Introduction to the Human Factors and Usability Issues Minitrack

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The development and use of digital documents must address the context in which these digital documents will be used and what roles they will play at a group level, an institutional level, or an inter-organisational level. For a given task, the usefulness of a tool depends on many factors. There is clearly a need for a forum to discuss human factors and empirical studies of digital document systems.

This minitrack aims to provide an inter-disciplinary forum for researchers and practitioners to communicate their work in relation to user-centred design and evaluation issues in the larger context of digital documents. The focus is on the role of human factors in information-intensive environments in which digital documents have an integral role. This minitrack has grouped articles under two broad themes: Usability and Beyond, and Design in Context.

In the first group, Jean Scholtz presents a case study of a light-weight usability inspection methodology for online books. Ping Zhang and his colleagues introduce a theoretical framework for design and evaluation the Web in a fresh and potentially generic approach. Joan Nordbotten and Svein Nordbotten show us how they analyse search patterns in hypertext exhibits.

Articles in the second group share the notions of contexts, situations, or work domains. Lauretta Jones and her co-workers describe a re-engineering process that takes into account a broader context of the work to be supported. Johan Berndtsson analyses the adaptation of various techniques in the design of an intranet. Airi Salminen et al. evaluates the use of a structured document archive.