ISCRAM

NEWSLETTER

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www.iscram.org

Editorial
Farewell and Hail!

I would like to thank Simon French for his excellent work the past three years as editor of the newsletter. He leaves me with large shoes to fill.

It is interesting to note how I got the job as the ISCRAM Newsletter Editor. An announcement for a new editor was release late last year and I sent Bartel an email saying, "If you don't get any volunteers, I would be happy to assist." A couple of month went by and I was speaking to a Board member and she said, "Thanks for taking over the newsletter!" So, watch out what you write in your emails.

I am actually happy to take on this assignment. The one thing that Simon warned me about was the lack of a steady flow of content for the newsletter. So I will be counting on the ISCRAM community to supply me content for the upcoming issues.

The big event this month is the 2014 ISCRAM Conference at Penn State on May 18th to May 21st. Andrea and her team are working to produce the best conference yet. Further details of ISCRAM2014 may be found on page 2.

ISCRAM Med 2014 has been announced: see page 5. It will take place in Toulouse, France on October 15 17, 2014.

One last note, Simon used proper English for his editing and spelling standard. I will be using proper American as my editing and spelling standard.

With all best wishes for 2014.

Stephen Fortier
Newsletter Editor
sfortier@gwu.edu.

Institutional Members

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ISCRAM Board

The ISCRAM Board held its annual Face-to-face meeting in Brussels on March 1st and 2nd. One of the main objectives of the meeting was to take a strategic look at the organization, and to formulate specific goals as part of a future growth strategy over the next 10 years. The three specific strategic goals that came out of this discussion were as follows:

1. ISCRAM will have a fund for financing ISCRAM research

2. ISCRAM will have 500+ members

3. ISCRAM will have a top journal

Achieving each of these goals will be a great challenge for this and future Boards, and it will

Partners

require hard work and commitment. However, the Board believes that it is the only way to keep the ISCRAM association growing as we move forward, both in quality and in quantity.

At this Face-to-face meeting, the Board also approved key processes that will impact our future conferences and publications. We have now better guidelines for track chairs and conference and program chairs, and a framework on how to initiate, conduct and quality control any future ISCRAM event large or small.

Another key achievement is the decision to move ahead with a proceedings publication and indexing agreement with Elsevier, to ensure that all of our conference proceedings can be more easily referenced and retrieved. The Board has worked hard to keep the ISCRAM proceedings open and free, despite a number of outside pressures. The agreement with Elsevier illustrates that our proceedings can be recognized for academic excellence, without compromising on our ideals.

Among its other activities this year, the Board has also approved a new discounted three-year ISCRAM membership option - not only does this provide a discounted membership rate, but also it keeps that rate the same for the three-year duration even if standard membership rates rise during that time. See more information on membership benefits at the end of this section.

To receive this discount, ISCRAM members in good standing may send an email to Linda Plotnick, the chair of the Membership committee, indicating that they would like the discount and agreeing to have their email address provided to the IDRC conference organizers for this purpose.

On the education front, the Board has approved Murray Turoff's request to form an Ad Hoc committee to create an education standard for a College Master's program in "Emergency Management Information Systems." The committee will be working hard over the course of this next year to explore this idea on behalf of the ISCRAM Association.

From an outreach standpoint, the Board has agreed to serve as an endorsing partner for the International Disaster and Risk Conference (IDRC 2014: http://idrc.info/home/). As a result of this new partnership, ISCRAM members are now being given the opportunity to pay a reduced conference registration fee at IDRC 2014.

Chris Zobel
ISCRAM Board Secretary
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Two New Membership Benefits are Available

Two new ISCRAM Association membership benefits have been implemented and are now available. More are being worked on and should be available in the coming year. The two new benefits are:

1. **Three-year Membership Discount:** Members of all categories of membership except Student may sign up for 3 years at one time with a 10% discount on the total of the 3 year membership. This has not only the advantage of a discount on the membership fees, but also locks in the membership rate, protecting it against fee increases, for the three years. If you have already joined for 2014-2015 but wish to take advantage of this option, please contact Linda Plotnick at linda.plotnick.iscram@gmail.com.

