

Digital Documents and Media

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The Digital Documents and Media Track has been part of HICSS for the last number of years. What I personally find fascinating about this Track is the amount of turnover and renaming of MiniTracks each year. I feel this represents the dynamic nature of the digital age in which we live.

This year we will have a special Track session with two invited speakers sharing the spotlight. Judith Klavans is Director of the Center for Research on Information and Access at Columbia University and has been invited by the Information Retrieval and Digital Library Applications MiniTrack. The second speaker is Peter Chen, the M. J. Foster Distinguished Chair Professor of Computer Science at Louisiana State University. Dr. Chen is the originator of the Entity-Relationship Model (ER Model) and has been invited by The Semantic Web: Structure & Critical Information Issues MiniTrack.

This year, we have the reappearance of two popular MiniTracks, Genres of Digital Documents and Persistent Conversation. Recognizing the genre of a document is useful because it makes communications more easily recognizable and understandable by recipients and more easily generated by senders. Thus, the study of genres, besides enhancing our understanding of information searching and use, may also provide insights into organizational or community structures. Closely aligned with the Genre MiniTrack is the Persistent Conversation MiniTrack that examines the transposition of ordinarily ephemeral conversation into the potentially persistent digital medium. The persistence of such conversations gives them the potential to be searched, browsed, replayed, annotated, visualized, restructured, and recontextualized, thus opening the door to a variety of new uses and practices.

As well as the reappearance of these Minitracks, there have been some changes in the organization of the returning minitracks, as follows:

- The Digital Libraries Minitrack and the Information Retrieval and Applications MiniTrack have merged to become Information Retrieval and Digital Library Applications
- Enterprise Content Management has become Enterprise Content Management and XML
- XML and the Semantic Web: Implications and Applications has become The Semantic Web: Structure & Critical Information Issues MiniTrack
- Creating the Experience of Media - From Media Design to Media has become The Experience of Media - From Design to Use

We also have the loss of the Knowledge Management, Organizational Memory, and Organizational Learning MiniTrack, which has moved to the Organizational Systems and Technology Track.

Overall, there has been significant change in the Digital Documents and Media Track from previous years. I believe that this is a reflection of a dynamically changing field and its importance to the knowledge economy.