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## AMCIS 2002 Panels and Workshops I: Human-Computer Interaction Research in the MIS Discipline

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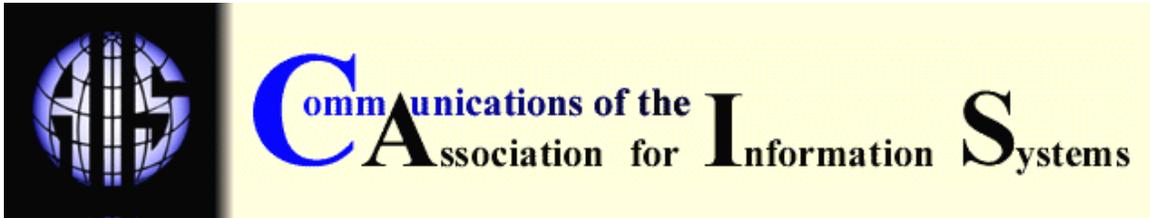
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# AMCIS 2002 Panels and Workshops I: Human-Computer Interaction Research in the MIS Discipline

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## AMCIS 2002 PANELS AND WORKSHOPS I: HUMAN-COMPUTER INTERACTION RESEARCH IN THE MIS DISCIPLINE

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### ABSTRACT

Human Computer Interaction(HCI) or Human Factors studies in MIS are concerned with the ways humans interact with information, technologies, and tasks, especially in business, managerial, organizational, and cultural contexts. This article describes the existence and importance of HCI research in the MIS discipline, its historical development, some of its characteristics, publication opportunities, and future research directions. It is believed that HCI is the subject of a strong research stream in MIS, and will continue to be strong in the foreseeable future. It is hoped that HCI studies can provide the evolution of the human centered technology development that enhances our work/job, our various needs, our organizations, our societies, and ourselves.

**KEYWORDS:** Human-Computer Interaction (HCI), Human Factors in Information Systems (HFIS), user-computer interface, individual differences, cognition, affect, computer self-efficacy, technology acceptance, user resistance, IS/IT use, user perception, user attitude, user intention, user behavior, user productivity, user satisfaction

## I. INTRODUCTION

Human-Computer Interaction (HCI) is

*"a discipline concerned with the design, evaluation and implementation of interactive computing systems for human use and with the study of major phenomena surrounding them." [Hewett et al., 1992]*

As an interdisciplinary field, HCI attracts researchers, educators, and practitioners from many different fields. Accordingly, many associations, special interest groups, and working groups focus on HCI or HCI-related studies.

In the Information Systems field, HCI issues are explored from a distinctive perspective: MIS researchers and educators take managerial and/or organizational issues into consideration. Human Factors in Information Systems

*"is the scientific study of the interaction between people, computers, and the work environment. The knowledge gained from this study is used to create information systems and work environments which help to make people more productive and more satisfied with their work life." [Beard & Peterson, 1988]*

In general, Human Computer Interaction studies in MIS are concerned with the ways humans interact with information, technologies, and tasks, especially in business, managerial, organizational, and cultural contexts.

The broadly defined field of HCI research gained even more attention during recent years as technology developed more rapidly. To use advanced technology, we need to improve our understanding of humans, their tasks within different contexts, and the interplay among humans, tasks, information technologies, and contexts/environments. MIS oriented HCI research can provide a unique perspective that would certainly be conspicuous in its absence [Galletta, 2002].

The objective of this tutorial is to recognize the existence and importance of MIS oriented HCI research (MIS/HCI), its historical development, some characteristics, publication opportunities, and future research directions. By doing so, the authors hope to promote this sub-field of study, attract more interest in research and teaching, and collaborate with other HCI related fields or associations. Due to time and space considerations, this article is not intended to provide a comprehensive picture of the sub-field. Unless cited or quoted, the opinions in the paper reflect the authors' perspectives.

## II. ARE MIS SCHOLARS INTERESTED IN HCI?

The answer is yes. This conclusion is supported by evidence in at least three areas:

- self reported interests in the ISWORLD Faculty Directory,
- sessions and tracks in major Information Systems conferences in recent years, and
- historical development and interests.

## STATISTICS FROM ISWORLD

To obtain a rough idea of what interests IS scholars in the HCI side of MIS studies, one of the authors did a heuristic query on the ISWORLD Faculty Directory. Some existing human factor taxonomies [Beard & Peterson, 1988; Carey, 1988, 1991, 1995, 1997] were considered, together with some common HCI terms and other terms that have to do with the human side of MIS, such as gender issues in IT. Tables 1 and 2 summarize the query results. Appendix I lists the query

keywords used for each of the research themes. Different keywords are used by IS scholars in describing their research interests. Therefore, the tables are indicators rather than being a comprehensive picture. The query does, however, show that the level of research and teaching interest in HCI is high among IS scholars.

