Informatics Research Institute (IRIS)  
March 2003 newsletter

Wood-Harper, J

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Happy New Year! May I take this opportunity to wish you a successful 2003.

It’s been a busy time since the publication of the last Research Newsletter back in July. We have had a number of journal, book chapters and conference papers published.

The University hosted a European Conference which was organised by Yacine Rezgui. This event was a great success with a large number of national, European and international delegates attending the Conference.

The School has been awarded three new Teaching Company Schemes (TCS), which brings the total number to four TCS’s operating in the School. Congratulations to Ben Light on the successful completion of his TCS project which ended in December.

The Research Committee met in February 2003, Minutes from all Research Committee meetings are available on the P drive, via the Research Committee folder.

Trevor Wood-Harper
Director, ISRC

Publications

Books


Book Chapters


Journals


Conferences


Wetherill, M., Feinerey, E. and Rezgui, Y. 2002. 'Deploying Knowledge
Conferences


New Projects

TEACHING COMPANY SCHEMES

Frances Bell has been awarded a Teaching Company Scheme with Career Management Consultants Ltd. based in Northwich. Elaine Ferney and Ben Light are also working on the TCS as co-investigators. The project is to develop a knowledge management culture in the Company by building a corporate portal with applications that will disseminate best practice internally, enhance relationships with sponsors, clients and future alumni, and capture share market intelligence among staff and clients.

Mark Jones has successfully obtained a TCS grant with Etiquette Formal Hire Ltd., based in Rossendale. The Salford team also involves Poly Sobreperez and the School of Management. The project will address the Company's future information management requirements by establishing an integrated order processing and warehouse control system, linked to remote-access retail information system thereby enabling the Company to become more efficient and effective.

Alan Tracey has been awarded a TCS grant with HCS (Systems Solutions) Ltd. based in Accrington. He will be joined on the project by Grahame Cooper. The overall aim of the project is to design and develop both sales order and purchase order processing applications. These products will be added to the existing Factory Processing applications available as part of the bespoke software solution range. A further key element is the design and development of middleware applications to allow seamless integration of the newly developed, and existing applications, into current and future client systems.


Ocasional Papers

Green, E. and Adam, A. (eds), Ocasional Papers No. 1, Equal Opportunities On-Line, Centre for Social and Policy Research, University of Teesside, 2002. pp 1-54. This arises from the ESRC Seminar Series 'Equal Opportunities Online'.

European Commission - TEMPUS Individual Mobility Grant

Maria Burke has been awarded a TEMPUS IMG02 European Training Foundation Grant to work with the St. Petersburg State Technical University, Faculty of Computer Science. She plans to visit the University in early March. The objective of the visit is initially to look at learning environments and techniques and then to consider the impact of different organization structures on information fulfilment.

Completed Project

Ben Light's Teaching Company Scheme with Career Management Consultants Ltd. was successfully completed in December 2002. Debra Howcroft and Frances Bell were co-investigators on this project. The TCS Associate employed on the project, Ms. Marie Griffiths, will continue to work at CMC offices whilst continuing with her postgraduate research degree.

WHO'S DOING WHAT?

The Malaysian Research Conference led by Trevor Wood-Harper, the School of Computer Sciences, and the School of Accounting Economics and Management Science, have won an award in the International Student Recruitment category of the Annual Guardian sponsored HEIST awards. The judging panel consisted of the British Council and Marketing consultants from HEIST. These are the major awards for education marketing and Salford is the only university to have won an award in the International category this year. This is a major achievement for the University and for all the staff who took part in the event. You can find out more at http://www.heist.co.uk/awards

Trevor is to serve as a research member on the BCS Accreditation Visiting Panel, Queen's University, Belfast, 2003. He will also serve as a member on the Program Committee of the 2003 Information Resources Management Association (IRMA) International Conference, Philadelphia, May 2003. He is General Joint Chair, Pacific and Asian Conference on Information Systems (PACIS 2003).


Amit Mitra has been elected to the University Research Committee. His appointment to serve on this Committee is from 1 August 2002 to 31 July 2005.

Virtual Gender - a book edited by Alison Adam and Eileen Green is ‘book of the month’ for February at the Research Centre for Cyberculture Studies, University of

Alison Adam was interviewed on BBC Radio 4 Woman's Hour, on the topic of Internet Pornography, in Manchester, June 2002 (www.bbc.co.uk/radio4/womanshour/24_06_02/Monday/info1.shtml).

Alison Adam from 2002 invited founding member of the editorial board of the International Journal of Information, Communication, Society and Ethics (IJICSE) and Book Review Editor for IJICSE. She will also be Book Reviews Editor for ACM Computers and Society from 2002.

Alison Adam was invited to present the following keynote address ‘Feminist Research in Computer Ethics’ Athena Conference, London Metropolitan University, October 2002.

