Introduction to the
Digital Documents Track

This is the seventh year in which Digital Documents has been a major focus at HICSS. We continue to advance into new areas of inquiry to include under our umbrella, but one sign of our maturity is that we are also beginning to regroup. Thus the eight minitracks from last year have now evolved into what we hope with be a tighter structure of six minitracks:

- Crossing Collaborational Divides: Digital Documents in Socio-Technical Networks
- Digital Documents: Understanding and Communication
- Digital Technology and Educational Culture
- Knowledge Management, Organizational Memory, and Organizational Learning
- Persistent Conversation: Perspectives from Research and Design
- Video Use in the Office and Education

Three of these minitracks, on knowledge management, persistent conversation, and video, continue minitracks from last year; however, Digital Documents: Understanding and Communication constitutes a merging of two previous minitracks: Digital Document Understanding and Visualization and Genres of Digital Documents. I wish to thank James Cooper and Mike Shepherd for the skill with which they have combined their interests into a single minitrack. Last year’s minitrack on learning communities has now evolved into a minitrack on Digital Technology and Educational Culture, and I continue to feel that it is important for us to continue our attention on the role of digital documents in not only the future but also the present of education. Finally, the new minitrack, Crossing Collaborational Divides reflects a continuation of the shared interest between the role of digital documents and that of collaboration systems. The overall result of the structure of this year’s track is a sustaining of the roles previously investigated for digital documents along with an expansion into new areas.

I wish to thank all the people who have contributed to the cultivation 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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