

EDITORIAL FOR THE FOLLOWING FIVE ARTICLES

The first International Conference on Qualitative Research in IT & IT in Qualitative Research (QualT2004) was held at the tranquil Nathan Campus of Griffith University in Brisbane on 24-26th November 2004. The conference attracted 85 local and international guests from a variety of disciplines providing a forum for the presentation of 42 research papers, 3 keynote addresses from world-renowned speakers and 4 topical panel sessions. Keynote speakers Professor Michael Myers, Professor Eileen Trauth, and Dr Tom Richards were a major contribution to the success of the event with interesting presentations on the current state of information systems research, the challenges in the use of software tools for qualitative inquiry, and understanding the impact that qualitative software tools can have on qualitative research.

In regard to the papers published here, the program committee had a very difficult task to choose only five of the many interesting and well-presented research papers that were accepted for the conference. We decided to choose papers that reflected the great variety of IT research projects and introduced innovative ways of applying qualitative methods.

Gillian Whitehouse and Chris Diamond's paper "Hybrids and the gendering of computing jobs in Australia" is a well-articulated report on research that involves a large survey and qualitative analysis of interviews. The paper demonstrates the richness of applying mixed methodologies. Their paper addresses the problems of labour statistics and is a significant contribution to the research on IT workforce management. Moreover, this paper outlines the concept of IS graduates being the go-between from management and IT departments, giving the message of new and exciting work opportunities for IS graduates.

The paper "Grounded Theory and User Requirements: A Challenge for Qualitative Research" by Supriya Singh, Kylie Cassar Bartolo, and Christine Satchell provides a very clear and detailed description of how grounded theory can be combined with a user-centred analysis to design a system based on smart internet technologies. The paper is based on the research group's work within the Smart Internet Technology Cooperative Research Centre. The authors also provide helpful guidelines to other researchers looking for ways to employ qualitative analysis in design science projects.

Jennifer Patashnick and Michael Rich's paper "Researching Human Experience: Video Intervention/Prevention Assessment" discusses how video recording serves as a method of data collection in exploring human experience with chronic illness and how this data can be analysed using grounded theory and qualitative analysis. The program committee believes that information systems researchers who are considering using video recording in their projects will benefit from the paper's detailed discussion of the issues associated with analysing video data.

The paper "Painting a rich picture: the use of qualitative and quantitative methods to study social learning at the Australian Defence Organisation" by Leoni Warne, Celina Pascoe, and Irena Ali is an interesting discussion of methodological choices in the Australian Defence Organisation and how the choice of qualitative research methods can be justified. This paper also provides helpful advice to other researchers facing the problem of justifying qualitative analysis in an environment where the concept is not widely accepted.

Bruce Rowlands' paper "Grounded Theorising Applied to IS Research – Developing a coding strategy" explains the issues of coding associated with the analysis of data on the use of systems development methodologies. Not only does this paper describe the theoretical justification of coding, but it also discusses its application to research data collected in a large Australian bank.

The feedback from participants reflected the success of the conference: "*Thank you so much for a wonderful, stimulating and enjoyable conference. I gained so much from the papers, the discussions and the networking*", "*Again, congrats, it was a very successful and thoroughly*

enjoyable conference” and *“I am looking forward to the next one!”* More information on QualIT 2004 and the future QualIT conferences can be found at <http://www.griffith.edu.au/conference/qualit2004/>.

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[On behalf of QualIT 2004 Program Committee](#)