World Conference
NL 2002 - Networked Learning in a Global Environment:
Challenges and Solutions for Virtual Education

Call for Papers

Venue and Date
May 1 - 4, 2002, Technical University of Berlin, Germany

Background and Scope
Telecommunications, computer networks, multimedia technologies, and the World Wide Web have opened up entirely new ways of teaching and learning – across institutions, physical locations, countries, continents, and time zones. Students may work distributed worldwide and nevertheless interact in a virtual community. Academic programs are no longer provided by single institutions only but can be established by networked organizations like virtual universities or virtual faculties. Best-of-breed programs are created in the Internet by bringing together top experts from different schools in a virtual program. Powerful wireless technologies will accelerate these developments in the future.

Distance education is no longer a matter of "learning in isolation". Collaborative tools like discussion groups, chatrooms, videoconferencing, etc. support immediate interaction between students and teachers and among students in virtual communities. In-company training does not require travelling and physical presence but can be done at the workplace. Geographical locations of students and teachers loose importance. Education in the 21st century is shifting from "real" to "virtual". Physical classes are more and more replaced by virtual networks of students and teachers.

NL 2002 aims to bring together content providers, course developers, educators, persons responsible for academic programs or corporate education, platform and tools providers, researchers and system developers from academia and industry to exchange their ideas and experiences, to share the best practices and to foster further development in networked learning.

Conference Topics
The conference focuses on technological and organizational aspects of networked learning and teaching. Topics include, but are not restricted to:

Organization of networked learning

- Virtual universities and networked e-learning organizations
- Corporate virtual universities, in-company training in distributed enterprises
- Integrated e-learning systems, portals, marketplaces, and providers
- New academic programs by virtual organizations and cooperation projects
- E-learning for business professionals
- Open source initiatives for e-learning
- Pricing and business models for virtual distance learning
- Success stories and pitfalls in e-learning

Technology

- Enabling technologies for networked learning: telecommunications and computer networks
- Internet suited multimedia technologies: Audio and video streaming etc., learning on demand
- Mobile learning: Wireless technologies, UMTS, GPRS, WAP
- Leading edge and emerging technologies: Virtual reality, software agents, artificial intelligence tools

- Integration of collaborative tools: Discussion groups, chatrooms, whiteboards, shared workspaces, e-mail, videoconferencing
- Virtual classrooms for worldwide classes, virtual learning communities
- Virtual management games
- Quality assurance for virtual education

Content production and delivery

- Architectures and platforms for distributed teaching and learning
- Multimedia production tools, authoring tools, delivery tools
- E-learning life cycle models

Globalization

- The role of traditional educational institutions in global virtual learning
- Cross-cultural learning
- Networked learning and developing countries
- Legal aspects and security of networked learning

Contributions describing novel approaches to networked learning, practical experience, best practices, and cutting-edge future developments are encouraged.

Contributions

NL 2002 will include technical sessions as well as special events, such as keynote presentations, invited plenary talks, tutorials, workshops, panels, and exhibition.

Regular Papers

Prospective authors are requested to submit a paper of max. 7 pages to the address below (conference organizer). All papers must be written in English, starting with a succinct statement of the problem, the results achieved, their significance and a comparison with previous work.

Poster Presentations

Poster presentations are encouraged for people who wish to receive peer feedback for their work. Practical examples of applied research are particularly welcome. Papers of max. 4 pages discussing the respective posters will be included in the conference proceedings.

Panels

Proposals for panels should include a concise outline of the topics to be addressed (2-3 pages) and list the panel members and their affiliations.

Workshops

Proposals for workshops are encouraged. However, workshops should be clearly distinct from paper sessions, focussing on experimental work, hands-on experience, case studies, games, interactive exercises, and open discussions. Proposals should include a concise outline of the nature of the workshop and the expected outcome (2-3 pages).

Tutorials

Proposals for half-day tutorials (three hours) should clearly indicate the topic, background knowledge expected of the participants, objectives, time allocations for the major course topics, and the qualifications of the instructor(s).

Exhibition

NL 2002 will be accompanied by a professional exhibition. Interested organisations are requested to contact the conference organizers (see below).

All submissions should include:

- Title of conference (NL 2002)
- Type of contribution (regular paper, panel, etc.)
- Title of contribution
- Contributor's name, affiliation, address, e-mail address for contact
- Topics which best describe the contribution (keywords)
- Short CV of author/organizer (recommended)

Contributions are welcome from those working in the industry as well as from academics. The conference language is English. Details for all types submission are available at the conference website http://www.icsc-naiso.org/conferences/nl2002/index.html

Conference Organization

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International Computing Sciences Conventions (www.icsc-naiso.org)

Important Dates

- Submission deadline: September 20, 2001
- Notification of acceptance: December 15, 2001
- Final manuscripts: January 31, 2002