



ISCRAM2010

Defining Crisis Management 3.0
7th International Conference on
Information Systems for Crisis Response and Management

May 2-5 2010
Crowne Plaza Hotel
Seattle Washington USA

TRACK: HUMANITARIAN CHALLENGES

Submission of work-in-progress, discussions, and practitioner papers remain open until January 18th 2010.
Submissions of full research papers is now closed.

Submissions should be made through www.conftool.com/ISCRAM2010

Introduction of the track

The humanitarian context presents unique challenges for the design, deployment and use of information systems. While interpretations of the term '*humanitarian*' vary, it is generally associated with actions and operations that seek to alleviate human suffering in the face of threatening or existing crises as diverse as armed conflicts or political unrest, epidemics and public health threats, famine and natural hazards. These crises often occur in fragile environments characterized by higher levels of vulnerability including low incomes, sparse infrastructure and in some cases low levels of IT skills. Uncertainties linked to climate change brings with it new challenges such as environmental refugees and loss of livelihoods. Also, the response to these crises is often international in nature, generating the requirement that information systems foster information sharing and processing both locally and globally.

Humanitarian information management is therefore critical to a diverse range of organizations responding to these humanitarian challenges, including donor agencies, governmental organizations, United Nations agencies, Red Cross Movement, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), scientific and research institutes, academia, the media and private sector. In 2007 representatives from these organizations endorsed a set of humanitarian information management principles (among which accessibility, inclusiveness, interoperability, impartiality, and sustainability), and articulated a common vision of the central role of information in support of effective humanitarian preparedness, response and recovery (see <http://www.reliefweb.int/symposium/>).

This track invites papers that intend to showcase research results or practitioner cases that help overcome these unique challenges. In particular the focus will be on the development of information systems artifacts, practices, methods or theories that help further develop humanitarian practice and scholarship. This track also aims to create an understanding of the potential of ICT to improve disaster risk reduction and crisis response, considering the complex and integrated relationship with climate change and adaptation.

Track topics

- Information Management in Global and Field operations
- Data collection in the Field
- Supply management - logistics
- Telemedicine and electronic medical records
- Training and Education
- Local Community involvement
- Impact of climate change
- Disaster risk reduction

Track co-chairs

- Carleen Maitland, Penn State University, USA, cmaitland@ist.psu.edu
- Bartel Van de Walle, Tilburg University, The Netherlands, bartel@uvt.nl
- Dewald van Niekerk, North West University, South Africa, Dewald.VanNiekerk@nwu.ac.za

Note that the general call for papers, descriptions of other tracks and special sessions as well as guidance on housestyle and formatting with a MS Word template for submissions are available at www.iscram.org.

Type of submissions

ISCRAM is aware that it serves a wide community of different disciplines spanning both academic and practitioner interests. The demands on individuals from their various professions differ greatly in terms of publications and conference presentations. Academics need conferences and related publications to conform to certain standards – time consuming standards – of peer review; practitioners have far greater time pressures and often do not need such formal reviewing of their work for career progression. All have relevant and important perspectives on the issues that face us.

ISCRAM2010 is soliciting four types of submission:

1. Full research papers, which will be double blind peer reviewed. It is intended that these will report completed work which can be assessed to the highest academic standards. Such papers should be no more than 10 pages with figures & tables (~5000 words)
2. Work in progress and discussion paper which will be subjected to a peer review to ensure clarity, relevance and significance. Such papers should be no more than 5 pages with figures & tables (~2500 words).
3. Practitioner reports and discussions which raise issues, examples and case studies, examples of best practices, improvements, and significant insights or examples. Such paper will be subject to a peer review to ensure clarity, relevance and significance. Such papers should be no more than 5 pages with figures & tables (~2500 words). Authors may prefer to submit an extended abstract rather than the full paper and perhaps a set of powerpoint slides. The template for submission (see below) explains how this may be done.
4. Demonstrations. (see below).

Note that the designation of the paper and its reviewing will be indicated in the conference proceedings. Also anyone is welcome to submit any of these types of submission.

Presentations

ISCRAM will have plenary, parallel and poster sessions. Accepted papers will be assigned to the most appropriate session given the reviewers reports and the papers objectives. Such designation of the paper will be advised at the time of the acceptance of the paper.

Demonstrations

There will also be possibilities for demonstrations. These may be associated with a paper or simply stand alone. If you wish to have a demonstration associated with your paper, please email the conference organisers to this effect. However, you must submit the paper separately for review as indicated below. Contributors simply wishing to demonstrate their systems or technologies without any

associated presentation should email the conference organisers. (iscram2010@iscram.org). Note that there is a fuller call for demonstrations on www.iscram.org.

Submission Process and Deadline

Submissions must be in the ISCRAM housestyle. Details of this are provided in a Word document /template, which is available at www.iscram.org.

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About ISCRAM:

The ISCRAM Community is a worldwide community of researchers, scholars, teachers, students, practitioners and policy makers interested or actively involved in the subject of Information Systems for Crisis Response and Management. At its annual international conference alternating between the US and Europe, the ISCRAM Community gathers to present and discuss the latest research and developments in this growing area during an interactive and stimulating 3 day program. The ISCRAM Community also organizes an International Summer School for PhD students and ISCRAM-CHINA, an annual conference for ISCRAM research in China. Full information on ISCRAM can be found at www.iscram.org.

Rough Schedule of Important Dates

- Nov 30, 2009: Submission of full research papers ended.
- Early Jan 2010: Acceptances or otherwise of full papers will be announced.
- Jan 18, 2010: Final submission of work in progress papers, practitioner papers, demos and posters.
- Early Feb 2010: Closing date for applications for doctoral consortium, and any workshops or tutorials which require separate registration and pre-event communications.
- Mid Feb 2010: Acceptances or otherwise of work in progress papers, demos and posters announced. Notification of acceptance of places at doctoral consortium and other workshops with limited registration.
- Feb 28, 2010: Final submission of all accepted papers, full, work in progress or practitioner reports, for inclusion in the proceedings. Note that by this date at least one of the authors of each paper will need to have registered.
- Early Mar, 2010: Early registration deadline.
- May 2-5, 2010: ISCRAM2010 conference.

Further details of ISCRAM2010, as they become clear, will be published on www.iscram.org and through its discussion and mailing lists.

Corresponding track co-chairs



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