Medical Technology and Research Evaluation Agency (AATRM) have signed a collaboration agreement that sets out the bases for fostering healthcare professionals' lifelong learning. The UOC has adapted the Informational Skills in Health Sciences and the Health Services Evaluation programmes to the needs of the AATRM.

Over the year, a total of 120 professionals have studied on these two programmes as part of the health service's Quality Plan.

Postgraduate course for elected posts and trade technicians in member towns of Barcelona Provincial Council

The UOC and the Trade Delegation of Barcelona Provincial Council have consolidated their relationship by designing a specific training itinerary to contribute to the learning and specialisation of the elected posts and trade technicians in council-member towns. Over the year, more than eighty elected posts were trained on the Development and Promotion of Urban Trade postgraduate course.

In-company training for TUI tour operator professionals

The UOC and the University of the Balearics Islands (UIB) have designed an in-company postgraduate course in Tour Company Management and Marketing to develop the professional skills of employees at TUI, regarded as one of the leading tour operators in Europe. Over the year, 25 professionals with a variety of responsibilities in the company and from a number of regions in Spain took part in the training programme, which grew out of inter-university collaboration.

The UOC assesses the digital skills of the employees of Vilanova i la Geltrú Town Council

The UOC and Vilanova i la Geltrú Town Council have consolidated their collaboration by establishing a project for the assessment of the digital skills of the civil servants working at the council.

The UOC Group

The UOC Group companies (Eureca Media, GEC, Editorial UOC — see pages 144-145 — and Ensenyament Obert) provide the possibility of linking the University with innovative large-scale projects and experiences from very different sectors.

GEC, leader in virtual communities and e-learning

GEC has developed innovative solutions in e-learning, virtual communities and collaborative work. Leader in its field, the company has an extensive presence in the banking, insurance, pharmaceuticals, health, public administration and automobile sectors, and has developed its own technological platform on which almost seventy environments are based, with more than one hundred thousand users in total.

Commitment to sustainable training

GEC offers its clients training solutions based on a sustainable training model.

In this model, the employee becomes the central figure and the producer and recipient of knowledge alongside other employees. It is flexible, personalised training based on the relationship between equals. It is an economically sustainable model.

E-learning for managing VidaCaixa Previsión Social key accounts

GEC has developed online and knowledge management training solutions for successful introduction of

the new key account model at the “la Caixa” insurance company.

EducaciOnline now an established brand

After a year in operation, the brand adopted by the company, EducaciOnline, has been very well received by the market, as shown by the progress of sales throughout Spain and Latin America.

Over the last year, the main aim of EducaciOnline has been to consolidate the courses already running and increase the range of training on offer with new higher education courses:

- University entrance examinations for over-25s.
- Higher education courses for professionals.

Eureca Media, benchmark in publishing university teaching material

Eureca Media is a UOC Group company founded to provide a response to the needs of the UOC to create quality materials for the teaching of its various courses. Over the years, it has become a benchmark in the publishing of university teaching material.

The knowledge gained has allowed it to gear itself towards external clients through collaborating partners with the aim of offering services and positioning itself in the market as a benchmark company in the field of knowledge and communication using ICT.

Eureca Media has consolidated its range of services in the field of e-journals and publications, as a result of its commitment to technological improvement and the desire to turn the company into the UOC's comprehensive content provider.

A number of leading companies have placed their trust in Eureca Media throughout 2007, from both the public and the private sectors. These good results have encouraged us to create the Communication division, with the aim of increasing our range of services, taking full advantage of the company's human potential.