

Proceedings CHI-SA 2006

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Table of Contents

Preface.....	4
Keynote talk.....	5
International Review Committee.....	5
Project Based Collaborative Learning: Negotiating Leadership and Commitment in virtual Teams, P Bjorn and M Hertzum.....	6
Improving Interface design using formative CHI evaluation methods, S Sackstein.....	16
A Comprehensive Model Incorporating Mobile Context to Design for Mobile Use, NLS Roy, H Scheepers, E Kendall and A Saliba.....	22
The optimal size of text entry boxes on PDAs, X Ren.....	31
Investigating the use of Photo Collection Structures for Photo Searching, D Patel and G Marsden.....	41
Can a user centred approach to designing a user interface for rural communities be successful? D Heukelman.....	51
Teaching with Tangibles: A tool for defining dichotomous sorting activities, A Mbogho, L Scarlatos, M Jaworska.....	59
Multilingualism in a South African e-Government Portal, S Vosloo.....	65
Towards the 6th level of interface design: understanding culture, M Kamppuri, M Tedre, M Tukiainen.....	69
Evaluating the relevance of the ‘Real Access criteria’ as a framework for rural HCI research, A Maunder, G Marsden, W Tucker.....	75
Text-to-Speech Technology in Human-Computer Interaction, L Mohasi and D Moshao.....	79

Preface

Welcome to CHI-SA 2006, the 5th Conference on Human Computer Interaction in Southern Africa! This conference introduces the activities of the Computer Human Interaction organisation of South Africa (CHI-SA) for 2006. The conference is co-located with Afrigraph 2006 and is held in co-operation with ACM SIGCHI and CSSA.

CHI-SA is the South African Chapter of the Association for Computing Machinery's Special Interest Group for Computer-Human Interaction. It consists of people that recognise the peculiar needs of the South African population, and is committed to the empowerment of all South African individuals and organisations that could benefit from the application of formal CHI disciplines.

CHI-SA has adopted a formal commitment to bridge the technology-understanding gap between the various sectors and cultures within South Africa. CHI-SA has nurtured this commitment, grown its numbers and has been formally chartered as a Chapter of the ACM SIGCHI (the international parent organisation, based in New York, USA). At the same time, CHI-SA has also been officially affiliated as a Special Interest Group of the Computer Society of South Africa.

Submissions were received from all over the world for this conference. Thank you to all the authors who submitted papers. Unfortunately, because of the limited time of the conference, we were only able to accept less than half of the submissions. These papers form the content of this conference and these proceedings.

We are very grateful to our international programme committee, whose names are listed on the following page, for reviewing the papers and tutorials. Each paper was reviewed by two reviewers in a double-blind review process.

We hope you have a most enjoyable time at CHI-SA 2006, here in Cape Town, and that you are inspired to continue participating in the activities of CHI-SA for years to come.

Best wishes,

Gary Marsden and Darelle van Greunen

Keynote Talk

What Kind of Society would Mobiles be Good For?

Prof Richard Harper, Senior Researcher, Microsoft Research, Cambridge, United Kingdom

Abstract

In this presentation, I want to ask whether mobiles are good for society and if so, what kind of society would it be? I will argue that the values of mobile phones are not to be understood simply in terms of their usability levels (good, bad or indifferent), the typical concerns of research in human computer interaction (HCI), but in terms of the social functions they enable or afford. Understanding these requires sociological approaches that can provide evidence about how people communicate and why. Insights in to these matters can, in turn, lead to sights about how to improve the design of mobile phones in the future. Evidence for the talk will come from ongoing studies either undertaken by me or available in the literature on mobile usage in Europe, Japan and the USA produced by others. Implications for similar analyses in other continents and countries, including South Africa, will be highlighted.

International Review Committee

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