Table 1. ISWORLD Faculty Directory Research Interests

| Research Theme                             | Hits |
|--|------|
| Attitude, behavior, perception, motivation | 26   |
| Cognitive                                  | 128  |
| End User Computing                         | 90   |
| Ergonomics                                 | 12   |
| Gender Issues in IT                        | 32   |
| Human factor                               | 55   |
| Human-Computer Interaction                 | 192  |
| Impact of IT                               | 29   |
| Information architecture                   | 9    |
| Information presentation and visualization | 36   |
| Interactive system design and evaluation   | 97   |
| IS Professional                            | 127  |
| IT acceptance and use                      | 194  |
| Training & Learning                        | 18   |
| User Interface                             | 110  |

Queried on 10/28/2002

Table 2. ISWORLD Faculty Directory Teaching Interests

| Teaching Area   | Hits |
|---|------|
| O-17. Human-computer interaction & interface design               | 416  |
| O-21 IS Professionalism and Ethics                                | 231  |
| IS97.02 Personal Productivity with Information Systems technology | 262  |

Queried on 10/28/2002

### MAJOR MIS CONFERENCES THAT COVER HCI/MIS ISSUES

Research papers and ideas addressing the pertinent HCI issues in an IS context are presented at several major IS conferences. Table 3 lists the tracks, mini-tracks, and sessions at three major IS conferences (AMCIS, HICSS and ICIS) in recent years where HCI related research results (again, heuristically judged rather than scientifically classified) were presented.

### SOME HISTORICAL DEVELOPMENT AND INTERESTS

HCI or human factors research has a long history. Culnan [1987] identifies Individual Differences and Human Factors as two of several MIS sub areas, which is evidenced by (limited) publications in the 70's and early 80's. Among the many notable events and efforts were the HFIS series.

J. Carey from Arizona State University West organized a series of symposia on Human Factors in Information Systems (HFIS) during the late 80's to early 90's. The meetings were to provide a forum for the exchange of ideas, conceptual work, and empirical research in the area of HFIS. Five meetings were held:

- October 1986, Texas A&M University [Carey 1988]
- February 1989, Sacramento, CA [Carey 1991]

- October 1990, Norman, OK [Carey 1995]
- February 1992, Phoenix AZ [Carey 1997]
- October 1993, Case Western Reserve University (Cleveland)

These symposia covered a broad range of issues of particular interest to IS scholars and resulted in a series of books published by Ablex Publishing, Inc.

Table 3. Major IS Conferences in Recent Years  
Where HCI Research Studies Were Presented

|              |                  |   |
|--------------|------------------|---|
| AMCIS (2002) | Minitracks       | HCI Studies in MIS<br>Training and Use of Emerging Technologies<br>Trust in an Organizational and E-Business Context  |
| AMCIS (2001) | Minitracks       | Human Factors in Web-based Interaction<br>Trust in Electronic Commerce  |
|              | Metatracks       | Information Quality and Antecedents of Learning<br>Use of IT in Teaching  |
| AMCIS (2000) | Minitracks       | Intelligent Interface with Computers  |
| AMCIS (1997) | Minitracks       | Organizational Research - Individual Level Considerations<br>User Satisfaction/Performance  |
| AMCIS (1996) | Minitracks       | Information Visualization   |
| HICSS (2002) | 35<br>Minitracks | Mobile Informatics - Research Concerning Mobile Information Technology Use<br>Marketing and e-commerce (Consumer Behavior in E-Commerce)<br>Community Informatics<br>Virtual Work Environments  |
| HICSS (2001) | 34<br>Minitracks | Non-traditional Computer Support for User Evaluation  |
| HICSS (2000) | 33<br>Minitracks | Digital Document Understanding and Visualization  |
| HICSS (1999) | 32<br>Minitracks | Human Factors and Usability Issues  |
| HICSS (1998) | 31<br>Minitracks | Coping with Information Overload  |
| ICIS (2001)  | Sessions         | Technology Fear and Deception in the Internet Age<br>Human-Computer Interface and Information Search<br>Web-based Services: User Satisfaction, Acceptance and Loyalty<br>User Acceptance of IT<br>Web-based Retailing and Advertising (Web page design and impact)<br>Improving Performance of Software Users/Teams<br>User Satisfaction, Preferences & Performance (Info. Content vs. Structure) |
| ICIS (2000)  | Sessions         | Perspectives on IT Usage<br>Trust and e-Commerce<br>User Satisfaction, Preferences, and Performance<br>Virtual Teams and Technology Appropriation<br>Usage and Impacts on the Internet  |
| ICIS (1999)  | Sessions         | Organizational and Social Influence on IT<br>Trust in Electronic Commerce<br>Web Site Quality (Information Quality of Web Sites)  |
| ICIS (1997)  | Sessions         | Individual and Organizational Effectiveness<br>Individual and Group Decision Making (Information Search and Usage)<br>IS Professional<br>Individual and Group Decision Making   |
| ICIS (1996)  | Sessions         | IT Usage and Adoption<br>Analyzing Fit between IT and Tasks<br>Ethics and IT (Privacy Behavior and Intrusions)<br>Examining Successful IT Usage<br>Computer Self Efficacy and Use of IT   |

In summary, a community of scholars formed research interests in the broad MIS/HCI area over the past two decades. Thus we can call HCI studies in MIS a research program, to say the least.

### III. WHAT ARE THE CHARACTERISTICS OF MIS/HCI RESEARCH?

Many so-called traditional HCI studies stemmed from Computer Science, Cognitive Psychology, Industry Engineering, Ergonomics, and several other disciplines. HCI studies also originated from MIS, Information Science, Communication, and Social Psychology disciplines, to name a few. For the sake of discussion, this tutorial considers published studies in the MIS field. By no means does it cover all studies produced by the sub-field.

The next section demonstrates some characteristics of MIS/HCI studies on the following aspects:

- research focus and scope/coverage,
- reference disciplines and theoretical support,
- research methodologies, and
- implications to theories, designs, and organizational practice.

