

## KMDiary Volume 7: Issue # 1—January 2006

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 DIRECTOR'S DESK



Happy New Year! I hope everyone had a great holiday and is back with lots of energy for the spring term. January 29<sup>th</sup> is the first day of the Chinese new year and as Kelly Rankin's photo reminds us it's the Year of the Dog – a year considered to be a time of transition and change.

One change to look for is significant improvements in the KMDI website. The EVENTS section has already been completed and now contains our archives back to 1996. The PEOPLE and RESEARCH pages will soon be up to date. Special thanks to all those who responded to **Lorraine Flaherty's** request for material. **Barbara Soren** has been reviewing the CP pages, and we'll refresh and update the home page. If anyone has suggestions, or frustrations, with the site, we welcome your input.

The Working Papers and Technical Reports series will be re-launching in February, along with a new Papers series. We will also feature the theses of our KMD graduates and Fellows. I would encourage those of you with manuscripts for any of these series to submit them to the editor, **Barry Wellman** (SOC). Submission guidelines are on the site under PUBLICATIONS.

The Spring Lecture series – *Dissolving Boundaries* launches February 9<sup>th</sup> with a panel moderated by **John Danahy** (FALD) and **Rodney Hoinkes** and **Stacey Spiegel** of Immersions Studios participating. All talks will be announced in the KMDigest and a poster designed by **Joseph Ferenbok** (PhD, FIS) will soon

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be available. **Charles Finley** (Project OS|OA, KMDI) will be posting the call for the new round of the Student Experience Program this week, and a number of other OS|OA events will be announced shortly. I look forward to seeing many of you at the Institute for these events, and I hope that one of your new year's resolutions might be to regularly submit news of *your* activities to the Diary at [info@kmdi.utoronto.ca](mailto:info@kmdi.utoronto.ca).

Gale Moore

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### ONTARIO LAUNCHES ACCESSIBILITY STANDARDS COUNCIL



Television personality, author and educator, **David Onley** and community leader/disability advocate, **Tracy MacCharles** are heading up a new provincial **Accessibility Standards Advisory Council** that will report to the **Minister of Community and Social Services**. The council was established by the [Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2005 \(AODA\)](#), and will serve a key role in creating an accessible society over the next 20 years. The mandate includes advising the government on “accessibility standards and on sector-specific and general public education programs to support and educate individuals, businesses and other organizations about accessibility and accessibility standards”. One of the members of the council is U of T's **Jutta Treviranus** (Director, ATRC, FIS, KMDI) who is an international expert on standards and specifications for accessible information technology.

(1) <http://www.mcass.gov.on.ca/accessibility/index.html>

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### ALOUETTE CANADA PROJECT SET TO DIGITIZE MILLIONS OF BOOKS

Canadian research libraries are working together to put their books online through a new alliance called **Alouette Canada**. The process involves scanning millions of books and rare documents, with parts of the virtual library available at no cost to Internet users early next year. U of T Chief Librarian **Carol Moore** is heading up a group of 27 major Canadian academic research libraries that have joined the project. Alouette is working with a bigger international effort known as **Open Content Alliance** which is based in San Francisco. A web site for the project is expected soon. (Source: CBC News, December 29, 2005)

(1) [http://scilib.typepad.com/science\\_library\\_pad/2005/12/digitization\\_fo.html](http://scilib.typepad.com/science_library_pad/2005/12/digitization_fo.html)

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### DOORS OF PERCEPTION LOOKS AT DESIGN AS CENTRAL TO UK ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL SUCCESS

The whole North East region of the UK will be involved throughout 2007 in a unique 10-year program aimed at finding new ways to carry out “familiar, daily-life activities”. **Doors of**

**Perception** will participate in this “festival of social innovation and service design” which has been christened **Designs of the Time (DOTT)**. In addition to learning how “an entire region might accelerate its transition to a less-stuff-more-people world”, the project will focus on principles such as sustainability and the ways products and systems are designed, made, used, and looked after. Public commissions are planned to discover what issues and projects are most important to local communities. Doors of Perception is looking for projects related to Dott. The project will end in October 2007 with **The Creative Community Awards**, a showcase for all the year’s projects. A free newsletter is available online.

(1) <http://www.dott07.com/>

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### NEW COALITION TO FIGHT FOR AN “OPEN INTERNET”

A new group has been formed to fight against the “barrage of policy, regulatory, and related technologically-enabled attacks” against the Internet and its “open-access, end-to-end operational model”. The **International Open Internet Coalition (IOIC)** is functioning under the banner of the **People for Internet Responsibility (PFIR)**. It is “dedicated to the proposition that the Internet should remain an open and neutral resource, free from unreasonable interference or restrictions on the actions of businesses, organizations, individuals, or others related to their access or use of the Internet”. The interference of concern stems from attempts by governments and certain ISPs to control users’ access to other web-based services as a means of promoting their own offerings. To participate in IOIC, send an email to [info@ioic.net](mailto:info@ioic.net)

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

## VIRTUAL WATER COOLER: AROUND THE COMMUNITY



**KMDI** is pleased to welcome **David Patrick Ryan** as a new member of the Institute. Dr. Ryan is Director of Education for the Regional Geriatric Program of Toronto, a distributed network of healthcare services for frail seniors that is affiliated with the U of T. He is also an Assistant Professor in the Faculty of Medicine, and a Director of Openflows



Networks Ltd., a company that develops open source software applications for clients such as the CBC, The American Library Association, the Government of Canada, and [USAToday](http://www.usatoday.com). Dr. Ryan’s interests include distance education, online learning and new technology, rural development and community living, and aging and organizational behaviour.

