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ISRC NEWS *Issue 4: July 2002*

Members of the ISRC have been busy since the publication of the last Newsletter back in February. The ISRC was well represented at the ECIS 2002 Conference held in Gdansk, Poland.

Congratulations to Profs. Fernando and Rezgui on being awarded new research projects funded by the European Commission. I would like to thank Yacine Rezgui for serving as Associate Head, Funded Research Projects. His knowledge and experience in this area has been beneficial. I am pleased to announce that Prof. David Chadwick has been appointed as the new Associate Head, Funded Research Projects.

It gives me pleasure to welcome three new lecturers to the School, Marie Burke, Anita Greenhill and Laura Campoy Gomez. I hope you will make them feel welcome.

Trevor Wood-Harper
Director, ISRC

In this issue:

- New Publications
- Funded Research Projects
- Who's Doing What
- Software Agents and Internet Learning
- 4th Continuous Auditing Workshop
- New Staff & Postgraduate Research Students

Publications

Books

Vidgen, R.T., Avison, D.E, Wood, J.R.G. and Wood-Harper, A.T. (Forthcoming), 'Developing Web Information Systems', Butterworth-Heinemann 2002.

Bell, S. and Wood-Harper, A.T. (Forthcoming), 'Sustainable Information Systems: The Multiview Approach', Earthscan 2002.

Journals

Light, B. 2002, 'The Maintenance Implications of the Customisation of ERP Software', in The Journal of Software Maintenance: Research and Practice, vol. 13, no. 6, pp. 415-430.

Kawalek, P. and Wood-Harper, T., 2002, 'The Finding of Thorns: User Participation in Enterprise System Implementation', in DataBase, vol. 33, no. 1.

McBride N. and Wood-Harper, A.T. 2002, 'Towards User-Oriented Control of End-User Computing in Large Organizations', in Journal of End-User Computing, vol. 14, no. 1.

Conferences Cont/d

Beer, M. and Whatley, J. 2002, 'A Multi-Agent System to Support Synchronous Collaborative Learning in an International Environment,' Poster Presentation at Autonomous Agents 2002 Conference, Bologna.

Avison, D.E. and Wood-Harper, A.T. (Forthcoming), 'Bringing Social and Organisational Issues into Information Systems Development: The Story of Multiview', Clarke, S. and Coakes, E. (eds), Socio-Technical Issues and Trends, Idea Publications 2002.

Baskerville, R. and Wood-Harper, A.T., 2002, 'A Critical Perspective on Action Research as a Method for Information Systems', in Myers, M. and Avison, D. (eds), Qualitative Research Methods in Information Systems, Sage Publications 2002.

Bennetts, P.D.C. and Wood-Harper, A.T., 2002, 'Measurement of Performance and Role Play in Churchmanian Design Systems: Instantiation,' in 2002 Americas Conference on Information Systems, Dallas, Texas, USA.

The following papers were presented at the 10th European Conference on Information Systems (ECIS 2002) Conference, held in Gdansk, Poland, 6-8 June 2002.

Varey, R.J., Wood, J.R.G. And Wood-Harper, A.T., (Forthcoming), 'A Theoretical Review of Management and Information Systems Using a Critical Communication Theory', in Journal of Information Technology.

Book Chapter

Holland, C. and Light, B. 2002, 'Critical Success Factors in ERP Implementation', in Wilcocks, L. et al., Second Wave Enterprise Resource Planning Systems: Implementation and Effectiveness, Cambridge University Press.

Conferences

McMaster, T. and Kautz, K. 2002, 'A Short History of Diffusion', IFIP 8.6 International Conference on the Adoption and Diffusion of IT in an Environment of Critical Change, Sydney, Australia.

Whatley, J. and Bell, F. 2002, 'The Effect Upon Learning of Collaboration on Teamwork Projects Across Borders,' EUNIS, Oporto, Portugal.

Whatley, J. and Beer, M. 2002, 'Investigation into the Roles of Agents in Supporting Students Working on Group Projects Online,' Networked Learning Conference, Sheffield.

Delgado, C. and Aylett, R.S. 2002, 'Virtual Odours to Transmit Emotions in Virtual Agents', VRAI 2002, pp. 1-8, Hangzhou, China.

Aylett, R.S. and Doniat, C. 2002, 'Supporting the Domain Expert in Planning Domain Construction', Workshop on Knowledge Engineering Tools and Techniques for AI Planning, AIPS 2002, Toulouse, France.

