University of Lethbridge
MATHEMATICS & COMPUTER SCIENCE

Speaker: **Ian H. Witten, iCORE Visiting Professor, University of Lethbridge**
Professor of Computer Science, Waikato University, New Zealand

Title: **What's it like at Google?**

Date: **Wednesday, October 29th**

Time: **2:00 – 3:00 pm   Room: C610**

Abstract: Some time ago I spent a couple of months as a visitor at Google.com in California, the search engine company. It's a very, very interesting place and I had a very, very interesting time. This talk is a light-hearted account of what it's like there, what Googlers are thinking about, what the world looks like to them. I'll include a bit of elementary stuff about how their search system works. I was working on a text mining project, and helped devise a semi-automated way of "reverse engineering" electronic-shopping web sites to reconstruct their underlying database (this would help search in numerous ways: comparative shopping, noticing changes such as
bargains, ...), and maybe I'll be able to say a bit about this too.

About the speaker: Ian H. Witten is a professor of computer science at the University of Waikato in Hamilton, New Zealand. He directs the New Zealand Digital Library research project. His research interests include information retrieval, machine learning, text compression, and programming by demonstration. He has published widely in these areas, including six books, the most recent being Managing gigabytes: Compressing and indexing documents and images (2nd edition, Morgan Kaufmann, 1999) and Data mining: practical machine learning tools and techniques with Java implementations (Morgan Kaufmann, 2000). He received an MA in mathematics from Cambridge University, England; an MSc in computer science from the University of Calgary, Canada; and a PhD in electrical engineering from Essex University, England. He is a fellow of the ACM and of the Royal Society of New Zealand.

ALL ARE WELCOME
(refreshments will be served)