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Hearty congratulations to **Gerald Penn** (Computer Science) on being awarded the **Early Researcher Award** for his **NECTAR** research project on speech. The award is given by the **Ontario Ministry of Research and Innovation** "to help promising, recently appointed Ontario researchers build their research teams of graduate students, post-doctoral fellows, and research associates. The ultimate goal of the program is to improve Ontario's ability to attract and retain the best and brightest research talent in high-priority economic areas." Professor Penn is cross-appointed to **KMDI** and is a member of its **Collaborative Program** Committee.

(1) <http://www.nectar-research.net/news/>

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**Tracy Kennedy** and **Barry Wellman** (Sociology) were featured in a December 28, 2005 **Associated Press** story by **Nick Jesdanun** on the **Pew Internet** report on gender differences and the narrowing of the digital divide in the U.S. Wellman and Kennedy pointed out that women were using the Internet as much as men, but that some gender differences remain in the ways in which they use it.

(1) <http://www.forbes.com/work/feeds/ap/2005/12/28/ap2417960.html>

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**BILL BUXTON BUSTS OUT** is the headline of a recent article by Shane Schick in *itbusiness.ca*. Schick describes Bill as an alumnus of Alias, U of T and OCAD, and says the interface expert is probably one of the most well-traveled tech luminaries Canada has to offer. In this interview Bill talks about his new role at Microsoft, why Apple is relevant and how to pick the perfect tomato knife!

Source: *itbusiness.ca*

(1) <http://www.itbusiness.ca/it/client/en/home/News.asp?id=38090>

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Congratulations to **Megan Boler** (Theory and Policy Studies, OISE/UT) who has been awarded a three-year **SSHRC** grant for a research project entitled, Rethinking Media, Democracy and Citizenship: New Media Practices and Online Digital Dissent after September 11. Working with her is a team of nine graduate students, including KMD students **Jennifer Kayahara** (Ph.D. Candidate, Sociology) and **Elise Chien** (Master's Candidate, Faculty of Information Studies). Their project is looking at how *digital* media use increases political dissent and civic participation, despite a climate in which *mainstream* media are increasingly restricted by both the narrowed channels for public participation due to media ownership concentration and the cultural repression following 9/11.

More congratulations are due this month, this time to **Leslie Chan** (Social Sciences, UTSC) on his promotion to Senior Lecturer. Leslie is also the Supervisor of Studies for the International Studies Program and Supervisor of New Media Studies Program (UTSC).

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And in the junior division, two babies arrived this month:

KMDI joins the Department of Mechanical and Electrical Engineering in congratulating Mark Chignell and his wife, Sachi, on the birth of their son, Ken. The baby was born on January 4, 2006; and weighed 2.8 kilos and is very healthy. The new family is doing well.”

And congratulations to Ana Viseu (KMDI Fellow) on the birth of her son, Mathias Barros Viseu Hessenbruch on January 17<sup>th</sup>. Mathias weighed in at 8 lbs 8 ounces (3.991 grams) Both mother and son are doing well.

## PROJECT OS | OA

### UTSC STUDENTS DEVELOPING OS CAPABILITY IN CHAD

**Émanuèle Lapierre-Fortin** and **Wojciech Gryc**, two students in the **UTSC New Media** program are in N'Djamena, Chad, working with **Five Minutes for Midnight (FMM)**, an NGO aimed at promoting young people's involvement in media and human rights. The students' project, called **The Article 13 Initiative**, is providing **Rafiqui**, another youth organization, with Open Source Software (OSS) to help it develop its newspaper and increase its effectiveness. Émanuèle and Wojciech have created a blog (2) to report on the project. Wojciech is Editor-in-Chief of the FMM's online newsletter.

(1) <http://www.i2r.org/fmm/>

(2) <http://i2r.org/fmm/a13i/>

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### TEST DRIVE SAKAI 2.1

**Unicon, Inc.**, a provider of enterprise portal, collaboration, learning, and integration technology for higher education institutions, has launched a hosted **Sakai Test Drive** program in partnership with **Optimized Learning, Inc.**, an ASP company specializing in open source technologies. The Sakai Test Drive program will give educational instructors and IT personnel with “a risk-free, zero-cost program to evaluate the latest **Sakai v2.1 Collaborative Learning Environment and Course Management System** without incurring licensing fees, development/maintenance time and resources, or hardware purchases.”

