

KMDiary Volume 10: Issue #5—May 2009

The KMDiary is an electronic newsletter for sharing ideas and information of interest to the community of the Knowledge Media Design Institute (KMDI), a multidisciplinary unit of the Faculty of Information at the University of Toronto.

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FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK



In her March 2009 KMDiary column, Adrian Ieraci highlighted the growing opportunities for provincial and federal funding intended to support research and development in the “digital media” sector. KMDI, with its history of interdisciplinary work, will play a key role in this newly defined sector. Last week, to prepare for meetings with a provincial agency and with a potential higher education partner, I asked myself the question: “What are KMDI’s core competencies in this sector?” Here, in compressed form, is my answer:

Technology

- Computer graphics, animation, vision
- Natural language and speech processing
- Human-computer interaction, computer-supported collaborative work, collaboration technologies
- Social media, social networks, mobile devices and applications

Design

- Disciplines such as user-centred design, participatory design, value-centred design
- Universal design to aid accessibility and to combat disabilities
- Openness, including both open access and open source software development
- Research methodologies, user studies

Societal impact

- eLearning
- eHealth
- eCitizenship, including privacy, security, identity, access, censorship

Do you see yourself in this list? Do you see opportunities to engage other partners and collaborators? Do you see opportunities for new directions appropriate for an advanced research institute such as U of T? In the summer we will be holding meetings to refine this list, plan our

future research agenda, and pursue new funding in digital media. You are encouraged to be part of this discussion, please [write me](#) to share your ideas.

Ron Baecker

ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPEN INTERNET TOWN HALL

(June 8, 2009, 7 p.m., Gladstone Hotel, 1214 Queen St. W., Toronto)

Until now, Canada's Internet has been an open network and a level playing field for free speech, innovation, and consumer choice. All that is now under threat.

Being held during Net Change Week in Toronto, Toronto's Open Internet Town Hall is designed to give local citizens the chance to shape Canada's broadband future. As Canada falls behind other OECD countries on Internet speed, cost, and openness, SaveourNet.ca will host a lively discussion guided by panelists representing web innovators, social change leaders, and public policy gurus.

Featured speakers for the Town Hall include:

Mark Surman (Executive Director of the Mozilla Foundation)

Rocky Gaudrault (CEO of Teksavvy Solutions Inc.)

Steve Anderson (Co-founder of SaveourNet.ca)

Derek Blackadder (National Representative with CUPE)

More details and registration [online](#).

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REVEALING THE NETWORKED AUDIENCE: SOCIAL MEDIA, INFORMATION OVERLOAD AND THE COLLISION OF SOCIAL WORLDS

(June 8, 2009, 10 a.m.-12 p.m., Department of Sociology 725 Spadina Ave, Room 240)

Presented by **Dr. Bernie Hogan**, Research Fellow Oxford Internet Institute and KMDI alumnus

Facebook is now a mass phenomenon. It is the first social network site with a large enough audience to allow many individuals to signify the bulk of their offline friends online. Among the key consequences of Facebook's conflation of social worlds under one roof are concerns about what is acceptable content, and who are acceptable friends. Several competing theories emerge in the literature to explain the process of friending and self-disclosure. These include the symbolic interactionist notion of "impression management", the network analytic notion of "social worlds", and the social psychological notion of "disinhibition". Due to underlying assumptions in all of these theories, none are sufficient for a complete understanding of the social processes on Facebook, yet all have something to contribute.

This presentation will review these theories, and demonstrate the alpha version of a novel Internet-Assisted Personal Interview technique designed to facilitate the exploration of personal networks on Facebook.com and test the validity of these theories. Several example Facebook networks drawn through this tool will be presented and explored. The goal of this work will be both sociological and

design-oriented. Better theories of the cognition of social networks will both advance the field of network analysis as well as its timely application to social network sites.

