

KMDiary Volume 9: Issue #9—September 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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FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S DESK

I may have mentioned to Ron when taking this job that I was excited by the challenges that lay ahead of KMDI in the next year. I certainly did not mean challenges such as the hospitalization of the Director due to a serious illness or the loss of our Administrative Assistant after the first month.

First, you will all be happy to hear that Ron is doing very well. He is recovering quickly and has even made his first office visit. We expect him to be back to resume his duties as director some time in the next month.

Unfortunately Devika is leaving us and moving to the U of T Division of University Advancement. This is a wonderful opportunity for her and an important step in her desired career. Friday is her last day and though we would love to keep her here we wish her all the best in this new phase of her journey.

Congratulations on your new job Devika!

In spite of this the work at KMDI has had to continue and we have had a number of international guests give some successful talks this month as part of our ongoing commitment to interdisciplinarity and collaboration. Faculty, students and members of industry joined us for talks by Shashank Mehta of India's National Institute of Design, Ron Rice from University of California, and Ted Selker from MIT. If you missed the Mehta or Rice talks you can always see them online at:

<http://epresence.tv/mediaContent/>

In this issue of the diary we are asking all of our readers for some feedback on the KMDiary content and format. Please be sure to take a moment to complete the **SHORT** questionnaire (see below), it's extremely important that we know how to better serve our community.

Finally, I am continuing to contact KMDI members and faculty and hoping to sit with you a few moments and learning more about your work and interests. This will be critical in addressing our main challenges this year of finding a home and a business model but also important so that I am able to articulate to industry some of the exciting work our members do.

I hope you will be out enjoying Nuit Blanche this coming weekend. Please be sure to send your own Nuit Blanche events to info@kmdi.utoronto.ca and we will post them in Friday's digest.

Welcome back to a new academic year!

Adriana

ANNOUNCEMENTS

KMDIARY READERSHIP SURVEY

The KMDiary is the primary communication vehicle in KMDI's distributed and largely virtual network. It is an opportunity for KMDI members and affiliates to share interests, to become aware of new projects and prospects, and to promote their work. We are conducting a very brief readership survey to identify the value of the KMDiary to our readers and how it may be improved to meet readers' needs. Please take a few minutes to complete our online survey at the following URL, it will only take a moment:

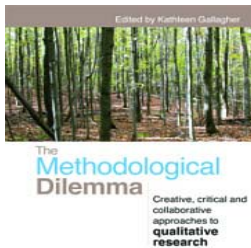
(1) http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=n6w9eBC9LQZe2ysi8VopBg_3d_3d

POWERING INNOVATION: A NATIONAL SUMMIT



ORION and **CANARIE** – Ontario's and Canada's advanced research, education and innovation networks – invite you to mark your calendar **Powering Innovation: A National Summit** in Toronto, November 3-4, 2008 (1). Join distinguished Canadian and global leaders and innovators in science, research, education and information technology to discuss and showcase new and innovative technologies that are transforming the way we conduct research, collaborate, teach and learn.

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



YOU'RE INVITED TO A BOOK LAUNCH!

The Centre for Urban Schooling, along with Routledge and Toronto Women's Bookstore, would like to invite you to the launch of *The Methodological Dilemma: Creative, Critical and Collaborative Approaches to Qualitative Research* (1) edited by Kathleen Gallagher. Come out and support our many CUS/OISE and international colleagues on Thursday October 2nd at 7pm at The Toronto Women's Bookstore. Megan Bolder (OISE, KMDI) is one of many authors who have contributed chapters to this publication.

- (1) <http://www.routledgeeducation.com/books/The-Methodological-Dilemma-isbn9780415460620>

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IN-PROCESS: KMDI STUDENT TALKS WITH COLIN FURNESS (September 29, 2008, 4:00-5:00 p.m., Bahen Centre for IT, UofT, Room 7231)



Colin Furness, a PhD Candidate (iSchool) and KMDI Fellow (1) will be delivering a talk called “Group Norms Trump Usability in Using a Collaborative Information System” on September 29th. The abstract states the following: Individuals’ assessments of usefulness and usability have long been key predictors of whether new technology will be adopted. Consequently, optimizing these dimensions for target users is a primary goal of human-centred software development methods. But what about collaborative workplace implementations such as intranets, where the group supplants the individual? Little extant research has investigated the impact of group norms on individuals’ use of workplace systems. This talk reports the results of case study research of an information sharing system at an engineering firm. Group norms around information use were measured alongside usefulness/usability judgments. All of these factors were then compared to actual use data using multiple regression analysis. It was found that two specific dimensions of group norms – not perceptions of usefulness or usability – significantly predicted actual use. Implications, methodological challenges and limitations of the study are also addressed.