Basden, A. 2002, 'A Philosophical Underpinning for ISD', in Proceedings of the 10th European Conference on Information Systems (ECIS 2002), Gdansk, Poland, pp. 68-78.

Wilson, I.E. and Rezgui, Y. 2002, 'Toward the Digital Construction Virtual Enterprise', in Proceedings of the 10th European Conference on Information Systems (ECIS 2002), Gdansk, Poland, pp. 686-695.

Ferneley, E. and Light, B. 2002, 'Knowledge Management Systems: The Role of Encouragement', in Proceedings of the 10th European Conference on Information Systems (ECIS 2002), Gdansk, Poland, pp. 884-893.

Rezgui, Y., Zarli, A., Kazi, A.S. and Wilson, I. 2002, 'Enhancing the Competitiveness of the European Construction Industry in the Digital Economy', in Proceedings of the 10th European Conference on Information Systems (ECIS 2002), Gdansk, Poland, pp. 1477 - 1486.

Ferneley, E., Wetherill, M. and Rezgui, Y. 2002, 'Toward the Construction Knowledge Economy: The E-COGNOS Project', in Proceedings of the 10th European Conference on Information Systems (ECIS 2002), Gdansk, Poland, pp. 1508-1516.

New Projects



European Funded

Projects

Prof. Yacine Rezgui has secured a new Framework 5 IST project 'Strategic Roadmap Towards Knowledge-Driven Sustainable Construction'. The project is to commence June 2002.



EPSRC Funded Project

Prof. Grahame Cooper and **Prof. Yacine Rezgui** are co-investigators in a £3m EPSRC initiative aiming at setting up a Salford Centre for Research and Innovation. The Centre involves a team of ten investigators and is managed by Prof. Ghassan Aouad, School of Construction and Property Management.

The project involves a consortium of European key players in the Construction-IT field from France, Finland, The Netherlands, Germany, and Belgium. The project has received support from over 50 industrial companies across Europe.

The co-investigators on this project are Prof. Grahame Cooper and Prof. Ghassan Aouad from the School of Construction and Property Management.

Completed Project

Open System for Inter-enterprise Information Management in Dynamic Virtual Environments (OSMOS)



Prof. Terrence Fernando has been awarded two Roadmap projects, one on Future Workspaces and the other on Urban Planning.

Prof. Rezgui's OSMOS project (IST-1999-10491) funded by the European Commission under the IST Framework 5 programme was successfully completed. The project ran from January 2000 to March 2002, and received total funding of £1.5m, of which Salford received £199,000.

WHO'S DOING WHAT?

Prof. David Wastell was appointed as Associate Editor for the European Journal of Information Systems (EJIS) in February 2002.

Ms. Maria Burke has been appointed to the Editorial Board of the Journal of Documentation. She also holds the post of Visiting Fellow at the Institute of Information Science at Jagiellonian University in Krakow, Poland.

Prof. Trevor Wood-Harper has been appointed Associate Editor, Australasian Conference on Information Systems (ACIS 2002). He has also been appointed Chair of Research Assessment Panel, e-Commerce Research Centre, School of Information Systems, Edith Cowan University, Perth, Australia, April 2002, and will serve as a member on the Programme Committee Workshop entitled 'Information Systems Foundations: Building the Theoretical Base', to be held in Canberra, Australia, October 2002.

Trevor has been appointed Research member, BCS Accreditation Visiting Panel and has been appointed an external member of the Validation Panel, MSc Information Systems, Integration, both at De Montford University.

Trevor will serve as referee on Electronic Commerce grant bids, for the Wellcome Trust and will serve as referee on five EPSRC grant bids.

Prof. Wood-Harper was a keynote speaker and panel member, at the Malaysia Research Day, in April 2002. Trevor will serve as External Examiner, University TAR, Malaysia, in 2002

Dr. Amit Mitra was invited by the Bertelsmann and the AOL Time Warner Foundations to take part in the 21st Century Literacy Summit held in Berlin on 7 and 8 March 2002. This Conference was directed to deal with 'New Literacy' for convergent media. The central purpose of the Conference including discussion of findings and recommendations of decision makers in the areas like Education, Work Place and Public Policy. Amit presented a case of his Teaching Company Scheme, Moonfish, and dimensions of organisational learning within the knowledge warehouse creation project.

Prof. Ruth Aylett gave her Inaugural Lecture 'Towards the Holodeck, Adding Intelligence to Virtual Environments' on 29 April 2002.