Dr Bernie Hogan is a Research Fellow at the Oxford Internet Institute where he specializes in the capture and analysis of personal social networks on and offline. Before working at the University of Oxford, Bernie completed his dissertation at the University of Toronto under Barry Wellman. While working on his thesis, Bernie was also an intern at Microsoft Research in the Community Technologies Lab. There he worked with Marc Smith and Danyel Fisher on models of social sorting in email using SNARF (Social Networks and Relationship Finder). Bernie's work has been funded by Microsoft Research, Intel's People & Practices Lab, Bell Canada and SSHRC. Among Bernie's publications are journal articles in *Field Methods*, *Environment and Planning B*, *IEEE Database Systems*, *Statistics Canada's Connectedness Series* and book chapters published by Sage and Springer. Bernie's recent lecture on Facebook for the University of Oxford was in the global top 10 most downloaded lectures at iTunes for the month of February, 2009, and a featured iTunes highlight.

[VISUAL THINKING AT KMDI](#)

(Thursdays, May 14 – June 18, 5:15 p.m. – 6:45 p.m., followed by a public brainstorming session, 6:45 p.m. - 8 p.m.)



Visual artifacts and methods are growing in importance as a means to support communication and reasoning. To develop an understanding of current research and future trends in Visual Thinking, KMDI is launching a lecture series featuring varied understandings and uses of Visual Thinking.

Each week will be dedicated to the exploration of a specific theme, through the presentation of an invited speaker and a public brainstorming session where the conversation can be continued in an interactive and informal atmosphere.

The KMDI lectures series on Visual Thinking is the "public" face of the Summer 2009 graduate Pro-Seminar course KMD 1002H: Contexts and Practices, part of the Knowledge Media Design Institute's Collaborative Program.

The presentations will run every Thursday from May 14 to June 18, from 5:15 p.m. to 6:45 p.m. Each presentation will be followed by a public brainstorming session until 8:00 p.m. The lectures and brainstorming sessions are opened to all interested in knowing more about current research and future trends in Visual Thinking! Please visit <http://visualthinking.kmdi.utoronto.ca/> for complete and up-to-date information on the lecture series.

June 4 - Information (data) visualization

Invited speaker: Sheila Carpendale

Associate Professor, Department of Computer Science, University of Calgary, and Director, Innovis - The Innovations in Visualization Laboratory at the University of Calgary

Location: Bahen, Room 7231

June 11 - Visual thinking in art and design

Invited speaker: Greg Van Alstyne

Associate Professor, Ontario College of Art and Design, and Director of Research, Strategic Innovation Lab, Ontario College of Art and Design

Location: Bahen, Room 7231

June 18 - Visual perception

Invited speaker: Colin Ware

Professor, Computer Science Department and Ocean Engineering, and Director, Data Visualization Research Laboratory, Center for Coastal and Ocean Mapping, University of New Hampshire

Location: Bissel, room 728

THE VIRTUAL WATER COOLER: AROUND THE COMMUNITY

U OF T, KMDI REPRESENTED AT UPA 2009 ISDC



Two U of T teams have qualified to compete in Portland at this year's International Student Design Competition (ISDC) at the conference of the [Usability Professionals Association](#). This year, the Usability Professionals' Association is spreading awareness and encouraging youth participation to address a sustainable transportation issue by holding their first ISDC. In the first round of the contest, students submitted a report describing their solution and design process. U of T teams made it to the second round, two of ten groups, and will travel to Portland June 7-12 to present their projects.



Valerie Mais (MIE) and **Michael Swift** (MIE) created ZERO, a not-for-profit organization that provides auto-rickshaw retrofit kits to megacities of the developing world. Since almost 70% of the world's megacities are located in third world countries, they decided to focus on modifying a current mode of transportation so it not only leaves no negative environmental impact, but is also a realistic solution in places with extremely low access to financial resources.

Daniel Zinargo(OISE)and **Phil Lam**, both former students in KMDI 1001, are presenting "Harnessing Emerging Mobile Technology to Reduce Single-Occupancy Vehicle Usage." They will provide an overview of the carpooling space with respect to the current state of the field , propose a convergence of social and mobile technologies with transportation, and show a preliminary design for a system to decrease the occurrence of single occupancy in private vehicles.

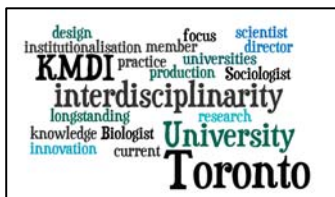
Good luck to both our teams!

