

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Chair's Message	1
WG 8.2 in Seattle	1
Manchester Conference 2004	3
Cleveland Conference 2005	4
Oasis December 2004	5
Minutes of Business Meeting	7

Message from the WG 8.2 Chair

To Everything There is a Season



Julie E. Kendall, Rutgers University, USA

*To everything there is a season,
A time for every purpose under heaven:
A time to be born,
And a time to die;
A time to plant,
And a time to pluck what is planted;
(Ecclesiastes 3:1-2, New King James Version of the Bible)*

(Continued on page 6)

Oasis Workshop in Seattle

• Special points of interest:

- Message from WG 8.2 Chair
- IFIP WG 8.2 Conference in Manchester
- Oasis workshop December 2004
- Forthcoming events and conferences

As usual, the Oasis workshop of IFIP WG 8.2 was held immediately before ICIS. The workshop was held on 14 December 2003 in Seattle, Washington, USA.

Special thanks are due to the Co-Chairs: Gurpreet Dhillon, Virginia Commonwealth University; Erica L. Wagner, Cornell University; and Ray Hackney, Manchester Metropolitan University (pictured from left to right in the photo).

The Oasis workshops are an excellent way get to know our members and their research interests. The unique and collegial character of WG 8.2 ensures constructive,



Photo by Ken Kendall

(Continued on page 2)

Editor: Michael D. Myers
University of Auckland
Private Bag 92019
Auckland, New Zealand

IFIP WORKING GROUP

Website: www.ifipwg82.org
Email: m.myers@auckland.ac.nz



*Organizations and Society in
Information Systems*

OASIS

IFIP WG 8.2 Officers



WG 8.2 Chair

Dr. Julie E. Kendall
Rutgers University
School of Business-Camden
Camden, NJ 08102 USA
Phone: +1 856 225 6585
Fax: +1 856 424 6157
Email: julie@thekendalls.org

WG 8.2 Vice Chair

Dr. Michael D. Myers
University of Auckland
Private Bag 92019
Auckland, New Zealand
Phone: +64 9 373 7599
Fax: +64 9 373 7430
Email: m.myers@auckland.ac.nz

WG 8.2 Secretary

Dr. Nancy L. Russo
Northern Illinois University
OMIS Department
Dekalb IL 60115 USA
Phone: +1 815 753 1185
Fax: +1 815 753 7460
Email: nrusso@niu.edu

Seattle (continued)

helpful and high quality environment. OASIS is a particularly useful forum for those just embarking on their research careers who need constructive advice on research approaches.

Some of the distinguished (and not so distinguished) participants are pictured below.



Photo by Ken Kendall

Seattle (continued)

Q. What do all these people have in common (apart from the fact that they all attended Oasis 2003)?
Clue: Five chairs to a table.



Forthcoming Manchester Conference

Call for Participation for IFIP WG 8.2 Working Conference
July 15-17, 2004, Manchester, England

Relevant Theory and Informed Practice: Looking forward from a 20 year perspective on IS research

In 2004 it will have been 20 years since a group of 'Young Turks' meeting in Manchester set out to break the mould of orthodox IS research methodology. Over the 20 years since that auspicious gathering, the reputation, reach and impact of the WG 8.2 community has been extended into mainstream IS journals, conferences and academic institutions worldwide. Twenty working conferences have been held, publishing 400 papers covering all manner of social theories and IS topics.

The first gathering had bold and radical ambitions. Twenty years on, it is timely to look back and take stock of the working group's real impact upon practice and research in IS. How relevant has our work really been? To what extent have we made an impact on IS practice?

The conference venue is the Manchester Conference Centre in downtown Manchester. The conference organisers and officers of IFIP WG 8.2 warmly extend an invitation to participate in what promises to be an important event in the development of our community. For registration information and further details, please visit the conference website at <http://cba.fiu.edu/dsis/truexd/ifip2004/>

Cleveland Conference in August 2005

Call for Papers for IFIP WG 8.2 Working Conference

August 1-3, 2005, Cleveland, Ohio, USA

Designing Ubiquitous Information Environments: Socio-technical Issues and Challenges

