Integrating Technologies into Teaching

The use of technology as a means of encouraging self-study at home was significantly expanded this year. In addition to courses taught entirely from an *Ofek* studio or through video-conferencing, in many courses we offer studies through *Ofek* as a particularly suitable alternative for students residing in the periphery or for students in whose study center a study group was not opened. The number of courses using *Ofek* technology almost doubled this year to 45 courses. A third *Ofek* studio was opened to meet this growing need.

The OPUS Learning Environment

The OPUS learning environment (course websites) was upgraded this year in order to improve system performance and handle growing user loads: we completed the development of a website search engine that will be operational in Fall 2007. In addition, old multimedia courseware was upgraded and adapted for viewing on the Internet (as an alternative to CDs) and new courseware was developed. The video screening environment within the OPUS environment was upgraded and adapted to accommodate increased demand for website viewing, and more students utilized recorded videos in website courses. We also completed development of a Russian-supporting OPUS version following the approval of a degree studied in Russian and in response to the needs of Project Russia.

Digital Vocal Study Units

Digital vocal study units were offered in seven courses this year, enabling students to listen to the material through the course website or using an MP3 player. For the courses Introduction to Psychology and Human Resource Management, a full online version of all study units is available on the course websites.

Online Collaborative Learning in a WIKI Environment

The testing phase continued in the WIKI learning environment and the Academic Committee decided to change OUI policy concerning assignment submission, enabling students to submit collaborative assignments. The decision will be implemented in Spring 2008 and specific tracking and monitoring tools will be developed that will enable the University to conduct action research on this innovative learning method.

The *Ofek* System

The *Ofek* system currently includes three broadcast studios and five video-conference classrooms and the number of courses taught through the system is growing continuously. In addition to regular lessons, dozens of exam review sessions and special tutorials were broadcast through the system.

Ongoing monitoring of attendance in *Ofek* classrooms indicated that students prefer to participate in these lessons from home via the live broadcast through the internet. Consequently the University decided to close *Ofek* classrooms in study centers throughout the country and to conduct *Ofek* activities on the Internet from the studio at the Raanana campus directly to the students' home computers. Students can connect to lessons from any location with a suitable computer and can communicate with the tutor of the live session through the chat or by phone.

A new video-conference classroom was opened on the Ramat Aviv campus in spring 2007 that will also be used to transmit lessons from Ramat Aviv to other campuses. Such lessons have been transmitted from the Beer Sheva campus for the past few semesters. Another classroom was equipped at the Ramat Gan College to enable OUI students studying there to join lessons transmitted through the system.

Expansion of the Online Assignment System

The University decided to enable students in all courses to submit assignments through the Online Assignment System (with the exception of courses that for technical reasons cannot use the system). At least one tutor in every course was designated to check assignments through the system and all students interested in submitting online assignments whose tutors do not use the online checking system are referred to this tutor. There has been a significant increase in use of the system by both students and tutors.

The table below shows data on the **submission of online assignments** (the percentage of growth each year is relative to the previous year).

Year	Courses		Students		Submissions	
	Number	% growth	Number	% growth	Number	% growth
2006-2007	429	65	23,298	51	138,041	84
2005-2006	260	44	15,464	19	75,043	15
2004-2005	181	46	12,976	91	65,106	120
2003-2004	124	130	6,810	81	29,548	82
2002-2003	54	74	3,764	33	16,219	11
2001-2002	31	158	2,838	20	14,638	32
2000-2001	12	9	2,362	222	11,100	282
1999-2000	11		733		2,905	