

KMDiary Volume 9: Issue #7/8—July/August 2008

The KMDiary is an electronic newsletter for sharing ideas and information of interest to the University of Toronto's Knowledge Media Design Institute (KMDI) community.



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INTERIM DIRECTOR APPOINTMENT

Message from the Dean, School of Graduate Studies

Dear Colleagues,

I am very happy to inform you that Prof. Ron Baecker has agreed to undertake the position of Interim Director, KMDI, from now until June 30, 2009. The Institute is at an important juncture, at which Prof. Baecker's leadership in the subject area and his skills in team building will be particularly valuable. He will be working with me to identify and construct a new arrangement for administrative oversight for KMDI, and he will work with the ensuing administrative team to identify the next KMDI director. He will work with the Director of the collaborative program to assure its successful continuation, and will generally act to advance the interests of KMDI in research and education.

I trust that this arrangement will meet with your approval, and that you will offer your talents and ideas to your Director, as he frames the next chapter in the story of the Institute.

Sincerely yours,

*Susan Pfeiffer
Dean, School of Graduate Studies and Vice Provost, Graduate Education*



Ron's extensive professional contributions may be familiar to many of you, but here are some highlights. He is Professor of Computer Science; Bell University Laboratories Chair in Human-Computer Interaction; founder and Chief Scientist of KMDI; and Principal Investigator of the CDN\$5.5M Canada-wide NSERC Strategic Research Network for Effective Collaboration Technologies through Advanced Research (NECTAR). Ron has been named one of the 60 Pioneers of Computer Graphics by ACM SIGGRAPH, has been elected to the CHI (Computers and Human Interaction) Academy by ACM SIGCHI, and has been awarded the Canadian Human Computer Communications Society Achievement Award and the Leadership Award of Merit from the Ontario Research and Innovation Optical Network (ORION).

His current research focuses primarily on developing technology for rich media communications over the Internet (see <http://epresence.tv>), and on envisioning, designing, building, and evaluating a family of technological aids to cognition, intended variously for individuals with Alzheimer's disease, Mild Cognitive Impairment, and amnesia, and in some cases for "normally aging senior citizens."

"Welcome" seems a little redundant considering Ron's founding role in KMDI, but I am sure I speak for all of the KMDI community in thanking him sincerely for taking on the Interim Director's role at this time.

Clare Brett (Editor-in-Chief)

FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK

As the founder of KMDI, and its Founding Director (1996 to 1998), it is with pleasure and humility that I have accepted an offer from Susan Pfeiffer, the Dean of the School of Graduate Studies, to serve as Interim Director of KMDI through 30 June 2009.

I am grateful to Gale Moore for her outstanding work over the last decade first as Executive Director and then as Director of KMDI, and also to continuing members of the team Prof. Jim Slotta, Director of the Collaborative Program; Barbara Soren, Collaborative Program Administrator; Devika Ramcharan, KMDI Administrative Assistant; and Elise Chien, KMDiary Editor. Thanks also to new KMDiary Editor-in-Chief, Prof. Clare Brett.

Briefly, my priorities for the next 10 months are:

- finding and negotiating a new administrative home for KMDI
- developing a sustainable business model for KMDI; and, most importantly:
- celebrating KMDI's achievements and enhancing community among its faculty and students.

I will provide more details of these and other activities in my September column in the KMDiary.



Most importantly, I am pleased to announce that Adriana Ieraci has agreed to assist these efforts in the role of KMDI Executive Director. Many of you may know Adriana, as she obtained a B.A.Sc. and an M.Eng. from the Department of Mechanical and Industrial Engineering here at U of T, and later worked for the Innovations Foundation from 2002 through 2005. Since 2000, she has been developing her own consulting practice in strategy, research, business development, and project management and has worked with a variety of university, college, government, and private sector clients, with a particular focus on information technology and digital media. I particularly welcome the energy and enthusiasm I know she will bring to the job, and I am certain you will enjoy working with her.

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<http://mail.kmdi.utoronto.ca/mailman/listinfo/kmdiary>

ANNOUNCEMENTS

NEW COURSE AT UWATERLOO: SUSTAINABLE CITIES IN THE 21st CENTURY: INTELLIGENT COMMUNITIES (University of Waterloo, Fall 2008, Tuesdays, 1:30-4:20 p.m.)



The widespread use of IT is fundamentally reshaping human patterns of interaction in the built environment with the associated consequences for the social and bio-physical health of cities. Participants in this course are encouraged to think critically about how innovation in IT might be used to address complex, interdisciplinary, social and governance challenges. The goal is to investigate public, private and third sector ideas about how to tackle some commonly shared problems with respect to sustaining cities throughout the world. A collaborative learning approach in class, and on the course web page, will be enhanced with presentations from guest speakers and seminar discussions.

(1) <http://intelligentcommunity.org/clientuploads/Waterloo-SustainableCities-21.pdf>

Deadline—October 2, 2008

ACLS DIGITAL INNOVATION FELLOWSHIPS



The American Council of Learned societies (ACLS) invites applications for the fourth annual competition for the **ACLS Digital Innovation Fellowships**, thanks to the generous assistance of The **Andrew W. Mellon Foundation**. This program supports digitally based research projects in all disciplines of the humanities and humanities-related social sciences (1). It is hoped that projects of successful applicants will help advance digital humanistic scholarship by broadening understanding of its nature and exemplifying the robust infrastructure necessary for creating further such works. ACLS Digital Innovation Fellowships are intended to support an academic year dedicated to work on a major scholarly project that takes a digital form.

