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Research Record: Connections: The Great Lakes Information Science Conference

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Research Record

MARY KIM, EDITOR

Connections: The Great Lakes Information Science Conference

Lisa Given and Steven Joyce

This column contains a description of the Connections '98 Conference by Lisa Given and Steven Joyce, University of Western Ontario, and dissertations-in-progress information received since the last Research Record column.

History of the Conference

Connections: The Great Lakes Information Science Conference was first held at the University of Western Ontario (London, Ontario, Canada) in 1995. It was established by the doctoral students at the former Graduate School of Library and Information Science (now, the Faculty of Information and Media Studies) as a showcase for doctoral research in library and information science. Conference papers reflect the broad range of topics and methodological approaches that define the field. Both quantitative and qualitative research projects are included, from subdisciplines including information policy, information needs and uses, information systems, and archives.

While the primary focus is on doctoral students with accepted dissertation proposals, the intent is to provide an opportunity for students at various stages to test their ideas. In addition to providing an opportunity for doctoral students to exchange ideas and research with their colleagues, this conference

was also envisioned as an opportunity for students to develop their professional presentation and conference-planning skills. The conference title, "Connections," was chosen to represent a variety of connections resulting from the interaction of library and information science (LIS) students between topics, methods, schools, and individuals. The tradition continued at the University of Toronto in 1996 and the University of Michigan in 1997.

Connections '98 (October 24-25, 1998)

Connections '98 was hosted this year by the Faculty of Information and Media Studies (FIMS) at the University of Western Ontario (UWO). In all, twenty-one doctoral students presented research (see lists below), with participants traveling from Canada, the United States, Denmark, Sweden, and Spain. As in previous years, the conference was a great success. The presenters, faculty members, and attendees from other

universities and the local community made valuable contacts and traded research ideas. Many of the presenters felt that the small size of the conference, and its relaxed and supportive atmosphere, contributed greatly to the quality of their presentations.

Attendees were also impressed with the diversity of faculty presentations, covering such topics as the importance of social responsibility in research (Dr. Manjunath Pendakur, Dean, FIMS), the professionalism of graduate students (Dr. Catherine Ross), the impact of political economy on librarianship (Dr. Nick Dyer-Witthoford), and the practical considerations of life in a doctoral program (Dr. Margaret Ann Wilkinson). In addition, students in UWO's master's program attended many of the presentations. These students, many of whom expressed an interest in pursuing doctoral work, were able to see the range of research possibilities in the field and ask questions about doctoral programs worldwide.

The program, a list of abstracts, and contact information for all presenters can be found on the Connections '98 Web page at <http://www.fims.uwo.ca/organizations/dsa/connections.html>. If your university is located within approximately four hundred miles of one of the Great Lakes, and you would be interested in hosting Connections '99 or future conferences, please contact the authors at:

Lisa Given (lgiven@julian.uwo.ca)
Chair, Connections '98

Steven Joyce (sjoyce@julian.uwo.ca)
President, FIMS Doctoral Students' Association

Connections '98 Presentations

Clement Arsenault, University of Toronto, *Using ASP to Create Transaction Logs*

Fredrik Åström, Umeå University, Sweden, *The Development of Technological Literature Services in Sweden*

Christine Brown, University of Western Ontario, *The Role of Computer-Mediated Communication in the Research of Music Scholars: An Exploratory Investigation*

Rob Carey and Steven Joyce, University of Western Ontario, *Measuring Online Learning: Assessment of a Method*

Martin Dowding, University of Toronto, *The Effects of a Globalized "Infostructure" on Universal Access to Information*

William B. Edgar, University of Alabama, *Patterns of Professional Practice in the Digital Collections of U.S. Public Libraries*

Lisa Given, University of Western Ontario, *The Social Construction of the Adult Student Identity: Implications for Academic Information Behaviours*

Kendra Jones, University of Tennessee, *Telecommunications Development in Africa*

Rosie Jones, Carnegie Mellon University, *Reducing Manual Annotation Cost and Algorithm Complexity for Classification on Huge Datasets*

Michael Kristiansson, The Royal School of Library and Information Science, Denmark, *An Operational Approach to Defining the Concepts of Information Policy and Knowledge Management*

Maureen Mackenzie, Long Island University, *A Study of the Human Factors that Influence the Flow of Information*

Rodney Marshall, University of Tennessee, *Korean Students and Information Seeking in American Universities*

Christine Marton, University of Toronto, *Web-Based Questionnaires: Issues and Solutions*

Pam McKenzie, University of Western Ontario, *Expecting the Unexpected: Information Needs Around the Confirmation of Twin Pregnancy*

Maria Dolores Garcia Santiago, Universidad de Granada, Spain, *Worldwide Search Engines Updating: A Case Study of Spanish Web Sites*

Magnus Tortensson, Gothenburg University, Sweden, *The Development of the Concept "Folkbibliotek" in Sweden in the Early Twentieth Century*

Nadine Wathen, University of Western Ontario, *The Information Needs and Uses of Primary Care Physicians*

Teresa Smith Welsh, University of Tennessee, *The Development and Construction of a Relational Database for a University of Tennessee Telemedicine Project*

YuanHua Roger Wen, University of Missouri, *Web-Based Course Instruction—A Measurement Tool for Web Site Page(s)*

David Zlotchenko, University of Tennessee, *On-Line Searching Aids: Automatically Growing Thesaurus as a Tool for Discovering Semantic Preferences of Intranet Users*

Structured, semistructured, and unstructured interviews; Audio recording; Unstructured observation (field notes); Previously published data (secondary analysis); Archival-written and other artifacts; Transcripts and other texts generated during study; Obtrusive observation (reactive); Unobtrusive observation (nonreactive); Participant observation
Diagramming and flowcharting; Coding using template to guide analysis and inductive editing approach, used in grounded theory
Organization structure—Case study
russ@sunyit.edu;
<http://www.sunyit.edu/~russ/kahn.html>

Marchi, Glenn R.

