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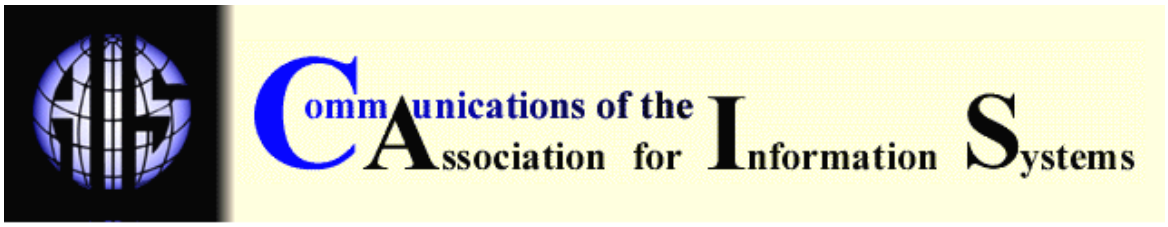

INTRODUCTION TO THE SPECIAL ISSUE ON THE AMCIS 2002 PANELS AND WORKSHOPS

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ABSTRACT

This special issue of CAIS marks the second year in which the journal presents papers based on AMCIS workshops and panels. Information technology is evolving at a pace that exceeds any other academic discipline. Consequently, it is critical that conferences, such as AMCIS, provide opportunities for academics to learn about teaching methodologies and emerging technologies from their colleagues and from industry experts. This article provides an overview of the panel and workshops papers published.

KEYWORDS: teaching, technology, workshops, panels, special issue, AMCIS 2002.

This year, 2002, is the second year in which CAIS presents papers based on the AMCIS panels and workshops. Information technology is evolving at a pace that exceeds any other academic discipline. Consequently, it is critical that conferences, such as AMCIS, provide opportunities for academics to learn about teaching methodologies and emerging technologies from their colleagues and from industry experts. This introduction to the special issue provides an overview of the workshops and panel papers published.

The panels and workshops presented were selected from a large group of proposals. Not all the sessions resulted in articles. In some cases, the panel did not lend itself to a paper, in others the presenters chose not to submit a paper, and in one case, the workshop was so similar to one presented in 2001, that it would serve no purpose to publish an article about it again.

The following sections discuss each of the articles in this special issue.

Volume 9, Article 20 Human-Computer Interaction Research in the MIS Discipline by Ping Zhang, Izak Benbasat,Jane Carey, Fred Davis, Dennis Galletta and Diane Strong

This article reports on a panel on human-computer interaction (HCI) research. The panel was led by Ping Zhang of Syracuse University and her panelists, (Izak Benbasat, University of British Columbia; J. Carey, Arizona State University West; Fred Davis, University of Arkansas; Dennis Galletta of the University of Pittsburgh; and Diane Strong, WorcesterPolytechnic Institute) are each strong researchers in the field.

This article differs from other panel reports published in CAIS in that it provides an insightful tutorial on HCI as well as a summary of the panelist positions.

The article discusses the importance of the broadly defined field of HCI research in the MIS discipline, its historical development, the commonalities and differences between MIS/HCI research and the more traditional HCI research, publication opportunities for MIS/HCI research, and future research directions in this field. It is believed that HCI is a strong research stream in MIS, and will continue to be stronger in the foreseeable future. Despite the differences between them, the MIS/HCI and the more traditional HCI research fields are complementary. The authors conclude that “Together, the studies in both approaches can provide the evolution of the human centered technology development that enhances our work/job, our various needs, our organizations, our societies, and ourselves as the way we are and the better way we can be”.

Volume 9, Article 21 Spreadsheet-Based DSS Curriculum Issues by Cliff T. Ragsdale, D.J. Power, and P.K. Bergey

When challenged to justify the value of information systems research, decision support systems is usually cited as one of the most compelling examples of where IS research successfully made the transition from theoretical academic journals into the “real-world”. Therefore, it is somewhat surprising that the number of offerings of DSS courses have decreased over the years. This paper identifies several possible reasons for the decline in DSS course offerings and suggest some innovative approaches for breathing some new-life into this cornerstone of the IS field by using spreadsheets. Experiences at three universities are presented by the three panelists

Volume 9, Article 22 How Will Media Technology Evolve as an Academic Discipline? by Daniel A. Peak, Michael Gibson, J. Wayne Spence, Kenton Bales, Verlyn Kroon, and Richard Vedder

Although multimedia technology for computers receives great coverage in the public and technical press, and is highly evident in computer and video games, it is not commonplace in academia. Daniel A. Peak and his panelists (Michael Gibson, J. Wayne Spence, Kenton Bales, Verlyn Kroon, and Richard Vedder from North Texas State and the University of Nebraska at Omaha as well as a CIO (Kroon)) examine the role of media in the University.