(1) <http://www.acls.org/grants/Default.aspx?id=508>

(2) <http://mellon.org>

THE VIRTUAL WATER COOLER: AROUND THE COMMUNITY



Congratulations to **Dr. Henry Moller**, MD, FRCPC, MSc, on his cross-appointment to KMDI in July 2008. Dr. Moller, a graduate of UofT, is Assistant Professor with the Dept of Psychiatry, Faculty of Medicine at UofT. As a physician and researcher the University Health Network, Henry is interested in immersive and novel media technology applications in health promotion, research and education. Following a post-doctoral fellowship in Neuropsychiatry

and Sleep Medicine at UofT, in 2005, Henry became the first graduate of KMDI with a collaborative degree in Medical Sciences. His work been published in journals ranging from the Canadian Medical Association Journal, Cyberpsychology and Behavior, IEEE, Journal of Clinical Psychiatry and International Journal of Psychoanalysis. In addition to a clinical practice focusing on sleep disorders, his recent research has focused on simulator-based assessment of alertness and driving safety in medical conditions. In 2007, he was also involved in a KMDI-sponsored Nuit Blanche exposition of based on his essay on Dreaming Consciousness and Media Technology (1). Henry plans to use his cross-appointment to facilitate interdisciplinary research, learning and academic programs at KMDI.

(1) http://labstudenti.unicatt.it/studenti/riva/communication/book7/9_5_Moeller.pdf



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 This summer, **KMDI Senior Fellow, Nina Czegledy** has been keeping busy by participating in a number of events internationally. In early June, Nina was part of the Media Art Diploma jury of the **Media Art Master** program, a program to which she helped to develop at the **Moholy Nagy University of Arts and Design Budapest** (1). In the following month of July, Nina presented "The Syncretic Realm of Nikola Tesla" at the **New Realities: Being Syncretic Conference** in Vienna. In late July and early August, Nina presented her paper, "On Translations" at **ISEA2008** (3) in Singapore. She also co-organized Leonardo's public meeting, participated in policy paper discussions of the Singapore Agenda, and presented on three panels at this conference.

(1) <http://w2.mome.hu/>

(2) <http://cr9.dieangewandte.at/>

(3) <http://www.isea2008singapore.org/>

===== BARRY WELLMAN COMPLETES CO-EDITING FOR JOURNALS



Barry Wellman (SOC, KMDI) has just completed co-editing two special journal issues that may be of interest to the KMDI community:

- Edited with Caroline Haythornthwaite (U Illinois; Ph.D FIS, UofT): Special Association of Internet Researchers issue of Information, Communication and Society, 11, 2 (2008) (1)
- Edited with Keith Hampton (Annenberg, U PA; Ph.D. Soc, UofT): Special AmSocAssoc Communication & Info Tech issue of ICS, 11, 4, (2008) (2). This also includes articles by Anabel Quan-Haase (Info/Soc, UWO; PhD FIS, UofT); Jeffrey Boase (Comm, Rutgers/Soc Psych, Tokyo; PhD, Soc, UofT).

Also, the next ICS-CITASA special issue has just had a Call for Papers. Co-editors: Christine Nippert-Eng (IL Tech) and Barry Wellman. Assistant Editors: Julie Amoroso and Jessica Collins (both SOC, UofT)

(1) <http://www.tandf.co.uk/journals/journal.asp?issn=1369-118X&linktype=offers>

(2) <http://aoir.org/?q=taxonomy/term/85>

DIGITAL MEDIA AND DEMOCRACY: TACTICS IN HARD TIMES – EDITED BY MEGAN BOLER



This new book, edited by **Associate Professor Megan Boler** (OISE, KMDI) at the UofT, maps a new digital media landscape that features citizen journalism, The Daily Show, blogging, and alternative media. The contributors discuss broad questions of media and politics, offer nuanced analyses of change in journalism, and undertake detailed examinations of the use of Web-based media in shaping political and social movements. The chapters include not only essays by noted media scholars but also interviews with such journalists and media activists as Amy Goodman of Democracy Now!, Media Matters host Robert McChesney, and Hassan Ibrahim of Al Jazeera.

(1) <http://mitpress.mit.edu/catalog/item/default.asp?type=2&tid=11464>

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HANS-ARNO JACOBSEN DELIVERS CAS TALK



In June 2008, KMDI Steering Committee member, and Bell University Chair in Software Middleware Systems Group **Hans-Arno Jacobsen** (ECE, CS) gave a CAS Talk on “Using Publish/Subscribe and Events to Enhance Business Process Management Solutions.” The talk presented the work of an innovative research project carried out by the Middleware Systems Research Group at the UofT that has developed a powerful, new architecture for applying content-based publish/subscribe to enhance the implementation of large-scale, event-driven distributed applications. The talk also summarized current industry and academic initiatives, perspectives, and directions of Event Processing.

OTHER NEWS

OCAD APPOINTS SUSAN K. ROTH AS DEAN, FACULTY OF DESIGN

The **Ontario College of Art & Design** (OCAD) is pleased to announce the appointment of Susan K. Roth as Dean of its Faculty of Design, effective January 1, 2009. “Susan Roth’s experience and leadership in design research, socially responsible design and interdisciplinary design education make her a perfect fit for OCAD,” said President Sara Diamond. “Her decision to join us is yet another sign of our university’s increasingly global reach and ability to attract the best and brightest faculty and students from around the world.” Roth is currently Associate Dean, Research & Academic Affairs, of the Virginia Commonwealth University (VCU) School of the Arts in Richmond, Virginia, the top-ranked public university graduate program in art and design in the United States.