- (1) <http://kmdi.utoronto.ca/graduate/fellows/bios/colinfurness.aspx>

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MEDIA COVERAGE AND THE U.S. ELECTION CAMPAIGNS: RACE, GENDER AND IDENTITY POLITICS IN THE 2008 PRESIDENTIAL RACE (October 15, 2008, 4:00 – 6:00 p.m., Munk Centre, Campbell Conference Room, UofT)

This panel, moderated by Prof. **Megan Boler** (OISE, KMDI), features Prof. Anna Everett (F. Ross Johnson-Connaught Distinguished Visitor in American Studies; Professor and Chair of Film and Media Studies, University of California, Santa Barbara); Prof. Todd Gitlin (Professor of Journalism and Sociology and Chair, the Journalism School, Columbia University), and Rick Salutin (Columnist, Globe and Mail). The discussion will explore how the 2008 U.S. election campaigns have featured, highlighted, erased, and spun identities and politics of race, gender, religion, and

class. The panel will highlight the politics and discourses of visual and print news media, campaign advertising, and user-generated digital media surrounding the U.S. presidential candidates, from Hillary Clinton to Barack Obama to John McCain. There will also be an open Q & A discussion to follow the panel.

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“WE, THE CITY”: A THEME FOR THE 3rd EDITION OF NUIT BLANCHE



For this 3rd edition of **Nuit Blanche** (1) in Toronto and the 45th anniversary of the UofT's **McLuhan Program in Culture and Technology** (2), the walls of the Coach House will be turned into screens. For one night, Torontonians, actors and spectators, will create original characters and set before the marveling eyes of passers-by images and places from here and elsewhere. The spirit of **Nuit Blanche** will be here, in Toronto, in this moment of opening up, switching on, sharing and daring. Through innovative projects, invited artists, students and scholars will offer nigh-exploring Torontonians the opportunity of taking part in the **Nuits Blanches** being held in Paris and Brussels, allowing them to share an exceptional moment with these two great cities. In addition, the various events will reflect the particular interests of the research centres to whom the evening/s artistic and scientific program has been entrusted for 2008. The members of the **McLuhan Program in Culture and Technology** and those of the **Collaborative Urban Research Laboratory of the Osgoode Hall Law School** (3) of York University hope that this unique opportunity to discover or rediscover the city of Toronto will let everyone celebrate while at the same time reflecting on the multifaceted nature of Torontonian identity. The **McLuhan Coach House's** program for October 4, 2008 will reflect this vision through art performances and installations showing different perceptions and geographical realities. These cultural journeys will allow Torontonians to re-appropriate a collective identity as suggested by the event's theme “We, the city”.

- (1) <http://www.scotiabanknuitblanche.ca/home.shtml>
 (2) <http://www.utoronto.ca/mcluhan/>
 (3) <http://www.criticalresearchlab.org/about.html>

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14th EXECUTIVE FORUM ON MICROELECTRONICS (October 15-16, 2008, Ottawa, Canada)



You are invited to the first-ever combined **CMC/ITAC SMCouncil award dinner** on the evening of October 15th and to enjoy a thought-provoking discussion with your peers as seasoned international executives share their views on what can spur the growth of Canada's industry. Take advantage of this year's **Executive Forum on Microelectronics** (1) to test the assumptions for your strategic business plan and, possibly, discover that “key thought” and “key contact” which can make all the difference to your company's future success.

- (1) http://www.itac.ca/index.php/site/event_exec_forum

THE VIRTUAL WATER COOLER: AROUND THE COMMUNITY

LINKED MOVIE DATABASE WINS FIRST PRIZE AT TRIPLIFICATION CHALLENGE



Congratulations to **Mariano Consens** (MIE, KMDI), who, with graduate student **Oktie Hassanzadeh** (PhD Candidate, CS) won **First Prize for the Linked Movie Data Base** (1) in the **Triplification Challenge** (2) organized by Triplify.org and with Tim Berners-Lee as a patron. Linked Movie Database is the first open semantic web database about movies and movie-related information. It is part of the **Linking Open Data** community project (3) initiated by the Semantic Web and Outreach Interest Group at the World Wide Web Consortium. LinkedMDB project started at May 2008 with the goal of providing the first Linked Data source for movies. Apart from filling the gap in the Linking Open Data (LOD) project data sources by providing data about a popular topic, the project focuses on providing a significant amount of (inter)links to other webpages and semantic web data sources about movies. LinkedMDB website was publicly released on July 31st 2008 and since then has received a significant attention from the LOD community.