Yacine Rezgui

The University of Salford organized and hosted the eSM@RT Conference (1st European Conference on Information and Communication Technology Advances and Innovation in the Knowledge Society) held on 18-21 November 2002. The Conference theme was entitled: ‘Towards a Knowledge Economy in the Construction and Related Sectors.’ This event was organized in collaboration with CISEMIC 2002 sponsored by EPSRC. The organizing committee included Prof. Yacine Rezgui (Conference Chair) from the Information Systems Institute (Salford), Dr Alain Zarli from CSTB (France), Mr John Nolan from the European Commission (Belgium), Mr Matti Hannus from VTT (Finland), and Ricardo Goncalves from UNINOVA (Portugal), and Prof Ghassan Aouad from the School of Construction and Property Management (Salford).

The eSM@RT Conference was sponsored by the EC under the IST Programme, with support from European national funding bodies, including EPSRC in the UK and TEKES in Finland. The Conference involved key players in the Construction IT research area from Europe, the US, Canada, Australia, and the venue had been chosen in order to provide an opportunity for industrialists, academics and policy makers (within the UK and across Europe) to:

- Reflect on past and ongoing national and international experiences (including the Framework 5 programme).
- Promote the European Research Area in Construction and related sectors.
- Provide the foundation platform that will shape and devise the strategic roadmap(s) in the sector from which integrated projects and networks of excellence will emerge for the Sixth Framework.

The Conference included an industry day event that attracted over 110 participants. This industry day gave an opportunity to the participants to (1) understand the nature of the work and research undertaken in European programmes, (2) be informed about recently ICT deployment success stories in Construction and related sectors, and (3) have a chance to be involved in a concerted initiative within Framework 6.

A few people should be thanked for the success of the event, including Donna Bailey from the Information Systems Institute (who organized the whole event), Mary Hamblett from the School of Construction and Property Management, Samantha Yull from the Research and Graduate College, and staff from the ISI. Further details of the conference can be found in: http://esmart.salford.ac.uk/eSMART.htm

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Yacine Rezgui

### UK Academy for Information Systems

The ISI hosted the UKAIS - IS Learning and Teaching Symposium on 11 December 2002. The aim of the Symposium was to share experiences of approaches to IS learning and teaching and to promote discussion and collaboration.

### Information Systems Institute Seminar Series

The Social Aspects of IS Research Institute Seminar Series in conjunction with MISS will run on alternative weeks in a given month, from 1pm to 3pm every first and third Wednesday of each month. A list of upcoming seminars is available via the events link at: http://www.ibi.salford.ac.uk/isr/index.htm

### NEW STAFF

**Matthew Lomas** is a newly appointed Teaching Company Associate working on Alan Tracey’s Teaching Company Scheme. Matthew graduated from Salford in June 2002 with a BSc (Hons) Information Technology.

### POSTGRADUATE RESEARCH STUDENTS

**NEW POSTGRADUATE RESEARCH STUDENTS**

Mr. James Cunningham, PhD (Supervisor: Dr. Elaine Ferneley), January 2003.
Lucy Kyle has been appointed as a Teaching Company Associate on Frances Bell's Teaching Company Scheme. Lucy graduated from Salford in 2002 with a BSc Business Information Systems.

Graham Walker has been appointed as a Teaching Company Associate on Mark Jones TCS. Graham graduated with a BSc(Hons) Business Information Systems from Salford, July 2001.

Rachael Murphy will also be working at a Teaching Company Associate on Mark Jones TCS. Rachael graduated with a BSc (Hons) Information Technology from Salford, July 2001.

Mr. Kmail Ahmad Mahmood, PhD (Supervisor: Dr. Elaine Ferneley), January 2003

Ms. Nadja Damji, MPhil (Supervisor: Prof. Yacine Rezgui), January 2003

Ms. Suzanne Kane, PhD (Supervisor: Dr. Andrew Basden), October 2002

Mr. Andrew Gold, MSc (Research) (Supervisor: Ms. Frances Bell), July 2002

Mr. Ganapathi Balasumbramanian, PhD (Prof. David Chadwick), October 2002

Ms. Beryl Burns, PhD (Supervisor Mr. Ben Light), October 2002

Ms. Norizan Mohd Yasin, PhD (Supervisor: Mr. Ben Light), October 2002

RESEARCH NEWSLETTER SUBMISSIONS

The next issue of the ISRC Newsletter will be published in July 2003. Submissions to the Newsletter must be sent to Donna Bailey at Email: D.S.Bailey@salford.ac.uk by 15 June 2002.

GRADUATED POSTGRADAUTE RESEARCH STUDENTS

Japhet Eke Lawrence, PhD 2002
(Supervisor: Jim Hughes)
The Use of Internet in Small to Medium-Sized Enterprises

Steve Jones, PhD 2002
(Supervisor: Jim Hughes)
Information Systems Investment and Value Appraisals in the Public Sector

G.D.S.P. Wimalarante, PhD 2002
(Supervisor: Terrence Fernando)
Constraint-Based Functional Virtual Prototyping for Assembly Simulation