2. **Members Only Discussion Forums:** We now have members only Discussion Forums on our ISCRAM website. There are four Forums: A General Discussion Forum, A Practitioners' Forum, a Research Form, and an FAQ. We hope that academics and practitioners will use all forums to engage in discussions that can benefit both communities. To access the forums, members need to register on the website (iscram.org) and let Linda Plotnick (linda.plotnick.iscram@gmail.com) know the user name used so that she can arrange for forum access. The forums are new so we hope many members will get the conversations started!

ISCRAM2014

The 11th International Conference on Information Systems for Crisis Response and Management

"*Empowering citizens and communities through information systems for crisis response and management*"

State College, Pennsylvania, USA
May 18th – 21st, 2014

www.iscram2014.org

ISCRAM 2014 Program - Will be an Exciting Meeting

The full program for ISCRAM 2014 is now live.

http://iscram2014.ist.psu.edu/sites/default/files/misc/ISCRAM-Program-2014.pdf

You can still register for the conference here.

http://iscram2014.ist.psu.edu/node/2

Sunday features several workshops and tutorials, in addition to the Doctoral Consortium and the traditional beer night. This year, there will be a $25 charge for each half-day of tutorial or workshop, to cover the expenses of coffee breaks, breakfast, lunch, and technical support. Registration will be open shortly; some Sunday events have limits on attendance, so early registration is recommended.

We hope to meet you all with a glass in hand on Sunday, May 18th at 7:00pm in Whisker's Pub.

(Its called Whisker's because the mascot for the University is a Lion. You'll see Lion references everywhere)

The pub is located inside the Nittany Lion Inn. Many of you will be staying there. Very convenient.

IMPORTANT: to get drink tickets for Beer Night— you'll need to pick up your registration materials and officially check in for the conference. You can do that Sunday during the day at the College of Information Sciences and Technology Building (lovingly called IST) two blocks south of the hotel. This is the location for almost all conference activity. The building is shaped like a bridge over the main road. Its hard to miss. Plus, there will be signs and helpers directing you.

Workshops and Tutorials:

1. Tutorial – Delphi and Cross Impact Analysis for Generating Dynamic Emergency Scenarios
Sunday, May 18th: 8:30am-12:30pm

   Explanation of the combined use of the Delphi Method, Cross Impact Analysis, and Interpretive Structural Modeling to create Dynamic Emergency Scenarios by soliciting subjective estimates from professionals; capable of being used for planning, foresight, and/or training. (Murray Turoff, Victor Banuls, and Linda Plotnick)

2. Workshop – Delphi and Cross Impact Analysis for Generating Dynamic Emergency Scenarios
Sunday, May 18th: 1:30pm-5:30pm

   After explanations of two examples of the combined use of Delphi, Cross-Impact, and Interpretive Structural Modeling to produce dynamic scenarios for use in emergency management, participants will be shown how to set up and analyze an online survey instrument to collect the data; take the sample survey based on their inputs; and then break into small groups to generate examples of types of scenarios they would like to generate and preliminary ideas for doing so. (Murray Turoff, Victor Banuls, and Linda Plotnick)

3. Tutorial – Visual Analytics with Social Media for Crisis Management
Sunday, May 18th: Full day, 8 hours

   A hands-on tutorial that will explore freely available open source tools to extract, organise and visualise social media data for crisis management. Participants will be provided with coding material in advance and will be required to have appropriate software and API keys available before joining the tutorial. Limited to 20 participants. (Vitaveska Lanfranchi and Suvodeep Mazumdar)

4. Workshop – Educational Games for Crisis Response and Management
Sunday, May 18th: 1:30pm-5:30pm

   This workshop will demonstrate how to convert educational objectives related to crisis response and management into educational video games, focusing on game development and instructional design. (David Thornton and Guillermo Francia III). Limited to 25 participants.

Bonus Activities

If you are attending the conference with a non-ISCRAM companion, or just need a break from the scholarly focus—we offer a selection of optional bonus activities. All are welcome.

