**Informatics Research Institute (IRIS) March 2009 newsletter**

**Authors**
Vadera, S

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Informatics Research Institute (IRIS) March 2009 newsletter</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Authors</td>
<td>Vadera, S</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Type</td>
<td>Monograph</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>URL</td>
<td>This version is available at: <a href="http://usir.salford.ac.uk/id/eprint/1899/">http://usir.salford.ac.uk/id/eprint/1899/</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Published Date</td>
<td>2009</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

USIR is a digital collection of the research output of the University of Salford. Where copyright permits, full text material held in the repository is made freely available online and can be read, downloaded and copied for non-commercial private study or research purposes. Please check the manuscript for any further copyright restrictions.

For more information, including our policy and submission procedure, please contact the Repository Team at: usir@salford.ac.uk.
Our congratulations go to the following students for successfully defending their theses:

- AL-RASHED Maha (supervisor: Nigel Blackie)
- KASIRIAN Mohd (supervisor: David Kreps)
- McWHINNIE David (supervisor: Elaine Ferneley)
- MIT Edwin (supervisor: Farid Meziane)

We also have new IRIS students to welcome. Registered in January 2009:

- CAMPION Simon (supervisor: Dave Roberts)
- CAULEY Elizabeth (supervisor: Elaine Ferneley)
- DOWD Michael (supervisor: Alison Adam)
- DUCKWORTH Toby (supervisor: Dave Roberts)
- MAMHENE Vitalis (supervisor: Alex Heinze)
- MOORE Carl (supervisor: Dave Roberts)
- RIADI Indra (supervisor: Samia Nefi Meziani)

Visiting Student from July to December 2008

GUJJAR Aijaz (HERC visiting student)

Aijaz Gujjar, from The Islaami University, Bajaur in Pakistan visited IRIS from July to December 2008. Aijaz came to Salford to compare the Teacher Training systems in the UK and in Pakistan. He presented a paper at the 4th IRIS PG conference in November and has attended 2 symposiums - The Internationalisation of Curriculum in June and Reflection and The Feedback of Assessment Practices in September. Aijaz wishes to thank Professor Carole Roberts who has given him much of her time, even when she retired in September.

Registered in October 2008:

- AHMED Anshad (supervisor: David Kreps)
- ANKUSH Anju (GTA) (supervisor: Grahame Cooper)
- BRINDLE Joe (supervisor: Lee Griffiths)
- CHAUDHRY Raafiq (supervisor: David Kreps)
- DANIA Aniil (supervisor: Ben Light)
- EMMANOULIDOU Maria (GTA) (supervisor: David Kreps)
- JAYAH Yahiya Hasan (supervisor: Martin Hope)
- MOONEY Jane (supervisor: Lee Griffiths)
- WAITAM Eileen (supervisor: Ben Light)

New IRIS / HERC Members

Jaye Mtisaac: Education Development Coordinator in ILS
My role in the Learning Development Unit is to develop, deliver and support the personal and professional development of postgraduate early career researchers with an emphasis on teaching and learning. I coordinate and deliver an in-service teacher training programme for all new Graduate Teaching Assistants. Research Interests: I am an early career researcher, with emerging research interests. I have undertaken some small-scale research that clusters around the process of learning and teaching. I am interested in the development of academic identity for early career researchers, with an emphasis on ‘learning as becoming’ in the teaching development of neophyte teachers Higher Education.

Dr. Ela Beaumont in the Student Life Directorate
I am presently in the Student Life Directorate and I support students and advise academic staff on academic learning across the University. I was a Research Fellow in the School of Art and Design, Adelphi Research Institute, University of Salford. My PhD is Family Learning and Contemporary Art and I have conducted research in Labour Market Intelligence: Unemployment in North Derbyshire, High Peak College & TEC (ESF, ESRC) and the recruitment and retention of North West Creative Arts and Design Graduates, Liverpool and Manchester. Dr. Ela Beaumont: Professor

Sophie Hill
I have been a lecturer in prosthetics and orthotics in the School of Health Care Professions for almost 11 years. Currently I'm studying for a PhD in the Department of Educational Research at Lancaster University. My thesis is on difficult concepts within a discipline using threshold concepts and theories of difficulty to explore these.

This is the first newsletter following the outcome of the Research Assessment Exercise which confirmed IRIS as one of the leading multidisciplinary research institutes that brings together expertise in social, technological and computational aspects of information systems.

Research Fortnight ranked IRIS activities in the top two submissions in the country, with 75% of activities at international level and 25% at world leading level. The reviewers were particularly impressed with the Research Environment, which was highlighted as having 50% of activities at world leading level. I’d like to thank all members of IRIS whose commitment to pursuing high quality research has contributed to this success.

