

News

1. Conferences

1.1. 4th Qualitative and Quantitative Methods in Libraries International Conference (QQML2012), 22–25 May 2012, Limerick, Ireland

Since 2009 QQML has provided an excellent framework for the presentation of new trends and developments in every aspect of Library and Information Science, Technology, Applications and Research. The 4th QQML2012 was scheduled during the previous 3rd QQML2011 Conference. It was also decided that *the 5th QQML 2013 International Conference* will be organized in Rome, Italy. QQML2009, QQML2010 and QQML2011 were successful events both from the number and quality of the presentations and from the post-conference publications in journals and books.

QQML2012 will continue and expand the related topics. The conference will consider, but not be limited to, the following indicative themes:

Advocacy, networking and influencing: methodologies for building the evidence base in library and information services (LIS)

Balanced Scorecard tools in libraries

Bibliometrics

Change of Libraries and the Managerial Techniques

Conceptual and Organizational Perspectives of Knowledge Communication,

Copyright and licensing

Data mining

Development and Assessment of Digital Repositories

Development of new metrics

Digital archives

Digital preservation

Digitization

Distance learning and the role of the library

E-Books

E-Learning and the contribution of the libraries, archives and museums

E-research

E-science

Electronic publishing

Financial Management for Excellence

Human resources management

*Information and Knowledge Services**Information literacy: Information sharing, Democracy and lifelong learning**Information retrieval**Innovative management**Institutional repositories**Intercultural management**Knowledge Based Systems and their Applications**Knowledge management concept and technology,**Knowledge mining**Libraries and shared services**Library Cooperation: Problems and Challenges at the beginning of the 21st century**Library management and marketing**Library statistics**Measuring information literacy effectiveness**Metadata creation**New means of selecting, collecting, organizing, and distributing digital content**Ontologies**Open Access and Open Source**Operational information systems**Performance Measurement and Competitiveness**Publishing Models, Processes and Systems**Qualitative and Quantitative methodologies**Re-engineering change in higher education**Resource development policy**Scholarly Information and the new communication technologies**Semantics**Semantics Web**Software**Strategic management**Team building and management**Technology in the Communication: an interactive tool for development**Technology transfer and Innovation in library management**Theoretical models of information media**User education***Special Sessions – Workshops**

You may send proposals for Special Sessions (4-6 papers) or Workshops (more than 2 sessions) including the title and a brief description to: secretariat@isast.org or from the electronic submission at: <http://www.isast.org/abstractpaperregister.html>

You may also send Abstracts/Papers to be included in the following sessions, to new sessions or as contributed papers to: <http://www.isast.org/abstractpaperregister.html>

Contributions may be realized through one of the following ways

- a. structured abstracts (not exceeding 500 words) and presentation;
- b. full papers (not exceeding 7,000 words);
- c. posters (not exceeding 2,500 words);
- d. visual presentations (Pecha kucha). These presentations consist of exactly 20 slides, each of which is displayed for 20 seconds. Total presentation time is precisely 6 minutes 40 seconds and so it is important to use the transition feature in PowerPoint to time your presentation exactly.

In all the above cases at least one of the authors must be registered in the conference. Abstracts and full papers should be submitted electronically within the timetable provided to: <http://www.isast.org/importantdates.html>

The abstracts and full papers should be in compliance with the author guidelines: <http://www.isast.org/abstractpaperregister.html>

All abstracts will be published in the Conference Book of Abstracts and on the website of the Conference. The papers of the conference will be published on the website of the conference, after the permission of the author(s).

Student submissions

The Conference offers Postgraduate students and PhD Candidates a Competition opportunity. Students who submit to the conference can take part in the competition by submitting only one paper to the competition. Students who enter the competition have to participate to the conference and register before. The papers will be judged by a scientific committee on the significance of the research theme, the research methodology, the description of the results and the organization of the presentation.

Professors and Supervisors are encouraged to organize conference sessions of Postgraduate theses and dissertations.

Please direct any questions regarding the QQML 2012 Conference and Student Research Competition to: the secretariat of the conference at: secretariat@isast.org

On behalf of the Conference Committee

Dr. Anthi Katsirikou, Conference Co-Chair
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1.2. 8th Annual International Conference on Computer Science and Information Systems, 21–24 May 2012, Athens, Greece

Dr. **Gregory T. Papanikos** (President of the Athens Institute for Education and Research & Visiting Professor, University of Strathclyde, U.K.) and Dr. **Panagiotis Petratos** (Associate Professor, Department of Computer Information Systems, California State University, Stanislaus and Head of the Computer Research Unit of ATINER) would like to invite you to the **8th Annual International Conference on Computer Science and Information Systems**, 21–24 May 2012, Athens, Greece organized by the Computer Research Unit of the Athens Institute for Education and Research (ATINER). For the program of the previous conferences, book publications based on the conference papers and other information, please visit the conference website www.atiner.gr/computer.htm.