The rapid developments in mobile and wireless communication technologies and the continuing miniaturization computing devices make it possible to create ubiquitous information environments. The emergence of ubiquitous computing as the next wave of organizational computing offers new possibilities and opportunities for organizations to improve their productivity and effectiveness. Companies like FedEx and UPS are investing millions of dollars to upgrade their wireless network infrastructure that will bring the information about the packages, trucks, and courriers ever closer to their customers. Retail giant Wal-Mart is actively exploring the various mobile technologies such as global positioning systems (GPS) and RFID tags to improve its operations. Millions of customers in countries like Japan and Korea have signed up for broadband cellular phone services to exchange video clips and download their favorite music. Many Scandinavian and European countries provide extensive mobile banking services, payment services and other business and personal services that utilize mobile and smart phones. Progressive Insurance, an American auto insurance company, has experimented with GPS in order to implement a usage-based premium system, and GM's Onstar service provides service support and other online services for car drivers.

At the same time, the emergence of ubiquitous information environments challenges many of the traditional assumptions about organizations, computing, communication, and work. The increased mobility in ubiquitous information environments will bring new meaning about issues of time and space in organizational behavior. The unprecedented scale of deployment of wireless tools and sensors embedded in the environments will challenge us to rethink about technology acceptance and scale of operation in organizations. The personalization and the pervasive nature of these tools will blur the boundaries between social and technical worlds of organizational computing.

We invite theoretical and empirical papers that examine design, managerial, behavioral, and organizational challenges and issues with ubiquitous information environments. The topics for the conference will include (but will not be restricted to) the following:

- Co-design of social and technical systems in ubiquitous information environments
- New conceptual frameworks that provide analytical tools for studying ubiquitous information environments in organizations
- Discussions on new research approaches to study ubiquitous information environments
- Knowledge management in ubiquitous information environments
- Socio-technical analysis of ubiquitous information environments
- Coordination of knowledge and expertise in ubiquitous knowledge environments
- Organizational, economic and social impacts of ubiquitous information environments in organizational and societal level
- Implementation of large-scale ubiquitous information environments

(continued on page 5)

*(Continued from page 4)***General Chair**

Kalle Lyytinen, Case Western Reserve University, USA

Program Co-Chairs

Carsten Sorensen, London School of Economics, UK

Youngjin Yoo, Case Western Reserve University, USA

Submission

Authors are invited to papers representing original contributions in the area of ubiquitous information environments. Submitted manuscripts should be about 5000 words in length including tables and figures. Submissions must be emailed to Carsten Sorensen (c.sorensen@lse.ac.uk) or Youngjin Yoo (yyoo@cwru.edu). Documents in standard word processing formats are preferred. For more information, visit the conference web site at <http://ifip2005.cwru.edu>

Important Dates:

February 1, 2005: Deadline for submission of papers

OASIS Workshop 12 December 2004**Call for Participation****Organizations and Society in Information Systems (OASIS) 2004 Workshop****Grand Hyatt Washington****Washington DC, USA****9 AM-3:30 PM Sunday 12 December 2004**

(immediately before ICIS)

* Submit to: iramos@dsi.uminho.pt *

* Deadline: 30 September 2004 *

- Is your research concerned with the interaction of information systems, organizations and society?
- Are you ready to present some of your current research ideas and approaches?
- Do you need a forum to discuss some of your concepts and/or findings that have not yet crystallized into a formal paper?
- Would you like feedback from your peers as you move your current work forward?
- Do you want to meet internationally respected researchers in
- information systems?

If so, we invite you to present your research-in-progress at OASIS, the IFIP Working Group 8.2 research workshop (or just come to hear the discussions). The OASIS workshop is open to all interested scholars and professionals who are researching in the area of organizations, information systems and society. Along with members and friends of IFIP WG 8.2, we welcome researchers new to, or interested in, intensive research in IS. Intensive research was defined for a special edition of MIS Quarterly as empirical research that employs qualitative, case, and/or interpretive methods.

(continued on page 9)

Chair's message (continued)

In the northern hemisphere, as I write this column, the weather is trying to become spring-like. Even with the occasional blizzard, ice storm, and accompanying flooding, we see signs of renewal. Some brave flowers are already up and green, and students lingering in the warm sunshine slowly make their way to their mid-day class.

However, a good portion of our membership is experiencing a different season, hoping for a cool, fresh breeze; wiping the perspiration from their brows, or delighting in milder air after a long, hot summer.