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Gale Moore (KMDI, SOC) has just returned from 3 months in Mexico City where she was a Visiting Professor at EGADE, Tecnológico de Monterrey. It was an interesting time to be in a business school, and she is excited by work taking place there and by the interest shown by faculty and students in transdisciplinary practices and knowledge media design. On April 22nd Gale gave a lecture on *Innovation in a Time of Uncertainty*. Two days later, a new form of uncertainty arrived in terms of the H1N1 virus. Fortunately, this proved to be relatively mild and the university re-opened May 6th.

Also this month, **Gale Moore** (KMDI, SOC) was invited to participate in the NSF Design Workshop— *Spanning Design Boundaries* which was held at the Segal Design Institute at Northwestern University on April 16th & 17th. With faculty and students from engineering, business, and design schools as well as practitioners from industry, this diverse group readily engaged in the main task of the Workshop which was to create an ideal interdisciplinary graduate design curriculum. The back of the conference badge (Gale's shown at right), based on a 50 word bio and generated using Wordle (see Cool Tools), showed at a glance where connections might be made.



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Leslie Chan (KMDI, UTSC) and **Gale Moore** (KMDI, SOC) are hosting a [Symposium on the Institutionalisation of Openness \(IOU\)](#) as part of [ELPUB 2009](#), the 13th International Conference on Electronic Publishing being held in Milan, June 10-12th. This year's ELPUB theme is *Rethinking Electronic Publishing: Innovation in Communication Paradigms and Technologies*. This Symposium grows out of work being done by a core group of researchers from Project Open Source | Open Access who continue to meet regularly.



Also this month, **Leslie Chan** delivered a lecture at a workshop at the African [Digital Scholarship and Curation Conference](#) in Pretoria, South Africa, May 14, 2009. The title of the talk was "New research and teaching opportunities in the open knowledge environments".



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On April 29, **Nina Czegledy** (KMDI), co-chaired with Prof. Felipe C. Londono the first [Latin American Leonardo Education Forum](#) network meeting with participants from six countries at the 8th [Festival Internacional de la Imagen](#), University de Caldes, Manizales, Colombia. On May 5th Nina Czegledy gave master classes at the Tecnología y Estética de las Artes Master's Program, [Universidad Nacional de Tres de Febrero](#), Buenos Aires, Argentina and on May 6th presented at VII International Congress on "Globalization, Gender and Human Rights" at the School of Economics, University of Buenos Aires, Argentina. The conference was developed and organized by the Canadian-Argentinean Institute.



Ron Deibert (KMDI, Political Science) was featured in the New York Times this month. [“Tracking Cyberspies Through the Web Wilderness”](#) walks the reader through how Ghostnet was first suspected, tracked, and found, highlighting the roles of Ron Deibert, Nart Villeneuve, and Greg Walton.

KMDIALOGUE



A conversation between KMDiary Editor Sadie Yancey and former KMDI Director Gale Moore

Since being Director of KMDI, what have you been up to?

One of the wonderful things about being a senior academic administrator at the University of Toronto is that you get a full year off at the end of your term. After a leisurely 6 weeks France last July and August, where I thought a lot about how I could bring convergence to the many areas in which I had been working over the last 10 years, I settled into several months of writing and research. I was invited to spend the winter term at EGADE, Zona Centro, Tecnológico de Monterrey in Mexico City. This was my first experience in a business school and I really enjoyed working with my colleagues there and with the MBA students. It was a great way to learn Spanish and I quickly adjusted to having perfect weather all the time! The research team from Project Open Source|Open Access continued to be active this year and we launched a Student Experience Program (SEP) in February. I've also been a member of SODA: Scholarly Output in a Digital Age, a Working Group in the Jackman Humanities Institute which involves several KMDI members. It's been a busy and productive year, yet relatively stress free. I recommend it!

What are you looking forward to in the next year? New collaborations, conferences, or projects?

I'll be returning to the University of Toronto half-time for the next two years, and I look forward to having more flexibility in terms of where, and when, I work. I will continue to lead the project on the *Institutionalisation of Openness in Universities* that has developed out of Project OS|OA and I am working with a graduate student from the Faculty of Information over the next few months on a SEP project. I will also be doing some teaching at the Ontario College of Art and Design in the fall. I am exploring potential research collaborations with colleagues both at UofT and beyond, so there are a number of exciting possibilities on the horizon. But right now I'm still enjoying the freedom of another month of leave, and about to reap the rewards of a year of writing with a number of conference presentations in June.