The registration fee is €300 (euro), covering access to all sessions, two lunches, coffee breaks and conference material. Special arrangements will be made with a local luxury hotel for a limited number of rooms at a special conference rate. In addition, a number of special events will be organized: A Greek night of entertainment with dinner, a special one-day cruise in the Greek islands, an archaeological tour of Athens and a visit to Delphi.

The aim of the conference is to bring together scholars and students of all areas of computer and other related disciplines. You may participate as panel organizer, presenter of one paper, chair a session or observer. Papers (in English) to be published in a peer reviewed publication are invited to be presented from all areas of Information and Communications Technologies ICT.

If you think that you can contribute, please send an abstract of about 300 words, via email (atiner@atiner.gr), before **24 October 2011** to: Panagiotis Petratos, Associate Professor, Department of Computer Information Systems, California State University, Stanislaus and Head of the Computer Research Unit of ATINER, 8 Valaoritou Street, Kolonaki, 10671 Athens, Greece. Abstracts should include: Title of Paper, Family Name (s), First Name (s), Institutional Affiliation, Current Position, an email

address and at least 3 keywords that best describe the subject of the submission. Please use the abstract submitting form available at <http://www.atiner.gr/docs/2012FORM-COM.doc>. Announcement of the decision is made within 4 weeks after submission, which includes information on registration deadlines and paper submission requirements.

If you want to participate without presenting a paper, i.e. chair a session, evaluate papers to be included in the conference proceedings or books, contribute to the editing of a book, or any other contribution, please send an email to Dr. Gregory T. Papanikos (gtp@atiner.gr), President, ATINER.

The Athens Institute for Education and Research (ATINER) was established in 1995 as an independent academic organization with the mission to become a forum, where academics and researchers – from all over the world – could meet in Athens and exchange ideas on their research and discuss the future developments of their discipline. Since 1995, ATINER has organized close to 150 international conferences and has published over 100 books. Academically, the Institute consists of four research divisions and nineteen research units. Each research unit organizes at least an annual conference and undertakes various small and large research projects.

2. Schools

2.1. Florida State University, US

The National Science Foundation has awarded a five-year, \$10 million grant to Florida State University and the University of Florida to coordinate 92 institutions in 45 states working to digitize the nation's biological collections.

Dr. Greg Riccardi, Professor in the School of Library and Information Studies (SLIS) and Director of the Center for Information Management in Scientific Communication in the College of Communication and Information, is a Co-Principle Investigator on the grant. Called Integrated Digitized Biocollections or "iDigBio," the information in the digitized collections will include field notes, photographs, 3-D images and information on associated organisms, geographic distribution, environmental habitat and specimen DNA samples. He will work with UF's Florida Museum of Natural History and its College of Engineering Advanced Computing Information Systems Laboratory to create software and databases the nationwide participants will use to transfer and store the data. Available to anyone online, the natural history data and its increased accessibility will help researchers identify gaps in scientific knowledge and could assist government agencies and others making decisions related to climate change, conservation, invasive species, biodiversity and other biological issues. FSU's part of the award is \$2.8 million.

In addition to Riccardi, the other FSU faculty working on the project are SLIS faculty Dr. Marcia Mardis, an assistant professor and Associate Director for the Partnerships Advancing Library Media (PALM) Center, who has led eight research grants relating to use of digital libraries within the NSF's National Science Digital Library program, and Dr. Austin Mast, an associate professor of biological science and the director of FSU's Robert K. Godfrey Herbarium, a scientific collection of more than 200,000 plant specimens.

For more information on the iDigBio project, contact FSU's Riccardi at (850) 644-2869 or griccardi@fsu.edu

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2.2. *Rutgers University (US)*

Jacek Gwizdka, Assistant Professor of Library and Information Science in Rutgers University's School of Communication and Information, has been awarded a \$335,000 Early Career Development Project grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services.

Google Inc. is funding current research by Gwizdka that provides a foundation for this new project, which will entail developing and validating a new framework for non-intrusive, continuous monitoring and assessment of cognitive load (mental effort) experienced by users of digital libraries. This framework will then be validated in an experiment where cognitive load will be controlled. A second experiment later will be conducted in which the new framework will be applied to assessing cognitive load in realistic information-seeking scenarios. This project will result in a new understanding of the mental effort required by those engaged in information seeking. Results of the study will inform the design of digital libraries and other interactive information systems.

The project will develop a system to continuously monitor a person's cognitive load by combining keyboard and mouse activity with physiological signals, such as the signals registered by electroencephalography. While EEG has been used to infer

cognitive load in other contexts, it has never been used in the context of digital libraries and information-seeking tasks.