"Role of the Internet in Learning"

Fall 1997

Salvatore Belardo

Descriptive

Mailed questionnaire; Questionnaires—Web site; Interviews

Descriptive statistics; Goodness of fit procedures; Chi square analysis;

Factor analysis

Information technology—Internet

and learning organization

marchi@us.ibm.com

Dissertations-in-Progress

The following entries update the dissertations-in-progress list appearing in the Research Record column, volume 39, number 4.

University of Albany, SUNY

Kahn, Russell L.

"The Effect of Technological Innovation on Organizational Structure"

Fall 1997

Philip Eppard

Case study; Grounded theory

Emporia State University

Dow, Mirah

"Toward a Technology of Behavioral Support for Individuals with Autism: An Ideal Information System"

Winter/Spring 1998

Robert Grover, Faye Vowell, and Tes Mehring

Theoretical/philosophical inquiry; Case study; Grounded theory

Questionnaire (other); Structured interviews; Audio recording;

Structured observation (Category systems); Bibliographic and other

systems); Bibliographic and other database records; Archival-written and other artifacts; Unobtrusive observation (noneactive)
 Conceptual mapping; Coding through inductive editing approach, used in grounded theory; Textual analysis; Ethnographic analysis
 Educational libraries; Referral centers (information centers); Developmental disabilities
 downmirah@emporia.edu

Marek, Katherine G.

“Pedagogical Uses of Fiction in Graduate Professional Education: A Phenomenological Study”
 Winter/Spring 1998
 Martha L. Hale and Faye Vowell
 Phenomenology/ethnomethodology
 Semistructured interviews
 Coding through editing approach, used in grounded theory; *QSR Nud*ist*
 Education, Graduate; Literature—Study and teaching
 kmarek@esu3.esu3.k12.ne.us

Indiana University

Nichols, James T.

“Information Behaviors and Academic Writing: Information Literacy Competencies Derived from Case Studies of Successful Upper Division Students”
 Fall 1998
 Daniel Callison
 Case study
 Semistructured interviews; Transcripts and other texts generated during study
 Coding through inductive editing approach, used in grounded theory; *QSR Nud*ist*
 Research—Methodology—Study and teaching (Higher)
 jtnichol@indiana.edu;
 http://php.indiana.edu/~jtnichol

Rutgers University

Park, Soyeon

“Supporting Interaction with Distributed and Heterogeneous Information Resources”
 Winter/Spring 1998
 Nick Belkin
 R&D—Research and development; Experimental research; Case study
 Questionnaire (other); Semistructured interviews; Audio and video recording; Structured observation (checklists); Transaction logs; Obtrusive observation (reactive); Think aloud protocols
 Descriptive statistics; Bivariate correlational statistics; Analysis of variance; Multiple regression; Discriminant analysis; *QSR Nud*ist*
 Information retrieval
 sypark@scils.rutgers.edu

University of Wisconsin—Madison

Liu, Yan Quan

“Analytical Comparison of National Public Library Statistics Used by the United States and China’s Metropolitan Public Library Directors”
 Summer 1998
 Douglas Zweizig
 Theoretical/philosophical inquiry; Bibliographic research; R&D—Research and development; Action research
 Mailed questionnaire; Written tests; Attitude scales; Personality measures; Structured observation (checklists, rating scales, and category systems); Bibliographic and other database records; Previously published data (secondary analysis); Existing numerical files; Archival-written and other artifacts
 Descriptive statistics; Bivariate correlational statistics; Goodness of fit procedures; Analysis of variance; Multiple regression; Canonical cor-

relation; Structural equations; Factor analysis; Multidimensional scaling; Cluster analysis; Computer simulation; Linear programming; Input/output analysis—structural equivalence; Conceptual mapping; Sociometric analysis; Coding with previously established code book as well as inductive editing approach, used in grounded theory

Library statistics; International library comparison; Library management; Performance measures
yanliu@csd.uwm.edu

Other Programs

Université Lumière Lyon Sciences de l'information et de la communication

Amar, Muriel

“Theoretical Foundations of Indexing: Linguistic Approach”
Winter/Spring 1997

Michel Le Guern

Mailed questionnaire

Discourse or conversational analysis; Semiotic analysis; Textual analysis; *Termino*

Indexing

amar@bib.ensmp.fr

Readers are encouraged to submit articles of one thousand to fifteen hundred words on topics related to research to Mary T. Kim, Kent State University, School of Library and Information Science, Columbus Campus, 124 Mount Hall, 1050 Carmack Dr., Columbus, OH 43210 or by e-mail: mkim@kent.edu. For more information on writing for the Research Record, visit its Web site: <http://www.personal.kent.edu/~mkim/resrecord>.