First Special Track on

Virtual Worlds for academic, organizational, and life-long learning (ViWo 2009)

This special track will take place during the IMCL 2009 in Amman, Jordan (April 22-24) as a special program item.

The Special Track ViWo 2009 provides an interdisciplinary forum for international scientists and practitioners to discuss various aspects of learning and training in virtual worlds.

Background

Educational approaches have changed dramatically over time from less formal schooling in the agrarian society to remedial repetitive learning in the industrialization age to learning with an understanding in today's knowledge society. Based on that, different modern educational strategies have been developed which includes aspects such as self-directed learning, collaborative learning, experiential-based learning and actively participating. Educational approaches have also been influenced by technology but have also increasingly applied technology over the last decades.

Last year's hype surrounding the virtual world "Second Life" has generated significant interest in the education community. Although virtual worlds have been an active research topic for a long time, technology was not ready for complex application scenarios since recent years. New interesting and powerful platforms and tools, such as Second Life, Active Worlds, Multiverse, Open Croquet, OpenSim and Sun's 3D Wonderland, have been emerged applicable to complement or even replace other knowledge transfer and learning settings. Modern virtual worlds are seen from an optimistic viewpoint as a disruptive and transformative technology. However, it still remains unclear to some extent where the real benefits and limitations of using virtual worlds as knowledge transfer and learning environments are when compared to more traditional methods. In order to avoid the same pitfalls of past e-learning solutions by just applying traditional learning approaches to a new technology, this special track is indented to offer a multidisciplinary platform which brings together international researchers from different organizations in order to share their experience with this technology.

Topics

We invite submissions of papers in the categories research, development, evaluation and best practices that deal with virtual worlds for academic, organizational, and life-long learning issues including, but not limited to:

- Technological approaches, their limitations and how to overcome them
- Virtual worlds and mobile learning
- Virtual learning space design and architecture
- Modern learning settings
- Didactic and cognitive aspects
- New learning and teaching activities
- Interaction and behavior patterns
- Distance and blended learning

- Organizational learning, vocational training and certification
- Academic learning, assessment and feedback
- Collaborative and social learning
- Mixed Virtual world and classroom learning
- Knowledge Transfer and Collaboration
- Artificial Intelligence Approaches
- Usability and Human-Computer-Interaction

ViWo 2009 Chairs

- Christian Gütl, Graz University of Technology, Austria
- Frank Kappe, Graz University of Technology, Austria

Important Dates

- 15 November 2008: Submission of the full papers (6 pages)
- 15 December 2008: Notification of acceptance
- 15 January 2009: Author Registration Deadline
- 15 February 2009: Camera ready version (6 pages)
- 22 - 24 April 2009: IMCL 2008 Conference

Submission Procedure

- File Types: DOC, RTF or PDF-file
- Language: English (British or US)
- Paper Submission System: http://www.conftool.net/imcl-conference/

Notification of Acceptance and Publishing

Accepted papers will be published within the proceedings CD of the IMCL2009 conference. Some authors will be invited to submit extended versions of their paper for publication in a special issue in J.UCS - Journal of Universal Computer Science, http://www.jucs.org/.

For further questions concerning the submission of papers, please contact the track chairs at ViWo2009@iicm.edu.

Further Information

- Online Information about ViWo 2009: http://www.iicm.tugraz.at/ViWo2009
- Information about IMCL 2009: http://www.imcl-conference.org/
- Tourist Information: http://www.visitjordan.com/