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

## FOUNDATION ANNOUNCES INITIATIVE TO ACCELERATE OSS DEVELOPMENT

**SLAW.ca** (1), a cooperative weblog about research and IT in the legal community, noted recently that “four information technology companies, seven American universities and the **Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation** have adopted first-of-a-kind guiding principles to accelerate collaborative research for open source software” (2). The parties agreed that “intellectual property arising from selected research collaborations will be made available free of charge for commercial and academic use”, and “to established a set of guidelines that address the rights of the participants and the public”. The agreement recognizes that “the principles will accelerate innovation and contribute to open source software research across a breadth of initiatives, thus enabling the development of related industry standards and greater interoperability, while managing intellectual property in a more balanced manner”.

(1) <http://www.slaw.ca/2005/12/19/open-source-collaboration-and-getting-beyond-the-ip-innovation-roadblocks/>

(2) <http://www.kauffman.org/items.cfm?itemID=662>

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## 1<sup>ST</sup> EUROPEAN CONFERENCE ON SCIENTIFIC PUBLISHING IN BIOMEDICINE AND MEDICINE

(April 21-22, 2006, Lund, Sweden)

The aim of the conference (1) is to explore the challenges of the Open Access model and help researchers understand the opportunities and threats.

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

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## NEW WEB SITE OPEN TO SHARING ENTREPRENEURIAL IDEAS

**OpenBusiness** is a “platform to share and develop innovative Open Business ideas- entrepreneurial ideas which are built around openness, free services and free access”. The project’s goals are to build an online resource of innovative business models, ideas and tools, and to publish an OpenBusiness Guidebook. Anyone with an idea or comment to proffer can register at the web site. Project sponsors are the Arts Council England, Canada’s IDRC (International Development Research Centre), and the Open Society Institute.

(1) <http://www.openbusiness.cc/>

## FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

*Call for Applications—February 15, 2006*

### U OF T UNDERGRADUATE EXCELLENCE AWARDS IN THE SOCIAL SCIENCES AND HUMANITIES AVAILABLE IN SUMMER 2006

The **U of T Undergraduate Excellence Awards in the Social Sciences and Humanities (UTEA-SSH) Program** (1) will be available again this summer. The program funds undergraduate research activities in the humanities or social sciences for 16 weeks in the summer term. The student must be working under the direction of an eligible SSHRC-funded researcher. The amount of the award is \$5,625. Applications should be sent to Sarah Scott (Research Services), Simcoe Hall, Room 133S.

(1) [http://www.research.utoronto.ca/UTEA\\_SSH\\_outline.html](http://www.research.utoronto.ca/UTEA_SSH_outline.html)

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*Call for Project Proposals—March 10, 2006*



### SCIENCE AND RESEARCH PROPOSALS SOUGHT FOR INTERNATIONAL POLAR YEAR 2007-2008

The Federal Government has issued a call for proposals for science and research projects on the Earth's polar regions and seas. The **International Polar Year (IPY)** (1) initiative is international in scope, and Canadian projects will be linked with those of 50 other countries. The IPY focus is on **CLIMATE CHANGE IMPACTS AND ADAPTATION**, and the **HEALTH AND WELL-BEING OF NORTHERN COMMUNITIES** in the Arctic and Antarctic regions. Proposals can request funding for up to five years; projects can start before March 1, 2007 and end after March 1, 2009, but should cover one or both of the IPY years.

(1) <http://www.api-ipy.gc.ca/>

## AWARDS

### THE SPARC EUROPE AWARD FOR OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENTS IN SCHOLARLY COMMUNICATIONS



SPARC Europe (1), a leading organization of European research libraries, today announced the inauguration of a new annual Award will be presented to an individual or group within Europe

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that has made significant advances in our understanding of the issues surrounding scholarly communications and/or in developing practical means to address the problems with the current systems.

Nominations are open to all who have made major contributions in the field of scholarly communications, and the judging panel particularly wishes to receive nominations of individuals or groups working in any of the following areas: a) research that helps illuminate the scholarly communications landscape b) advocacy for new models of scholarly communications c) development of new tools to aid scholarly communication (e.g. repository software) d) interesting new projects or products, and e) implementation of policies that promote new scholarly communication models.

Nominations (together with a short outline of the nominee's work) should be sent to David Prosser, Director of SPARC Europe no later than 10th February 2006. The Award will be present at the Third Nordic Conference on Scholarly Communication, to be held at Lund, Sweden 24 - 25 April 2006 (2)..