How is your work interdisciplinary? How does being interdisciplinary affect your research?

I'm passionate about interdisciplinarity and it deeply informs all I do. I have been engaged in 'interdisciplinary' activities for my entire career. It hasn't been a conscious choice but the ideas that interest me tend to emerge at the edges of more than one discipline. I prefer the term *transdisciplinarity* to describe this form of practice. As a field of scholarship interdisciplinarity is used to describe disciplinary crossings in general. As a practice, the outcome of true *interdisciplinarity* is increased specialisation. Few projects aspire to be interdisciplinary in this sense; in fact their objective is precisely the opposite – to address complex and often systemic issues which no single discipline can do alone. This is how I understand the field of knowledge media design. However, this form of practice often challenges established norms around the production of knowledge and is can be difficult to institutionalize it in tradition universities where the reward systems are administered at the department or faculty level. However, transdisciplinarity is

increasingly being shown to be generative of new ideas and important for innovation. So, I'm optimistic about the future. I'll be giving a paper on this topic in the UK in July which will be published in the *Interrogations* series.

As a sociologist, how do you see the knowledge media design space evolving in the next 10 years? What do you think will be its major challenges?

Creating teams with diverse backgrounds and perspectives is increasingly understood to be important for addressing 21st century challenges and innovation. These practices are complementary and not competitive with other forms of disciplinary or interdisciplinarity practice, and I wish this was better understood. We need more constructive and nuanced dialogue and debate on these issues. More concretely, we need better ways of framing complex issues, and to be aware of how the background assumptions and values of individual scholars are shaping their point of view, and our own. We all need to 'stretch' intellectually to make this work, and it's not always comfortable. As a sociologist I feel there are many contributions the discipline can make to transdisciplinary projects. What drew me to sociology initially was the search for stronger theories and methods. I see an ongoing need for more informed socio-cultural and socio-technical perspectives in our projects, and disciplined instruction in a variety of social science methods. A deep understanding of the ways in which all aspects of society are being transformed with the turn to the digital is in everyone's interest. At the same time these issues cannot be addressed by any single discipline. We need a place where a diverse set of colleagues can meet and engage in dialogue, debate and innovate... hmmm, that sounds like KMDI!

What was KMDI's most significant achievement in the last 5 years? What about the next 5 years?

In preparing my Directors' Report at the end of the term I realized how much the faculty, students and staff associated with KMDI had accomplished. Individually and collectively we were ahead of the wave of thinking about issues of the knowledge society and economy and the transformation to the digital; whether it was about new policy for new media, developing new technologies that put people first, innovative and provocative lecture series, innovating organizationally as the first virtual institute at the University of Toronto or developing new graduate programs and Canada wide research projects. KMDI members are leaders in the university. The next five years? The future of this emerging field is impossible to predict, but with KMDI now established in the Faculty of Information, the institutional base is stronger, and new opportunities will emerge. I look forward to being part of it.

OTHER NEWS

[GOOGLE FACES ANTITRUST INVESTIGATION FOR AGREEMENT TO DIGITIZE MILLIONS OF BOOKS ONLINE](#)



The Justice Department has launched an investigation into whether Google is violating antitrust laws by reaching an agreement with authors and publishers to digitize millions of printed books and post the contents online. In this [video](#), Democracy Now speaks to Brewster Kahle, founder of the non-profit internet library Archive.org. He's among critics warning Google could end up with a monopoly of access to information and exclusive license to profit from millions of books.

save them to the Wordle gallery to share with your friends.