#### RESEARCH FOCUS AND SCOPE/COVERAGE

A research study can be conducted to examine various issues at the levels of individuals, groups, organizations, and industries. Most MIS/HCI studies are performed at the individual level of analysis, although some are specifically designed for groups (CSCW, GDSS). Even though some studies focus on virtual communities, the emphasis is most likely on the individuals in a virtual community.

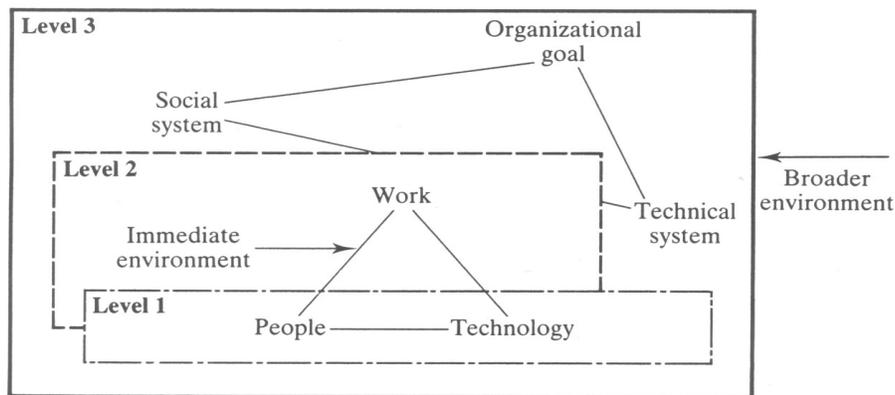
Figure 1 shows three levels of analysis that involve different components to be considered [Eason, 1991, in Preece et al., 1994].

- In this figure, *people* can mean one or more people;
- *work* can mean narrowly or broadly defined activities including tasks or more loosely defined activities;
- *environment* refers to the physical, organizational and social aspects of the environment; and
- *technology* can be any technological artifact including any kind of computer or workstation [Eason, 1991]

Some of these components can be further modified to include broader concepts to address modern issues in today's technology development and use. For example, technologies could include data and information, hardware and software, applications, procedures, as well as technical support staffs.

Most MIS/HCI studies strive for a balance between business, managerial, organizational, social, and technical/engineering perspectives [Baskerville and Myers, 2002], and they are organizational task-centric, or problem-centric. Specific studies on developing advanced technologies for organizational or managerial support (e.g., Krishnan et al., 2001; Zhang, 1998) are considered relevant in the MIS discipline because they include theoretical support for designs, as well as theoretical, managerial, or organizational implications. Many MIS/HCI studies, however, are about discovery or understanding by covering all three levels in Figure 1. Technologies are used as examples to discover user perceptions, attitudes, behavior, and performance (e.g. many studies on technology acceptance, computer self-efficacy, and IS usage.). Rather than focusing on simple or micro level task performance, MIS/HCI studies are concerned with individual tasks that are at a higher granularity - closely related to individuals' organizational work, which can directly support organizational goals. The usefulness of technology for accomplishing organizational tasks, and the fit between tasks at hand and

technologies to support the tasks [Goodhue, 1995] play an important role in the studies [Davis, 2002; Strong, 2002].



Source: [Preece et al., 1994]

Figure 1. Levels of Analysis in HCI

The majority of MIS/HCI focuses primarily on adult users in organizational or business contexts where individuals' work performance, job satisfaction, or organizational goals are primary concerns. Some studies focus on contexts other than organizational or business (e.g., Venkatesh and Brown, 2001). Few consider broader types of users (such as adults, children, mentally and/or physically challenged, and elderly) for broader types of purposes (such as for entertainment, museums, libraries, and even life-critical applications in medicine, defense, and cockpits and vehicle design).

It is believed that the study of human computer interaction (HCI) evolved from a focus on physical-ergonomic issues in the early 1970s to an integrated view of the use of computers within organizational, social and global contexts today [Carey, in Zhang, 2002]. Carey's HFIS series identified several themes of HCI/MIS studies in the early years: [Beard and Peterson, 1988; Carey, 1988, 1991, 1995, 1997]

- Human/Computer Interaction: ways in which the computer and user communicate
- Interface specification tools and design issues: detailed design techniques for the computer-user interface
- The IS professional
- Information presentation: how the data are displayed to the user (graphics, text, windowing, etc.)
- System/User documentation: documentation and communication procedures to assist the user in accomplishing tasks
- Organizational impacts
- End-user training and involvement: methods used to get users involved in such areas as system design, implementation, and use
- The end user

The newly formed AIS Special Interest Group on HCI intends to provide a forum for interested people to discuss, develop, and promote a range of issues related to the history, reference disciplines, theories, practice, methodologies and techniques, new development, and applications of the interaction between humans, tasks, information technologies, and contexts (organizational, cultural, etc.). Topics of interest include, but are not limited to, the following:

- The behavioral, cognitive, motivational, and affective aspects of human/technology interaction
- User task analysis and modeling
- Digital documents/genres and human information seeking behavior
- User interface design and evaluation for B2B, B2C, C2C e-commerce, m-commerce, e-marketplace and supply chain management, group collaboration, negotiation and auction, enterprise systems, Intranets, and Extranets
- Integrated and/or innovative approaches, guidelines, and standards for analysis, design, and development of interactive devices and systems
- Design of computer interfaces for single-user or collaborative decision support, including design of standard computer interfaces, as well as design for small-screen mobile devices and pervasive computing
- Development and applications of multi-dimensional information visualizations
- Usability engineering metrics and methods for user interface assessment and evaluation
- Usability studies for end-user computing in a work or non-work environment, especially in the Internet era
- Information technology acceptance and diffusion issues from cognitive, motivational, cultural, and user interface design perspectives
- The impact of interfaces/information technology on attitudes, behavior, performance, perception, and productivity
- Issues in software learning and training, including perceptual, cognitive, and motivational aspects of learning
- Gender and technology
- Issues related to the elderly, the young, and special needs populations, and
- Issues in teaching HCI courses

## REFERENCE DISCIPLINES AND THEORETICAL SUPPORT

Reference disciplines or intellectual foundations can provide perspectives and many characteristics of a study program. The reference disciplines for MIS/HCI are computer science, engineering, management, management science, cognitive psychology, social psychology, organizational psychology, and most recently, consumer psychology and marketing.

MIS/HCI studies are mostly theoretically focused or involve strong theoretical perspectives. The MIS discipline places strong demands on the theoretical foundations of a study. Existing theories are expected to be justified for their appropriateness in addressing the problems at hand. In addition, existing theories are expected to be developed or advanced by a study either empirically or conceptually. Among several MIS/HCI research themes, the study of individual reactions to computing technology, as recognized by Compeau et al. [1999], is an important topic in recent information systems research. Many authors studied different aspects of the phenomenon from a variety of theoretical perspectives, including:

- Diffusion of Innovations (DOI) (e.g., Moore and Benbasat 1991),
- The Technology Acceptance Model (TAM) (e.g. Davis, 1989, Venkatesh and Davis 1996),
- The Theory of Planned Behavior (TPB) (e.g. Mathieson 1991; Taylor and Todd, 1995), and
- Social Cognitive Theory (SCT) (e.g. Compeau & Higgins 1995a, 1995b; Hill et al. 1986, 1987).

To obtain a rough picture for illustration purpose, one of the authors reviewed two most recent representative MIS conferences where MIS/HCI research studies were presented: the International Conference on Information Systems (ICIS, December, 2001) and the Americas

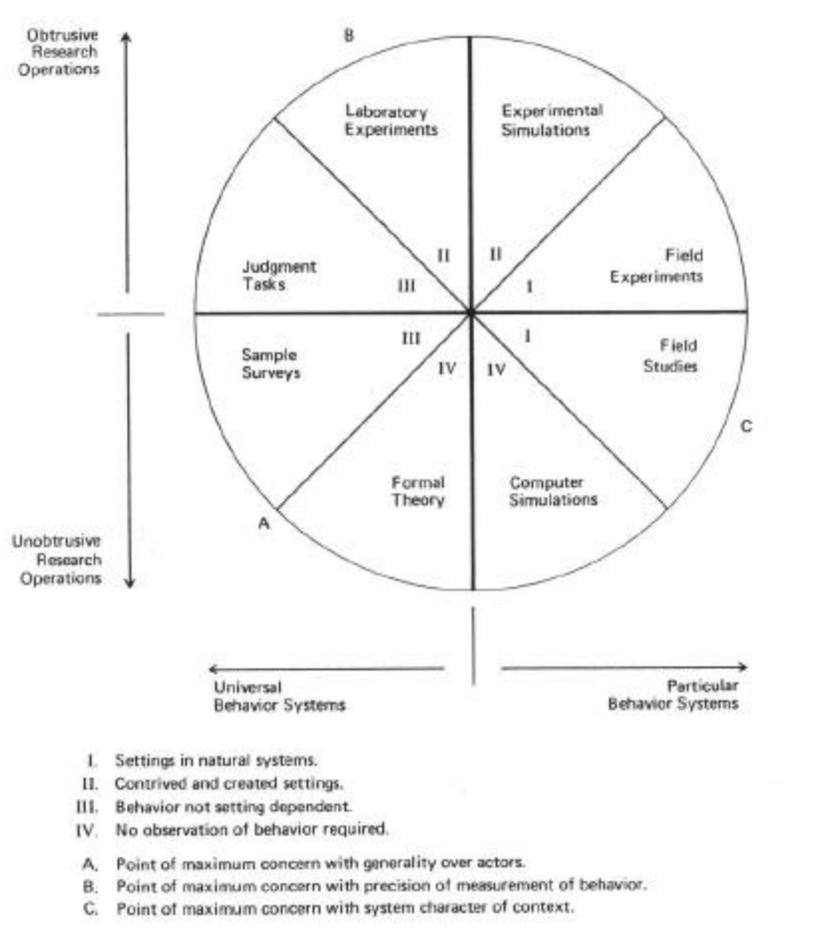
Conference on Information Systems (AMCIS, August, 2002). Two MIS conferences are presented because no single conference covers MIS/HCI research exclusively. At ICIS'01, 14 out of the 46 full papers address MIS/HCI issues, and 12 of the 14 papers (86%) contain theoretical components. At AMCIS'02, in the minitrack on HCI Studies in MIS, eight out of the 11 full papers (73%) were of a theoretical orientation.