PANEL ON RESEARCH ETHICS POSTS NEW WORKING DOCUMENTS



Government of Canada

The Interagency Advisory Panel on Research Ethics welcomes public input on working documents, draft recommendations or other works-in-progress, final reports or position papers, prepared by the Panel or its working committees. New additions to the publication section of its website (1) include a chapter on Qualitative Research, and documents of the concept of risk and a document on a revised definition of research. These are:

- Qualitative Research: A Chapter for Inclusion in the TCPS (February 2008)
- Proposed Textual Changes for Concept of Risk in the TCPS (February 2008)
- Towards a Revised Definition of Research in the TCPS (January 2008)

(1) <http://www.pre.ethics.gc.ca/english/publicationsandreports/publicationsandreports.cfm>

CANADA'S GLOBAL EDGE IN BROADBAND DWINDLING

Canada's early position as a global broadband internet leader continues to erode, with the country sliding in the latest subscription rankings from the **Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development** (1). Canada had 8.6 million broadband subscribers as of December 2007, or about 26.6 per 100 inhabitants, enough to rank 10th among the 30 developed countries that make up the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development. In the OECD's previous survey six months ago, Canada ranked ninth, while in 2002 it placed second behind South Korea. In the current rankings, Denmark continued to lead OECD countries with 35.1 subscribers per 100 inhabitants, followed by the Netherlands at 34.8 and Iceland at 32.2. The twice-yearly ranking measures how many people find enough value in high-speed internet to pay for a connection at home.

Source: CBCNews.ca, May 20/08

<http://www.cbc.ca/technology/story/2008/05/20/tech-broadband.html>

(1) <http://www.oecd.org/dataoecd/32/58/40629032.pdf>

A BRIDGE BETWEEN VIRTUAL WORLDS



Linden Lab

The launch of **Linden Lab's Open Grid Beta** has given developers the opportunity to build and test software bridges that would link **Second Life** to other virtual worlds. The Open Grid Beta will allow users to move between a Second Life test grid and non-Linden Lab grids running the OpenSim software. OpenSim is an independent open source project for creating a virtual-world server. The Open Grid Beta is the first effort to run Second Life interoperable code that demonstrates previously hypothetical approaches. "We are still early in the game," says Linden Lab's Joe Miller. "The point of the beta is to give the rest of the development community the chance to try the protocols themselves." So far, more than 200 users have signed up for the beta program and 15 virtual worlds have been connected. Terry Ford, the owner and operator of an OpenSim-based world, says interoperability is the future of the Web. Interoperability will allow users to create a single avatar and identity and to

move between virtual worlds, instead of having to sign up for accounts with each world that users want to use. IBM's David Levine, who is working with Linden Lab on the interoperability protocols, says this effort has a better chance of success than previous interoperability efforts because it is less ambitious and is focusing on the Linden main grid and a set of broadly similar grids instead of trying to create virtual world interoperability across the entire Web

Source: Technology Review, Aug. 11/08

<http://www.technologyreview.com/Infotech/21203/page1/>

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IT'S ADVANTAGE WOMEN AS HIRING TIDE TURNS

Women in India are finding it easier to obtain jobs in the IT sector as companies are making a specific effort to hire women and are organizing exclusive technology conferences for them. Companies have already realized the potential benefits of having more women in their workforce. "Women can bring in a different insight and dynamics to the work environment," says Kalpana Margabandhu, the director of IBM's India Software Labs and chairperson of the Indian Women's Leadership Council. "This can help improve our products and technology." Only 16 percent of women enroll in engineering as many female students tend to stay away from math and science curriculums. Many female engineers may also find it difficult or intimidating to try to enter the male-dominated IT industry, and the long work hours often expected in the high-tech industry are difficult to balance with family responsibilities. To create an interest among women students to pursue a variety of careers in research, business, and technology, IBM recently conducted an exclusive technology day for women in Hyderabad. "We have also launched 'Bring women back' to create a channel to hire women professionals who have taken a career break," Margabandhu says. In a similar effort, Microsoft recently visited 11 cities to recruit women for its Hyderabad center.

Source: Economic Times, Aug. 6/08

http://economictimes.indiatimes.com/News/News_By_Industry/Jobs/ITs_advantage_women_as_hiring_tide_turns/rssarticleshow/3331410.cms

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WHOM DO WE FEAR OR TRUST? FACES INSTANTLY GUIDE US, SCIENTISTS SAY



Princeton University psychology researchers have developed a computer program that allows scientists to analyze what aspects of the human face make them look either trustworthy or frightening. The program allows the researchers to construct computer-generated faces that display the most trustworthy or dangerous

looking traits, and the research could have implications for people who are concerned about what their faces portray to other people. Princeton professor Alexander Todorov and research specialist Nikolaas Oosterhof decided to find a way to quantify exactly what it is about each person's face that influences other people's gut instincts. To conduct the study, the researchers show unfamiliar faces to test subjects and asked them to describe traits they could detect from the faces. The trait options were limited to a given list that included aggressiveness, unkemptness, and various emotional states. The researchers showed the faces to another group and asked them to rate each face for the degree

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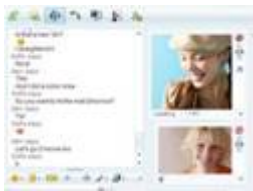
to which it possessed one of the dozen listed traits. Using this research, the scientists discovered that humans make split-second judgments on two major factors, whether the person should be approached or avoided and whether the person is weak or strong. Then the researchers used a commercial software program that generates composites of human faces, based on laser scans of real subjects.