Competition for the federal grant, which is through the IMLS 21st Century Librarian Program, was intense, with only 2 out of 24 (8 percent) applications chosen for funding.

2.3. Drexel University, US

Xia Lin and Denise Agosto each have received National Leadership Grants from the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS). The National Leadership Grant Program is designed to support projects that have the potential to advance museum, library, and archival practice.

iSchool Associate Professor Denise Agosto is PI on a project that received \$378,014 in funding to investigate how teenagers use social web technologies to find information, and to identify key issues and preferences libraries should consider as they try to construct new reference and information services. As online social networking sites increase in popularity, many libraries are establishing identities in these spaces, and are looking for productive ways to leverage new connections with users. Teenagers are a target audience of particular interest to libraries because of their strong affinity for online social networking. Also working on this project is *iSchool* Assistant Professor Andrea Forte. This research will provide valuable data for use by school libraries and public libraries across the country.

iSchool Professor Xia Lin is PI on a project that was allocated \$413,378 to investigate and evaluate ways of improving library and museum searching and social tagging by presenting users with thesauri, taxonomies, and other structured vocabularies as a way to discover relevant content. The aim of this project is to create and test a prototype tool that serves as a mediator between the user and search interfaces, allowing users to search multiple digital collections simultaneously. The prototype will also allow users to create annotations that may be useful to others. The *iSchool* will lead this study, with *iSchool* Assistant Professor Weimao Ke and Drexel Dean of Libraries and *iSchool* professor Danuta Nitecki contributing to this study, in cooperation with partners at the University at Buffalo, Getty Research Institute, ARTstor, and the Indianapolis Museum of Art. The results will ultimately be useful to a wide range of museum and library users and can be directly applied by library and museum service providers and search engine designers.

2.4. University of Illinois, US

A) The Graduate School of Library and Information Science (GSLIS) at the University of Illinois has received grant funding from the Partnership for a Connected

Illinois to study broadband usage in Illinois. Researchers at GSLIS are partnering with Urbana-Champaign Big Broadband (UC2B) to deepen the understanding of the barriers to broadband adoption among residents of underserved communities. UC2B is building an underground “fiber optic” internet network that allows data to be transmitted at speeds far exceeding current DSL or cable modem speeds – typically 50 times faster. The fiber-optic “backbone” infrastructure will provide FTTP (fiber-to-the-premise) connectivity to 11 pre-identified census areas in the twin cities of Champaign-Urbana (population 210,275, 2000 U.S. Census). Jon Gant, research professor, will direct a canvassing operations and research team to assess and evaluate the implementation, progress and overall adoption success of the UC2B project. The research project, entitled “Strategies for Sustainable Broadband Adoption in Illinois: The Case of UC2B,” begins this fall. Professor Abdul Alkalimat and Assistant Professor Kate Williams of GSLIS will provide case study and archival support to the project through funding from the University of Illinois’ Community Informatics Initiative. They will develop case studies to provide in-depth information chronicling the transformation of community anchor institutions as they adopt broadband and will create a digital archive that documents the UC2B project in its entirety.

The broadband connectivity will reach eligible homes and businesses within the next year, and is expected to improve access and support to the community in substantial ways, including helping school children access greater learning tools for development; providing job training to unemployed or underemployed citizens; allowing small businesses to offer services to national and international markets; and allowing doctors and hospitals a greater connection to health services, research and advancement.

Construction for the project is made possible by a \$22.5 million federal stimulus grant from the U.S. Department of Commerce and is further supported by a \$3.5 million grant from the state Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity and \$3.4 million in local public and private matching funds.

For more information on UC2B, including maps of the qualified census areas, visit www.UC2B.net or follow UC2B on Facebook at “UC2B-Urbana-Champaign-Google-Fiber.”

B) The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation has awarded the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign (UIUC) a \$390,000 grant for Professor J. Stephen Downie to lead the “Music Information Retrieval Evaluation eXchange: Next Generation” (MIREX: NG) project,” which runs from 1 October 2011 through 31 December 2013.

Since 2005, Downie has directed MIREX from his International Music Information Retrieval Systems Evaluation Laboratory (IMIRSEL) at the Graduate School of Library and Information Science (GSLIS) at UIUC. MIREX allows music information retrieval (MIR) researchers to come together to investigate how well their innovative

MIR algorithms perform. MIREX has played a pivotal role in the growth and success of the MIR research community, having performed more than 1200 evaluations of algorithms across 23 unique task categories. In partnership with experts from Ithaca S+R, the MIREX: NG project will allow Downie to develop formal models for the financial and administrative sustainability of MIREX. Once the organizational structures have been created, the partners will work with the MIR community to finalize, and then implement, a sustainable business plan model to ensure the long term vitality of MIREX.

For more information, contact [J. Stephen Downie](#).

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