- (1) <http://www.linkedmdb.org/>
- (2) <http://triplify.org/Challenge#h54-3>
- (3) <http://esw.w3.org/topic/SweoIG/TaskForces/CommunityProjects/LinkingOpenData>

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GRAEME HIRST WINS DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD FROM CANADIAN ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE ASSOCIATION



Congratulations to Prof. Graeme Hirst (CS, KMDI) who received the **Distinguished Service Award** from the **Canadian Artificial Intelligence Association** (1) earlier this year. The award was given in recognition of Graeme's development of the magazine *Canadian Artificial Intelligence* in the 1980s. Graeme's research interests cover a range of topics in computational linguistics, natural language processing, and related areas of cognitive science including lexical semantics, the resolution of ambiguity in text, the preservation of author's style in machine translation, recovering from misunderstanding and non-understanding in human-computer communication, and linguistic constraints on knowledge-representation systems. His present research includes the problem of near-synonymy in lexical choice in language generation; computer assistance for collaborative writing; and applications of lexical chaining as an indicator of semantic distance in texts. A recent spin-off of this research is an intelligent spelling checker.

Source: KMDI, UofT Bulletin, Aug. 19/08

- (1) <http://cscsi.org/index.php?page=home>

MEGAN BOLER TO SPEAK AT UBC



Megan Boler (OISE, KMDI) will be part of a keynote plenary **October 3, 2008** at the University of British Columbia with Professor Darin Barney (CRC, McGill) and Professor Doug Kellner (UCLA), for the **UBC Learning 2.0: Digital Cultures, Media and Citizenship for a New Millennium** (1), which take up key questions regarding education in what Castells has termed the “Network Society”.

This scholarship foregrounds the ways in which key elements of education itself, such as “the right to know,” shift significantly by means of careful analytic theorization of the impact of the Internet, convergent new media, social networks, and digital socialities.

- (1) <http://ubcanthgrads.wordpress.com/2008/09/18/learning-20-digital-cultures-media-and-citizenship-for-a-new-millennium/>

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GALE MOORE, LESLIE CHAN CO-AUTHOR PAPER IN CONFERENCE BOARD COMPENDIUM

The Conference Board of Canada
Insights You Can Count On



Gale Moore (SOC, KMDI) and **Leslie Chan** (UTSC, KMDI) have co-authored a paper which is included in the Conference Board of Canada’s Compendium of Research Papers: The International Forum

on the Creative Economy (1). The documents in this compendium were the result of a two-day learned forum that took place March 2008, in Gatineau, Quebec. This research was part of a multi-faceted project completed in collaboration with the Department of Canadian Heritage. The forum brought together 200 scholars, researchers, professionals, industry leaders, and public officials from across Canada and around the world. This compendium report includes academic papers from leading researchers from around the world.

- (1) <http://www.conferenceboard.ca/documents.asp?rnext=2701>

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iSCHOOL EXPANDS ITS HOME



The **Faculty of Information** (1) at UofT has just acquired its newest office and laboratory space at 45 Wilcocks Avenue. The Faculty has grown so quickly over the last two years that this past summer, it took over the third floor of New College Residence. This is just a 5 minute walk from the Bissell Building, and is called “iSouth.”

- (1) <http://www.ischool.utoronto.ca/>

MEGAN BOLER QUOTED ON CTV



In the long race to get complex ideas into sound bite culture, Professor **Megan Boler** (OISE, KMDI) is pleased that journalist Andrea Janus aptly captured some of her comments for a CTV news story on “fake news” and the emergence of a social scientific study about *The Daily Show* with Jon Stewart, claiming that those who watch the show will be “less informed” to make political decisions than those who watch “real” news (1). Boler talks of various other studies (for example, the PEW Internet study of 2007) which suggest that those who watch TDS are amongst the most “well-informed Americans”, on par with those who watch Jim Lehrer News Hour, CNN, and so on, and far more informed those who watch FOX news.

