

Since becoming Editor-in-Chief at the beginning of 2003 I have strived to have each issue of JRPIT appear on time and to reduce the backlog of papers submitted to JRPIT. Acknowledging the excellent work of the Associate Editors and our referees, I am pleased to report that all papers submitted to JRPIT prior to May, 2004 have been either rejected or accepted, and those that have been accepted have appeared in earlier issues of JRPIT or are published in this May, 2005 issue.

The first paper is “Perhaps It’s Time for a Fresh Approach to ICT Gender Research?” written by Phyl Webb and Judy Young. “The aim of this paper is to demonstrate the value of the adoption of a feminist epistemology in information, communication and technology (ICT) gender research.” “This paper uses a case study that examines the imbalance in Tasmanian (Australia) ICT workplaces with a particular emphasis on the common characteristics of women currently working within the industry and the factors that could impact on women moving to or being placed in ICT positions.”

The second paper, by Christine O’Keefe, Paul Greenfield and Andrew Goodchild is titled “A Decentralised Approach to Electronic Consent and Health Information Access Control”. “This paper describes a model and corresponding software prototype or demonstrator designed to investigate some of the issues arising from the implementation of patient consent in the sharing of health information between healthcare providers.”

Next we have a paper entitled “A Visual Cryptographic Technique for Chromatic Images Using Multi-Pixel Encoding Method” written by Young Chang Hou and Shu-Fen Tu. “Visual cryptography is a secret sharing method that uses human eyes to decrypt the secret. Most visual cryptographic methods utilize the technique of pixel expansion, which causes the size of the shares to be much larger than that of the secret image.” In this paper the authors “propose a multi-pixel encoding method for grey-level and chromatic images without pixel expansion.” “The experimental results show that the shares are not only the same size as the secret image, but also attain the requirement of security.”

Following this, we have our fourth paper, “Understanding and Mitigating Display and Presence Disparity in Mixed Presence Groupware” by Anthony Tang, Michael Boyle and Saul Greenberg. In this article the authors discuss their “initial experiences in designing and building mixed presence groupware prototypes” and their mitigation strategies for display and presence disparity problems. They begin by “situating mixed presence groupware within current groupware research efforts” and describe “the iterative design and implementation of a prototype MPG application called MPGSketch.” They “discuss the human and technical aspects of presence and display disparity” and discuss techniques for “linking heterogeneous displays, and introduce digital arm shadows as a method to restore presence parity.”

The fifth and final paper in this issue is by Gongde Guo, Hui Wang and David Bell and is entitled “Similarity-Based Data Reduction Techniques”. “The  $k$ -nearest neighbours ( $k$ NN) is a simple but effective method for classification. Its major drawbacks are (1) low efficiency, and (2) dependency on the selection of a ‘good value’ for  $k$ . In this paper the authors propose “a novel similarity-based data reduction method (SB) model together with three variants aimed at overcoming these shortcomings.”

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