

# Information Systems Development

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Editors

# Information Systems Development

Challenges in Practice, Theory  
and Education

Volume 2

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# Preface

This two-volume book is the published proceedings of the 16th International Conference on Information Systems Development (ISD2007) that was hosted by the Cairnes Graduate School of Business & Public Policy at National University of Ireland, Galway, from 29–31 August 2007. The theme of the conference was “Challenges in Practice, Theory and Education.” The theme is not a new one – we chose to reproduce that used in Lithuania in 2004 because it encapsulates our ideals for the profession we are in: Teaching ISD practice and theory is what we all must aspire to achieve.

In total, 120 delegates from 27 different countries registered for the conference, making it a truly international event. Papers presented at the conference strongly reflected the three pillars of our conference theme. Of 131 papers submitted, 84 were presented at the conference, representing an acceptance rate of ~64%. All papers were double-blind, peer reviewed by at least two referees. Over the course of 3 days, 29 sessions were held, covering a range of areas such as agile methods, usage of systems development methods, method tailoring, users and usability, web development methods, requirements analysis, business process modelling, systems analysis and design, ISD in developing nations, ISD in public sector organisations, socio-technical aspects of ISD, human resources issues in ISD, knowledge management in ISD, ERP systems development and implementation, legal and ethical dimensions of ISD, management of ISD, information systems security, ISD education and training, e-learning technologies, project and requirements management, data quality and integrity, database design, practical applications of database technologies, Web services, automation of software development, and information systems engineering. The book is organised by the order of the conference sessions.

Reviewing papers, which is key to ensuring quality and fairness, is not generally a task that is acknowledged at a conference. It is done as part of a sense of collegiality and duty. At our conference a remarkable 95% of reviews were completed. In recognition of the reviewer who applied the most diligence and penned the most extensive review with both critical and constructive feedback, a *Best Reviewer Award* was given. Of course, a *Best Paper Award* was given as well. Details of these awards can be found on the conference Web site at <http://isd2007.nuigalway.ie>.

Our gratitude is extended first to all those who attended and authored work for the conference. The contribution of the International Program Committee was invaluable in identifying track chairs and reviewers to commit to doing vital work. Although volunteering to host a conference is a highly personal undertaking, without institutional support it would be impossible. Thus, a special thanks to Professor Jim Browne, the Registrar and Deputy-President of NUI, Galway, who opened the conference and welcomed the delegates to the Cairnes Graduate School. Our local organising committee laboured industriously to make the conference a success, especially Laura Regan, our conference secretary, who worked tirelessly to ensure harmony in all affairs. We also received invaluable advice from our

conference office and assistance from the Centre for Education and Learning Technologies (CELT). Our sincere thanks are also extended to Mike Roche of IBM Dublin Software Laboratory and Professor Stefan Decker of the Digital Enterprise Research Institute (DERI) in Galway, who delivered the keynote addresses. Finally, we thank our sponsors for their financial support and other aid.

The ISD conference community has developed over the years a real sense of collegiality and friendliness, perhaps unusually so for a conference. At the same time it has been a stimulating forum where a free exchange of views and perspectives is encouraged. Perhaps what brings the community together is a belief that the process of systems development is important; whether it is systematic or structured or improvised or spontaneous, there is something about the process and the outcomes that excites us. We form a spectrum of thought from those who see the activity as somewhat scientific to others that see it as wholly sociological; we span a divide between abstract and conceptual, to hard code and artefacts – somewhere in-between lies the truth. If our work is to make a meaningful contribution to both practice (by teaching students) and research (by sharing our experiences and studies with others), then hopefully this conference will have done a little of the former and much for the latter.

Chris Barry and Michael Lang  
ISD2007 Programme Chairs

Kieran Conboy  
ISD2007 Organising Chair

# Conference Organisation

The 16th International Conference on Information Systems Development was hosted by the Business Information Systems Group, Cairnes Graduate School of Business & Public Policy, National University of Ireland, Galway, from 29 to 31 August 2007. The organisation and management of such a major international conference requires the collaboration and dedication of very many people. We are especially grateful to our international programme committee who voluntarily gave their time to review the submissions. The excellent standard of papers contained within this volume bears testimony to the diligence and rigour of the peer review process. We are also very appreciative of the efforts of all the conference officers and the tremendous support provided by the local organising committee.

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