Image: CTV, Sep. 15/08

(1)

http://www.ctv.ca/servlet/ArticleNews/story/CTVNews/20080912/news_feature_080912/20080914?hub=TopStories

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IPSI LECTURE SERIES KICKS OFF WITH TALK BY ANDREW CLEMENT



Entitled “Designing Ontario’s Enhanced Driver’s Licence,” this first lecture (1) in the Fall 2008 series provided an overview of the issues and perspectives that recur throughout the talks that follow. Taking the terms identity, privacy and security in turn, Prof. **Andrew Clement** (iSchool, KMDI) discussed the conventional ways of interpreting and pursuing them, pointing out their tensions as well as connections in the context of our surveillance society. The talk drew upon recent research in science and technology studies to open up new perspectives that can help enlighten the development of systems, practices and policies that advance the vital human rights of security, privacy and identity integrity.

(1)

http://www.ischool.utoronto.ca/index.php?option=com_events&task=view_detail&Itemid=&agid=490&year=2008&month=09&day=22

OTHER NEWS

FEDERAL GOVERNMENT ANNOUNCES IMPLEMENTATION OF PRESTIGIOUS RESEARCH AND SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAMS



The Honourable Jim Prentice, Minister of Industry announced (1) earlier this month, the implementation of two new and prestigious programs that will position Canada as a global centre of excellence in research and education: the **Canada Excellence Research Chairs Program** and the **Vanier Canada**

To SUBSCRIBE or to UNSUBSCRIBE to the KMDiary go to:

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

Graduate Scholarship Program. Distinguished members of the Selection Boards for each program were also announced. "Canada's prosperity as a nation is increasingly based on excellence in innovation and technology and the highly skilled and creative individuals whose talents bring discovery to life," said Minister Prentice. "Their ideas spark the creation of new products, services, and whole industries that drive Canada's economic competitiveness, strengthen our social foundations, sustain the environment, and improve the quality of life of all Canadians. I am proud to announce the launch of two new government initiatives dedicated to global excellence in research and to strengthening Canada's ties to the global supply of talent and ideas."

(1) <http://cerc.gc.ca/nr-co-20080902-eng.shtml>

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CANADA RANKS SIXTH IN GLOBAL IT COMPETITIVENESS, STUDY FINDS

A new study conducted by the **Economist Intelligence Unit** (1) finds Canada ranks sixth in the world in IT industry competitiveness, moving three places from its 2007 ranking of nine. Canada received high scores in the areas of IT infrastructure and development of human capital. The IT Competitiveness Index assesses and compares the IT industry environments of 66 countries worldwide to determine the extent to which they possess the conditions necessary to support a strong and competitive IT industry. The study findings were calculated based on six distinct factors which create a sound environment for the IT sector, including: an ample supply of skills; an innovation-friendly culture; world-class technology infrastructure; a robust legal regime that protects intellectual property, such as patents and copyrights; an open, competitive economy; and government leadership that strikes the right balance between promoting technology and allowing market forces to work.

Source: Invest in Canada News

(1) <http://www.eiuresources.com/mediadir/default.asp?PR=2008091601>

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UofT to ACQUIRE CANADA'S MOST POWERFUL COMPUTER FROM IBM




UofT's SciNet Consortium and **IBM** recently announced an agreement to build Canada's most powerful and energy-efficient supercomputer. The consortium, which includes the UofT and associated research hospitals, will enhance SciNet's competitive position in globally important research projects. These include ground-breaking research in aerospace, astrophysics, bioinformatics, chemical physics, climate change prediction, medical imaging and the global ATLAS project, which is investigating the forces that govern the universe. Capable of performing 360 trillion calculations per second, the supercomputer will pioneer an innovative hybrid design containing two systems that can work together or independently, connected to a massive five petabyte storage complex. Because it is a hybrid using IBM's highly efficient iDataPlex system, as well as IBM's advanced POWER6 architecture, the machine is extremely flexible, capable of running a wide range of software at a high level of performance. As a premier academic research system, the machine is expected to be

among the top 20 fastest supercomputers in the world, 30 times faster than the peak performance of Canada's current largest research system. It also represents the second largest system ever built on a university campus, and will be the largest supercomputer outside the United States.

Source: The Bulletin, UofT, Aug. 14/08

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YAHOO ANNOUNCES NEW DIGITAL AD PLATFORM

 In efforts to bypass the barriers to scaling large online advertising campaigns, **Yahoo** today announced the launch of APT, its new digital advertising platform. Calling the system a "transformative development" in online advertising, APT hopes to streamline the ad buying process across multiple accounts and publishers. The new web-based platform enables selling of ad inventory across Yahoo's network of publishers, advertisers, ad networks, and agencies in a single interface.

