



5th 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

Social Networking, Web Collaboration and e-Participation in Crisis and Risk Management

Session ID: ORG-02

Motivation

Public participation methods, e.g. citizen juries and stakeholder workshops, have been used in societal decision making for more than a decade. Such methods have also been used in the recovery phase of crises, but they are not suited for the urgency required in handling a crisis. With the advent of web-based collaboration tools, social computing and 'web 2.0', the inevitable question arises: would web-participation methods enable a wide range of stakeholders and publics to be involved in handling at least some crises? The UK experience of both the 2002 Foot and Mouth crisis indicated that public authorities can miss many potential issues that if addressed early in the crisis management might have had less impact. Whether the 2007 Foot and Mouth outbreak has been better addressed is still to be clarified, but there are already some concerns about the quality of the information and advice available to those affected. Web 2.0 collaboration tools and e-participation methods, well applied, might lead, inter alia, to better formulation of issues and more immediate availability, discussion and clarification of advice.

Research Area

Several areas of research are relevant to these issues. Firstly, there are the technological developments ongoing under the general heading of 'Web 2.0': novel means of collaboration and interaction over the web, etc. What systems can be built? Secondly, behavioural and cognitive studies in human computer interaction will have much to say about how different publics and stakeholders will react to web-based information and interactions during the stress of a crisis. Our current understandings of facilitation of group discussion need to be transferred to the context of web-collaboration. More applied studies are already developing systems and testing them in simulations. Then again regulators, public authorities and NGOs are already using the web to disseminate information during crisis. How have such systems worked in reality?

Topics

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

- Electronic and web-based brainstorming tools and their potential in such crisis management
- Human computer interaction aspects of web-participation and their implications for crisis management
- Facilitation of brainstorming and discussion in web-based participation
- Risk communication via the web

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.
- All submissions must be submitted through the ISCRAM 2008 conference paper submission web page at www.conftool.com/iscram2008. Instructions for the ConfTool system can be found on 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.

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

Session Chairs:



Simon French
simon.french@mbs.ac.uk

Manchester Business School



Clare Bayley
clare.bayley@mbs.ac.uk

Manchester Business School

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.