

Research Symposium—Call for Papers

THEME

“The Evolution From Distance Education to Distributed Learning”

The third biannual Association for Educational Communications and Technology (AECT) Research Symposium seeks proposals for sessions designed to advance research and practice leading to the creation of a new model for Teaching and Learning at a distance.

Specifically, the focus of the symposium is to identify research-supported ways to move distance education away from the established “classroom adapted to the Web” approach and toward a paradigm of learning that is built on foundations of distributed cognition and similar frameworks. The outcome of the symposium will be to promote an agenda for practice and for research that will lead to a unique view of distributed learning.

It also the intention of the symposium to not only draw participation from academics in the field of instructional technology, but also to include the perspectives of experienced practitioners from areas that are concerned with technology applications that might be adapted to distance education. For instance game designers, e-commerce specialists, human factors researchers, educational psychologists, sociologists and those involved in other closely related fields such as learning science and informatics are encouraged to submit proposals. Proposals from persons working in the commercial areas of distributed education are also welcome.

OVERVIEW

It is the goal of the symposium to gather together a select group of scholars for deep discussions on a variety of distributed learning perspectives and ideas. The sym-

posia will be held July 19-23, 2010 at the Memorial Union Hotel of Indiana University in Bloomington, Indiana. Registrations details will be posted soon.

FORMAT

Proposals/presentation abstracts will be accepted, through electronic submission via the AECT Web site, until September 1st, 2009. Notification of acceptance/rejection will be sent by e-mail 4 to 6 weeks after the submission deadline.

Presentations at the symposium will be held in a discussion-centered environment. Each presenter will be asked to adhere to a strict 5-10 minute time limit for formally presenting their ideas, followed by a 45-50 minute discussion period where exploration of their ideas with session attendees is to be encouraged. The initial form for proposals asks that interested presenters submit a short (max. 1,000 words) abstract communicating their conceptual ideas as well as how their ideas will advance the research agenda or practice for distributed learning. Presentations should be relevant to one of four concentrations:

1. Instructional design;
2. Interaction;
3. Technology; and
4. Organizational alignment and support (the economics of design, development and delivery).

Proposals will be blind reviewed for fit with the symposium’s goals by a panel of members from the symposium advisory board. Should a proposal be selected and the presenter accepted, the presenter will be asked to commit to:

1. Writing the proposal into a formal, publication-ready paper by no later than April 1, 2010.
2. Commit to reading all papers from the other presenters prior to attending the symposium
3. Attend the full symposium and all sessions. Failure to provide the formal paper by April 1, 2010 will result in a rescinding of the proposal acceptance and invitation to attend.

REVIEW PROCESS/CRITERIA

The selection process will be designed to ensure a satisfactory mix of active participants who closely adhere to the theme of the symposium. The advisory committee will review and select proposals based on the following general criteria:

1. Relevance to topic;
2. Uniqueness of perspective;
3. Innovativeness;
4. Research foundation;
5. Strength of argument;

6. Active discussion/audience participation; and
7. Multidisciplinary approaches.

Additional information will be distributed through TechTrends and ETR&D and available on the AECT Web site.

ADVISORY COMMITTEE:

Chairs:

- Leslie Moller
- Douglas Harvey
- Jason Huett

Members:

- Gary Morrison
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