



5<sup>th</sup> International Conference on  
Information Systems for  
Crisis Response and Management  
Washington, DC, USA  
May 4-7, 2008  
<http://www.iscram.org>

## CALL FOR PAPERS

FOR A SPECIAL *ACADEMIC* SESSION ON

# Reducing Information Proliferation and Overload in Emergency Management

Session ID: HCI-04

### Motivation

Where is the information I need?  
Where is the knowledge I should have?  
Where is the wisdom I wish I had?

With apologies to T.S. Elliot, the above might well express the desires of practitioners in Emergency Management or Business Continuity. The crux of the problem today is that there is an unbelievable amount of documents, reports, message lists, and sites on the web in this field and that it is growing far faster than any single individual can deal with or feel confident that they have not missed something important.

Currently on the Web, using a simple Google search for "emergency management" or business continuity" we find over 9 million items. Those following this field are seeing hundreds of new items a week pass by in various lists, newsletters, announcements, etc..

### Research Area

The objective of this session is to request papers on proposed methods to reduce information overload in Emergency Management with a specific approach that has been applied to at least a sample of data currently on the Web. These techniques can include information retrieval methods and those approaches to allow individuals or Communities of Practice to better filter, organize, structure, and/or recommend quality or relevance of the material on this subject.

### Topics

Examples include, but are not limited to, indexing methods, ontology methods, collaborative tagging, theme detection, recommender systems, knowledge structures, use of tailored agents, extraction methods, clustering methods, standards, etc. We

are interested in existing or new methods for locating the most relevant and high quality information, applied specifically to the topic of emergency management or business continuity. We will also consider as papers for this session case studies by or about practitioners on what they face today as information overload and how they currently cope with it.

**Type of contribution:**

Methodological approaches to reducing Information Overload or Case Studies of information overload in Emergency Management

- **Academic Session:** we invite researchers from academia or research labs to present their research or research-in-progress papers. Prospective presenters submit a regular research (or research-in-progress) paper. Practitioners or academics may also present case studies of information overload.

**Important Notice:**

- All submissions must be formatted according to the ISCRAM 2008 formatting guidelines. Templates and instructions are published on [www.iscram.org](http://www.iscram.org).
- All submissions must be submitted through the ISCRAM 2008 conference paper submission web page at [www.conftool.com/iscram2008](http://www.conftool.com/iscram2008). Instructions for the ConfTool system can be found on [www.iscram.org](http://www.iscram.org).
- All papers and presentations will go through a double-blind review process, leading to a decision of (conditional) acceptance or rejection.
- Accepted papers will be included in the ISCRAM 2008 program and published in the official proceedings if and only if
  - (1) the paper is formatted according to the instructions,
  - (2) the authors sign the copyright transfer form and
  - (3) one of the authors registers for the conference and pays the registration fee before the cut-off date for early registration.
- Authors who have multiple papers accepted can only register for and present one paper at the conference; co-authors need to register separately.

**Session Chair:**

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**Important ISCRAM 2008 Dates:**

- December 21, 2007: Paper submission deadline
- February 10, 2008: Notification of (conditional) acceptance
- February 22, 2008: Early registration deadline
- March 1, 2008: Final camera-ready paper submission deadline
- May 4-7, 2008: ISCRAM 2008

**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. All information on ISCRAM can be found at <http://www.iscram.org>

ISCRAM 2008 will be held from 4-7 May at the George Washington University (GWU) located in Washington, DC, USA. The conference will be hosted by GWU's Institute for Crisis, Disaster, and Risk Management (ICDRM). All details on this conference will be made available via the ISCRAM website mentioned above.