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

(2) <http://www.lub.lu.se/ncsc2006/>

## RESEARCH

### RESEARCH CLUSTER LOOKS AT DESIGN IN THE 21<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY

Universities in England, France and the United States have formed a research cluster focused on **EMBRACING COMPLEXITY IN DESIGN (ECID)** under the auspices of the **Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council (EPSR)**. The project is being funded by the Council and managed jointly with the **Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC)**. The group believes that "embracing complexity is a key issue in designing for the 21<sup>st</sup> century...and essential to the competitive advantage for UK industry and wealth creation". The cluster is intended to "stimulate vigorous multidisciplinary interaction across the design community". **Jeffrey Johnson** (Research Professor of Complexity and Design, and Vice-President of the European Complex Systems Society) is the cluster coordinator.

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

## RESOURCES/PUBLICATIONS



### JOINT INTERNET PROJECT SURVEYS CANADIANS' USE AND NON-USE PATTERNS

The Canadian Internet Project/Projet Internet Canada (CIP) uses a representational survey to examine "the behaviour and attitudes of both users and non-users and the economic, cultural, and

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social implications of the Internet in Canada, in comparative perspective”. The original survey was conducted in 2004 and provides the benchmark for a panel to be formed every second year to continue the work. CIP partners are the **Canadian Media Research Consortium/Consortium Canadien de Recherche sur les Médias** (the senior/governing partner) which is made up of research bodies at **York University, Ryerson University, University of British Columbia, and L'école des Hautes études commerciales, Université Laval**. **Bell Canada** is the industry partner and several federal government departments are participating and providing funding. The project is supported by the **CITÉ de l'Université de Montréal (Centre for Interdisciplinary Research on Emerging Technologies)**, and the **Robarts Centre for Canadian Studies (York University)**. CIP is also a partner of **The World Internet Project (WIP)**, an international research consortium that shares and compares data obtained in response to a subset of 30 questions posed in more than 16 countries.

(1) <http://www.canadianinternetproject.ca/en/intro.htm>

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### **CANADIAN LIBRARIES SHOULD HAVE ROLE IN E-LEARNING**

The **Canadian Association of Research Libraries (CARL)** has released its report (1) on the role libraries should play in e-learning. The publication notes that the “use of electronic learning in Canadian institutions has increased by as much as 30% over the past five years and that library participation has kept pace”. As well, faculty members have added online journals and databases to their course content. Libraries and E-Learning: Final Report of the CARL E-Learning Working Group urges CARL and its member libraries to “act at the institution, national and international levels to ensure that library services and resources are integrated into learning management systems, and that library expertise benefits teachers and learners directly”.

(1) [http://www.carl-abrc.ca/projects/e\\_learning/pdf/communiqué-e.pdf](http://www.carl-abrc.ca/projects/e_learning/pdf/communiqué-e.pdf)

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### **OECD STUDY EXAMINES DIGITAL DIVIDE IN CANADA**

An **OECD** study, entitled Learning a Living, has found that the digital divide is worsened “by the fact that people who do not have access to computers also have significantly lower literacy skills than computer users”. The Adult Literacy and Life Skills Survey was conducted in 2003 in Canada, Bermuda, Italy, Norway, Switzerland, and the United States. In this country, the survey found that three of 10 people (29%) who had not used computers, were interested in starting to use one in the following year. “This has significant consequences, because people with the lowest skills, who potentially stand to benefit most from the opportunities created by new technologies, are not using them. This is particularly the case with the Internet, where potential benefits include access to health and government services, employment information, shopping and other services”. The survey also confirmed the link between literacy and the use of computers and the Internet. “Among Canadian adults aged 16 to 65, about 9 million, or 42% scored below Level 3 in prose literacy — the desired threshold for coping with the increasing skill demands of a knowledge society”. More

than 23,000 Canadians were surveyed on their proficiency in prose literacy, document literacy, numeracy, and problem-solving. The survey also included an (ICT) module which captured detailed information on connectivity rates, use of ICTs and attitudes toward computers. (Source: CBC News, December 5, 2005)

(1) <http://www.statcan.ca/bsolc/english/bsolc?catno=89-603-XWE>

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**BLOGS CANADA HAS SOMETHING FOR VERY EVERYONE**

**Blogs Canada's** web site includes something for just about every blogger. There's a Directory of more than 10,000 Canadian blog listings, organized by topic and region, the *Monthly Top Ten Blogs* list, blogging news, resources, a group blog, and even a political index.

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

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**TORONTO NGO BRINGING FREE WIRELESS ACCESS TO THE CITY**

Check out the web site of **Wireless Toronto** (1), an NGO dedicated to bringing no-fee wireless Internet access to Toronto, and to encouraging "the growth of wireless networking and to build community in interesting and innovative ways". The web site lists hot spot locations, opportunities to become a purveyor of the service, and information on how to get involved with this group.

(1) <http://wirelesstoronto.ca/>

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**WORLDWIDE PUBLISHER TO MAKE BOOK CONTENTS AVAILABLE PAGE-BY-PAGE**

**Random House Inc.** announced in November its intention to work with "online booksellers, search engines, entertainment portals, and other appropriate vendors to offer the contents of its books to consumers for online viewing on a pay-per-page-view basis". This initiative (1) recognizes that "digital search, display, and distribution will be increasingly important for books over time, and that while readers will want digital access in various formats, publishers and authors must be properly compensated and protected as such markets develop". Separate agreements will be made with vendors and authors can opt out of having their work included in the pay-per-page-view program.

