Panel: Determining the Profile of the ECIS Community a Bibliometrics Approach

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DETERMINING THE PROFILE OF THE ECIS COMMUNITY

A Bibliometrics Approach

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Professor Robert D. Galliers, Bentley College, USA
Professor Richard Vidgen, School of Management, University of Bath, United Kingdom
Dr Edgar A. Whitley, London School of Economics and Political Science, United Kingdom

A plenary presentation at ECIS 2002 (Galliers and Whitley 2002) presented a first round of research that sought to determine the profile of ECIS as a distinct community of information systems researchers. ECIS draws on a strong tradition of IS research in Europe (the first information systems–specific conference to be held in the world was the Scandinavian IS Research Seminar (IRIS) in 1978) yet little is actually known about the profile of the European IS community. It is difficult to determine any distinctive features of the community until this profile is known. This panel aims to describe the evolving profile of the ECIS community.

The ECIS community can be thought of as an “invisible college” (Crane 1972): an informal communication network with some form of social organization. A common approach to the study of such networks and social organizations in academia is through the use of bibliometrics. Bibliometrics is a research method used in library and information science that utilizes quantitative analysis and statistics to describe patterns of publication within a given field or body of literature. The aim of this panel is to determine the profile of the ECIS community by drawing on various forms of bibliometric data. It will explore how the ECIS community has developed, who the dominant researchers are in terms of research papers and panels, what the key research areas and approaches are that have been presented at ECIS and what “classic” papers have been frequently cited at ECIS.

Torkil Clemmensen will open the panel with a brief review of the key bibliometric approaches, drawn from his own work on the biography of a psychological framework for studying HCI (Clemmensen 2006).

This will be followed by a presentation from Bob Galliers who will review the development of the ECIS community, focussing particularly on the research areas and approaches presented at ECIS.

Richard Vidgen has conducted a social network analysis (SNA) of ECIS coauthorship patterns for ECIS papers and panels and will present the results of these findings, looking at measures of influence and prestige in the community.

Edgar Whitley will present an analysis of the citations used in papers presented at ECIS and will identify the classic texts that have been most frequently cited by authors presenting their work at ECIS.
Torkil Clemmensen will then review some of the limitations of the bibliometric approach before asking the panellists to consider the relationships between their different contributions. For example, are there particular connections between the social networks identified by Richard Vidgen and the choice of research approaches presented by Bob Galliers? Does the identification of classic papers inform our understanding of the most popular research topics and approaches at ECIS?

The panellists will also present their views on the implications of this research for the development and shape of the ECIS community in coming years. There will be time for questions from, and debate with, the audience to seek more detailed results or to challenge the speakers about their results.

References