Source: Wired, Sept. 24/08

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COMPUTER GAMES DRIVE SOCIAL TIES

Far from turning teenagers into anti-social loners, video games help them engage with friends and community, says a report. The Pew Internet study of US teenagers found that few play alone and most join up with friends when gaming. It found that many used educational games to learn about world issues and to begin to engage with politics. The report also found that gaming had become an almost universal pastime among young Americans.

Source: BBC News UK, Sept. 16/2008

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MTV NETWORKS BUYS SOCIAL PROJECT PLATFORM

 Viacom division MTV Networks announced on September 22 that it has turned its minority stake in software company Social Platform into a full acquisition: Social Project, formerly known as Tagworld, is the basis for Viacom's **Flux** (1). MTV Networks launched Flux just over a year ago as a social-networking platform that would be used across all its digital entertainment properties as well as eventually sites outside Viacom. The original Tagworld investment started in November 2006. Flux now powers community features on MTV.com, Colbert Nation, Atom.com, and other Viacom-owned sites, allowing users to access all of them with a single login and profile.

Source: CNET News, Sept. 22/08

(1) <http://www.flux.com/>

RESOURCES/PUBLICATIONS

CALL FOR PAPERS: LEARNING INQUIRY



You are invited to submit to Learning Inquiry, a refereed scholarly journal, which is devoted to establishing the area of “learning” as a focus for transdisciplinary study. The journal’s goal is to be a forum centered on learning that remains open to varied objects of enquiry, including machine, human, plant and animal learning as well as the processes of learning in business, government, and the professions, both in informal and formal environments. The audience for this journal is anyone interested in learning, understanding its contexts, and anticipating its future. Learning Inquiry involves familiar faces of the KMDI community, including Editors **Jason Nolan** and **Jeremy Hunsinger**, and Editorial Board participants **Megan Boler** and **Joel Weiss**.

(1) <http://www.springer.com/education/learning+%26+instruction/journal/11519>

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Submissions—November 1, 2008

CALL FOR PAPERS: SPECIAL ISSUE ON ONLINE SIMULATIONS, ROLE PLAYING AND VIRTUAL WORLDS



This special issue of Innovate (1) focuses on how online simulation and role playing in virtual worlds may lead to new forms, methods, and modes of communication, collaboration, and creation that will enhance the educational process. It is being developed in cooperation with the organizers of the 5th Annual Colloquium on Online Simulations, Role-playing, and Virtual Worlds (2) to be held in Hong Kong in October 2008. Hundreds of virtual worlds have been created to serve entertainment, educational, and corporate markets, yet few offer more than a glimpse of what technological innovations in these worlds may mean for the real world. What will the unprecedented growth in virtual worlds mean for education? This special issue will consider the opportunities and challenges offered by the proliferation of virtual worlds and online simulations.

(1) http://www.innovateonline.info/?view=special_issues

(2) <http://www.leagueofworlds.com/>

COOL TOOLS

GOOGLE GETS POLITICAL



Just in time for the home stretch of the U.S. presidential showdown, some crafty engineers at Google have created a tool to compare quotations from candidates Barack Obama and John McCain. **Called In Quotes** (1), the

Google Labs project lets you search for a given term (say, "economy") and Google will bring up a quotation from each presidential candidate that mentions the term. Hit the "spin" button to display different quotations, all of which have been pulled from recent Google News stories.

You can also compare quotations from UK Prime Minister Gordon Brown and rival David Cameron, Canadian prime minister Stephen Harper and rival Stéphane Dion, and Indian prime minister Manmohan Singh and opposition leader Lal Krishna Advani.

Source: Webware, Sep. 24/08

(1) <http://labs.google.com/inquotes/>

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TRIP IT: ORGANIZE YOUR TRAVEL



With today's myriad of travel sites, even the most experienced traveler has their hands full managing all the details of a typical trip. Booking airline tickets, hotels, rental cars and restaurants leaves you with lots of separate pieces of paper. Throw in maps, directions, things to do, and weather and the chaos multiplies. **TripIt** (1) turns chaos into order by making it easy for anyone to: organize trip details into one master online itinerary – even if arrangements are booked at multiple travel sites; automatically include maps, directions and weather in their master itinerary; pave the option to book restaurants, theatre tickets, activities and more right from within the online itinerary; safely access travel plans online, share them, check-in for flights, or print an itinerary.