Source and Photo: Princeton University, Aug. 6/08

<http://www.princeton.edu/main/news/archive/S21/79/44O45/index.xml?section=topstories>

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INSTANT MESSAGERS REALLY ARE ABOUT SIX DEGREES FROM KEVIN BACON



Studying the records of 30 billion electronic conversations among 180 million people from around the world, Microsoft researchers have concluded that any two people, on average, could be linked by a string of seven or fewer acquaintances. The study examined a database that covered all of **Microsoft Messenger's** instant-messaging network in June 2006, which accounted for roughly half of the world's instant-messaging traffic at the time. "What we're

seeing suggests there may be a social connectivity constant for humanity," says Microsoft researcher Eric Horvitz, who conducted the study with colleague Jure Leskovec. The Microsoft research focused on the popular concept that has inspired the "Six Degrees of Kevin Bacon" game and the well-known play "Six Degrees of Separation" by John Guare.

Source: ACM TechNews, Washington Post, Aug. 2/08

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/08/01/AR2008080103718.html>

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CAN WE MAKE SOFTWARE THAT COMES TO LIFE?

A conference of 300 biologists, computer scientists, physicists, mathematicians, philosophers, and social scientists in Winchester, England, is focusing on the creation of a truly artificial life form. Reed College professor Mark Bedau will present the argument that research into artificial life will be a critical tool in the discovery of an as-yet undetermined mechanism in people's understanding of how complex organisms evolved. He says that although the idea of organisms breeding inside a computer is a workable concept, such systems rapidly break down because genetic possibilities are predefined. "Evolution on its own doesn't look like it can make the creative leaps that have occurred in the history of life," says conference co-organizer Seth Bullock. "It's a great process for refining, tinkering, and so on. But self-organization is the process that is needed alongside natural selection before you get the kind of creative power that we see around us." The integration of self-organization and natural selection represents biology's greatest challenge, Bullock says. At the Riken research institute, Masashi Aono and Masahiko Hara have converted a single-celled organism into a computer to solve the traveling salesman problem by tapping the amoeba's response to light. Another conference participant, Essex University's Hugo Marques, will discuss an attempt to emulate the relationship between the human brain and body by giving a robotic consciousness a skeleton to reside in.

Source: ACM TechNews, Telegraph.co.uk, Aug. 5/08

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OPEN SOURCE E-VOTING GETS LINUX WORLD TEST RUN



Computer engineer Alan Dechert unveiled the open source electronic-voting system he helped develop at the recent LinuxWorld Conference & Expo. In December 2000, Dechert cofounded the Open Voting Consortium to research better ways to vote and to create an e-voting system that allows voters to make their selections on a screen, print their ballots, and then have the ballots scanned by reliable machines. Dechert says such a system leaves no ambiguity over what a voter intended, fixing a common problem found in punch-card systems and poorly designed ballot layouts. LinuxWorld attendees were able to view the system and vote in a mock election. The system runs on PCs loaded with Ubuntu Linux and a free, open source e-voting application created by the consortium. Dechert says election officials can easily set up and create a ballot for any election using a special software tool. Some local voting jurisdictions are already in talks with the group about further exploring the system; however, for use in national elections, the system would have to be heavily analyzed and eventually certified as an election system, Dechert says.

Source and photo: Computerworld Aug. 6/08

<http://www.computerworld.com/action/article.do?command=viewArticleBasic&articleId=9111820>

EMPLOYMENT/CONTRACT OPPORTUNITIES

GLOBAL INTERNET FREEDOM PROGRAM JOB OPPORTUNITY



Freedom House seeks a **Program Officer** for its **Global Internet Freedom program** (1). The Program officer will work with the Senior Program Officer on program implementation, program activities, maintaining regular contact with program partners, reporting on program progress and impact, and assessing conditions of Internet Freedom in restricted environments. The candidate will also be responsible for some financial aspects of the project. The Global Internet Freedom Program seeks to compile documentation on violations of Internet freedom, build a network of online activists to challenge Internet censorship, coordinate events and trainings, and to promote freedom of expression online. Please send cover letter and resume by email or fax to: Jeffrey Mosser, Director of Human Resources and Administration, humanresources@freedomhouse.org, Fax: (202) 822-3893. More information can be found on the Freedom House website.

(1) <http://freedomhouse.org/template.cfm?page=13#pointernet>

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Deadline—September 22, 2008

CALL FOR TENDERS: TOWARDS A FUTURE INTERNET: INTERRELATION BETWEEN TECHNOLOGICAL, SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC TRENDS

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<http://mail.kmdi.utoronto.ca/mailman/listinfo/kmdiary>



A **Call for Tenders** has been issued for the study: **Towards a Future Internet: Interrelation between Technological, Social and Economic Trends** (1). This study is meant to investigate the interrelations between technological, social and economic trends related to the future Internet: at first, by analysing how the current Internet evolved until now, its main drivers and effects; then, by discussing the possible technological options and scenarios for its further development and their likely socio-economic impact; finally, by identifying risks/opportunities for Europe. Based on an overview of existing studies in this area, the study should consult the main authorities in the field of Internet developments, both at political and technological level, covering the whole range of different social, political and business positions. Visionary scientists and politicians should be duly identified and interviewed, personally or in ad-hoc events organised in order to stimulate brainstorming and public awareness on this new conceptual approach. A strong web presence is necessary to support the study and create public awareness on the topic.

