**Introduction to the**

**Digital Documents Track**

This is the sixth year in which Digital Documents has been a major focus at HICSS. Last year I reported that the field was “beginning to mature;” and I am happy to report that the maturing is continuing. I am also happy to report that the track continues to draw much of its strength from the diversity of its content.

The trend this year seems to be towards fewer papers spread over more tracks. This reflects our intention to promote diversity of content, as does the scope of the eight minitracks we have organized this year:

- Digital Document Understanding and Visualization
- Genres of Digital Documents
- Knowledge Ecologies
- Knowledge Management, Organizational Memory, and Organizational Learning
- Persistent Conversation
- Roles and Issues of Computational Media in Learning Communities
- Searching Multi-Lingual and Multimedia Digital Documents
- Video Use in the Office and Education

Two of these minitracks, on genre and persistent conversation, continue minitracks from last year; and Digital Document Understanding and Visualization has grown out of last year’s minitrack on Understanding Digital Documents. The Collaboration Systems and Technology minitrack on organizational memory has now migrated into Digital Documents and extended its scope; and last year’s workshop, Digital Documents in Pre-University Education, has now evolved into a minitrack on computational media in learning communities. The remaining minitracks are all new and reflect some of the exciting ways in which our track is extending its diversity.

I wish to thank all the people who have contributed to the maturing of this track. I am particularly indebted to the minitrack coordinators for recruiting and reviewing so many interesting contributions. I shall let each of them provide their own introduction to the material they are presenting. I also wish to thank everyone who participated in the review process and the HICSS administration for all the help they have provided in the preparation of our materials.

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