**RESEARCH METHODOLOGIES**

Some studies follow the procedure of developing systems/interfaces (most are proof of concept prototypes), then evaluate or compare these interfaces to other alternatives, which is very similar to what is done in traditional HCI studies.

Many studies are oriented to the social sciences. Figure 2 shows research approaches or strategies for social sciences. Although two decades old, the figure still captures the major considerations researchers must face when conducting a research study. The eight identified strategies are classified in two dimensions [McGrath, 1981]:

- particular to universal, and
- obtrusive to unobtrusive.



(Source: [McGrath, 1981])  
 Figure 2. Research Strategies

These strategies vary in their ability to achieve the three conflicting goals of behavioral research:

- precision,
- generality, and
- concreteness or faithfulness to a real situation [Diesing, 1991].

It is perhaps impossible to maximize more than one of the three goals at a time. Thus any particular study would be making a trade-off to achieve a particular goal. It should be noted that a careful examination of these strategies might show some discrepancies with the classifications. Nevertheless, the classification scheme provides an overall understanding of the characteristics of the different strategies.

Using McGrath's taxonomy, Baecker et al. [1995, p81] summarize HCI research and evaluation methods into four major groups, as depicted in Table 4.

Table 4. HCI Research and Evaluation Strategies  
(Source: [Baecker et al. 1995])

| <b>Field strategies</b>                                     | <b>Respondent strategies</b>  |
|---|---|
| (Settings under conditions as natural as possible)          | (Settings are muted or made moot)   |
| Field studies   | Judgment studies  |
| Ethnography and interaction analysis<br>Contextual inquiry  | Usability inspection methods, e.g. heuristic evaluation                         |
| Field experiments   | Sample surveys  |
| Beta testing of products<br>Studies of technological change | Questionnaires<br>Interviews  |
| <b>Experimental strategies</b>                              | <b>Theoretical strategies</b>   |
| (Settings concocted for research purposes)                  | (No observation of behavior required)   |
| Experimental stimulations                                   | Formal theory   |
| Usability testing<br>Usability engineering                  | Design theory (e.g. Norman's 7 stages)<br>Behavioral theory (e.g. color vision) |
| Laboratory experiments                                      | Computer simulations  |
| Controlled experiments                                      | Human information processing theory   |

MIS/HCI studies were found that use formal theories or models, computer simulations, sample surveys, controlled experiments, field experiments, and field studies including case studies. The emphasis was to understand both universal and particular behaviors by both obtrusive and unobtrusive means. All three goals were attempted: precision (e.g. controlled experiments), generality (e.g. formal theories, and sample surveys), and concern for context.

It is notable that demand for achieving all three research goals is higher in the MIS discipline than in others. Even when a research study is conducted using a controlled experiment (which has the tendency of being less context based and less generalizable), the MIS community would be unlikely to accept it unless the context and generality issues are addressed carefully in the study.

## IMPLICATIONS TO THEORIES, DESIGN, AND ORGANIZATIONAL PRACTICE

MIS/HCI research studies human attitudes, intentions, and behavior in (hopefully) real work place settings with current IT. In MIS/HCI, system building or interface implementation is mainly for proof of concepts. Usually there is a theoretical underpinning for the concepts, and thus eventually some theoretical implications. MIS/HCI research uses theoretical reasoning to analyze what works, what does not, and why, then provides suggestions for designing better or more effective IT, and provides suggestions for organizational practice.

Table 5 summarizes the characteristics of the subfield qualitatively. Note that asterisks are used to indicate the qualitative level visually. The asterisks represent the authors' opinion.

Table 5. Summary of MIS/HCI Research Characteristics

|                                  |                               | MIS/HCI                                       |
|----------------------------------|-------------------------------|---|
| Focus                            |                               | Mostly individual level                       |
| Scope and coverage               |                               | Mostly adult users in organizational settings |
| Context Consideration            |                               | ***   |
| Level of Granularity of Analysis |                               | Macro   |
| Interdisciplinary                |                               | Yes   |
| Reference Disciplines            |                               |   |
|                                  | Artificial Intelligence       | *   |
|                                  | Computer Science              | *   |
|                                  | Cognitive Psychology          | ***   |
|                                  | Social Psychology             | ***   |
|                                  | Organizational Psychology     | ***   |
|                                  | Consumer psychology/Marketing | **  |
|                                  | Management                    | **  |
|                                  | Management Science            | *   |
| System Development Orientation   |                               | *   |
| Theory Orientation               |                               | ***   |

Legend: \*\*\* heavy, a lot, many; \*\* some, medium; \* light, little, a few

#### IV. DO MIS JOURNALS PUBLISH HCI RESEARCH?

The good news is that MIS journals do welcome HCI studies (broadly defined). Successful MIS/HCI studies published by MIS journals involve:

- research problems that are relevant. They synthesize MIS concerns and go beyond micro human-computer interaction,
- theoretical justifications and contributions, and
- implications to both research and practitioners [Davis, 2002; Galletta, 2002].

Successful HCI/MIS studies also demonstrate the use of solid methodologies. Some MIS/HCI studies fail because of problems in:

- system/interface failure,
- methodological problems, and
- focus of studies that were at too micro a level [Galletta, 2002].

MIS/HCI studies account for a considerable percentage of publications. To illustrate this point, two of the authors conducted a quick review for two time periods, 1990-1991 and 2000-2001 of three IS journals: MISQ, ISR, and JAIS. Table 6 indicates the total articles and the number and percentages of MIS/HCI-related articles published. Among the three journals, JAIS is the newest one (first published in March 2000). Although the data are limited in terms of journals and time periods, the percentage of MIS/HCI publications seem to be rather constant over time.