(1)

http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/dc/index.cfm?fuseaction=usersite.FP7DetailsCallPage&ACT_CODE=ICT&CALL_ID=156#Documents

RESOURCES/PUBLICATIONS

VALUING CULTURE: MEASURING AND UNDERSTANDING CANADA'S CREATIVE ECONOMY

The Conference Board of Canada
Insights You Can Count On



Valuing Culture: Measuring and Understanding Canada's Creative Economy (1) examines the culture sector as a cornerstone of the creative economy. The Arts and culture industries play a vital role in attracting people, business, and investment, and in distinguishing Canada as a dynamic and exciting place to live and work. In this report, the Conference Board estimates that the economic footprint of Canada's culture sector was \$84.6 billion in 2007, or 7.4 per cent of Canada's total real GDP, including direct, indirect, and induced contributions. Culture sector employment exceeded 1.1 million jobs in 2007. Technology is revolutionizing business models in the creative economy, altering the way culture is created and consumed. Consumers are becoming "prosumers" who actively create and customize content. The 'long tail' business model of many niche markets is altering how arts and culture industries sell their products and services. The culture sector bridges geographical distances and creates greatly expanded social networks.

(1) <http://www.conferenceboard.ca/documents.asp?rnext=2671>

COPYRIGHT IN THE KNOWLEDGE ECONOMY



The **European Commission** has just published a Green Paper "Copyright in the Knowledge Economy" (1). The purpose of the Green Paper is to foster a debate on how knowledge for research, science and education can best be disseminated in the

online environment. The Green Paper aims to set out a number of issues connected with the role of copyright in the 'knowledge economy' and intends to launch a consultation on these issues.

- (1) http://ec.europa.eu/internal_market/copyright/docs/copyright-infso/greenpaper_en.pdf

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THE COMPLEAT CANADIAN COPYRIGHT ACT

This a reference work documenting 87 years of the shifting power balance between creators, users, proprietors, Parliament and foreign interests reflected in the changing provisions of the Act. This work opens the door on to parliamentary debates, committee hearings and Canadian case law in which the dramatis personae played and are playing out their roles in the ever evolving legal drama that is the Copyright Act. A 30 page introductory assessment of the historical, cultural, economic, legal and political significance of the Act is also provided.

- (1) <http://members.shaw.ca/compilerpress/CCCA%202006%20Promo.htm>

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ACTION RESEARCH AND NEW MEDIA: CONCEPTS, METHODS AND CASES

Action research is now a well-documented and well-accepted research methodology. Moreover, it is especially appropriate in new media research, where innovation and change are continual, and where processes and outcomes are usually not predictable and often involve fuzzy and subjective human elements. This book offers a systematic, in-depth academic overview of the application of action research methods to the field of new media. In this space, it is the first publication of its kind in what is a new but rapidly growing field. This book is divided into three sections. Introducing the two key concepts, namely, new media and action research, the first section describes the underlying principles, processes, questions, methods and tools that are relevant to an action research approach to new media inquiry. This is followed by a deeper exploration of three advanced, innovative approaches to action research and new media: ethnographic, network, and anticipatory action research. The third and final section presents four case studies and their individual applications of action research in different new media contexts.

- (1) <http://eprints.qut.edu.au/archive/00014077/>

COOL TOOLS

DELVER: SEARCH YOUR WORLD



Delver (1) is an intelligent social search engine that enables you to find, experience and benefit from the wealth of information created and referenced by your social world. According to a Webware post by Rafe Needleman (2), "Once you tell Delver who you are, it builds your social graph by itself. It correlates your identities across sites like MySpace, LinkedIn, Flickr, Facebook, Digg, and more, and creates a list of who your friends are. It also layers in a list of your friends of friends. Then, when you search

for something, it gives precedence to content and links from your friends and their friends. So if you're looking for an Italian restaurant recommendation in New York, you'll get results from people you know, or people your friends vouch for."

- (1) <http://www.delver.com/>
- (2) http://news.cnet.com/8301-17939_109-9991378-2.html

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GOOGLE'S OPEN SOURCE ANDROID OS WILL FREE THE WIRELESS WEB



Google's **Android** (1) operating system is an open source mobile platform, which any programmer can write for and any handset maker can install, and is expected to hit the market this fall. Nearly any new phone will be able to run Android, and several phone manufacturers have dedicated Android phones on the way. However, the Android operating system is only a start as Android-based phones will continue to evolve as users add applications from independent developers to take advantage of the seamless Web access it enables. Android is a fully customizable system that allows any application to be removed or swapped for another. Software normally accounts for about 20 percent of the cost of a phone, so by providing Android to mobile carriers for free, Google is making possible lower-priced handsets in an effort to get more consumers interested in using smart phones. Android has even been designed to account for the limits of the carriers' networks to avoid using too much data, giving the users a solid experience without wasting the wireless spectrum. Android could possibly turn the phone into a useful tool for Web surfing and cloud computing, with voice functions such as phone calls simply being another application.