(1) <http://www.randomhouse.com/trade/publicity/pdfs/OnlineViewingRH1.pdf>

## CIVIL SOCIETY DECLARATION EXPRESSES ONGOING CONCERN ABOUT “PEOPLE ISSUES”

The **Civil Society Element** (1) has released a declaration on the outcomes of the **World Information Society Summit** held in Tunis in November 2005. The declaration lays out the Society's concerns including the “insufficient attention, or inadequate recommendations concerning people-centred issues such as the degree of attention paid to human rights and freedom of expression, the financial mechanisms for the promotion of development that was the original impetus for the WSIS process, and support for capacity building.” The plan is to continue working with the UN and other agencies to, among other things, “ensure that all future summit processes be multi-stakeholder in their approach, allowing for appropriate flexibility. This would be achieved either by recognition of precedents set in summit processes, or by formulating a rules of procedure manual to guide future summit processes and day-to-day Civil Society interaction with the international community”.

(1) <http://www.wsis-cs.org>

(2) <http://itforchange.net/images/stories//wsis-cs-summit-statement.doc>

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## SEEKING SOLUTIONS TO COMMON PROBLEMS



The **Common Solutions Group (CSG)** was created to enable institutions of higher education and higher education IT consortia to work together to create a common infrastructure and toolset for the future. The **Stone Soup Group**, as it was originally called, was founded in 1992 to discuss the future of academic and research networking. The invitation to the first meetings included leaders of regional and national networks with strong ties to academia, and CIOs from leading academic institutions with a strong interest in networking. The name was changed in 1994 to Common Solutions Group when participants realized that their work was “focused upon defining the next generation of network applications, and ways to overcome potential stumbling blocks to those applications.” Finding a common solution to these problems is seen as the “most important thing [CSG] could do to promote the development and use of advanced information technology to solve critical problems at their institutions. The set of institutions using the common solutions would in effect be creating a virtual university network.”

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

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## ASSOCIATION DELVES INTO VISUAL SOCIOLOGY

The **International Visual Sociology Association (IVSA)** is a non-profit organization devoted to the visual study of society, culture, and social relationships. Membership is open, and includes a broad range of disciplines, from sociology and anthropology, to education, visual communication, photography, art, and journalism. The association's main aim is “to promote the study, production,

and use of visual images, data, and materials in teaching, research, and applied activities, and to foster the development and use of still photographs, film, video, and electronically transmitted images in sociology and other social sciences and related disciplines and applications.”

(1) <http://sjmc.cla.umn.edu/faculty/schwartz/ivs/a/about.html>

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### FORUM FOSTERS IDEAS ON AUSTRALIAN IT POLICY/PRACTICE

**::fibreculture::** is a forum for critical Australian Internet culture and research (1). Created in 2001 by **Geert Lovink** (Wissenschaftskolleg, Centre for Advanced Study, Berlin) and **David Teh** (College of Fine Arts, Sydney), “Fibreculture is a community of critical thinkers engaged with new media/Internet theory and practice, with a view to constructing strategic images of innovation, R+D in applications and culture of new technology in Australasia”.

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

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### UNIVERSAL DESIGN NEWSLETTER FULL OF INFORMATION FOR EDUCATORS

The **Monthly Online News** (1) put out by **Global Universal Design Educators** is full of articles and features on universal design education, advocacy and practice.

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

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### INCLUDE 2005 PROCEEDINGS NOW ONLINE

The proceedings from **INCLUDE 2005**, the international conference on inclusive design held in London last April, are available online (1). The site also contains the biographies of members of the Scientific Committee and an index of papers and posters by title and author.

(1) <http://www.hhrc.rca.ac.uk/programmes/include/2005/proceedings/>

## COOL TOOLS

### HP LAUNCHES ITS TECHNOLOGY FOR VIRTUAL MEETINGS



The **Chicago Sun-Times** reported last month that **Hewlett-Packard** has launched its **Halo Collaboration Studio** which “offers a nearly immersive environment where people can see each other, talk and collaborate remotely as if they were in the same room”. **DreamWorks Animation** helped HP design the room’s details. The target market for these rooms are big companies that need to bring employees together from disparate areas, and are looking for ways to trim the associated costs. “Each room costs roughly \$550,000 with an \$18,000 per month fee, though the charges vary with the number ordered.” At least one purveyor of video conferencing rooms is willing to debate HP’s claim that its product is a first-of-its-kind. **Teliris** (2) also builds rooms, and provides more sophisticated technology at lower costs, according to **Marc Trachtenberg** (CEO/founder). “HP countered that it’s building a better experience than the competition and a technology that can grow.”