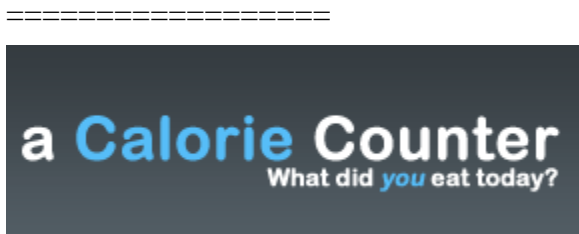
Source: Wordle May 25/09



[Webnotes](#), a service that lets you highlight and add floating sticky notes on top of live Web pages, now has a pro version. For \$9.99 a month, users get the option to mark up not just normal Web pages, but PDFs too. If you come across a PDF you want to mark up, Webnotes can convert it into a special

Flash-based PDF viewer that's got the Webnotes mark-up tools built in. It also saves the entire document to your Webnotes account so you can access it even if the page goes offline. Other premium-only features include support in case something goes wrong, and the option to highlight content in multiple colors. You can use this feature to sort your annotations within any folders by color. This makes it easier to organize notes after you've taken them

Source: [CNet](#) May 21/09



Ready to shed the winter weight? [A Calorie Counter](#) assists your diet and exercise regimen by helping you track your caloric intake. It enables you to search the USDA Food Nutrition database for anything you've eaten throughout the day. Once you find what you're looking for in the results, it reveals

nutritional facts and a box that lets you change your serving size. When you update your serving size, the nutritional fact image changes to show you exactly how many calories you consumed.

Source: [CNet](#) May 21/09



[Woot](#) is a impulse buyer's dream, or nightmare. As described in the tagline "One Day, One Deal," only one product is sold at a time, and the product changes each night at midnight. The site includes technical and casual description of the product, space for comments, and statistics of previous sales. Woot has spurred other sites: shirts.woot.com and wine.woot.com.

WORKSHOPS/SEMINARS/SYMPOSIA

BODYLAB: EXPLORING THE BODY IN COMMUNICATION (September 4, 2009, British HCI, Cambridge, UK)

BodyLAB is a half-day workshop with a mix of activities that explores the role of the body in communication through physical activities, discussions of relevant social science research and design activities. The workshop will start with activities that will help us feel, as opposed to talk about, the role of the body in communication. These activities will be followed by presentations and discussions of relevant social science research. The last part of the workshop is to apply the

experiences and discussions to the design of selected scenarios that participants described in their positions papers, such as virtual environments or tabletop usage. It is our aim for the participants to discover areas of exploration of the body within the realm of their own sub-field of technology.

For more information, contact organizer Cecily Morrison (University of Cambridge, Computer Science) Cecily.Morrison@cl.cam.ac.uk

CONFERENCES

Early-bird registration July 6

ALT-C 2009: "IN DREAMS BEGIN RESPONSIBILITIES – CHOICE, EVIDENCE, AND CHANGE"

(September 8-10, 2009, Manchester, UK)



The 2009 meeting of the Association for Learning Technology (ALT) explores how learning technologies and learning technologists are now at the heart of modern learning, and yet our community still faces many challenges, for example:

- learning from history to build on past gains and avoid previous mistakes;
- spreading innovations that are of true value, rather than mere fads;
- redesigning pedagogy, the curriculum, and assessment methods to secure a substantial positive impact on learning;
- ensuring cost effectiveness by various means, from working effectively at a large scale, to supporting peer-assisted learning cultures;
- developing a research culture that informs practice, and a culture of practice that uses research evidence.

To rise to these challenges, we must dream and act on our dreams, but evidence must justify the choices we make. ALT-C 2009 will provide a broad forum for practitioners, researchers and policy-makers from all sectors to explore, reflect, and learn.

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Papers and studios due August 3

Explorations and graduate student consortium due October 2

TEI'10: CONFERENCE ON TANGIBLE, EMBEDDED, AND EMBODIED INTERACTION

(January 25-27, 2009, Cambridge, Massachusetts)

TEI'10

TEI'10 is the fourth international conference dedicated to presenting the latest results in tangible, embedded, and embodied interaction.

The work presented at TEI addresses HCI issues, design, interactive art, user experience, tools and technologies, with a strong focus on how computing can finally bridge atoms and bits into cohesive interactive systems. The intimate size of this single-track conference provides a unique forum for exchanging ideas and presenting

innovative work through talks, interactive exhibits, demos, hands-on studios, posters, art installations and performances.

To learn more about submitting work to TEI'10, please see [participation](#).

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Update – Registration Open – Free for U of T community

[ICEL 2009 – 4TH INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON E-LEARNING](#)

(July 16-17, 2009, U of T, Toronto)



Registration is now open for this exciting conference hosted by U of T. As a benefit of our university's hosting this event, members of the U of T community are entitled to complimentary attendance of the conference. Faculty, staff, students and alumni can now register [here](#).

