Introduction to the
Information Systems Track

The Information Systems Track is divided into three distinct themes: Collaboration Technology, Organizational Systems and Technology and a new theme added this year: Internet and the Digital Economy.

In addition, HICSS has a special session called A Vision for A New Discipline. The papers presented in this session detail current and proposed academic programs in the information, library and communication sciences. The rapid demands and changes in technology dictate that academics must address the needs of the information age. Educating students in the technical and behavioral aspects of communication and information science is vital to society.

Collaboration Technology Theme

The focus of the Collaboration Technology theme is information systems and technology support for interaction among groups of people in organizations. While this theme examines one specific research area, there is a broad range of papers that consider both development and use, as well as the application of commercially available technology in organizations.

This theme began a number of years ago with the increased interest in both Group Support Systems and Negotiation Support Systems minitracks. Out of this interest, the Collaboration Technology theme was born. It consists of minitracks grouped into eight areas: Group Support Systems, Distributed Group Support Systems, Organizational Memory, The Dynamics of Business Systems Engineering, Negotiation Support Systems Frameworks, Implementations and Evaluations, Technology-Supported Learning, Groupware User Experience and Groupware Development. Groupware Development has been added to the minitracks this year for the first time to deal with this specific issue.

Organizational Systems and Technology Theme

The Organizational Systems and Technology theme deals with significant new perspectives on the application and use of information technology in the structure and performance of organizations. This theme recognizes the growing importance of organizational uses of information systems and technology.

Internet and the Digital Economy Theme

This theme is devoted to the fundamental change that is occurring in the economies of most industrial nations, the transformation from an industrial economy to a digital economy, along with the study of a specific manifestation of this transformation, the Internet.

This theme includes nine minitracks. They are: Internet and the Information Superhighway, Electronic Commerce, Computer-Mediated Inter-Organizational Systems, Electronic Marketing, Virtual Collaboration, Telework and Organizational Connectivity, Intelligent Agents on the Internet, Telemedicine, and Workflow Technologies: Organizational and Interorganizational Dimensions.

We wish to express our thanks and appreciation to all the people who have worked so hard to make this part of the conference a success and this compendium of formal papers a part of the literature. The minitracks coordinators must exercise creativity, reliability, and dogged perseverance to bring all the loose ends together at the right time. What results from this process are papers that describe established research projects, as well as new developments in the field. The minitrack coordinators provide a brief summary and overview of the papers in their sections. We would also like to extend our thanks and appreciation to the reviewers who provided valuable insight and comments.

We hope you enjoy reading the proceedings.

Jay F. Nunamaker, Jr. and Ralph H. Sprague, Jr.
Information Systems Track Chairs
E-mail address:
nunamaker@bpa.arizona.edu and sprague@hawaii.edu