Table 6. HCI Publications of Three Leading Journals in Two Periods

|                          | MISQ      |           | ISR       |           | JAIS      |
|--------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
|                          | 1990-1991 | 2000-2001 | 1990-1991 | 2000-2001 | 2000-2001 |
| Total articles published | 57        | 40        | 32        | 47        | 18        |
| MIS/HCI articles         | 14        | 13        | 10        | 12        | 7         |
| MIS/HCI %                | 25%       | 33%       | 31%       | 26%       | 39%       |

## V. WHAT DOES THE FUTURE HOLD FOR MIS/HCI RESEARCH?

The broadly defined HCI field is a strong research stream for MIS. Its future is bright because:

1. the number of interface developers is increasing,
2. more people face ever-more difficult to use systems [Galletta, 2002], and
3. more people are affected by the advancement of technology in their organizations, societies, and homes.

With a bright future, with “coming of age” [Carey, 2002], and a viable direction, the next question is: what are the themes for future MIS/HCI research? The following is a list of recommendations. Because a complete list for future research would be nearly impossible, the intent of the list is to encourage discussion and to discover interesting issues and research problems. The areas described are:

- Relationship building and management
- Task modeling and organizational fit
- User acceptance
- Enhancing HCI measurement
- Emphasizing the holistic experience of human interacting with technologies
- Emphasizing a broader range of users
- A new taxonomy of MIS/HCI

### RELATIONSHIP BUILDING AND MANAGEMENT

The emphasis in MIS/HCI research should shift from a focus only on individuals interacting with a computer, to individuals communicating with each other and with organizations via the computer interface [Benbasat, 2002]. The key dependent variables studied in MIS/HCI research should include relationship building and relationship management rather than exclusive attention to efficiency and effectiveness that occupied a central role in prior research.

Relationship building and management constructs can play an important role in research on HCI associated with business-to-consumer interface designs. The goal is to design interfaces that reduce the distance between customers and entities with which they interact. Examples in the age of e-commerce include designs that (1) allow customers to experience products better via HCI, (2) enhance the social presence between the customer and a company that is only represented by a computer interface, such as a web page, (3) make it easier to use recommendation agents. e.g., search engines, that are needed to evaluate the vast number of product offerings on the Internet, and (4) simulate the interaction with salespeople in a physical store, such as the use of avatars for providing help [Benbasat, 2002].

### TASK MODELING AND ORGANIZATIONAL FIT

Another lens for understanding the open issues in current and future MIS/HCI research is the task-technology fit (TTF) research stream in MIS, e.g., [Goodhue, 1995; Goodhue and Thompson, 1995; Dishaw and Strong, 1998]. From a TTF perspective, the variables in the core triangle in Figure 1 are labeled Technology, Task (rather than Work), and Individual Differences (rather than People). TTF models focus on the fit between Task and Technology, that is, the matching of the capabilities of the technology to the demands of a task [Goodhue, 1995]. A second focus is how individual differences, e.g., casual or frequent user, affect fit. For example, a user interface could provide good fit for a business task, but only for frequent users. Much of MIS research, including MIS/HCI research, is concerned with determining the dimensions of fit between selected information technologies and the needs of individual and organizational tasks, and then measuring the amount of misfit along these dimensions.

To make progress in MIS/HCI research, we need better models of organizational tasks. While we can run experiments to measure fit, the theoretical foundation for such experiments requires a model of the organization tasks used. For example, one study of the fit of maintenance-oriented CASE tools used a model of maintenance tasks developed through protocol analysis [Dishaw and Strong, 1998; Vessey, 1986]. Few organizational tasks, however, have such well-developed models of the activities involved, which limit our research progress.

A second area for future research is developing dimensions and measures for organizational fit. In MIS/HCI research, the context, typically an organizational task or process, is an important component of most studies. To date most TTF studies and MIS/HCI studies employed individual level analysis, although a few focused on groups and group support systems [Zigurs and Buckland, 1998]. As MIS research shifts from individual productivity tools to enterprise systems, we need to develop the dimensions and measures of organizational fit. For example, enterprise systems are touted as fostering integration and interdependence within organizations. We need to understand how to assess whether and how much these characteristics of enterprise systems fit or provide value to organizations.

**USER ACCEPTANCE**

The integration of user acceptance of IT with new technological development should be studied further [Davis, 2002]. It would be desirable to create unobtrusive computing that would

- manage user attention and
- exploit user intuition.

Skill acquisition and decision support through visualization and dynamic control are other directions that require research. In addition, virtual team support with knowledge collaboration becomes needed in the increasing virtualization and globalization of work teams [Davis, 2002].

**ENHANCING HCI MEASUREMENT**

Because the issues and problems noted in the research methodologies [Newsted et al. 1997] are not yet overcome, HCI measures still have a long way to go [Carey, 2002]. Table 7 shows HCI variables identified in the past. Related to the measurement issue is whether HCI studies face a methodological challenge. If so, what is the challenge? Should we reinvent or should we benefit from general social science studies on research methodologies?

