JDIM - Special Issue on the Proceedings of

The 1st International Workshop on
Web-based Collaboratories (Wbc-2003) - from centres without walls to virtual communities of practice

8 November 2003, Algarve, Portugal

held in connection with IADIS International Conference
WWW/Internet 2003 (http://www.iadis.org/icwi2003)

The JDIM international review committee will review the papers presented at the above workshop, and selected papers will be published in the Journal of Digital Information Management. The review committee will notify the authors of decisions.

Workshop Chair:

Hanne Albrechtsen,

Centre for Cognitive Systems Engineering

Department of Systems Analysis

Risoe National Laboratory

DK-4000 Roskilde Denmark

e-mail: hanne.albrechtsen@risoe.dk

Scope:

Collaboratories have been defined as 'centres without walls', where scientists can work together while they are in distant locations. The original vision of collaboratories saw cooperation amongst distributed scientists as coordination of work and sharing of knowledge, through shared affordances for collaboration, in the shape of shared tools, databases and instruments. During the past decade, national and international research foundations have funded a series of science collaboratory projects. The results from these projects have shown that it is feasible to link teams of scientists, data, tools and facilities through the World Wide Web and thereby reduce the barriers of time and distance. Recent research on science collaboratories indicates, however, that design and adoption of new collaboratories are difficult and uncertain processes. This difficulty has been ascribed to the lack of broader principles for collaboratory development. So far, each collaboratory has been built as an independent effort, with little coordination and exchange of design and usability experience amongst projects on collaboratories.

Recently, collaboratories have also been defined as 'virtual community centres' on the web. This concept of collaboratories broadens the previous metaphor of a distributed science laboratory towards the notion of collaboratories in use. 'Collaboratories in use' support interactive knowledge production and integration amongst participants with initially diverse disciplinary or cultural backgrounds. Examples are collaboratories in rural telemedicine, cross-national film research and design of information systems (design collaboratories). Such collaboratories bring together professionals and laypersons in interactive and often cross-disciplinary knowledge production and integration. Thereby, research and design attention is directed to how participants in collaboratories form social relationships with one another, how they build mutual trust and how they build common conceptual grounds for their collaboration. Amongst the challenges facing such collaboratories is that the requirements for common technological and conceptual tools evolve throughout the use of the collaboratory itself. This may mean that technologies and conceptual tools may be developed and integrated in the collaboratory as add-on facilities, which may result in substantial maintenance problems. On the other hand, design of collaboratories in use may build on analysis and evaluation of the growing collaborative practices, for instance of ongoing social processes of community building and evolving uses of shared technologies and conceptual tools. This, in turn, may open up to new methodological approaches for design of collaboratories.

The objectives of this workshop is to direct cross-disciplinary attention to research and development on web-based collaboratories, that is, to collect and examine empirical evidence of existing research collaboratories on the web, to share design methods and technological developments for collaboratories, as well as to address fundamental research issues. The aim is build up a cross-disciplinary network of professionals working with

research, design and evaluation of web-based collaboratories.

Papers, short papers and posters/demonstrations from academics, practitioners and researchers, addressing web-based collaboratories from any of the following interrelated perspectives are invited:

* Analysis of distributed collaborative work and community-building, e.g., how collaborative and individual work practices evolve in a collaboratory, how common workspaces for cross-cultural or cross-disciplinary collaboration develop, and how the participants negotiate and build mutual trust.

* Modelling and design, e.g., experience of particular methodological frameworks for design and evaluation of collaboratories and their advantages and disadvantages, how theory of social informatics may inspire the development of conceptual frameworks for design and evaluation of collaboratories, and how to evaluate the usability of a collaboratory.

* Conceptual tools, e.g., development of common conceptual grounds through shared ontologies, classification schemes and taxonomies, the problem of resolution of conflict and translation of interests amongst participants using joint conceptual tools, analysis of iterative and interactive joint construction of conceptual tools, i.e. collaborative classification, and presentation of shared conceptual tools in web-based collaboratories.

* Technologies, e.g. integration and evaluation of shared artifacts and resources like instruments and data, annotation toolkit, eg. for web logs, video-conferencing and document indexing, and toolkit for creating and maintaining technical infrastructures in collaboratories.

The workshop will be composed of the following kinds of contributions:

Full Papers – These include mainly accomplished research results and have 8 pages at the maximum (5,000 words).

Short Papers – These are mostly composed of work in progress reports or fresh developments and have 4 pages at maximum (2,500 words).

Posters/demonstrations – These have one page at the maximum (625 words) besides the poster itself (or demonstration) that will be exposed at the workshop.

Workshop Program Committee*:

Laura Bergazzi, Deutches Filminstitut, Frankfurt, Germany

Cornelia Boldyreff, Department of Computer Science, Durham University, UK

Geoffrey Bowker, Department of Communication, University of San Diego, La Jolla, USA

Bryan Cleal, Cognitive Systems Engineering Centre, Risø National Laboratory, Roskilde, Denmark

Elizabeth Davenport, Social Computing Group, School of Computing, Napier University, Edinburgh, UK

Jonathan Grudin, Adaptive Systems and Interaction Group, Microsoft Research, Seattle, USA

Preben Hansen, SICS - Swedish Institute of Computer Science, Sweden

Morten Hertzum, Department of Computer Science, Roskilde University, Denmark

Lynn Howarth, School of Information Studies, University of Toronto, Canada

Pedro Isaias, Universidade Aberta, Lisbon, Portugal

Elin Jacob, School of Library and Information Science, Indiana University, Bloomington (IN), USA

Jens-Erik Mai, the Information School, University of Washington, Seattle, USA

Annelise Mark Pejtersen, Cognitive Systems Engineering Centre, Risø National Laboratory, Roskilde, Denmark

Carla Simone, Dipartimento di Informatica, Sistemistica e Comunicazione Universita' di Milano Bicocca, Italy

Paul Solomon, School of Library and Information Studies, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill (NC), USA

Adelheit Stein, Fraunhofer-IPSI, Darmstadt, Germany

Ulrich Thiel, Fraunhofer-IPSI, Darmstadt, Germany

http://www.iadis.org /icwi2003

Secretariat: secretariat@iadis.org