- (1) [http://www.hp.com/hpinfo/newsroom/press\\_kits/2005/halo/](http://www.hp.com/hpinfo/newsroom/press_kits/2005/halo/)  
(2) [http://www.teliris.com/news\\_halo.html](http://www.teliris.com/news_halo.html)

## WORKSHOPS

### CARING COMMUNITIES FOR THE 21<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY: IMAGINING THE POSSIBLE (February 10, 2006, New York, New York)

To be held at the International Conference Centre at the United Nations’ Headquarters in New York City, this program is focused on the **AGE OF CONNECTIVITY**. The event is one of a series of **Interlinked Congresses** being organized around the world by the UN’s **Programme for Human Settlements (UN-Habitat)** and **Programme on Ageing** in conjunction with US government departments, NGOs and the private sector in support of the **Commission for Social Development**. The series is also a showcase for the winning projects of the **2005 ICT Student Design Competition**. The workshop goal is to “build bridges and develop projects, services and products that support the needs of people of all ages”. Visit the *Activities* page on the web site of the International Council of Caring Communities for more information (1).

- (1) <http://www.international-iccc.org/>

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**PERVASIVE 2006: WORKSHOP ON PRIVACY, TRUST AND IDENTITY ISSUES FOR AMBIENT INTELLIGENCE**

**(May 7, 2006, Dublin, Ireland)**

Part of the 4<sup>th</sup> **Annual Pervasive 2006 Conference on Pervasive Computing** (1), this workshop (2) will address technological innovations related to **Ambient Intelligence (AmI)** and the personal and social issues of privacy, trust and identity. "The AmI challenge is particularly pressing, since in future there will be no obvious physical markers to tell us when we move from private to public cyberspaces and so individuals must be given a clearer vision of how and when to control personal data" .

(1) <http://www.pervasive2006.org>

(2) <http://pst.dcs.st-and.ac.uk/pti-ai-workshop/>

**CONFERENCES**

*Call for Papers—January 30, 2006*



**SANGONET CONFERENCE AND EXHIBITION ON ICTS FOR CIVIL SOCIETY**

**(March 7-9, 2006, Johannesburg, South Africa)**

The **Southern African NGO Network (SANGONeT)** is calling for action-research papers for the 2<sup>nd</sup> annual conference and exhibition on the theme, **THE INFORMATION SOCIETY AS A RESPONSE TO POVERTY AND INEQUALITY IN SOUTHERN AFRICA**. Among the topics of interest are *Technology-based interventions by NGOs and other civil society stakeholders in communities: Lessons on successes, failures, and difficulties in Southern Africa; The localization of information: local content, local language, local issues; ICT for development research; and Innovative and emerging technologies to promote community empowerment and inter-community cooperation.*

(1) <http://www.sangonet.org.za/conference2006>

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**2006 ART CENTER DESIGN CONFERENCE**

**(March 23-26, 2006, Pasadena, California)**

Hosted by the **Art College of Design**, the **Art Center Design Conference** will focus on the theme, **STORIES FROM THE SOURCE: RADICAL CRAFT**. The conference will explore the extremes of crafting including, *Satellites and space exploration; The art of the 30-second story, and Haute couture vs "Unfashion"*.

(1) <http://www.artcenter.edu/designconference/>

**OLD ECONOMY REGIONS IN THE NEW ECONOMY: A NORTH/SOUTH DIALOGUE ON SOCIAL, CULTURAL AND ECONOMIC ISSUES**  
(March 24-25, 2006, Thunder Bay, Ontario)

**Lakehead University** is hosting this conference (1) which will focus on the current state of old economy regions in the new economy, and facilitate dialogue between academics and activists working on these issues in the global North and South. To better understand “how solutions to development problems in one region might be applied to other regions of the world”, the program will look at such issues as *How do alternative development practices such as lending circles or LETS compare between the North and South?*, *What lessons can Canadian hinterland regions learn from resource management practices in tropical countries?*, *How do the currently vogue theories of economic clustering, social capital, and the creative class apply to hinterland regions in the North and South?*, and *What possibilities for cultural expression, social movements, and resistance have been created by new communications technologies?*

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

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**DESIGN THINKING AND INNOVATION CONFERENCE: TOWARDS A GLOBAL/ASIAN PERSPECTIVE**  
(March 29-31, 2006, Singapore, Malaysia)

This conference (1) is being planned by the **Temasek Polytechnic** and **CUMULUS (European Association of Universities and Colleges of Art, Design and Media)**. With the rise in prominence of India, China and Asia as a region, Asian design is gaining interest within the international design arena. This conference will focus on related issues, including “the implications to design from a new ‘emergence’ viewpoint of the enormity of mega-sized consumer markets and low-cost production capabilities”.

