Introduction to the Collaboration Systems and Technology Track

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The focus of the Collaboration Systems and Technology Track is information systems and technology support for interaction among groups of people in organizations. While this track 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 track 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 Systems and Technology Track was created. It consists of minitracks in twelve areas:

- Asynchronous Learning Networks (ALNs), Starr Roxanne Hiltz and Jerry Fjermestad;
- Collaborative Engineering of Processes and Systems, Gert-Jan de Vreede, Alexander Verbraeck, Marielle den-Hengst and Doug Vogel;
- Collaborative Systems for Social and Community Change, Queen Esther Booker and Michael McQuaid;
- Distributed GSS, Kelly Burke and Laku Chidambaram;
- Global Applications of Collaborative Technology, Robert Davison and Gert-Jan de Vreede;
- GSS Patterns: ThinkLets and Methodologies, Robert Briggs and Gert-Jan de Vreede;
- Management of Distributed Projects, Roberto Evaristo and Bernhard Katzy;
- Negotiation Support Systems, Tung X. Bui and Melvin F. Shakun;
- Next Generation Learning Platform, Joachim Schaper, Max Muehlhaeuser and Joerge M. Haake;
- Technology Supported Learning, Eric Santanen and Brad Wheeler;
- User Experiences: Collaboration Systems and Knowledge Management, Jay F. Nunamaker;

We wish to express out 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. Each minitrack coordinator 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. I would also like to extend my thanks and appreciation to the reviewers who provided valuable insight and comments.

I hope you enjoy reading the proceedings.