(1) <http://www.tripit.com/>

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FLOWGRAM



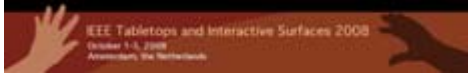
Flowgram (1) is cool tool for anyone trying to lead others through a thicket of web pages and ideas. With it, you chain together pages, photos, Microsoft Office documents, RSS feeds and custom pages, overlay each link in the chain with your own voiceover and annotation, then put the flowgram out on the net: on your site, at YouTube, wherever you want people to find it. A Flowgram is more than a Flash movie: each web page is live and you can interact with it while seeing the author's annotation and hearing their narration. Behind the scenes Flowgram's servers are grabbing the HTML of what you see on the screen.

Source: Webware, Sept. 24/08

(1) <http://www.flowgram.com/>

WORKSHOPS/SEMINARS/SYMPOSIA

IEEE TABLETOPS AND INTERACTIVE SURFACES 2008 (October 1-3, 2008, Amsterdam, The Netherlands)



The use of the tabletop as an input/output device is an exciting and emerging research area. This cross-disciplinary domain brings together experts in projector based display systems, augmented reality, user interface technologies, multi-modal interaction, input and sensing technologies, CSCW, and information visualization. The purpose of the workshop (1) is to bring together leading researchers in the field so that they can present and exchange current results of ongoing investigations.

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

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INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON INTELLIGENT INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY APPLICATION (December 21-22, 2008, Shanghai, China)



ITA 2008 (1) provides a forum for engineers and scientists in academia, university and industry to present their latest research findings in any aspects of intelligent information technology. This year, we especially encourage papers on machine learning, signal processing, communication systems, and circuits and systems. We also welcome papers that highlight successful modern applications of Intelligent Information Technology, such as Multimedia, Bioinformatics, Power, Neural Systems, Control and so on. We are soliciting papers that present recent results, as well as more speculative presentations that discuss research challenges, define new applications, propose methodologies for evaluating and the roadmap for achieving the vision of information technology.

(1) <http://www.iita-conference.cn/>

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INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON HIGH PERFORMANCE COMPUTER ARCHITECTURE (February 14-18, 2008, Raleigh, NC, USA)



The International Symposium on High-Performance Computer Architecture (1) is a premier forum for scientists and engineers to present their latest research findings in all areas of computer architecture, including processor architecture, cache and memory system design, power-efficient designs, reliable architectures, secure architectures, high-performance I/O systems, embedded and reconfigurable

architectures, interconnects and on-chip networks, the impact of compilers and operating systems on architecture, and performance modeling and evaluation.

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

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5th EUROPEAN SYMPOSIUM ON GENDER AND ICT
(March 5-7, 2009, Bremen, Germany)

2009 GENDER & ICT Information Society with its variety of new information and communication media offers many new options to participate in today's social, cultural, political, and economic activities. However, chances are unequally distributed, e.g. by class, ethnicity, age - and by gender. The **5th European Gender and ICT Symposium** (1) will take a closer look at the complex interdependences between gender and ICT. Analyses of current ICT use and education on a global level and under various local conditions will be presented and new constructive approaches to gender-aware software design will be identified at the conference. Innovative solutions to overcome the barriers, to encourage participation, and to equally empower women and men by means of Information Technology will be discussed.

(1) <http://www.informatik.uni-bremen.de/frautec/gict2009/page/home.html>

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Paper Submission—November 15, 2008

**FIRST SPECIAL TRACK ON VIRTUAL WORLDS FOR ACADEMIC,
ORGANIZATIONAL AND LIFE-LONG LEARNING**
(April 23, 2009, Amman, Jordan)

The Special Track ViWo 2009 provides an interdisciplinary forum for international scientists and practitioners to discuss various aspects of learning and training in virtual worlds (1). Our society of the 21st century makes great demands on its members caused by rapid developing and ever-changing political, social, economical and technological situations. Consequently, it is expected that members of the society keep pace with these mutable situations, adapt their skills and expertise. As a result, modern instructional design, learning goals and processes as well as appropriate learning environments must support the development of the aforementioned skills and expertise. Consequently, educational approaches have changed dramatically over time from less formal schooling in the agrarian society to remedial repetitive learning in the industrialization age to learning with an understanding in today's knowledge society. Based on that, different modern educational strategies have been developed which includes aspects such as self-directed learning, collaborative learning, experiential-based learning and actively participating. Educational approaches have also been influenced by technology but have also increasingly applied technology over the last decades, such as motion pictures, radio, television, computers and other emerging information and communication technologies (ICT).