Media Technology (MT) is a new, multidisciplinary field that integrates the knowledge, expertise, resources, and creativity of diverse, established, fertile artistic disciplines (visual design, art, music, radio, television) with new technological disciplines (digital media, information systems, information technology, computer science, network engineering) through rapidly-evolving technologies. Its application in electronic commerce into what will become a full synthesis of information technology and sensory interaction will be made possible by approaches to presenting and exchanging information visually, aurally--and eventually in combination with all of the senses. The panel discussed the need to develop a literacy and understanding in the IT discipline of the MT and its importance in keeping IT research relevant. The panel also discussed strategies for attaining MT literacy, integrating MT into the IT curriculum, and described the work at two universities where it is being done.

Volume 9, Article 23 Principles of Effective E-Commerce Curriculum Development by Douglas L. Dean and Syed Nasirin

The need to teach e-commerce (EC) is a significant issue for academia. Regardless of the downturn in dot.com startups, many organizations are still very much aware of the need to have effective EC strategies and applications. The workshop by Doug Dean of Brigham Young University and Syed Nasarin at Thames Valley College in the UK looks at what is the appropriate curriculum for EC

In response to industry demand, some universities across the globe launched EC programs. Other implemented EC electives at undergraduate and postgraduate levels. This paper presents the issues and suggestions for teaching EC. Findings from a study of EC offerings by the top fifty UK business schools are presented. A wide disparity exists across schools in terms of EC offerings, including a significant number of schools that do not offer EC modules or degrees. Finally, the paper offers and discusses a set of recommendations on how to implement an EC curriculum effectively and economically within a business school.

Volume 9, Article 24 Teaching ERP and Business Processes Using SAP Software by Robert Nelson

Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) is being implemented at a rapid rate through industry. Fortunately, SAP is one vendor who is making its ERP software available to universities at reasonable cost. With the pervasiveness of the software, students need to know about it to be employable and faculty members need to go through a steep learning curve to be able to teach it. In this workshop, Robert Nelson of Penn State Erie describes the course he gives.

The workshop provided an overview of an introductory course which teaches Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) concepts and business processes. The workshop was designed to help instructors prepare for teaching an “Introduction to ERP & Business Processes” course using Systems, Applications and Products in Data Processing (SAP) technology. After introducing the rationale for this course, course materials are reviewed, and the paper describes typical hands-on lab exercises using SAP.

Volume 9, Article 25 Technical Note: Implementing Java-Based Stored-Procedures in the ORACLE Database by Ruben E. Quinonez

Ruben Quinonez is a member of the Cal Poly Pomona who teaches students about Oracle databases. He prepared a technical note on the use of Java with these databases.

Java is becoming the programming language of choice. With its object-oriented and cross-platform features, Java brings a one-size-fits-all paradigm to application development. Application developers can benefit from learning a language that can be used across a wide range of operating systems. In addition to application development, Java is also used inside database development environments. This workshop provided an introduction to writing stored-procedures using the Java language. The primary purpose of the workshop was to demonstrate the steps required to publish a Java method inside the Oracle 8i Lite database environment.

Editor’s Note: This article was received on September 13, 2002 and was published on November 16 2002 in a special issue of CAIS together with other articles from the Panels and Workshops. The special issue was under the editorship of Leslie D. Ball.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Leslie D. Ball is Senior Executive Professor of Management Information Systems in the College of Business Administration at Northeastern University. He previously was on the faculties of Babson College, Arizona State University, and the University of Massachusetts Amherst. He also was a Partner with Computer Science Corporation's Systems Integration Company.

Professor Ball's research interests are in the management of information technologies and their impact on business and the global enterprise. He has consulted with and provided executive education to over 100 major companies in the United States, Europe, Canada, and South America and focuses on helping senior executives understand the business impact of new computer technologies.

Dr. Ball served on the Massachusetts' Governor's Task Force on e-Government. He serves on the Executive Board of the Boston Chapter of the Society of Information Management. This year Dr. Ball was the chairperson for panels and workshops at AMCIS.

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