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CALL FOR PARTICIPATION

HCIEd.2006-2
The HCI Educators' *Yellow Book* Workshop

Workshop to be held at the HCI 2006 conference, London, UK
Monday 11th September 2006
Workshop website: <http://www.cs.mdx.ac.uk/research/idc/HCIEd2006-2/index.html>
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BACKGROUND

Organised by the BCS HCI Group's Education and Practice Sub-Group and held in conjunction with the HCI 2006 Conference in London, this workshop follows on from the earlier Easter HCI Educators' Workshop on "Inventivity". This series of workshops is intended to provide a forum for HCI Educators in both industry and academia to extend their understanding of curriculum development and delivery issues in teaching HCI.

WORKSHOP THEME

The theme of this September's workshop, will be to examine the problems that occur in the design of good HCI solutions, and the use of that focus to develop a corpus of problems that can guide curriculum development and delivery in HCI. We hope to use that as a focus to develop a "Yellow Book" of Referent Problems in HCI.

PURPOSE AND OBJECTIVES

The purpose of the workshop is to identify "standard", or referent, problems which educators and trainers can use to teach different aspects of HCI analysis, evaluation, design and invention. The objectives are: (i) to make a first attempt at classifying interaction / usability problems that would guide the kinds of problem sets to develop, and (ii) to express them in different problem cases that could be used for design exercises to be used classrooms.

WHAT ARE THESE PROBLEMS?

Just as there are standard 'referent' problems in programming that illustrate key concepts e.g. Tower of Hanoi for sorting algorithms, the pole balancing problem in AI, it would be of value to develop a similar set of referent problems for the different aspects of HCI design. Such problem cases would, however, be developed along the lines of case studies, such as those from the Harvard Business School, but instead intended for HCI design. Such problem cases would have enough detail for students to make them challenging. These problems would encompass sufficient contextual information to represent some of the complexity that is present in the real-world. Through such cases, we anticipate helping our HCI students learn to cope with complexity. One of the key challenges will be to present the situation without specifying the problem, providing the student with the opportunity to formulate the problem.

The Yellow Book case studies or problems are not intended to be a collection of successful HCI projects or case studies that represent solved problems or implementations of systems from which lessons learnt have already been extracted and reported, e.g. cases such as the Olympic Messaging System. The Yellow Book cases should present students with opportunities to identify the problem to be addressed and to define it such that a solution can be developed.

These problem cases could also be classified to show classes of interaction and visualisation design problems which students need to work on in order to demonstrate their competence and understanding of how to apply HCI principles, concepts, theories or guidelines in a non-mechanical way. These problems would also embed the socio-organisational issues which often influence design decisions.

PARTICIPATION

To participate in the workshop, please submit a 3-4 page Position Statement.

POSITION STATEMENTS

The Position Statements from attendees are *not* case studies, but descriptions about what they would consider to be a suitable case that they might have used and would like to further develop for later inclusion in the "Yellow Book"

Each Position Statement should provide (i) an overview of the situation to be represented by the case study, (ii) the nature of problem that the case is intended to present, (iii) the areas of HCI theory, principles and/or techniques that a student would need to know or likely to learn in order to develop an innovative or creative solution, and (iv) an envisioning of how the proposer sees the students working with the case.

The focus of these case studies should be (i) problem formulation, so we do not define the problem, but students need to figure out what is the problem, and then (ii) develop and recommend appropriate design solutions.

Position Statements should be between 3-4 pages, 10-12 pt Times Roman font, and in the HCI 2006 Conference Proceedings Volume 2 format. All Position Statements will be bound for the workshop.

Position Statements should be emailed to:

Paul Englefield, IBM-UK, at paul_englefield@uk.ibm.com

WORKSHOP FORMAT

This will be a one-day workshop. To develop a common understanding of the notion of case studies, participants will discuss a number of different case study formats and the underlying pedagogy. Participants will then present their proposed problems for discussion, develop a classification framework and to then classify the proposed cases in that framework, and then develop a format for preparing the cases in the Yellow Book.

OUTCOMES

We expect the following outcomes from the workshop:

- a. A refined publication concept for an edited "Yellow Book".
- b. An agreed format in which the case studies would take and their content and possible organisation
- c. An agreement for delegates to select and agree to develop a case study for a chapter in the "Yellow Book".
- d. An agreement on a timetable for completion of the "Yellow Book".

KEY DATES

12 June 06 – First Position Statement submission deadline

19 June 06 – Notification of acceptance

23 June 06 – HCI2006 Conference Early Bird registration deadline

31 July 06 – Second Position Statement submission deadline (for late submissions)

11 August 06 – Notification of acceptance.

14 August 06 – Last day to register for the Workshop

REGISTRATION

Registration fee for the workshop is £80.00.

Please note that attendance for the workshop also requires registration to the HCI2006 Conference, at least for the day of the workshop. For details about how to register, please visit <http://www.hci2006.org/>

WORKSHOP ORGANISERS

Paul Englefield, IBM-UK (paul_englefield@uk.ibm.com)

Janet Read, University of Central Lancashire (jcread@uclan.ac.uk)

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