(1) <http://www.iicm.tugraz.at/ViWo2009>

CONFERENCES

ONTARIO'S DIGITAL ECONOMY CONFERENCE (October 1-3, 2008, Huntsville, Ontario, Canada)



Ontario's Digital Economy Conference (1) will focus on the transformation of Ontario's economic, social and environmental future from the perspective of three themes. The conference will begin with a look at Ontario relative to other jurisdictions; study the use and impact of various creative applications; and consider how Ontario can best benefit from the use of technology in an expanding knowledge economy.

(1) <http://www.thedigitaleconomy.ca/index.php>

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2nd ANNUAL ONLINE TEACHING & LEARNING CONFERENCE (October 7-8, 2008, online)



Jossey-Bass is hosting their second annual Online Teaching & Learning Conference, which is a completely online event. Facilitators will lead live interactive workshops (which will be recorded to accommodate all participant time zones and schedules), engage in threaded discussion forums, and lead collaborative networking activities. Keynote sessions, happy hour chats, and hands-on tool workshops will all make this the most jam-packed and exciting few days you will have spent online. Conference attendees will learn practical hands-on techniques for how to effectively teach an online class coupled with a focus on adult learning. In addition each conference attendee can create an instant library by choosing three books from the Jossey-Bass Online Teaching & Learning series.

(1) <http://www.onlineteachingandlearning.com/index.html>

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LEAGUE OF WORLDS: 5th ANNUAL COLLOQUIUM ON ONLINE SIMLUATIONS, ROLE-PLAYING, AND VIRTUAL WORLDS (October 13-15, 2008, Hong Kong)



The **League of Worlds** colloquium (1) is designed to support sharing and meaningful reflection. Participants should allow one another the opportunity to share experiences, to demonstrate technologies, and to think critically. Hundreds of virtual worlds exist to serve youth, educational, and corporate markets, yet few offer anything more than a glimpse of how technological innovations such as virtual worlds may lead to new forms, methods, and modes of communication, collaboration, and creation. We are experiencing unprecedented growth in the funding and development of virtual worlds, but toward

what purpose? This year, we will consider the opportunities and challenges the proliferation of virtual worlds offer today, and contemplate what they hold for tomorrow. In many ways, the future of virtual worlds depends on how early adopters decide to use them to advance and to extend their organizational mission. But what factors will influence which platforms and worlds survive and which ones do not?

(1) <http://www.leagueofworlds.com/>

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20th IEEE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON TOOLS WITH ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

(November 3-5, 2008, Dayton, Ohio, USA)



The annual **IEEE International Conference on Tools with Artificial Intelligence** (1) provides a major international forum where the creation and exchange of ideas related to artificial intelligence are fostered among academia, industry, and government agencies. The conference facilitates the cross-fertilization of these ideas and promotes their transfer into practical tools, for developing intelligent systems and pursuing artificial intelligence applications. The ICTAI encompasses all technical aspects of specifying, developing and evaluating the theoretical underpinnings and applied mechanisms of the AI based components of computer tools (i.e. algorithms, architectures and languages).

(1) <http://dbllab.cs.wright.edu/ictai2008/>

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ONLINE EDUCA BERLIN 2008

(December 2-5, 2008, Berlin, Germany)



Online Educa Berlin (1), the largest global e-learning conference for the corporate, education and public service sectors, is the key annual networking event for the international e-learning and technology-supported learning and training industry, attracting and bringing together experts in the vanguard of technology-enhanced learning from around the world. Participants forge essential cross-industry contacts and partnerships, thereby enhancing their knowledge and expertise.

(1) <http://www.online-educa.com/the-conference>

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5th INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON DISTRIBUTED COMPUTING AND INTERNET TECHNOLOGIES

(December 10-13, 2008, New Delhi, India)



Established in 2004, the **ICDCIT** conference series (1) is a well-recognized international forum for exchanging research ideas and results in theory, methodology and applications of Distributed

Computing and Internet Technology. The 5th ICDCIT conference will be held in New Delhi the capital of India. We invite technical papers describing original and unpublished results in the area Distributed Computing and Internet Technologies. Our goal is to provide a forum for researchers and practitioners from both academia and industry to meet and share cutting-edge advancements in the field.