Table7. HCI Variables [Carey, 2002]

| Independent   |                           | Dependent  |
|---|---------------------------|--|
| User/Analyst  | Interface Characteristics | Performance  |
| 1. Indirect<br>A. Aptitude<br>B. Attitude<br>C. Decision Style  | 1. Content                | 1. Decision effectiveness<br>A. Accuracy<br>B. Timeliness<br>C. Quality<br>D. Confidence |
| 2. Direct<br>A. Training<br>B. Experience<br>C. Involvement   | 2. Form                   | 2. Satisfaction  |
| 3. Decision Setting<br>A. Task<br>B. Management Level<br>C. Uncertainty<br>D. Timeliness<br>E. Structuredness<br>F. Context | 3. Presentation           | 3. Learning<br>A. Ease<br>B. Time  |
|   | 4. Media                  | 4. System Responsiveness   |
|   | 5. Context                | 5. Speed of Use<br>6. Error Rate   |

## **EMPHASIZING THE HOLISTIC EXPERIENCE OF HUMAN INTERACTING WITH TECHNOLOGIES**

Historically, HCI studies were heavily focused on the cognitive aspect of human experience, such as in user modeling, task modeling, technology acceptance, computer self-efficacy, task technology fit, cognitive fit, expectation-confirmation models, and many others. In addition, many studies examined only work-related problems.

As non-rational human beings (as noted by Herbert Simon many years ago), we have a full range of opportunities to interact with technologies for different purposes in non-rational or bounded-rational ways. The holistic view of HCI should include cognitive, emotional, and affective aspects in all possible interactions humans have with technologies.

Several MIS/HCI studies already pay attention to more than just cognitive side of HCI. Examples include the studies on playfulness (e.g., Webster & Martocchio, 1992; Agarwal & Karahanna, 2000), flow experience (e.g., Trevino & Webster, 1992; Webster, et al. 1993; Ghani, 1995; Hoffman & Novak, 1996; Novak et al. 2002; Finneran & Zhang, 2000)], aesthetic and social needs (e.g., Tractinsky et al., 2000), emotion (Venkatesh, 2000), and a balance between action and relationship, cognition and affect (e.g., Te'eni, 2000).

In addition, with a full range of interacting with technologies in our lives for different purposes, we may examine the meaning of life again. We may go back to the basic question of what we want or need in our lives. We may revisit Maslow's or others' basic need models and then decide to use technologies to cater to humans' higher needs in the need hierarchy. This approach would open a whole new range of opportunities for future Human-Computer Interaction research.

## **EMPHASIZING A BROADER RANGE OF USERS**

"Pushing human-computer interaction research to empower every citizen" [Shneiderman, 2000] seems a logical choice, yet it needs more attention. As discussed before, many MIS/HCI studies emphasize relatively normal adult users (either novice or expert) in organizational settings. Advancements in technology pushed this limit to reach a much broader range of users, such as those who are physically or mentally challenged, people in different age groups, people with different ethnical, culture, or language backgrounds, and people with low levels of education or motivation. Issues of universal usefulness, universal usability, universal acceptance and adoption have been addressed to some extent but much more needs to be done.

## **A NEW TAXONOMY OF MIS/HCI**

We can make more progress after knowing where we are and what has been done. Because of the interdisciplinary nature of the MIS/HCI sub-field and the advancements in technology, a good taxonomy is much needed to illustrate current MIS/HCI studies and possible future directions. Existing taxonomies [Beard & Peterson, 1988; Killingsworth et al, 1997; Martin, 1997] need to be re-evaluated for appropriateness in today's situations. For example, decision-making was the major organizational task in some of these taxonomies. This focus changed significantly in the last several years (for example, online banking in Bhattacharjee [2001], general use of the World Wide Web in Agarwal and Karahanna [2000], and information seeking on the World Wide Web in Zhang [2000]). Whether this change affects the taxonomies is uncertain.

The existing taxonomies consider system analysts as one of the components and use the SDLC model. Little attention is paid to pre-, or post-SDLC stages, and/or the impact of finished systems or IT on individuals, teams, and organizations. These areas, however, gained significant attention in the MIS field recently, as evidenced by the development and maturity of several theoretical models (such as Technology Acceptance Model [Davis, 1989; Venkatesh and Davis, 1996], Task-Technology Fit model [Goodhue, 1995], cognitive fit model [Vessey, 1991; Vessey and Galletta, 1991]). Another limitation of these taxonomies is the heavy focus on cognitive influence and productivity, rather than the user's holistic and realistic experience while interacting with IT in the work or other environment. A new taxonomy should address these issues.

## VI. CONCLUSIONS

This article is the first attempt to understand the uniqueness of the MIS/HCI sub-field facing today's technology advancement and organizational challenges. It is not intended to draw a comprehensive picture of the sub-field. Rather, the aim is to provide a starting point for further discussion and understanding.

It is exciting to see the overlaps of research interests between MIS/HCI research and more traditional HCI studies. For example, both realize the importance of supporting humans' social needs (e.g., Carroll, 2002; Tractinsky et al. 2000; Te'eni, 2001), supporting community building (e.g., Benbasat, 2002; Carroll, 2001a, b; Preece, 2000), and integrating computing with real environments (Carroll, 2002; Davis, 2002). To some extent, both realize that the future of HCI is about a broader or whole experience by individual users, for work, for creativity, and for personal life enrichment. For example, one of the three special areas in the upcoming CHI 2003 conference is emotion.

