20th IS Conference, 18th-20th September 2019

Conference Announcement

The Department of Information Studies at the University of Zululand in association with the KwaZulu-Natal Convention Bureau, King Cetshwayo District Municipality and Umhlatuze local Municipality wish to invite you to participate in the 20th International Information Studies (IS) conference at the University of Zululand, Kwazulu-Natal (KZN), South Africa between 18th – 20th September, 2019. This year's conference theme is "Data, information and knowledge for Development in Africa".

Data, Information and Knowledge for Development

The 4IR refers to a set of highly disruptive technologies which are blurring the lines between the physical, digital, and biological spheres, collectively referred to as cyber-physical systems. Technologies such as cognitive computing, cloud computing, the internet of things, big data, augmented/virtual reality, 3D systems, artificial intelligence and power supply are transforming social, economic and political systems and putting huge pressure on leaders and policy-makers to respond.

At the national level, during his State of the Nation Address in 2018 President Ramaphosa reiterated that "Our prosperity as a nation depends on our ability to take full advantage of rapid technological change. This means that we urgently need to develop our capabilities in the areas of science, technology and innovation." He emphasized that government "will soon establish a digital industrial revolution commission… to ensure that our country is in a position to seize the opportunities and manage the challenges of rapid advances in information and communication technology" (ICT). This seems to resonate with what is required in the 4IR. The resulting new digital economy will permeate all aspects of society, including the way people interact, the economic landscape and political decision-making.

4IR technologies are considered revolutionary due to the speed, breadth and depth of the anticipated change they will bring – and will impact every aspect of our lives. Technologies for digital transformation create the opportunity for developing countries to bypass traditional phases of industrial development. However, there are challenges inherent in the 4IR including job losses and disruption and the potential for non-on-inclusive growth has the potential to increase social instability within countries. Country and municipal responses need to be fast, agile, experimental and iterative.

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We realize that the associated challenges to data, information and knowledge flow – such as access, ethics, policy, standards, infrastructure, and security in the current digital economy – remain a concern in most developing countries, especially in Africa. We acknowledge that several strides have been made in finding solutions for effective access, use and sharing of data, information and knowledge, and making these a reality in Africa. We anticipate that the 2019 IS annual conference will provide an international open forum for academics, students, researchers, knowledge and information managers and authorities, and information and communication related professionals, largely from Africa, to converge, discuss, and share knowledge and experiences on the conference theme, with an emphasis on the progress made in Africa.

The purpose of the conference is to explore and share current research results and experiences of data, information and knowledge in the Fourth Industrial Revolution (4IR).We invite researchers worldwide, and especially from Africa, to submit their contributions to the 20th IS Annual Conference in the form of original full research papers (FRP), research-in-progress (RIP) papers, or posters that have not previously been presented elsewhere and make new contributions to the theme's theory and practice. Topics of interest include, but are not limited to:

- E-government
- Mobile government
- E-voting
- Health informatics
- E-tourism applications
- E-transport applications
- E-agriculture applications
- E-commerce and banking
- E-content in indigenous knowledge management
- Education and training in the digital economy
- Virtual community information/knowledge services
- Digital libraries and open source software technology and Community services
- ICT for Development
- Cyber security
- Cryptography and block chain technology
- E-learning innovations
- E-library
- Open data and big data
- Cyber ethics
- Digital archiving
- Digital curation
- Digital preservation and access
- Digital records management
- Digital scholarship and open access
- Integration of social networking tools

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- Knowledge discovery tools – web and linked data
- Management of social media content
- Multi-media management
- Research data management
- Tele-marketing
- Information Access, Trust and Provenance in the digital era
- Information and Knowledge in the Cloud
- Informatics
- Bibliometrics, Informetrics, Webmetrics and Scientometrics
- Marketing Information/Knowledge Services in the digital era
- Indigenous Knowledge for rural development- IK4RD

Submissions are invited on any topic within the main theme and subthemes listed above, in any one of the following formats:
• Poster Papers (PP): To enable conference participants to interact one-to-one with presenters in workshops.
• Research-in-Progress (RIP): Ideas for future research or not fully completed research to generate discussion and feedback
• Full Research Paper (FRP): Completed research for possible publication in the Conference Proceedings

Kindly note:
• All presentations should not exceed 20 minutes.
• At least one of the authors of qualifying papers must be present at the conference.
• Qualifying papers in FRP format will be published in double blind peer- refereed and the subsidy-attracting South African Department of Higher Education and Training (DHET) Conference Proceedings

Important dates:

• Submission of Abstract for Full Research Paper (FRP) by 30 March 2019
• Notice of acceptance: by 30th April 2019
• Submission of FRP for publication in Conference Proceedings: 1st June 2019
• Notice of acceptance 1st July 2019

• Submission of Research-in Progress (RIP) Abstracts: 30 April 2019
• Notice of acceptance of abstracts: 30 May 2019

. Submission of RIP papers : 30th June 2019

. Notice of acceptance of RIP papers: 30th July 2019
• Submission of poster papers:1st July 2019
•Notice of acceptance: by 30 July 2019

Requirements for submission of Abstracts:
• Title of paper
• Name(s) of author(s)
• Institutional Affiliation
• E-mail address
• Maximum of 300 words and to include: purpose of the paper; the central argument

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and indication of methodology, results and/or conclusions and, implication and include 3-5 keywords.
• Final submissions should be in Arial, font size 12, 1.5 spacing on A4 portrait.
• FRP papers to include separate title page with names of authors and a separate manuscript

Length:
• Final Full Research Papers: - 3000 – 5000 words
• Research in Progress Papers: -2000 - 3000 words
• Final Poster Papers: - Maximum 2000 words

Contact:

All written submissions to:BennettR@unizulu.ac.za
All inquiries to: Ochollad@unizulu.ac.za OR EvansN@unizulu.ac.za

Venue

The conference will be held in Richard Bay which is 30 kilometres away from the main University campus. The Richards Bay is a town in KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa. It is situated on a 30 square kilometre lagoon of the Mhlatuze River, which gives it one of the country's largest harbours. It is a bubbling and fast becoming the north coast holiday destination, offering remarkable scenery. The coastline stretches about 350 km from the mouth of the mighty Tugela River in the south to the Mozambique border in the north. The coastal plains include endless unspoilt beaches and coastal conservation areas and incorporate the largest estuarine system in Southern Africa. The town can be reached by daily flights through OR Tambo Airport, Johannesburg. See more details at: http://www.places.co.za/html/richards_bay.html.

Travel and Visa Requirements

It is expected that most participants should make their travel arrangements. However, most SADC residents do not require entry VISA to travel to South Africa. For those requiring visas it advisable to apply in good time to the South African Embassy in your respective countries. The Conference Committee will facilitate letters to confirm the hosting of the conference.

Accommodation

The costs for travel, accommodation and incidentals are the responsibility of the participants. Participants are expected to make their own accommodation arrangements. More information pertaining to alternative accommodation is available on: (www.lis.uzulu.ac.za/conference).

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