Source: Wired, July/08, Vol. 16 No. 7
http://www.wired.com/techbiz/media/magazine/16-07/ff_android

- (1) <http://code.google.com/android/>

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CREATING A COMPUTER GAME IS CHILD'S PLAY



MIT's **Mitchel Resnick** developed **Scratch** (1), a programming language that children around the world are using to create interactive stories, videos, music, animations, and games. Inspired by Lego bricks, Scratch allows users to drag and 'snap together' graphical building blocks, which each represent a simple programming instruction, into sequences that build up into games and animations. Resnick says the idea behind Scratch is to fill a void in children's activities, namely creating the interactive media that they spend so much time playing with. Since its launch in May 2007, the Scratch software has been downloaded by more than 300,000 children, and nearly 180,000 projects have been uploaded onto the Scratch Web site for comment or use by visitors. Scratch has been used to create the Scratch News Network, an animated newscast where community developments are related by a cartoon cat used as the software's logo. "Children are creating whole new genres of projects that we had not even imagined," Resnick says. Scratch is being used in more than 100 countries, with the biggest

communities located in the United States and Britain. Teachers are using the program to teach students programming basics, among other things.

Source: New Scientist Tech, Aug. 2/08

<http://technology.newscientist.com/article/mg19926676.000>

(1) <http://scratch.mit.edu/>

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PHOTOSYNTH: A 3D WONDER



PhotoSynth (1), a technology demo from **Microsoft Live Labs**, has graduated from its “ooh, that's pretty” status to being a viable Web service for consumers. The technology, which takes a grouping of photographs and stitches them into a faux 3D environment, can now be implemented with photos you've taken on your digital camera or mobile phone, and converted right on your computer. Previously, the process of stitching these photos together took weeks of processing on specially configured server arrays. With its latest version, Microsoft has managed to shrink that into around the time it takes to upload your photos.

Source: Webware, Aug. 20/08

(1) <http://photosynth.net/Default.aspx>

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COMMANDING YOUR BROWSER



Mozilla Labs is about to introduce **Ubiquity** (1), a new JavaScript-based interface for its Firefox Web browser that will allow users to run a variety of complex tasks by typing instructions, in the form of sentences, into a box in the browser. Ubiquity could be used to email a paragraph or picture from an article to a friend by simply selecting the text or image, opening the input box with a keyboard shortcut, and typing in a command to email it to the desired recipient. Ubiquity can even determine what person you are trying to send the email too, if there are multiple listings with the same name, based on previous emailing patterns. Mozilla Labs' Chris Beard says the objective is to make it easier to find and share information on the Web while avoiding complex copy-and-paste methods. Ubiquity also aims to eliminate the need for multiple browser plug-ins, as well as reduce unnecessary mouse movements. Ubiquity is being released as a Mozilla Labs project, which makes both the program and the underlying code available to people looking to test the interface and contribute design and programming ideas to improve its functionality. Beard says Ubiquity is also highly customizable, with built-in instructions in the interface that provide quick links to different tasks, such as email, Twitter, or Digg.

Source and Photo: Technology Review, Aug. 12/08

<http://www.technologyreview.com/Infotech/21215/?a=f>

WORKSHOPS/SEMINARS/SYMPOSIA

3rd INTERNATIONAL WORKSHOP ON SECURE SOFTWARE ENGINEERING (March 16-19, 2009, Fukuoka, Japan)



In our modern society, software is an integral part of everyday life, and we expect and depend upon software systems to perform correctly. Software security is about ensuring that systems continue to function correctly also under malicious attack. As most systems now are web-enabled, the number of attackers with access to the system increases dramatically and thus the threat scenario changes. The traditional approach to secure a system includes putting up defence mechanisms like IDS and firewalls, but such measures are no longer sufficient by themselves. We need to be able to build better, more robust and more secure systems. Even more importantly, however, we should strive to achieve these qualities in all software systems, not just the ones that need special protection. This workshop (1) will focus on techniques, experiences and lessons learned for engineering secure and dependable software.

(1) <http://www.sintef.no/Home/Information-and-Communication-Technology-ICT/Software-Engineering-Safety-and-Security/Projects/SecSE-2009/>

CONFERENCES

3rd INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON LEGAL, SECURITY AND PRIVACY ISSUES IN IT TOGETHER WITH THE 2nd INTERNATIONAL LAW AND TRADE CONFERENCE (September 3-5, 2008, Prague, Czech Republic)



The International Association of IT Lawyers and the University of Economics Prague invite you to participate in the **3rd International Conference on Legal, Security and Privacy Issues** – an opportunity for academics, practitioners and consultants to come together, exchange ideas, and discuss emerging issues in IT law and the emerging technological environment. This is being held in conjunction with the **2nd International Law and Trade Conference** – a conference allowing participants to dialogue on important issues relating to international law, trade, commerce, and information technology. (1)

(1) <http://www.lspi.net/>

10th ANNUAL CONFERENCE ON WWW APPLICATIONS**(Venue 1: September 3-5, 2008, Cape Town, South Africa; Venue 2: September 10-12, 2008, Nairobi, Kenya)**

The year 2008 sees the 10th consecutive **World Wide Web Applications Conference** (1). To highlight this milestone anniversary, the event will be celebrated in two places. The programme will kick-off in Cape Town and then continues the week after in Nairobi, reinforcing the Conference's engagement with African Web developments as a whole. Topics might relate to trends and developments over the last ten years; for example the politics of the Web; censorship and legal issues; new methods of access and device and network convergence; search engines and search techniques; emerging Web technologies, developments and trends; Web 2.0; e-government, e-commerce, e-marketing, e-learning, e-society, e-entertainment, and more.