Seasons for Research, Teaching and Service

All three of the standard requirements for academic tenure and promotion — research, teaching, and service — in the US and elsewhere, can be thought of as seasonal in some of their most salient dimensions.

Research can be thought of as a seasonal activity. Indeed research discussions are full of ideas of rebirth, regeneration and renewal. We revere the importance of seminal ideas; we discuss ideas that are germinating; and we work for cross-fertilization of our research topics. The agricultural life, which requires hopefulness, patience, and thoughtful tending until the yield is realized, pursues a strategy directly opposed to that of instant gratification found in trivial, quick-hit papers that do not follow a seasonal process, but rather try to force research findings before their time.

Teaching can be a seasonal business, too and indeed for many cultures it was originally dictated by the life cycle of the Christian church, hence semesters or trimesters that were called “Lenten Terms” and the existence of “Easter breaks.” In most public schools in the US, secularization of the calendar has taken place so that timings of breaks and terms no longer reflect a religious calendar, but rather an administrative imperative to ensure that students and faculty fulfill the contact hours legislated for them.

Service to one's profession has an odd sort of seasonality about it. A volunteer's offer of help often lies dormant for long periods of time until the right situation demands just such a solution —born of patience and remembering.

Seasons as Seen through a Scrim of Deadlines

Certainly, we exist within an overlay of deadlines, either self-imposed, or ones that exist externally. Those of you who are members of WG 8.2 are accustomed to watching for deadlines for conference submissions; interestingly enough, the gestation period is about 9 months from initial submission to conference presentation.

So for the Manchester working conference, “Relevant Theory and Informed Practice: Looking Forward From a 20 year Perspective on IS research,” authors submitted manuscripts for review by October 1st, received notification of acceptance in December, and made their revisions by January. And this entire life cycle is invoked so that the published proceedings and conference presentations will all be ready by mid-July.

I hope that you too are ready for the working conference to be held in Manchester, UK from July 15-July 17th. The General Honorary Chairs are Richard Baskerville (A former Chair of IFIP WG 8.2), from Georgia State University, USA, and Frank Land, (also a former Chair of IFIP WG 8.2), who is an Emeritus Professor from London School of Economics, UK. Frank will be on hand to provide perspective, since he was one of the original participants in the 1984 colloquium. The conference and the interactions surrounding it promise to be a powerful contribution to the IS field, and the 20-year perspective is a tribute in many ways to the importance of the life cycle and seasons of research.

What is your Season for Research and Renewal?

What is the season for your research? Even though we are pulled by deadlines or pushed by co-authors, each research project will have its own season. Although much of what we do is **not** apparently seasonal, it is often arranged to harmonize with times when we are freed from our teaching schedule; during spring and winter breaks; or during eagerly — anticipated sabbaticals when our planting of ideas and the harvesting of our research relationships have an opportunity for realization.

In our rush to meet a deadline we may be pressed to hasten our research, or pronounce aloud our preliminary results. But the life cycle of creation has its own pace and own seasons. I hope that as you take on the challenge of deadlines for conferences or special issues that you also become attuned to which research, teaching and service seasons find you at your very best. Only then will you be able to sense when your ideas are ripe for the picking.

Minutes of the IFIP 8.2 Business Meeting

Seattle, WA, December 14, 2003

The meeting was called to order at 4:00 p.m. by Chair Julie Kendall (US).

1. Introduction

Julie Kendall thanked Gurpreet Dhillon (US), Ray Hackney (UK), and Erica Wagner (US), the coordinators of the very successful Oasis workshop held prior to the business meeting.

After providing an overview of IFIP Technical Committee (TC) 8, Julie Kendall discussed the focus of Working Group (WG) 8.2 and the strong feeling of community among the group.

2. Past Meetings

In recent years we have had four working conferences and three workshops, including the one held this year. In June, 2003, "IS Perspectives and Challenges in the Context of Globalization" was held in conjunction with IFIP WG 9.4 in Athens, Greece. The conference on "The Global and Organizational Discourse about Information Technology" was held in Barcelona in December 2002. We met in Boise, Idaho in July of 2001 for the conference on "Realigning Research and Practice in IS Development: The Social and Organizational Perspective." And the 2000 working conference, "IS2000: The Social and Organizational Perspective on Research and Practice in Information Technology", was held in Aalborg, Denmark, in June of that year. In addition to this year's workshop in Seattle, workshops were held in 2001 in New Orleans and 2000 in Brisbane.

