Foreword

In today’s schools, homes, and public spaces, children are becoming frequent and experienced users of technology. As this trend continues, it is increasingly important to understand both the needs of children and the nature of technological design for young people. With this in mind, the IDC conference focuses on addressing the challenges of interaction design for children. We also explore the opportunities that new technologies afford – and the impact that those technologies have – in the everyday lives of young people.

IDC is organized now for the fifth time. The series was launched as a workshop in 2002 in Eindhoven, The Netherlands. It grew into a full conference in 2003 in Preston, England, before moving to the United States with the conferences in 2004 in Maryland and 2005 in Boulder, Colorado. In 2006 the conference returns to Europe as it now takes place in Tampere, Finland.

To address emerging research and development, IDC 2006 sought for long papers, short papers, demonstrations, and posters in three broad areas: emerging technologies for children, the impact these technologies can have on children’s lives, and new research methods which give children a voice in the design, development, and evaluation processes. In response to the call for participation, we received 37 submissions for full papers, out of which 14 were accepted for presentation in the conference. With an acceptance rate of 38% we hope to provide a high-quality technical program that combines the Nordic tradition of emphasis on design and usability with emerging interaction methods and techniques. The long paper program is supplemented by 12 short talks (chosen out of 31 submissions, for an acceptance rate of 39%) and 6 posters. The selection of papers, posters, and short talks was by international committees, totaling 53 experts.

The field of the IDC conference is maturing, and this year we tried a new format for the first day of the conference. A Child-Computer Interaction Master Class was organized for newcomers to the field by Janet C. Read, followed by a “Views on Our Field” session, chaired by Panos Markopoulos, that gave a chance to several invited speakers and the audience to discuss current trends and future directions of the field.

A conference like this could not have been realized without the help of many people and organizations. First, we’d like to thank Panos Markopoulos and Alissa Antle, the program committee chairs, for a superb job in organizing the reviews and the paper selection process smoothly. Roope Raisamo and Oren Zuckermann were in charge of the short papers, demos, and posters, and handled the process promptly and efficiently. Aulikki Hyrskykari did a great job in getting the final papers in the required format both for the printed proceedings and the ACM digital library. Saila Ovaska cheerfully handled the countless tasks involved in making the conference run smoothly. Members of the program committees helped to guarantee the high quality of the technical program. Thank you all!

Finally, we are grateful for the generous financial support of the Finnish Cultural Foundation, the Academy of Finland, the Emil Aaltonen Foundation, and the University of Tampere Foundation.

Welcome to Tampere, in the fifth IDC conference!

Kari-Jouko Räihä and Johanna Höysniemi
University of Tampere
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