(1) <http://www.designunplugged.info>

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**CHI 2006 IN MONTREAL**  
(April 22-27, 2006, Montreal, Quebec)



The theme of CHI 2006 (1) is **INTERACT. INFORM. INSPIRE.** The conference web site now has information on workshops being offered, among them, *Reflective HCI: Articulating a research agenda for critical practice* (2), and *About Face Interface: Creative engagement in new media arts and HCI.*

- (1) <http://www.chi2006.org/>
- (2) <http://cemcom.infosci.cornell.edu/reflectiveHCI/>
- (3) [http://studio416.cfa.cmu.edu/CHI06workshop\\_AboutFace](http://studio416.cfa.cmu.edu/CHI06workshop_AboutFace)

*Call for Proposals—January 31, 2006*



**16<sup>TH</sup> CONFERENCE ON COMPUTERS, FREEDOM AND PRIVACY**  
(May 2-5, 2006, Washington, DC)

Organizers of this **CFP 2006** conference on **Computers, Freedom, and Privacy**

(1) are looking for proposals for sessions and presentations that explore important issues for the industry, among them, *Intellectual property and intellectual freedom;*

*Copyright versus technologies that make copying cheap or free; Global activism; Technology and monopoly; and Voting technology and democracy.*

- (1) <http://www.cfp2006.org/>

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**9<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL SUBTLE TECHNOLOGIES FESTIVAL**  
(June 1-4, 2006, Toronto, Ontario)

The **U of T** is the location for this conference (1) which will look at **ARCHITECTURE AND RESPONSIVENESS IN 2006**. This event is a forum for artists and scientists to share insights and develop opportunities for collaboration. The program features presentations, including illustrated talks, gallery installations, workshops and discussions, all of which are designed to encourage dialogue on *How environments and systems can interact and respond to their occupants*. The 2006 festival is being held in partnership with **SoundaXis**, a Toronto event inspired by the work of architect-composer, **Iannis Xenakis**.

- (1) <http://www.subtletechnologies.com/news/index.html>



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**SOCIETY FOR TEACHING AND LEARNING IN HIGHER EDUCATION**  
**CONFERENCE**  
(June 14-17, 2006, Toronto, Ontario)

The **U of T** is also hosting the 2006 conference (1) of the **Society for Teaching and Learning in Higher Education (STLHE)**. This year's program is being organized around the theme is **KNOWLEDGE AND ITS COMMUNITIES**. A variety of sub-themes recognize the "multiple, intersecting and overlapping communities in which conference participants live". Examples of sub-themes include *Integrating research and teaching, Specialized teaching and learning approaches in professional faculties such as Medicine, Pharmacy, Nursing, Engineering, Management or Business; Interdisciplinary scholarly learning communities within the university, and The relationship between the university and the city in all its diversity particularly through community service learning.*

(Source: HCTP Digest, January 6, 2006)

(1) [http://www.utoronto.ca/ota/stlhe\\_sapes06/](http://www.utoronto.ca/ota/stlhe_sapes06/).

**ASPEN DESIGN SUMMIT 2006**  
**(June 20-23, Aspen, Colorado)**

For 50 years the **Aspen Design Summit** (1) has served as a multi-disciplinary retreat “where design thinking and the design process are used to craft solutions and commit participants to actions that improve the quality of life worldwide”. At this year’s event, the focus is on using the design studio as a model to “create and execute programs addressing various social, economic and environmental issues”.

(1) <http://www.aspendesignsummit.aiga.or>

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**ICEL 2006: INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON E-LEARNING**  
**(June 22-23, 2006 Montreal, Quebec)**

Presented by **Academic Conferences International**, this conference (1) will deal with such topics *e-Learning design, Mobile learning, Societal and cultural issues in e-learning, and Uses of multimedia in e-learning*. It is being held at the University of Quebec at Montreal.

(1) <http://www.academic-conferences.org/icel/icel2006/icel06-home.htm>

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**INTERNATIONAL MULTI-CONFERENCE**  
**(July 16-19, 2006, Orlando, Florida)**



The International Conference on Information Systems, Analysis and Synthesis (ISAS '05) (1) is an event that has been held every year for the last 10 years intending to be a forum for Information Systems consultants, practitioners, researchers, and users who have had the opportunity of interchanging ideas, research results and innovations in the Information Systems field. Two conferences that will meet at this time are described in greater detail below.

(1) <http://www.infocybernetics.org/citsa2005/WebSite/default.asp>

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**3<sup>RD</sup> SYMPOSIUM ON RISK MANAGEMENT AND CYBER-INFORMATICS**  
**(July 16-19, 2006, Orlando, Florida)**



The goal of this symposium (1) is to enable researchers, practitioners and consultants involved in risk management and the informatics and cybernetics

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Symposium on Risk  
Management and  
Cyber-Informatics  
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fields to present their research results and discuss problems and solutions. The major topics on the program are *Risk management*, *Risk management in Informatics and Cybernetics*, *Applications of Informatics and Cybernetics to risk management problems and solutions*, and *Applications of risk management and Cyber-Informatics (RMCI)*.