*"Issues of emotion, affective response, and inclusive human concerns are exceedingly important in the HCI community. As people become more sensitive to dimensions of products that go beyond traditional aspects of usability, the need to understand and create emotional and aesthetic resonance between people and technology products increases. However, we have yet to discover a shared understanding and develop a shared language for emotion within the context of design."*[CHI, 2003]

Not surprisingly, the MIS Quarterly Year 2001 "best paper" winning article attempts a more accurate representation of actual behavior, and thus strives for a balance between cognition and affect, between action and relationship [Te'eni, 2001].

MIS/HCI researchers thus should put more effort to interact with other HCI related disciplines or associations to facilitate better exchanges of ideas, benefit from each other's research results, and promote the advancement of the entire Human-Computer Interaction field.

Winograd and Flores [1986] state that "All new technologies develop within the background of a tacit understanding of human nature and human work. The use of technology in turn leads to fundamental changes in what we do, and ultimately in what it is to be human." It is to this extent that the authors believe that MIS/HCI complements those studies that are done from a more technical, or "how," perspective that provides understandings of technology capabilities and potentials. MIS/HCI, from a more behavioral, or "so what," perspective, needs this understanding to study the impacts on users or the new way humans are within certain contexts. The results, in turn, should provide feedback and guidance for further and more advanced technological development in the next round. This continuation of iterative advancement promises the evolution of the human-centered technology development that enhances our work/job, our various needs, our organizations, our societies, and ourselves.

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**APPENDIX I. HCI INTERESTS SHOWN IN ISWORLD FACULTY DIRECTORY**

| Themes                                     | Keywords Used in Query | Hits                      | Themes                                   | Keywords Used in Query                     | Hits |
|--|------------------------|---------------------------|--|--|------|
| Attitude, behavior, perception, motivation | Individual behavior    | 2                         | Information architecture                 | Information architecture                   | 7    |
|  | Information seeking    | 6                         |  | Information design                         | 2    |
|  | Motivation             | 7                         |  | Information presentation and visualization | 36   |
|  | Perception             | 7                         | Information presentation                 | 3  |      |
|  | User attitude          | 3                         | Visualization                            | 33   |      |
|  | User behavior          | 1                         | Interactive system design and evaluation | 97   |      |
|  | Cognitive              | 128                       | Interface design                         | 46   |      |
| Cognition                                  | 39                     | Interactive system design | 1  |  |      |
| Cognitive                                  | 62                     | Interface evaluation      | 1  |  |      |
| Human information processing               | 7                      | Usability                 | 44                                       |  |      |
| Psychological                              | 7                      | User centered             | 2  |  |      |
| Psychology                                 | 13                     | User evaluation           | 3  |  |      |
| End User Computing                         | 90                     | IS Professional           | 127                                      |  |      |
| End User Computing                         | 35                     | Ethics                    | 100                                      |  |      |
| End-User Computing                         | 55                     | IS Professional           | 21                                       |  |      |
| Ergonomics                                 | Ergonomic              | 12                        | IT Professional                          | 6  |      |
| Gender Issues in IT                        | 32                     | IT acceptance and use     | 194                                      |  |      |
| Gender                                     | 19                     | Adoption                  | 140                                      |  |      |
| Women in computing                         | 2                      | Interface acceptance      | 1  |  |      |
| Women in Information Systems               | 1                      | IS acceptance             | 1  |  |      |
| Women in IT                                | 7                      | IS success                | 12                                       |  |      |
| Women in Technology                        | 3                      | IS usage                  | 3  |  |      |
| Human-Computer Interaction                 | 192                    | IT usage                  | 1  |  |      |
| HCI  | 31                     | IT use                    | 14                                       |  |      |
| Human computer interaction                 | 60                     | Technology acceptance     | 15                                       |  |      |
| Human/computer interaction                 | 3                      | User acceptance           | 7  |  |      |
| Human/computer/task interaction            | 1                      | User Interface            | 110                                      |  |      |
| Human-Computer Interaction                 | 93                     | Computer interface        | 36                                       |  |      |
| Human-machine interaction                  | 1                      | Human computer interface  | 10                                       |  |      |
| Human-system interaction                   | 2                      | Human/computer interface  | 1  |  |      |
| Human-technology interaction               | 1                      | Human-computer interface  | 21                                       |  |      |
| Human factor                               | 55                     | Man machine interface     | 1  |  |      |
| Human factor                               | 46                     | Man/machine interface     | 1  |  |      |
| Human side of IS                           | 1                      | User interface            | 40                                       |  |      |
| Human side of IT                           | 1                      | Training & Learning       | 18                                       |  |      |
| Individual differences                     | 3                      | Computer learning         | 2  |  |      |
| Individual factors                         | 1                      | Computer self-efficacy    | 2  |  |      |
| User modeling                              | 3                      | Computer training         | 2  |  |      |
| Impact of IT                               | 29                     | End user learning         | 1  |  |      |
| Impact of IT on individual                 | 3                      | End user training         | 1  |  |      |
| Individual performance                     | 1                      | End-user training         | 6  |  |      |
| Individual reaction to IT                  | 2                      | System training           | 2  |  |      |
| Personal Productivity                      | 6                      | User competence           | 2  |  |      |
| User performance                           | 2                      |                           |  |  |      |
| User productivity                          | 1                      |                           |  |  |      |
| User satisfaction                          | 14                     |                           |  |  |      |

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