3. Forthcoming Working Conferences & Workshops

Duane Truex (US), Trevor Wood-Harper (UK), and Bob Wood (UK), encouraged participation in the 20 year anniversary of the original Manchester conference. "Relevant Theory and Informed Practice: Looking Forward from a 20 Year Perspective on IS Research," will be held 15-17 July, 2004, in Manchester, England. A record 113 submissions were received for the conference.

It was proposed that Isabel Ramos (PT) coordinate the OASIS workshop in Washington, DC, on 12 December 2004, immediately prior to ICIS. The proposal was approved. Norika Hara (US) volunteered to assist Isabel. Frank Land (UK) suggested that one entire session of the workshop be devoted to a single panel to allow more time for discussion. Contact Isabel at iramos@dsi.uminho.pt with questions, and watch the IFIP WG 8.2 website for more information.

Youngin Yoo (US) and Kalle Lyytinen (US) provided information on the 2005 working conference to be held in Cleveland, OH, 1-3 August 2005. The theme of the conference will be "Designing Ubiquitous Information Environments: Socio Technical Issues and Challenges. Deadline for submissions will be in February 2005.

Eileen Trauth (US) discussed the upcoming working conference on "Social Exclusion" to be held in Limerick, Ireland, in December 2006, prior to ICIS in London.

4. Discussion

Julie Kendall presented several items for discussion. The first general area was: Are our working conferences helping us to achieve our mission? Subtopics included: Are the topics relevant? Are the venues appropriate? Should we have joint meetings?

Kevin Crowston (US) offered that the question regarding themes was difficult one: there must be a balance between being too vague (like ICIS) versus too specific which might turn off people. We need to make it clear we are interested in papers on the theme, but interested in other topics as well. Frank Land (UK) suggested that ethical issues should appear more clearly as a theme as part of 8.2; the socio technical area includes explicit ethical issues and therefore ethics should be part of our agenda. Duane Truex (US) added that we should make cer-

(Continued on page 8)

(Continued from page 7)

tain that people are communicating and hearing each others' literature. When polled, approximately 1/3 of the business meeting attendees said that they had attended a conference sponsored by another working group, and several more indicated that they would like the opportunity to do so. This appeared to imply an overall positive attitude towards future joint conferences sponsored by WG 8.2 in conjunction with another working group.

A second discussion area had to do with the planning time frame/horizon: How far ahead should we plan for the future? Duane Truex (US) mentioned that the chief constraint is our publisher, Kluwer, which needs 3 ½ months (if the program chairs are assisted by a copy editor such as Jan DeGross), or longer, to prepare the proceedings. This results in at least a 6 month lead time for publication, which requires that the Call for Papers go out well before that. Steve Sawyer (US) noted that our working conferences used to occur approximately every 18 months, but recently have moved to nearly every 12 months. No proposals were made to change the current process.

5. New Business

Kevin Crowston (US) and Eleanor Wynn (US) presented a proposal for a working conference to be held in July or August 2007 in Portland, Oregon. The general theme would be "Working in Virtuality." Intel has agreed to provide sponsorship. Some discussion followed. Karl H. Kautz (DK) questioned the dates because they are within the summer holiday months, and IRIS is the second weekend in August. For the French, according to Frantz Rowe (FR), the conflict with holidays is even worse! David Avison (UK), said that the topic and venue are superb, but suggested that the theme of working in virtuality should stress social and organizational aspects to reflect the focus of the working group.

Chair Julie Kendall asked if there were other groups who would like to propose a working conference for 2007. There were none, so it was moved to put this proposal to a vote of approval. The members voted to approve the proposal for the summer of 2007, with exact dates to be decided.

Those with announcements were asked to make them at this time. Ken Kendall (US), past chair of WG 8.2 noted that there were four past chairs of the group in attendance (possibly a new record!): himself, David Avison (UK), Richard Baskerville (US), and Kalle Lyytinen (US). Ken also provided information on the Decision Sciences Institute annual meeting to be held November 20-23, 2004 in Boston. Duane Truex (US) mentioned the academic workshop on French-speaking IS research at which Paul Gray made an historical announcement: Beginning March 1, 2004, *CAIS* (*Communications of the AIS*) will be publishing papers from the French-speaking IS community in French with extended 4-page abstracts in English. Eleanor Wynn (US) shared the Call for Participation for the IFIP WG 8.6 conference on "IT Innovation for Adaptability", to be held May 31-June 2 in Leixlip, Ireland. Youngin Yoo (US) provided details on a special issue of *Information & Organization* on "Ubiquitous Computing Environments: Learning from First Wave Social and Organizational Impacts." Youngin and Kalle Lyytinen (US) are guest editors of this special issue.