(1) <http://www.icdcit08.org/index.html>

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Abstract Submission—September 30, 2008

KNOWLEDGE NETWORKING IN AN ICT ERA (January 22-24, 2009, Chennai, India)

The revolution of ICT across the globe has made tremendous changes in all sections of the society. It has also made a significant impact on the global knowledge economy, which reduced the gap between the information rich and poor. Social Networking is one of the emerging Web technologies for collaborative social network services. Second-generation Web technologies such as WEB 2.0, Wikis, Weblogs, Podcasts, RSS feeds, LIB 2.0, and other software provide opportunities for the researchers and technologists to create new community, partnerships between industries, academics and other institutions for knowledge creation and sharing. The B. S. Abdur Rahman Crescent Engineering College, India in association with SALIS (Society for the Advancement of Library & Information Science) organising this international conference (1) to bring the IT sector, Academics and LIS professionals together for collaborative networks for knowledge creation and sharing for mutual benefits.

(1) <http://crescentlib.googlepages.com/knict>

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DIGITAL WORLD 2009 (February 1-6, 2009, Cancun, Mexico)



Digital World 2009 (1) is a federated event focusing on advances topics concerning the scientific communities and the impact on society. Digital World 2009 continues the tradition of well-established conferences and adds new trends. The event is comprised of the following conferences:

- The Third International Conference on Digital Society
- The Second International Conferences on Advances in Computer-Human Interactions
- The Third International Conference on Quantum, Nano and Micro Technologies
- The International Conference on Advanced Geographic Information Systems & Web Services
- International Conference on eHealth, Telemedicine, and Social Medicine
- International Conference on Mobile, Hybrid, and On-line Learning
- International Conference on Information, Process, and Knowledge Management

(1) <http://www.iaria.org/conferences2009/DigitalWorld09.html>

Paper Submission—October 20, 2009

**IADIS MOBILE LEARNING 2009 INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE
(February 26-28, 2009, Barcelona, Spain)**



Over the past three years Mobile and Social technologies have featured strongly in the Horizon Report series which examines emerging technologies likely to have an impact on teaching, learning. Mobile devices have progressed from an adoption projection of two to three years in 2006, to a much more imminent adoption prediction trajectory of a year or less in 2008. Whether earlier the educational value of mobile technologies was thought to be delivery of content to people's devices, the emphasis now has clearly changed to focus on their capabilities that enable users creating and sharing content. **The IADIS Mobile Learning 2009 International Conference** (1) seeks to provide a forum for the discussion and presentation of mobile learning research. In particular, but not exclusively, we aim to explore the transition from content consumer to content creator in experiences that take advantage of the learning opportunities this provides.

(1) <http://www.mlearning-conf.org/>

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Call for Presentations—October 17, 2008

**SOCIETY FOR INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND TEACHER EDUCATION 2009
CONFERENCE
(March 2-6, 2009, Charleston, USA)**



SITE 2009 (1) is the 20th annual conference of the **Society for Information Technology and Teacher Education**. This society represents individual teacher educators and affiliated organizations of teacher educators in all disciplines, who are interested in the creation and dissemination of knowledge about the use of information technology in teacher education and faculty/staff development.

(1) <http://site.aace.org/>

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**IEEE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON PERVASIVE COMPUTING
(March 9-13, 2009, Galveston, TX, USA)**



IEEE PerCom (1), now in its seventh year, is established as the worldwide premier scholarly venue in the areas of pervasive computing and communications. PerCom 2009 will provide a high profile, leading edge forum for researchers and engineers alike to present state-of-the-art research in the respective fields of pervasive computing and communications. The conference will feature a

diverse mixture of presentation forums including core technical sessions, several targeted workshops, demonstrations, keynote speeches and panel discussions from domain experts.

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

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Paper Submissions—November 1, 2008

**2nd INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON IMMERSIVE TELECOMMUNICATIONS
(May 27-29, 2009, University of California, Berkeley)**



The aim of **IMMERSCOM** (1) is to focus on multi- and cross-disciplinary research on capturing, processing, analyzing, coding, communication and rendering of rich audio-visual content in order to enable remote immersive experiences of people, objects and environments. The body of technologies that enable such immersive remote experiences is collectively referred to as immersive telecommunications technologies. Applications of immersive telecommunications technologies can be varied, and include telepresence, industrial automation, health care, education, and entertainment. Many of these are also beginning to be viewed as potential green technologies.

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

ABOUT THE KMDiary

The KMDiary Volume 9, Issue #9 (September 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 October 10, 2008. To subscribe to the Diary, send an email to info@kmdi.utoronto.ca and ask to be added to the KMDI Diary mailing list.

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