This newsletter highlights some activities immediately following the RAE, showing that we are not content with the excellent RAE results but building further on our successful research. It includes examples of important research events that we are organising, publications in major outlets, funded projects and students who have successfully completed their PhDs.

IRIS is the Information Research Institute of the University of Salford. Our mission is to bring together the expertise of the school to help support the personal and professional development of postgraduate / early career researchers with an emphasis on teaching and learning. We aim to develop, deliver and support the personal and professional development of postgraduate early career researchers with an emphasis on teaching and learning. We coordinate and deliver an in-service teacher training programme for all new Graduate Teaching Assistants. Research Interests: I am an early career researcher, with emerging research interests. I have undertaken some small-scale research that clusters around the process of learning and teaching. We are interested in the development of academic identity for early career researchers, with an emphasis on ‘learning as becoming’ in the teaching development of neophyte teachers Higher Education.

The UK Research Assessment Exercise (RAE) outcomes, announced today, show that 75% of the research activities of the Informatics Research Institute are at international level, with 25% at the world leading level. Based on a research measure that takes account of the number of staff submitted, Research Fortnight ranks IRIS activities in the top two submissions made to the Library and Information Management panel. Over 29 staff were included in the submission compared with 20 in the 2001 Research Assessment Exercise, showing significant growth in research activity. This confirms the Informatics Institute as one of the leading multidisciplinary research institutes that brings together expertise in social, technological and computational aspects of information systems.

IRRIS is the Information Research Institute of the University of Salford. Our mission is to bring together the expertise of the school to support the personal and professional development of postgraduate / early career researchers with an emphasis on teaching and learning. We aim to develop, deliver and support the personal and professional development of postgraduate early career researchers with an emphasis on teaching and learning. We coordinate and deliver an in-service teacher training programme for all new Graduate Teaching Assistants. Research Interests: I am an early career researcher, with emerging research interests. I have undertaken some small-scale research that clusters around the process of learning and teaching. We are interested in the development of academic identity for early career researchers, with an emphasis on ‘learning as becoming’ in the teaching development of neophyte teachers Higher Education.

The UK Research Assessment Exercise (RAE) outcomes, announced today, show that 75% of the research activities of the Informatics Research Institute are at international level, with 25% at the world leading level. Based on a research measure that takes account of the number of staff submitted, Research Fortnight ranks IRIS activities in the top two submissions made to the Library and Information Management panel. Over 29 staff were included in the submission compared with 20 in the 2001 Research Assessment Exercise, showing significant growth in research activity. This confirms the Informatics Institute as one of the leading multidisciplinary research institutes that brings together expertise in social, technological and computational aspects of information systems.
Funded Projects

Dr Marie Griffiths, Dr Alex Heineze and Professor Ben Light have succeeded with a KTP Award with CETUS, an IT network solutions provider. The project will run for 30 months and is worth £153K.

The project: The project is to create a scalable and effective design system that allows independent retailers to access, design and tailor POS material to fit their needs. Currently independent retailers are relying on generic material designed and distributed by the large suppliers and manufacturers (i.e. Mars, Scottish Courage, Proctor & Gamble) this is cumbersome and expensive as well as limited and 'un-targeted'. This system overcomes this and allows the retailers access to the branding and the campaigns devised by the suppliers and manufacturers but with the ability to tailor the material to their individual needs.

The KTP will take this prototype to completion as a product that can be used by and sold to any of their major blue chip clients for use by independent retailers.

Professor Nigel Linga, Professor David Parsons, Dr Kate Booth EPSRC Partnerships for Public Engagement Funding

An important part of the work of a University is to motivate and encourage the next generation of undergraduates and to reach out into the community. The Family Telecommunications Days are one such vehicle and provide public engagement for a family audience. These events are intended to demonstrate, enthuse, educate and entertain the public by illustrating the importance of telecommunications to everyday life, how modern day technology actually works and putting its evolution into historical context. The development of telecommunications is intimately linked to the development of modern day society but equally importantly, it is a story of scientific breakthrough, engineering endeavour and research achievement.

Telecommunications technology is a familiar part of our lives and the younger you are, an ever increasing necessity. However, despite this importance and widespread adoption - there are more mobile phones in the UK than people - the general public do not fully appreciate the engineering that makes the technology work and the younger's don't even anticipate that there is any engineering within devices such as mobile phones. Our Family Telecommunications Days are designed to address this issue. Comprising an exhibition of telecommunications artefacts acquired by the University and a set of interactive demonstrations designed by academic staff, the public can learn how hard it was to send messages by semaphore flag or Morse Code, find out how the telephone works, learn about fibre optics and see how the Internet is able to support high quality video communications.