Descriptions of the activities are here:

http://iscram2014.ist.psu.edu/node/38

Registration for the activities is here:

https://www.cvent.com/events/iscram-social-events/registration-735614174a854c94b714aa1cbd25f736.aspx

Program Summary

Each day of the program will feature at least one panel in addition to keynote speakers, papers, posters and demos. Tentatively planned panels include ; Humanitarian Response to Cyclone Yolanda; Doing IT right: Ethical, Legal and Social issues of IT- Supported Emergency Response; Crowdsourcing to Create a Common Operating Picture for Crisis Management; and Social Media and the Boston Marathon Bombing.

Starr Roxanne Hiltz,
Program Chair

Fun at ISCRAM2014!

Come to State College, Pennsylvania, USA!

Come to Happy Valley!

"Happy Valley" is sometimes used as a colloquialism for the State College area. In 2013, it was ranked second smartest city by Lumosity and third best college town in the United States by the American Institute for Economic Research. Penn State was ranked 9th in The Princeton Review's 2014 list of top party schools.

We work hard and we play hard.

ISCRAM 2014 will continue this grand tradition with the equally energetic and fun traditions of ISCRAMs past.

Sunday, May 18th — We will host a casual beer night on Sunday at a local pub. Come by after a long day of workshops and tutorials or straight off the place and raise a glass with old and new friends.

Monday, May 19th—Stroll the beautiful botanical gardens and arboretum during our welcome reception. Enjoy a glass of wine, a bite, beautiful music and nature's glory after a long day of work.

After the reception on Monday—Penn State Bar Tour. Led by graduate students in the College of Information Sciences and Technology and the GeoVista Center, visit the ten best bars in a college town that boasts over 200. Join the tour. Get the T-shirt.

Tuesday, May 20th — All are encouraged to attend the conference banquet in the grand ballroom of the Nittany Lion Inn. Delicious food and drink will be served. Awards will be presented. Jokes will be told. Promises and plans for ISCRAM 2015 will be made.

After the banquet on Tuesday—we will hold the first ever ISCRAM dance party. We'll offer an awesome local band, drinks and a spacious dance floor. Zeno promises to get us started. Kick up your heels! Get down and boogie! Shake your groove thang!

Outside of regularly scheduled, official activities we will also provide guided tours of Penn State University, the College of Information Sciences and Technology, The GeoVista Center and all of the lab spaces. We have planned guided trips to our world-famous Berkey Ice Creamery, the University Palmer Art Museum, and the Football stadium. We will also schedule a guided hike up to the top of Mount Nittany and tee times for those that wish to take advantage of our golf courses.

If you have any questions please contact Andrea Tapia at atapia@ist.psu.edu or David Jordan at djordan@ist.psu.edu.

2014 ISCRAM Summer School on Humanitarian Information and Supply Chain Management

The aim of the ISCRAM Summer School is to provide participants, doctoral students and practitioners, with an intense interactive learning experience on the use of information and supply chain management in humanitarian crisis response. The ISCRAM Summer School is designed to bring together highly talented and motivated young researchers and experienced practitioners working in the areas of serious games, information systems, and disaster response.

The program of the ISCRAM Summer School consists of in-depth lectures, workshops, an augmented reality serious game, as well as a great social program. All lectures are taught by experienced experts in the areas of humanitarian information management, serious games, humanitarian action, disaster response, and information systems. The participants work in small groups and interact with mentoring lecturers throughout the Summer School.

For this edition of the Summer School, for the first time, we will publish Proceedings in the Springer Lecture Notes in Business Information Processing. We invite both lecturers and participants to publish their work for and during the ISCRAM Summer School in the Proceedings. For doctoral students and practitioners, we will provide a mentoring program such that leads up to a publication of a short paper in this volume.

Register now, as the number of seats is limited and going fast.

More information:

http://www.disasterresiliencelab.org/summerschool.html; or contact the organizers Tina Comes and Bartel Van de Walle.

News

News from Lili Yang

I have some news to contribute.

