

Preface

Welcome to ED-MEDIA 99 in Seattle, USA. This year sees the conference back in the USA after two successful years in Calgary and Freiburg. ED-MEDIA 99 represents the 11th time this conference has run and this year's conference promises to be as successful as those which have preceded it.

The Conference is organised by the Association for the Advancement of Computing in Education (AACE) and over the years has developed a strong international following. The Conference has grown hand in hand with the emergence of new learning technologies and now represents the premier event for this field in the world. Each year sees an increasing number of delegates and participants and showcases the best efforts of the major advocates and researchers of learning technologies.

The strong international participation of the conference is demonstrated by the depth and breadth of submissions we have received this year for presentation at ED-MEDIA. We received over 600 proposals of full and short papers, workshops, tutorials and posters from nearly 50 different countries. Each proposal was generally reviewed by 3 referees from our panel of expert reviewers on the Program Committee. Those selected for presentation represent work of the highest quality. Our program of keynote and invited speakers once again reflects the international flavour of the programme, and we are confident that these people will inspire you by challenging your assumptions and extending your thinking.

In our roles as Program Chairs, we have been very interested to explore the types of presentations that people choose to make at ED-MEDIA. We are constantly looking for ways to bring new technologies into the mainstream of educational practices. Our reviews of the forms of research and content reflected overall in the ED-MEDIA programme makes interesting reading and provides some scope for reflection.

To aid us in this respect, we designed an analysis tool in the form of a matrix to enable us to classify the full papers, short papers and posters that were submitted to the Program Committee. The matrix considers on one axis the stage of the development process on which a paper reports. On this axis we see 4 main stages:

1. The development and description of a concept;
2. Prototype development;
3. Prototype implementation and evaluation
4. Mainstream implementation

The second axis of the matrix considers the domain of the technology. We chose to classify papers into the following categories:

1. Integrated WWW sites, eg. courses on-line
2. WWW Delivery systems, eg. WebCT, TeleTop
3. WWW resources, eg. Java Applets, assessment tools
4. Communications technologies, eg. NetMeeting
5. CD-ROM applications
6. Novel environments eg. VR
7. Others eg. development processes, project management

When submissions were classified using this schema, interesting patterns emerged. Our initial explorations indicated that the bulk of the research and development being undertaken is in Web-related areas and in particular in the development and evaluation of courses and

programmes. Consider for example the results of using this schema to classify the papers considered for best paper awards at ED-MEDIA 99. These were the papers that achieved an average score of 4.5 or greater out of a maximum of 5 in the review process.

	concept	prototype	evaluation	mainstream
Integrated WWW sites	5	3	8	2
WWW delivery systems	2	1		
WWW resources	1	6	2	
Communications technologies			2	
CD-ROM applications			3	
Novel environments eg. VR		1		
Other eg. project development	3		2	1

Classification of the papers considered for a Best Paper Award, ED-MEDIA 99

In terms of the stages of development, most papers tend to report prototype development and evaluation. There appear to be few ideas that go beyond this stage. Very few researchers are reporting on the mainstream use of their products and ideas. The work seems to be stopping at an early stage and not being taken to the final stage where it can really have an influence. We intend to explore these trends further and hope to be able to report back to you on our findings.

As Conference Co-Chairs we have been aided considerably by a number of volunteers and helpers who have given tirelessly of their time. In particular we must thank the Conference Steering Committee of Gary Marks, Ivan Tomek, Tom Reeves and Erik Duval who led and coordinated the conference this year. We would like to thank the Chairs of the various Program Committees, Niki Davis, Panels Chair; Sam Rebelsky, Workshops/Tutorials Chair; and Martyn Wild, Posters/Demos Chair. We would also like to thank the crew behind the scenes from AACE for their tireless efforts in coordinating and managing the huge number of administrative functions which a conference like this necessarily involves.

We look forward to meeting with you during the conference and trust that you will take the time to renew old acquaintances, meet new friends, be inspired by peers and take home some new ideas and activities to report back at ED-MEDIA 2000 in Montreal, June 26-July 1.

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