(1) <http://active.cput.ac.za/ZAW3/public/index.asp?pageid=546>

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MEDICINE 2.0 CONFERENCE
(September 4-5, 2008, Toronto, Canada)

Medicine 2.0TM is an international conference on Web 2.0 applications in health and medicine, organized and co-sponsored by the Journal of Medical Internet Research, the **International Medical Informatics Association**, the **Centre for Global eHealth Innovation**, **CHIRAD**, and a number of other sponsoring organizations.

(1) <http://www.medicine20congress.com/index.php>

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SCIENCE IN THE 21st CENTURY
(September 8-12, 2008, Waterloo, Canada)

The Perimeter Institute (1) of the University of Waterloo is hosting a conference on **Science in the 21st Century** (2). From its website: Times are changing. In the earlier days, we used to go to the library; today we search and archive our papers online. We have collaborations per email, hold telephone seminars, organize virtual networks, write blogs, and make our seminars available on the internet. Without any doubt, these technological developments influence the way science is done, and they also redefine our relation to the society we live in. Information exchange and management, the scientific community, and the society as a whole can be thought of as a triangle of relationships, the mutual interactions in which are becoming increasingly important.

(1) <http://www.perimeterinstitute.ca/>

(2) <http://www.science21stcentury.org/index.html>

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10th INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON UBIQUITOUS COMPUTING (September 21-24, 2008, Seoul, South Korea)



UbiComp 2008 (1) welcomes original, high-quality research contributions that advance the state of the art in the design, development, deployment, evaluation and understanding of ubiquitous computing (ubiquitous) systems. UbiComp is an interdisciplinary field of study that includes pervasive, wireless, embedded, wearable and/or mobile technologies that bridge the gaps between the digital and physical worlds, useful applications that incorporate these technologies, infrastructures that effectively support them, human activities and experiences these technologies facilitate, and conceptual overviews that help us understand – or challenge our understanding of – the impact of these technologies.

(1) <http://ubicomp.org/ubicomp2008/>

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GAZING INTO THE 21st CENTURY: 2nd INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON IMAGE SCIENCE (October 16-18, 2008, Goettwig Monastery, Austria)



Never before the world of images has changed so fast and the way images are produced transformed so drastically like in the latest presence: Second Life, Micromovies, Flickr, Virtual Reality, You Tube, Visual Music, Scientific Visualisation, Google Earth etc. are keywords standing for a multitude of new possibilities for individual producing, projecting and distributing of visual material. The image historical development from innovation, reflection till prohibition of images comes up to a global complexity in the 21st century. These transformations have hit society to a large extent unprepared. Nevertheless we have to recognize that without further development of new forms of visualization and “orders of visibility”, their reflection and criticism we will not be able to handle the burst of knowledge of our time. The conference (1) will discuss the inventory, classification and historiography of the recent worlds of images concerning the spheres of the public, art, entertainment and science.

(1) <http://www.donau-uni.ac.at/en/departement/bildwissenschaft/veranstaltungen/id/11969/index.php>

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OPEN SOURCE WORLD CONFERENCE (October 20-22, Málaga, Spain)



The Open Source World Conference (1) is without question the most important event in Spain and Europe where free and open source software and technologies are concerned. The aim of the Conference is to demonstrate that free and open source software is a consolidated reality worth investing in, and not just a powerful, solid and safe solution. Throughout the years, the Conference has taken a

multidisciplinary approach open to all players and issues, which has translated into a tremendous success.

(1) <http://www.opensourceworldconference.com/oswc/presenta>

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GOVERNMENT OPEN SOURCE CONFERENCE & INTERNATIONAL OPEN ICT SUMMIT
(October 20-23, 2008, Portland, USA)



The Government Open Source Conference (GOSCON) 2008 and the International Open ICT Summit provide forums to explore both the

business case and real-world applications for open technology to deliver the next generation of government services. Attendees will hear from industry experts and their peers. There will be extensive networking opportunities for CIO & IT directors, management, planning, legal staff.

(1) <http://goscon.org/>

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5th PRATO COMMUNITY INFORMATICS & DEVELOPMENT INFORMATICS CONFERENCE 2008
(October 27-30, 2008, Monash Centre, Prato, Italy)



The theme for this conference (1) is: "ICTs for Social Inclusion: What is the Reality?" How is 'social inclusion' or e-inclusion understood as it applies to communities in their interaction with technology? Are

governments, funders and policy makers understanding the link between 21st century technologies and social development, or are they re-branding past policies such as 'digital divide' that was in favour a number of years ago? The conference will explore these ideas.

(1) <http://www.ccnr.net/>

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16th INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON COMPUTERS IN EDUCATION
(October 27-31, 2008, Taipei, Taiwan)



ICCE 2008 (1) will be a prospective and high quality international conference that provides a forum for exchange and interaction in employing the use of digital technology in education. The five-day event consists of five collocated theme-based conferences, workshops, doctoral student consortiums, tutorials, and interactive events, advanced seminars, open forums, and many creative and original lectures.

(1) <http://www.apsce.net/icce2008/index.html>

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**THE STRATEGY INSTITUTE PRESENTS: THE FUTURE OF WIMAX IN CANADA
(November 5-6, 2008, Toronto, Canada)**



There are significant opportunities and challenges in the coming wide scale deployment of WiMAX networks. The emerging 4G standard is going to revolutionize how business is conducted, how consumers communicate, and how cities provide wireless services to their citizens. In this rapidly shifting environment, it is vital to familiarize yourself with anticipated trends in the adoption of WiMAX technology. Attending this conference is your first step! Benefit by hearing from important case studies, analysts, and those at the forefront of providing broadband wireless service.