Julie Kendall asked members to contact her with any suggestions for the officers, any improvements, or any new committees or task forces that should be formed. Members were also reminded that they can edit their contact information via the WG 8.2 website (www.ifipwg82.org). Thanks to Kevin Crowston (US) for maintaining this site.

6. Election of New Members

All friends of WG 8.2 meeting the criteria for membership (attendance at two business meetings in the past three years) were asked to stand and introduce themselves. The following individuals were approved for membership, subject to confirmation by the secretary, and welcomed to the group: Elisabeth Rossen (US), Erica Wagner (US), Antonio Cordella (SE), Frantz Rowe (FR), Federico Rajola (IT), Andrea Carugati (FR), Chiara Frigerio (IT).

The meeting was adjourned at 5:00 PM.

Nancy L. Russo (US), Secretary

Oasis workshop 2004 (continued)

(Continued from page 5)

Come get to know our members and their research interests, issues, and methodologies in a relaxed and supportive setting. The unique and collegial character of WG 8.2 ensures constructive, helpful and high quality feedback.

OASIS is a particularly useful forum for those just embarking on their research who need constructive advice on research approaches.

Submissions: To present, please submit a 500-word abstract of your work to iramos@dsi.uminho.pt by 30 September 2004. We anticipate that submitters will be given about 10-15 minutes to present their work to the assembled group, followed by 5-10 minutes for questions from the audience. The exact timing and review process will depend on the number of abstracts received. We will accept late submissions on a space-available basis. Proposals will be made available online prior to the meeting. Authors submitting proposals must grant the IFIP WG 8.2 the right to publish them online, but retain all other copyrights.

Registration: There will be a nominal registration fee for the workshop to cover the cost of coffee breaks, audio-visual equipment and copying. All attendees and presenters will be required to register. We will provide pre-registration as well as registration at the door in cash (receipts will be provided). Details will be provided on the IFIP WG 8.2 Website (<http://www.ifipwg82.org>).

Time and place: The workshop will be in the breakout rooms of the ICIS 2004 in the Conference Hotel, the Grand Hyatt Washington, in Washington, D.C., United States. The workshop will be held from 9 AM-3:30 PM on Sunday 12 December 2004, immediately prior to the ICIS 2004 conference.

IFIP WG 8.2 Business Meeting: All workshop attendees and anyone interested in WG 8.2 are encouraged to attend the WG business meeting that will follow the workshop at 4 PM. At the business meeting, we will discuss future workshops and working conferences, elect new members to the working group and conduct other business.

Questions: Please email any questions regarding this workshop to the Co-Chairs at iramos@dsi.uminho.pt

Chair

Isabel Ramos

University of Minho, Portugal, iramos@dsi.uminho.pt

Forthcoming IFIP WG 8.2 Conferences and Workshops

- **Oasis Workshop**, Washington DC, USA, 12 December 2004 (immediately before ICIS). The deadline for submissions is 30 September 2004. Check out the IFIP 8.2 website for further details. Any other questions can be emailed to iramos@dsi.uminho.pt
- **"Manchester 2: Relevant Theory and Informed Practice: Looking Forward from a Twenty Year Perspective on IS Research,"** IFIP 8.2 Working Conference, Manchester, England, 15-17 July 2004. The conference website is at <http://cba.fiu.edu/dsis/truexd/ifip2004/>
- **"Designing Ubiquitous Information Environments: Socio-technical Issues and Challenges,"** IFIP 8.2 Working Conference, Cleveland, Ohio, August 1-3, 2005. The deadline for submissions is 1 February 2005. For further details see the Call of Papers in this issue.
- **"Social Exclusion,"** IFIP 8.2 Working Conference, Limerick, Ireland, December, 2006 (immediately before ICIS). Check out the IFIP 8.2 website for further details.