

UNDERSTANDING ‘REFLECTION’ IN THE DESIGN OF INFORMATION SYSTEMS

Special Issue Editor:

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This special issue of JITTA aims to expand our understanding of the practice of ‘reflection’ in the context of designing systems that integrate social and technical factors. The need for reflective practices is often mentioned within our discipline but has been rarely researched or theorised explicitly. Initial thoughts suggest two very distinctive conceptions. To many, reflection refers to a historical process, like a post-mortem, something which occurs after a significant event. Argris and Schon’s double loop learning (1996) could be interpreted to suggest this, as would many forms of action research (Baskerville et al, 1996). However, to systems designers who follow John Dewey’s (1910) arguments for how we think, designing is reflection. Thinking is reflection on the a priori, past experiences of the designers and clients are not ignored. Either way, most designers would agree that if we are to have design well, then we need to understand how to reflect creatively and inclusively.

Using Habermas’ (1968) classification, we invite the complete range of knowledge interests; the empirical-analytical, the historical-hermeneutic and the critical. Submissions do need to have a well justified argument, which can be presented using innovative writing styles. This special issue of *JITTA* will therefore include papers that improve our appreciation of the design practice of reflection, answering questions like:

- What is reflection, what are the types?

- How much should we do, who should do it?
- How can reflection be done systematically, should it be done systematically?
- Where and when should it be done, what if we did not do it, what will not happen if we do it?

Special Issue Review Procedure

Papers will be submitted to the special issue via the “paper submission and review system” at <http://jitta.org>. They should conform to all of the requirements of the “instructions to authors,” particularly with respect to including the expected “contribution section.” References, citations, and captions should conform to the journal’s requirements. A covering letter should also be submitted which refers to the special issue and includes reviewer nominations. Authors may also wish to email directly to the special issue editor to flag possible submissions or to enter into informal discussion prior to the formal review process.

Submitted papers will be evaluated using a **double-blind peer review** process (reviewers and authors will be anonymous) wherever possible. Consequently the papers should be stripped of author identification (the system tracks author names and contact information). The special issue editor plans to pre-screen and pre-review papers prior to sending out for review. The special editor’s decision will need to be final.

Mike Metcalfe

Target dates

Closing date for initial paper submissions

1st December 2005

Publication target

1st August 2006

REFERENCES

Argyris, C., and Schon, D.A., *Organisational Learning II*, Boston: Addison Wesley, 1996.

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Dewey, J., *How We Think*, New York: Dover, 1910.

Habermas, J., *Knowledge and Human Interests*, Boston: Beacon, 1968.