Supported by a comprehensive range of posters, information sheets and educational activities the Family Telecommunications Days have grown in popularity since their inception in September 2006. Each event is hosted at the Museum of Science and Industry in Manchester and facilitated by academic staff and postgraduate students. To date a total of 10,138 people have had the pleasure of participating in a Family Telecommunications Days and judging by the feedback received, have had a most rewarding, enjoyable, motivating and educational experience.

Invited Seminars

David Kreps was invited at a Seminar at Bath University 'Code in Action: Closing the Black Box of WCAG 2.0’ Dec 3rd 2008.

David Kreps has been invited to make a presentation on Web accessibility to the Department of Critical Media Studies, Liverpool John Moores University. Their presentation was entitled: “VIP 2.0? Engineering that makes the technology work and the youngsters don’t even care.”

The project: The project is to create a scalable and effective design system that allows independent retailers to access, design and tailor POS material to fit their needs. Currently independent retailers are relying on generic material designed and distributed by the large suppliers and manufacturers (i.e. Mars, Scottish Courage, Proctor & Gamble) this is cumbersome and expensive as well as limited and ‘un-targeted’. This system overcomes this and allows the retailers access to the branding and the campaigns devised by the suppliers and manufacturers but with the ability to tailor the material to their individual needs.

The KTP will take this prototype to completion as a product that can be used by and sold to any of their major blue chip clients for use by independent retailers.

Professor Nigel Linga, Professor David Parsons, Dr Kate Booth EPSRC Partnerships for Public Engagement Funding

An important part of the work of a University is to motivate and encourage the next generation of undergraduates and to reach out into the community. The Family Telecommunications Days are one such vehicle and provide public engagement for a family audience. These events are intended to demonstrate, enthuse, educate and entertain the public by illustrating the importance of telecommunications to everyday life, how modern day technology actually works and putting its evolution into historical context. The development of telecommunications is intimately linked to the development of modern day society but equally importantly, it is a story of scientific breakthrough, engineering endeavour and research achievement.

Telecommunications technology is a familiar part of our lives and the younger you are, an ever increasing necessity. However, despite this importance and widespread adoption - there are more mobile phones in the UK than people - the general public do not fully appreciate the engineering that makes the technology work and the youngsters don’t even anticipate that there is any engineering within devices such as mobile phones. Our Family Telecommunications Days are designed to address this issue. Comprising an exhibition of telecommunications artefacts acquired by the University and a set of interactive demonstrations designed by academic staff, the public can learn how hard it was to send messages by semaphore flag or Morse Code, find out how the telephone works, learn about fibre optics and see how the Internet is able to support high quality video communications.

Supported by a comprehensive range of posters, information sheets and educational activities the Family Telecommunications Days have grown in popularity since their inception in September 2006. Each event is hosted at the Museum of Science and Industry in Manchester and facilitated by academic staff and postgraduate students. To date a total of 10,138 people have had the pleasure of participating in a Family Telecommunications Days and judging by the feedback received, have had a most rewarding, enjoyable, motivating and educational experience.

Esteme

Apostolos Antonacopoulou has been elected Vice-President of the International Association of Pattern Recognition (IAPR).

Further details about IAPR can be found at: www.iapr.org

How Jarvis has been invited by the conference organisers and the British Council to deliver the a featured speaker talk - details as follows: April, 2009. Oman International ELT Conference Responding to Challenges in the Curriculum, Assessment and Independent Learning. Featured Speaker ‘The Changing Role of Computers in Independent Learning.’

Ben Light - Appointed as Senior Associate Editor – European Journal of Information Systems 2008-10.


Ben Light – Appointed Associate Editor for the 2009 International Conference on Information Systems.

Chris Procter was invited to take part in the think tank concerning e-support for work-related learning held at Winchester Business School in January 2009 organised jointly by the HEA and JSC – contact Chris if you would like to know more

Alexei Heineze and Elaine Ferneyhe - Research 2.0: Virtual Surveys Limited: Elaine and Aleksej have taken on an academic placement in a Manchester based market research company – Virtual Surveys Limited (http://www.virtualsurveys.com). This is an exciting opportunity to help the company in understanding their operations of Closed Online Research Communities and for the academics to study the way in which the latest Web 2.0 technologies change the processes of market research – Research 2.0.

The particular Closed Online Research Communities they are investigating are study easy, OZ and United Biscuits.

Publications

Journal Papers


Book Chapters