1. Emergency management Research Interest Group has been established in Loughborough University in the UK: http://www.lboro.ac.uk/departments/sbe/research/interestgroups/emergencymanagement/
2. A paper titled 'The Design Principles of Integrated Information Platform for Emergency Responses: The Case of 2008 Beijing Olympic Games' is published on Information Systems Research, 23(3 PART 1), pp.761-786, ISSN: 1047-7047. DOI:10.1287/isre.1110.0387.

http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0040162512001801

3. Our paper titled 'How the Internet of Things (IoT) technology enhances emergency response operations' is published on Technological Forecasting and Social Change, 80(9), pp.1854-1867, ISSN: 0040-1625. DOI: 10.1016/j.techfore.2012.07.011.

http://pubsonline.informs.org/doi/abs/10.1287/isre.1110.0387

Call for News Items

We want your news and will, within the bounds of relevance to ISCRAM, publish most things here: News of Members, including changes of job/address; New Research Projects; PhD defences; and so on. Please keep items to about 300 words. For successful PhD defences, please include the title, a short abstract (~250 words), the name of the awarding institution and any other details, such as being an Alumnus of an ISCRAM summer school. Please send all items to the Editor (sfortier@gwu.edu).

Upcoming Conferences and Seminars, Journal Calls for Special Issues

ISCRAM 2014

The 11th International Conference on Information Systems for Crisis Response and Management

"*Empowering citizens and communities through information systems for crisis response and management*"

State College, Pennsylvania, USA
May 18th – 21st, 2014

www.iscram2014.org

ISCRAM-Med 2014

Information Systems for Crisis Response and Management in Mediterranean countries

FIRST CALL FOR PAPERS

http://irit.fr/ISCRAMMED2014
Conference Dates: Oct 15-17 2014
Toulouse France

OBJECTIVE AND TOPICS

The aim of ISCRAM-Med is to bring together researchers and practitioners working in the area of Information Systems for Crisis Response and Management and especially on Mediterranean crisis. Indeed, many crises have occurred in recent years around the Mediterranean Sea. For instance, we can mention political crisis such as Arabic Spring (Tunisia, Libya, Egypt, etc.), economic crisis in Spain and Greece, earthquake in Italy, fires in France and Spain, riots in French suburbs or even the explosion of chemical plant AZF in Toulouse. Some of them even had a domino effect on others.

Also, the shared history between the Mediterranean countries and common geo-political issues led to solidarity among peoples and cross-country military interventions. This observation demonstrates the importance of considering some of these crises in this region at a Mediterranean level rather than as isolated phenomena.

Topics include but are not limited to:
- Analytical Modelling and Simulation
- Social Media Observation
- Crisis Ontology
- Community Engagement in Crisis Informatics Research
- Command and Control Studies
- Decision Support Systems
- Disaster Relief Supply Chain Management
- Information System Interoperability and Inter-organizational issues
- Ethical, Legal and Social Issues of IT Supported Emergency Response
- Geographic Information Science
- Humanitarian Information Systems
- Intelligent Systems
- Planning, Foresight and Risk Analysis
- Practitioner Cases and Practitioner-Centered Research
- Serious Games for Crisis Management
- Visual Analytics for Crisis Management

CONTRIBUTIONS

All paper submissions must make a new and significant contribution to the body of knowledge on information systems for emergency management, support their contribution with valid arguments, and be clearly structured and well written. ISCRAM-Med 2014 invites two categories of papers:

- *Research papers* presenting valid, original, relevant cutting edge research that will be reviewed to the highest academic standards. Reviewing will pay additional attention to the application of the related scientific literature and theory, to the use of an appropriate research methodology, and to technical, mathematical and statistical correctness.
- *Demo papers* presenting new developments in emergency management and policy making, discussing approaches, methods, tools, (best) practices and standards. These papers should focus on practical issues and concerns and raise challenges for future research, and will be reviewed to the highest practice-oriented standards.