(1) http://www.strategyinstitute.com/110508_fwcdsp.php

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Proposals Due—September 8, 2008

**SAKAI FALL REGIONAL CONFERENCE
(November 11-12, 2009, Blacksburg, Virginia, USA)**



You are enthusiastically invited to be a part of the **Sakai Fall 2008 Regional Conference** (1) in Blacksburg, Virginia. This conference will offer many opportunities for professional development, strategic planning, and the sharing of best practices. Proposals are invited which focus on one of two general themes: pedagogy and instructional strategies supported by Sakai, and migration/adoption strategies. Subthemes might include positioning Sakai as a platform for new pedagogies, student engagement, ePortfolio, and assessment. Other topics might include faculty development, user support, marketing Sakai within a legacy scenario, diffusion strategies, and building support for change.

(1) <http://confluence.sakaiproject.org/confluence/display/MGT/Virginia+Tech+Regional+Conference+2008>

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**19th AUSTRALASIAN CONFERENCE ON INFORMATION SYSTEMS
December 3-5, 2008, University of Canterbury, The Rydges Christchurch, New Zealand)**



ACIS is the premier conference in Australasian for Information Systems academics, covering technical, organisational, industry and social issues in the application of Information Technology (IT) to real world problems. Since its emergence in the early 1980s, the discipline of Information systems has faced many challenges. One such challenge is how to make research relevant to practice. In other words, how can the ideas and findings of today's researchers and academics be translated into real world solutions for businesses, government, and society. It is this challenge that provides the impetus for our theme for 2008: "Creating the Future: Transforming Research Into Practice."

(1) <http://www.bsec.canterbury.ac.nz/acis2008/about.html>

**PTC'09 CONFERENCE: COLLABORATING FOR CHANGE: STRATEGIES,
OPPORTUNITIES AND PARTNERSHIPS**
(January 18-21, 2008, Honolulu, USA)



There is little doubt that the telecommunications landscape today is characterized by change. **PTC'09** has taken the theme of change to capture not only the myriad new developments across the entire telecommunications domain, but also the manner by which change is occurring through greater collaboration. No event embraces the spirit of collaboration more completely than PTC. For 31 consecutive years, telecommunications companies, equipment and software developers, content and media services providers, vendors, investors, academics and researchers, policy makers and civil society representatives have met each January in Hawaii to forge alliances, negotiate agreements, and to learn from one another's experiences. We invite you to join us in collaborating for change at PTC'09!

(1) <http://www.ptc.org/ptc09/index.php>

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9th INTERNATIONAL BIELEFELD CONFERENCE
(February 3-5, 2009, Bielefeld, Germany)



Three decades of databases, two decades of electronic articles and one decade of open access have resulted in an avalanche of digital scholarly information services. At the moment we observe a metamorphosis from the electronic library to an enhanced library meeting the emerging demands of eScience and eLearning. Progress in technology, new concepts of knowledge networking, but also economic issues are the driving forces for upgrading the eLibrary, all of them opening up both a world of new opportunities and of new constraints for progressing enhanced scholarly information services. **The Bielefeld Conference 2009** (1) provides insights in the future of eLibraries, based on the threefold interdependency of service, technology, and economics.

(1) <http://conference.ub.uni-bielefeld.de/>

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Paper Submission to HCI Archive—September 19, 2008
Student Competition Submissions—January 7, 2009

CHI 2009
(April 5-9, 2009, Boston, USA)



Computing is reaching into all parts of modern life. **CHI 2009** (1) will be the showcase for the technologies, designs and ideas that will form the new world of digital life. There are many exciting new ways in which

computing can improve life in many parts of the world. CHI 2009 will be the place to see that happen. The submission deadline for papers in the HCI Archive is coming up soon. Also, there are student design and research competition submissions due in the new year.

(1) <http://www.chi2009.org/>

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Full Paper Submission—October 15, 2008

**INTERACTIVE MOBILE AND COMPUTER AIDED LEARNING 2009
(April 22-24, 2009, Princess Sumaya University for Technology, Amman, Jordan)**



The 4th **International Conference on Interactive Mobile and Computer Aided Learning** (1), which will be hosted by Princess Sumaya University for Technology, Amman, Jordan, comes as a response to this challenge in the Middle East. The conference is part of an international initiative to promote technology-enhanced learning and online engineering world-wide. The IMCL2009 conference will cover all aspects of mobile learning, mobile business, mobile government, mobile society as well as the emergence of mobile technologies, services, implementation and implications for education, business, governments and society.

(1) <http://www.imcl-conference.org/>

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Abstract Deadline—November 10, 2008

**CAAD FUTURES
(June 17-19, 2009, Montreal, Canada)**



The theme of the 2009 conference is “Joining languages, cultures and visions”. It seeks to give a new breath to this type of conference by inviting new disciplines, especially industrial design, to join the traditionally architectural discourse. Moreover, the conference will be bilingual: English and French we aim to create a vivid dialogue between different cultural approaches, computational methods and philosophical positions.

(1) http://www.arclab.umontreal.ca/CAADFutures09/CAAD_futures_2009_home.php

ABOUT THE KMDiary

The KMDiary Volume 9, Issue #7/8 (July/August 2008). Current issue and archives also available on the web as both pdf and rtf files at <http://www.kmdi.utoronto.ca/publications/KMDiary.aspx>. We encourage contributions from our members. Please forward your submissions to elise@kmdi.utoronto.ca. The deadline for submissions for the next issue is September 10, 2008.

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