



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

Intelligent Systems for Crisis and Disaster Management

Session ID: INT-02

Motivation

The management of crises and emergencies, resulting from man-made or natural disasters, is a very difficult and complex task. Imminent decisions must be taken that lead to the most effective use of the available resources in different managerial levels, all based on the limited information available when events are still unfolding. In order to manage a large crisis effectively and to minimize the anticipated adverse impacts, decision makers need intelligent information technology that helps them to make sense of a given situation, to focus awareness on the most important issues, to take appropriate decisions about courses of action to be taken, and to ensure that these actions are implemented. In these situations, decision makers require agile, adaptive and robust Information Management and Decision Support Systems which decrease the cognitive load and help focus on the most important issues at hand.

Research Area

Intelligent Systems for Crisis and Disaster Management must take into account the nature of human decision making processes which requires the systems and interfaces to behave intelligently. Thus issues like extraction, integration, representation and processing of data, information and knowledge is of importance. In this perspective **Artificial Intelligence** and **Cognitive Science** provide the background for the development of intelligent disaster management systems which could act autonomously or be used as a part of a broader management system. Today, such intelligent systems take many forms and use different technologies from a wide range of principals. Such systems encompass a variety of approaches (including multi-agent systems, automated and mixed-initiative planning, etc) and include many design challenges (such as the development of intelligent user interfaces, semantic web services and ontologies, etc).

This special session aims to bring together researchers and practitioners working on different aspects of intelligent systems for crisis and disaster management in an effort to highlight the state-of-the-art and to discuss the challenges and opportunities of this field as well as to explore new research directions. We strongly welcome original and

high-quality contributions on the general theme of Intelligent Systems for Disaster Management.

Topics

The following is a non-exhaustive list with topics of special interest:

- Intelligent agents and multi-agent systems
- Agent co-ordination and communication
- Artificial Intelligence search and constraint programming
- Knowledge capture, representation, maintenance and reuse
- Knowledge-based systems and reasoning about knowledge
- Automated and mixed-initiative planning
- Data integration, uncertainty handling and decision making
- Machine learning and adaptive systems
- Intelligent human-machine interfaces
- Semantic web services

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.

Session Chairs:
(in alphabetical order)



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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.