All papers (up to 12 pages LNCS style) should be written in English and submitted electronically in PDF format through the easychair conference system:

https://www.easychair.org/conferences/?conf=iscrammed2014

Every submitted paper will be evaluated by at least three members of the program committee. An ISBN number for the proceedings will be available and the papers will be indexed by DBLP.

IMPORTANT DATES

- **Abstract : ASAP**
- Due date for papers submission: ~~April 30, 2014~~, May 25, 2014
- Final acceptance : ~~May 30, 2014~~, **June 18, 2014**
- Camera-ready paper due: **June 28, 2014**
- **Conference:** 15th to the 17th October 2014

CONFERENCE ORGANIZERS

- Chihab Hanachi (general chair)
- Frederic Benaben (program chair)
- François Charoy (program co-chair)

PROGRAM COMMITTEE
- Andrea Omicini,Universita di Bologna, Italy
- Narjes Bellamine, University of Tunis, Tunisia
- Ghassan Beydoun, University of New South Wales, Australia
- Monica Divitini, Norwegian University of Science and Technology, Norway
- Pedro Antunes, University of Lisboa, Portugal
- Ricardo Rabelo, Federal University of Santa Catarina, Brazil
- Matthieu Lauras, Ecolde des Mines d'Albi, France
- Carlos Castillo , Qatar Computing Research Institute, Qatar
- Lotfi Bouzguenda, University of Sfax, Tunisia
- Julie Dugdale, Université Pierre Mendès France, France
- Ling Tang,Beijing University of Chemical technology, China
- Mohammed Erradi, ENSIAS, Rabat, Marocco
- Laurent Franck, Telecom Bretagne, France
- Muhammad Imran, Qatar Computing Research Institute, Qatar
- Francis Rousseaux, University of Reims, France
- Sevnem Dugzun, Turkey, Middle Est Techical University, Ankara, Turkey
- Shady Elbassuoni, American University of Beirut, Lebanon
- Nouali-Taboudjemat Nadia, Algiers
- Yiannis Verginadis, National Technical University of Athens, Greece

Contact: hanachi@univ-tlse1.fr

HICSS 2015 Conference

Minitrack on "**Communication and Information Systems Technology for Crisis and Disaster Management**"

This minitrack provides a venue for systemic and holistic issues related to all phases in the disaster management cycle: Prevention and mitigation; preparedness; alert; response; recovery; and post disaster. Papers that address advancing any of these aspects through technical, organizational, or behavioral change are encouraged. These may include simulation studies, case-based research, empirical studies, and other applications of quantitative and qualitative methods, but also technological contributions with cross-disciplinary flavor (e.g. HCI, interoperability, etc).

Topics include, but are not limited to:

- Social media and Human Centered Sensing in emergencies
- Artificial Intelligence (AI) based content management, disaster mapping, pattern recognition, triage and prioritization of assistance
- Case studies; integration of theory and practice
- Advances in crisis management methods and practice
- Security and safety models for emergency management systems
- Self-help schemes and eHealth for disasters and emergencies
- Crisis informatics
- Computational simulation of crisis situations
- Culture-dependent learning and training and context dependent self-help information (both national culture and organizational culture could apply)
- Group and team performance in crisis and disaster management with integrated systems and collective intelligence methodologies
- Collaboration and interoperability at technical and/or operational level
- Mobile ad-hoc networks for emergencies
- Propagation and channel modeling of typical disaster areas and crisis regions

Co-Chairs:
Jose J. Gonzalez (University of Agder)
Murray Turoff (NJIT)
Julie Dugdale (University of Grenoble)

More information on the minitrack is available here:

http://www.hicss.hawaii.edu/HICSS_48/Tracks/CL/CLCrisis.pdf

..and the general CFP and details of submission are here:

http://www.hicss.hawaii.edu/hicss_48/48CFP-final.pdf

The deadline for manuscripts is the June 15, 2014.

ISCRAM ASIA 2014

The 2nd Asia Conference on Information Systems for Crisis Response and Management

"*10 years of post-tsunami recovery: the role of ICTs in building disaster resilience*"

Columbo, Sri Lanka

June 20-21st, 2014

http://iscramasia2014.org/

ISCRAM-Asia 2014 will bring together top researchers and practitioners working in the area of information systems for crisis response. The conference provides an opportunity for academic researchers in Asia to present new research and for practitioners to discuss best practices.

