Introduction to the 2006 Electronic Government Track

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After several years of incubation within the Emerging Technologies Track, the former cluster of minitracks dedicated to electronic Government (e-Government, e-Gov, digital government) has matured into a self-standing Electronic Government Track at HICSS39. During those past years of incubation, an ever increasing number of quality e-Government-related submissions to HICSS have greatly helped establish this track as a premier academic platform for researchers in the field [1].

With 55 percent accepted submissions from outside the US, the HICSS-based e-Government Track (like the annual EGOS sub-conferences at DEXA or the NSF-sponsored dg.o conferences) is a truly global academic event and has provided the young field with tremendous tailwind by accelerating the scholarly exchange. It has also structured and shaped the research agenda in bringing together different research traditions. The e-Gov research tradition further distinguishes itself from other fields by seemingly more readily exploring and employing truly inter- and multidisciplinary research designs. This gives the young field a unique flavor and importance within the academic spectrum.

The field of digital or e-Government is also distinct from “e-Business” or “e-Commerce.” Though at first glance the e-Gov initiatives as well as the underlying technologies in government practice may resemble the former, the research agenda for e-Government has turned out to be different and, probably, even more complex than the former. Observably, the implementation of e-Government follows very different priorities and requirements, as do the organizational and political implications of e-Government, which may have even more far-reaching impacts than those of the private sector.

E-Government has been defined as “any process that the citizenry, in pursuit of its governance conducts over a computer-mediated network” [2]. Along these lines, public administration obviously finds itself at the doorsteps of a major mid- to long-term transformation.

In 2006, the e-Government Track proudly hosts a total of 38 accepted papers in seven minitracks with one, two, or three sessions each:

**E-Gov Emerging Topics** nurtures new topics such as mobile Government, research methods in e-Gov research, e-Gov foundations, and others. The minitrack is the locus for publishing and presenting academic research or practitioner reports, which would not readily fit into the other minitracks and may become self-standing topics in their own right.

**E-Gov Infrastructure and Interoperability** focuses on the technical, organizational, and social underpinnings of vertical and horizontal integration of business processes in government. Process integration it appears may face serious challenges along its path.

**E-Democracy** presents research that investigates whether or not, and, in case they do, how information technologies contribute to democratic processes and outcomes. Many scholars hold that the Internet promises to invigorate democratic processes in terms of participation and voting.

**E-Gov Organization and Management** covers characteristics, development, implementation, and uses of information systems that support the full range of management and administrative functions internal to agencies, link multiple public organizations, or connect government to its business suppliers and partners.

**E-Gov Policy, Law, and Governance** addresses how public policies and laws are related to the use and development of information and communication technologies (ICT) both in government and in society at large. Policy issues and their analysis pertain to the digital divide, infrastructure development, and educational uses of ICT.

**E-Security** presents research focusing on the critical role of security and assurance to government operations and citizens’ trust. The minitrack also encompasses research on secure information systems, the protection of the IT infrastructure, information sharing, information warfare, incident response, privacy, freedom of information, and disaster recovery.

**E-Gov Services and Information** showcases research dedicated to the rapidly developing field of electronic service in the public sector. Citizens expect and demand such services matching private-sector services in every aspect of quality, quantity, and availability.

Reference
