



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

### *Adaptive Information Architectures for Interagency Crisis Management*

Session ID: INT-01

#### **Motivation**

This special session for ISCRAM 2008 aims to address problems surrounding the emerging area of adaptive information architectures, specifically in the very demanding context of crisis management. In this context adaptivity is a desired system property necessary when operating under highly complex, dynamic and unpredictable conditions. With Information architecture we refer to description or prescription of the relationships between the organizational and technology components of a system. Accordingly, information architectures are about actors, processes, information flows, data sources, re-formation, information technology and their mutual relationships. Improving the adaptivity of information architectures is necessary in order to ensure a high information quality (e.g. accessibility, timeliness, relevance) under rapidly changing and complex circumstances.

#### **Research Area**

The focus of the special session is on interagency information architectures and how we can improve their ability to adapt to dynamic circumstances. Crises are complex and dynamic events, meaning that there are many system components and interactions, that keep changing over time. During crisis response, multiple aspect of the response systems continuously change, including the information needs, processes and data sources. As current information architectures are focused on intra agency response and routine processes, they are unable to adequately adapt to changing environments. As a result, relief workers, both decision makers and first responders, are left with low information quality, including access to up to date and relevant information.

In order to ensure the information quality under complex and dynamic conditions, some form of adaptivity is necessary. Here adaptivity is a multidimensional concept, suggesting some forms of flexibility, scalability, and intelligence embedded throughout the response system. Because information architectures are about actors, processes,

information flows, data sources, information technology and their mutual relationships, this research area spans multiple disciplines, including organization science and information systems research.

## Topics

Some non-exhaustive examples of topics that could contribute to this session are:

- *Adaptivity: what does it mean, how can it be measured and improved, which tradeoffs need to be made?*
- *Information quality dimensions (incl. timeliness, relevancy, added value) during response, which mechanisms can be used to ensure these dimensions*
- *Interagency information sharing: organizational and technical issues hampering information sharing?*
- *Network Centric operations: what are the information architecture challenges?*
- *Brokers and intermediaries for interagency response, what do they contribute, which problems do they solve and which organizational issues need to be addressed?*

## Type of contribution

- **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.

## 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 Chairs:**



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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.