The International Conference on e-Learning (ICEL-2009) invites researchers, practitioners and academics to present their research findings, work in progress, case studies and conceptual advances in areas of work where education and technology intersect. The conference brings together varied groups of people with different perspectives, experiences and knowledge in one location. It aims to help practitioners find ways of putting research into practice and researchers to gain an understanding of real-world problems, needs and aspirations.

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Submissions due: Oct. 21, 2009

[SITE 2010: SOCIETY FOR INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND TEACHER EDUCATION INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE](#)

(March 29-April 2, 2010, San Diego, California)



SITE 2010 is the 21st 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. SITE is a society of the [Association for the Advancement of Computing in Education \(AACE\)](#).

[SITE](#) is unique as the only organization which has as its sole focus the integration of instructional technologies into teacher education programs. SITE promotes the development and dissemination of theoretical knowledge, conceptual research, and professional practice knowledge through conferences, books, projects, and the [Journal of Technology and Teacher Education \(JTATE\)](#). You are invited to attend and participate in this annual international forum which offer numerous opportunities to share your ideas, explore the research, development, and applications, and to network with the leaders in this important field of teacher education and technology.

PREVIOUSLY ANNOUNCED CONFERENCES

Workshop papers, tutorials, panels, interactive session proposals due June 30

Open forum proposals due July 31

[ICCE 2009- INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON COMPUTERS IN EDUCATION](#)

(November 30 – December 4, 2009, Hong Kong)

[IADIS INTERNATIONAL MULTI CONFERENCE ON COMPUTER SCIENCE AND INFORMATION SYSTEMS 2009](#)

(June 17-20, 2009, Algarve, Portugal)

[WORLD CONFERENCE ON EDUCATIONAL MULTIMEDIA, HYPERMEDIA & TELECOMMUNICATIONS](#)

(June 22-26, 2009, Honolulu, Hawaii)

[EISTA 2009- 7TH INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON EDUCATION AND INFORMATION SYSTEMS, TECHNOLOGIES AND APPLICATIONS](#)

(July 10-13, 2009, Orlando, Florida, USA)

[8TH INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON WEB-BASED LEARNING](#)

(August 19-21, 2009, Aachen, Germany)

[IEEE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON SOCIAL COMPUTING – SOCIALCOM](#)

(August 29-31, 2009, Vancouver, Canada)

[NEXT GENERATION MOBILE APPLICATIONS, SERVICES, AND TECHNOLOGIES](#)

(September 15-18, 2009, Cardiff, UK)

[MEDICINE 2.0 - 2ND INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON SOCIAL NETWORKING AND WEB 2.0 IN HEALTH, HEALTH CARE, MEDICINE, AND BIOMEDICAL RESEARCH](#)

(September 17-18, 2009, MaRS Center, Toronto)

[IEEE TORONTO INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY FOR HUMANITY](#)

(September 27-29, 2009, Toronto, Canada)

[8TH WORLD CONFERENCE ON MOBILE AND CONTEXTUAL LEARNING](#)

(October 26-30, 2009, Orlando, Florida, USA)

[E- LEARN 09 - WORLD CONFERENCE ON E-LEARNING IN CORPORATE, GOVERNMENT, HEALTHCARE, & HIGHER EDUCATION](#)

(October 26-30, 2009, Vancouver, BC Canada)

[ACM CREATIVITY AND COGNITION 2009](#)

(October 27-29, 2009, Berkeley, California)

SUPER COMPUTING CONFERENCE
(November 14-20, 2009, Portland, Oregon)

ABOUT THE KMDiary

The KMDiary Volume 10, Issue #5 (May 2009). 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 Sadie Yancey at syancey@kmdi.utoronto.ca. The deadline for submissions for the next issue is June 23, 2009. To subscribe or unsubscribe to the Diary, go to: <http://mail.kmdi.utoronto.ca/mailman/listinfo/kmdiary>.

The KMDiary is produced by the University of Toronto's Knowledge Media Design Institute (KMDI), a multidisciplinary unit of the Faculty of Information. Please feel free to post widely, but leave the KMDI signature for our recognition. Thank you.