Tom McMaster is responsible for the official IFIP 8.6 website, which can be found at <http://www.isi.salford.ac.uk/ifip>

Tom McMaster is off to Perth, Australia, in July, where he will be presenting two research seminars entitled 'Diffusion...or Illusion?'. He will be visiting Edith Cowan University Perth and University of the Sunshine Coast near Brisbane.

Software Agents and Internet Learning

An ALT workshop was held in March, where participants were able to see demonstrations of various applications of agents to learning online. Online learning, both campus based and at a distance, is set to become a growth area and providing support for students is seen as a suitable application area for software agents. There were examples of student support agents, virtual environments and knowledge sharing agents, from a variety of presenters including Elaine Ferneley and Ruth Aylett.

Some participants were from academic backgrounds, whose concern is very much with finding new technologies for supporting students, and they expressed considerable interest in the applications being demonstrated. We discussed topics such as trust and identity in the context of students using software agents.

The main criticism of the day was that there was no opportunity for hands on experience of the systems. This is to be addressed by a follow up workshop, at the ALT Conference in September, where participants will be able to try out a selection of systems, and give us their opinions and suggestions.

Janice Whatley

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4th World Continuous Auditing Seminar

The ISI hosted the Fourth Continuous Auditing and Reporting Symposium on 18 - 19 April 2002. The event was sponsored by the Institute of Chartered Accountants England and Wales, Platinum Sponsor, and Audicon GmbH, Germany. The Symposium was organised by David Chadwick, Mike O'Hara, and PhD student, Robert Onions, and Rutgers University, USA.

To obtain further information about this seminar, please contact [Prof. David Chadwick](#).

eSM@RT 2002 Conference in collaboration with CISEMIC 2002

'Towards a European Knowledge Economy in the Construction and Related Sectors' 19-21 November 2002

Registration to the Conference is now open. The Conference registration form is available on the Conference web site:

esmart.salford.ac.uk/eSMART.htm

NEW STAFF



Maria Burke joined the ISI in February 2002. Her main teaching and research interests are in business intelligence and strategies, knowledge management, business

infrastructures and the way in which organization structures and strategies are developing within the transitional economies of Central and Eastern European countries.



Anita Greenhill has recently joined the ISI after working at Griffith

NEW POSTGRADUATE RESEARCH STUDENTS

Mr. Soumit Sain, PhD (Supervisor: Trevor Wood-Harper) - Mr. Sain is working in the area of Knowledge Management.

Ms. Maria Faghihi, PhD (Supervisor: Trevor Wood-Harper) - Ms. Faghihi's research topic will be in the area of Virtual Community.

Mr. R. Balasubramanian, PhD (Supervisor: Trevor Wood-Harper) - Mr. Balasubramanian is working in the area of Software Quality.

Ms. Jenny Lau, MPhil (Supervisor: Amit Mitra) - Ms. Lau's research will focus on Interactive Knowledge Warehouse.

University, Brisbane in Australia. She has a Bachelor of Arts with a double major in Sociology and Anthropology and has recently submitted her Ph.D. in the area of the development of Web Information Systems. She has published work relating to a variety of research interests. Her Ph.D. is an examination of virtual space and the impact that new technological developments are having on organisations and people. This work explores information systems and the relationship between spatial configuration and individual usage of Information Technology. She has co-authored and contributed over the past five years to research in the areas of gender and IT both in the educational and work environments, and has also published work in the areas of virtual organisations and virtual education. As a natural progression of the research into virtual space she is currently expanding her research to include the areas of e-commerce and information systems quality using the World Wide Web.

**RESEARCH NEWSLETTER
SUBMISSIONS**

*The next issue of the ISRC Newsletter will be published in January 2003. Submissions to the Newsletter must be sent to Donna Bailey at Email: <mailto:D.S.Bailey@salford.ac.uk> by **15 December 2002.***



Laura Campoy Gomez joined the the ISI in August. She is originally a Spanish academic, holding a BSc, MSc, and a PhD in Computer Science. During the last few years she has been teaching Computer Science Foundations,

Programming and Concurrent Programming at the University of Murcia, Spain, as a member of the Department of Information Engineering and Communications (DIIC). Her research interest are in Ontologies and Knowledge Management, with a special interest in corporate memories and organisations, that being the subject of her PhD thesis. Her research activities have been carried out in the Research Group of Artificial Intelligence and Knowledge Engineering (AIKE) within the University of Murcia. Previously, she had some technical experience, first working for an IT company and then as a member of the technical staff of the University of Murcia, with responsibility for the new Computing Laboratories.