The ISCRAM-Asia 2014 conference is anchored on the 2004 Indian Ocean Tsunami Tenth Year Anniversary (IOTX) convention organized by LIRNEasia and several partner organizations. The six-day IOTX convention comprises a combination of expert and technical workshops, a public lecture, and this conference.

The IOTX events are open to ISCRAM-Asia conference participants for no additional registration fee. Visit the website to learn more on the IOTX event: www.iotxconvention.org

Further details are on the conference web-site: http://iscramasia2014.org/

RMCI 2014: Special Track on Risk Management and Cyber-Informatics

18th Multi-Conference on Systemics, Cybernetics and Informatics: WMSCI 2014

Orlando, Florida, USA

July 15th – 18th, 2014

www.2014iiisconferences.org/rmci

Risk management has been related, in increasing degree, to Informatics and Cybernetics. Today, almost every organization depends on Information and Communications Technologies. Software and networks supporting organizational everyday activities must be reliable, secure and safe. Flawed or failed software can present severe organizational and business risks that include liability costs, productivity loss, quality decreasing, brand damage, revenue loss, etc. Simultaneously, cybercrimes (cyber frauds, sensible data protection, etc.) and liability in the "electronic workplace" are requiring, with increasing urgency, an adequate risk management. Consequently, Organizational/business risk management is increasingly including informatics and cybernetics in their planning and activities. And vice versa, Informatics and Cybernetics technologies, concepts and theories are increasingly being used in risk management's research, consulting, studies, projects, training, and activities.

Accordingly, the main purpose of the Special Track on Risk Management and Cyber-Informatics (RMCI 2014) is to bring together researchers, practitioners and consultants from both Risk Management areas and informatics and cybernetics fields and disciplines to presents results of their research, as well as their problems and solutions in Risk Management, the reciprocal applications between both field, and the application of both fields in other areas. Consequently, the major areas of the track are:

- Risk Management
- Risk Management in Informatics and Cybernetics
- Applications of Informatics and Cybernetics to Risk Management problems and solutions
- Applications of Risk Management and Cyber-Informatics (RMCI)
    - Applications of RMCI in Energy Systems, Technologies, procedures and Methodologies
    - Applications of RMCI in Economics and Finance
    - Applications of RMCI in the War on Terrorism
    - Other Applications of RMCI

Schedule of Upcoming Events and Calls

When and Where	Event/Call	Contact
18-21 May 2014 Penn State College, USA	The 11th International Conference on Information Systems for Crisis Response and Management: "Empowering citizens and communities through information systems for crisis response and management"	http://www.iscram2014.org
15–17 Oct 2014 Toulouse, France	The aim of ISCRAM-Med is to bring together researchers and practitioners working in the area of Information Systems for Crisis Response and Management and especially on Mediterranean crisis. Active call for papers.	http://irit.fr/ISCRAMMED2014
5–8 Jan Koloa, Hawaii	The HICSS 2015 Conference contains a minitrack on "Communication and Information Systems Technology for Crisis and Disaster Management." This minitrack provides a venue for systemic and holistic issues related to all phases in the disaster management cycle. Active call for papers.	http://www.hicss.hawaii.edu/hicss_48/48CFP-final.pdf
20-21 Jun 2014 Columbo, Sri Lanka	The 2nd Asia Conference on Information Systems for Crisis Response and Management. "10 years of post-tsunami recovery: the role of ICTs in building disaster resilience"	http://iscramasia2014.org/
15-18 Jul 2014 Orlando, Florida, USA	RMCI 2014: Special Track on Risk Management and Cyber-Informatics at the 18th Multi-conference on Systemics, Cybernetics and Informatics: WMSCI 2014	http://www.2014iiisconferences.org/rmci
24-28 Aug 2014 Davos, Switzerland	5th International Disaster and Risk Conference IDRC Davos 2014	http://www.idrc.info/