Graduate Education in
Human-Computer Interaction

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Author Keywords

HCI, graduate education, degree programs, digital library, curricula, course outlines, teaching materials.

ACM Classification Keywords

H5.m. Information interfaces and presentation (e.g., HCI): Miscellaneous.

WORKSHOP WEB SITE

Position papers and other workshop material can be found at http://hcc.cc.gatech.edu/chi2005workshop.htm.

INTRODUCTION

HCI graduate education is rapidly evolving and growing. A number of universities have strong programs. They differ in origin (e.g. computer science, library and information science, psychology, industrial design, etc), emphasis, and pedagogy.

The goals of this workshop are to:

Have the creators and leaders of such programs share ideas, approaches, curricula, success and weaknesses.

Have companies who hire large numbers of graduates from such programs discuss their needs and perceptions of current successes and weaknesses.

Make the results of the workshop available to our community.

Further develop the concept and contents of a digital library of educational (in contrast to research) resource material for HCI students and faculty.

PREVIOUS WORK

Perhaps the best-known work on HCI education is the 1992 report of the SIGCHI Curriculum Development Group [1]. At the time of that report, few if any graduate programs were dedicated to the study of human-computer interaction; since that time, many programs have been developed. The HCI Bibliography lists over 60 programs

(http://www.hcibib.org/education/#PROGRAMS) of which well over half are graduate programs.

Other more recent activities targeting HCI education include a CHI '98 panel [2] and a CHI '2000 workshop [3]. IFIP Working Group 13.1 "Education in HCI and HCI Curriculum (http://www.ipo.tue.nl/ifip-wg13.1/) has held a number of workshops – yearly since 1999 – on the subject.

Various collections of resources for HCI education have been developed. The best-known is probably the education section of the HCI Bibliography, which can be found at http://www.hcibib.org/education/. A modest collection of information is part of the afore-mentioned IFIP WG 13.1 site. Recently, a more structured approach is being taken with the HCC Education Digital Library at Georgia Tech (http://hcc.cc.gatech.edu/), which includes a taxomomy of topics and will have free-text search as well. The library also includes a number of video + audio + PowerPoint web lectures as well as conference, historical, and futuristic videos.

The present workshop aims to focus specifically and exclusively on graduate education in HCI, and in particular not just on the introductory graduate courses but on overall program goals, curricula, and course outlines. Primary emphasis is on Ph.D. programs. Hence the approximately 25 workshop participants are the leaders of Ph.D. graduate programs with names such as HCI, Human- Centered Computing, interaction design, and user-system interaction. This group will also represent a major consumer of the output of the Ph.D. programs – that is, hiring then as faculty colleagues.A second purpose of the workshop is to better identify what material would most usefully be part of a graduate education-focused digital library, and to begin a process of adding that material to the Georgia Tech HCC Education Digital Library.

ORGANIZER CONTACT INFORMATION

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PARTICIPATING UNIVERSITIES

In addition to the organizers, the following universities will be represented at the workshop:

- Univ. California Berkeley, School of Information Management and Systems,
- Univ. British Columbia, Media and Graphics Interdisciplinary Centre,
- Univ. Calgary, CS Dept.,
- Univ. Colorado, CS Dept.,
- Cornell Univ, Program in Information Science,
- Tech. Univ. Eindhoven, User-System Interaction Design Program,
- Indiana Univ., School of Informatics,
- Univ. Maryland, HCIL,
- Univ. Minnesota CS Dept.,
- Univ. North Carolina, School of Information and Library Science,
- Royal Institute of Technology Stockholm, Graduate School for Human Machine Interaction,
- Simon Fraser Univ., School of Interactive Arts and Technology,
- Texas A&M, Dept. CS,
- Univ. Tampere, Dept. CS,
- VPI, Dept. CS,
- Vrije Universiteit, Dept. CS.
- Univ. Washington Dept. CS & Engr.,
- Univ. Washington, Dept Technical Communication.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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2. Williams, M., Sears, A., Dix, A., Hewett, T., Mantei, M., and Preece, J. Famous CHI Educators Tell All (panel). Proceedings of ACM CHI 98 Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems (Summary) 1998 v.2 p.94-95.

3. Williams, M. and Sears, A. A compendium of practical techniques for HCI instruction Workshop, Proceedings of ACM CHI 2000 Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems 2000 v.2 p.372.