(1) <http://www.iiisci.org/rmci2006>

**WMSCI 2006: 10<sup>TH</sup> WORLD MULTI-CONFERENCE ON SYSTEMICS, CYBERNETICS AND INFORMATICS**  
(July 16-19, 2006, Orlando, Florida)



The purpose of this international conference (1) is to promote discussion of disciplinary, interdisciplinary and trans-disciplinary issues, ideas, concepts, theories, methodologies and applications in the area of **VIRTUAL ENGINEERING**, specifically, **VIRTUAL ORGANIZATIONS AND MOBILE TECHNOLOGIES**.

(1) <http://www.iiisci.org/wmsci2006/website/default.asp>

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**IEEE 2006 INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON MULTIMEDIA AND EXPO**  
(July 9-12, 2006, Toronto, Ontario)

The **ICME** conference (1) is an opportunity for researchers, developers and practitioners to share information on state-of-the-art research, development, and implementations of multimedia systems, technologies and applications. It is organized by IEEE societies including the **Circuits and Systems Society**, the **Communications Society**, the **Computer Society**, and the **Signal Processing Society**. U of T Professor **Kostas Plataniotis** (Electrical and Computer Engineering, KMDI) is Co-Chair of the Technical Committee.

(1) <http://www.icme2006.org/default.asp>

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*Call for Papers—February 3, 2006*

**CIRN/CIDC2006: COMMUNITY INFORMATICS FOR DEVELOPING COUNTRIES**  
(August 31-September 2, 2006, Cape Town, South Africa)



This conference on "Community Informatics for Developing Countries" (1) is hosted by the Information Society Institute for Southern Africa (2) in partnership with the Community Informatics Research Networks (CIRN) (3). The organisers are interested in papers outlining theoretical issues, multidisciplinary methods of working, case studies,

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research methods that fully involve communities, and the negotiation of goals and objectives with communities.

- (1) [http://sangonet.org.za/portal/index.php?option=com\\_content&task=view&id=2552&Itemid=211](http://sangonet.org.za/portal/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=2552&Itemid=211)
- (2) <http://www.osisa.org/index.php?option=displaypage&Itemid=79&op=page&SubMenu=>
- (3) <http://www.ciresearch.net/>

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*Call for Papers—April 13, 2006*



**NordiCHI 2006**  
**(October 14-18, 2006, Oslo, Norway)**

**NordiCHI** is the main Nordic forum for human-computer interaction research. This year's event (1) is focused on the theme, **CHANGING ROLES**. There is "a reshaping of almost every aspect of society, which is caused by the forces of globalization and new technology". The discussion, therefore, will explore such questions as: *Do we need to change our roles as developers, researchers and designers, How can we maintain focus on the user in this ever changing environment, and Will the role of HCI change?*

- (1) <http://nordichi2006.idi.ntnu.no/>

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*Call for Papers—February 14, 2006*

**WONDERGROUND: DESIGN RESEARCH SOCIETY INTERNATIONAL  
CONFERENCE 2006**  
**(November 1-5, 2006, Lisbon, Portugal)**

**Wonderground**, the **2006 Design Research Society International** conference (1) invites original research papers and critical essays on all areas of design research including, *Aesthetics, Analogical reasoning and design, Analysis of design processes, Applied anthropology, and Applied psychology*.

- (1) <http://www.iade.pt/drs2006/wonderground/index.html>

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*Call for Papers—March 17, 2006*



**ACM 2006 CONFERENCE ON COMPUTER-SUPPORTED  
COOPERATIVE WORK**  
**(November 4-8, 2006, Banff, Alberta)**

This multi-disciplinary **CSCW Conference** (1) is a forum for discussion of research and development achievements in the design, introduction, and use of

technology affecting groups, organizations, communities and societies. Topics of interest “include all contexts in which technology is used to mediate human activities such as communication, coordination, cooperation, competition, entertainment, education, medicine, art, and music. The technology may include: email, instant messaging, blogs, shared workspaces, teleconferencing, games, co-located systems, robotics, haptics, and much more”.

(1) <http://www.cscw2006.org/>

## ABOUT THE KMDiary

The KMDiary Volume 7, Issue # 1 (January 2006). Current issue and archives also available on the web as both .pdf and .rtf files at <http://kmdi.utoronto.ca/kmdiary>. We encourage contributions from our members. Please forward your submissions to Lorraine Flaherty at [flaherty@pathcom.com](mailto:flaherty@pathcom.com). We anticipate that the deadline for the next issue will be February 10, 2006. To subscribe to the Diary, send an email to [info@kmdi.utoronto.ca](mailto:info@kmdi.utoronto.ca) and ask to be added to the KMDI Diary mailing list.

The KMDiary is produced by the University of Toronto's **Knowledge Media Design Institute (KMDI)**, a School of Graduate Studies Institute since 1998. Please feel free to post widely, but leave the KMDI signature for our recognition. Thank you.

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