

JCDL workshop proposal

Workshop title

Usability for Digital Libraries

Short description

This workshop will bring together researchers from a variety of disciplines to share insights, methods and findings about usability and user acceptance of digital libraries.

Statement of objectives for the workshop

The main objective of the workshop is to bring together researchers concerned particularly with user issues for digital libraries, building on earlier work (e.g. at workshops and previous ACM / IEEE conferences) and focusing a community of interest on this topic. The intention is both to bring together the existing community and also draw in others with interests in this area. A secondary objective is to publish workshop proceedings that will raise the profile of usability for digital libraries.

Topical outline for the workshop

Possible topics include:

- ◆ Empirical studies of user behaviour when interacting with libraries;
- ◆ Evaluations of existing libraries;
- ◆ Formal and semi-formal models of users, systems and interactions that support reasoning about usability;
- ◆ Novel techniques for supporting usability (NB: reports of novel techniques are expected to include at least a user-centred rationale for the approach being adopted, and preferably a user-centred evaluation of the approach);
- ◆ Social and organisational aspects that influence user acceptance of libraries in various settings;
- ◆ Tools and techniques that support designers accommodating any or all of the above concerns in working digital libraries.

Identification of the expected audience

The expected audience is researchers and practitioners who are either active in this area, or who have an interest in usability and usefulness issues and wish to participate without necessarily presenting their own work.

Description of the planned format

The intended format is a fairly standard workshop format, with presentations of research results and ongoing work on usability, but with plenty of time for discussion and informal interactions between papers and over coffee etc.

Expected size

Since there has not previously been a workshop on this topic, it is difficult to anticipate size, but the intention is to aim for total participation of 20-30, including 8-10 presentations.

How the attendees will be identified, notified of the workshop, and, if necessary, selected from applicants

Attendees will be identified through a general call for participation. The programme committee is, intentionally, highly international. All committee members will notify people within their particular communities about the workshop – both personally and using electronic mailing lists. Participants presenting papers will be selected through a standard reviewing process. There is no plan to explicitly select other participants, other than by determining a cut-off point on registrations for the workshop if it turns out to be over-subscribed.

Contact and biographical information on the organisers

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Ann Blandford

Dr. Ann Blandford is a Senior Lecturer in the UCL Interaction Centre, and leads the Research Institute on Digital Libraries, which focuses on usability of libraries. She has organised several successful workshops and regularly served on programme committees. In 1994, she co-chaired a symposium on Artificial Intelligence at the University of Leeds (UK), comprising 9 parallel workshops (attended by over 250 delegates). In 1996, she was 'posters' chair for the British HCI conference, and co-edited volume 2 of the conference proceedings, and in 2001 she was technical co-chair for IHM-HCI2001, a joint English – French conference on HCI.

George Buchanan

George Buchanan is a Research Fellow in the Interaction Design Centre at Middlesex University. He has been a reviewer for workshops at the World Wide Web series of conferences in 1999 and 2001, and has presented at workshops at the Joint Conference of Digital Libraries in 2001 and the 9th WWW Conference, 2000.

Call for papers:

Usability for Digital Libraries

“It’s like being given a Rolls Royce and only being able to sound the horn”: this is the description of one user when asked about her experience of digital libraries. Digital libraries have great potential to help people organise, access and share information in powerful ways. However, the cost for the user is a huge learning curve, and most existing libraries do not provide sufficient or appropriate feedback and guidance to users to enable them to acquire expertise appropriately rapidly and easily. This workshop will bring together researchers from a variety of disciplines to share insights, methods and findings about usability and user acceptance of digital libraries. Possible topics include:

- ◆ Empirical studies of user behaviour when interacting with libraries;
- ◆ Evaluations of existing libraries;
- ◆ Formal and semi-formal models of users, systems and interactions that support reasoning about usability;
- ◆ Novel techniques for supporting usability (NB: reports of novel techniques are expected to include at least a user-centred rationale for the approach being adopted, and preferably a user-centred evaluation of the approach);
- ◆ Social and organisational aspects that influence user acceptance of libraries in various settings;
- ◆ Tools and techniques that support designers accommodating any or all of the above concerns in working digital libraries.

Papers are welcomed on the above, or related, topics. Papers should be up to 4 sides, in standard ACM format (see <http://www.acm.org/sigs/sigchi/chipubform/> for details). Please submit papers to Dr. Ann Blandford (email: A.Blandford@ucl.ac.uk), with a copy to George Buchanan (G.Buchanan@mdx.ac.uk), in PDF or RTF form. See <http://www.cs.mdx.ac.uk/ridl/jcdl02.html>

Important dates:

Submission:	12 th April 2002
Notification of acceptance:	20 th May 2002
Camera-ready copy due:	17 th June 2002
Workshop date:	18 th July 2002?

Workshop Chairs:

Ann Blandford	UCL Interaction Centre, University College London, UK.
George Buchanan	Interaction Design Centre, Middlesex University, London, UK.

Programme Committee

Katy Börner	Indiana University, USA
Sally-Jo Cunningham	University of Waikato, New Zealand
Christine Borgman	University of California, Los Angeles, USA
Matt Jones	University of Waikato, New Zealand
Hanna Stelmaszewska	Middlesex University, London, UK
Tamara Sumner	University of Colorado, Boulder, USA

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