QUALITY EDUCATION @ A DISTANCE

IFIP – The International Federation for Information Processing

IFIP was founded in 1960 under the auspices of UNESCO, following the First World Computer Congress held in Paris the previous year. An umbrella organization for societies working in information processing, IFIP's aim is two-fold: to support information processing within its member countries and to encourage technology transfer to developing nations. As its mission statement clearly states,

IFIP's mission is to be the leading, truly international, apolitical organization which encourages and assists in the development, exploitation and application of information technology for the benefit of all people.

IFIP is a non-profitmaking organization, run almost solely by 2500 volunteers. It operates through a number of technical committees, which organize events and publications. IFIP's events range from an international congress to local seminars, but the most important are:

- The IFIP World Computer Congress, held every second year;
- Open conferences;
- Working conferences.

The flagship event is the IFIP World Computer Congress, at which both invited and contributed papers are presented. Contributed papers are rigorously refereed and the rejection rate is high.

As with the Congress, participation in the open conferences is open to all and papers may be invited or submitted. Again, submitted papers are stringently refereed.

The working conferences are structured differently. They are usually run by a working group and attendance is small and by invitation only. Their purpose is to create an atmosphere conducive to innovation and development. Refereeing is less rigorous and papers are subjected to extensive group discussion.

Publications arising from IFIP events vary. The papers presented at the IFIP World Computer Congress and at open conferences are published as conference proceedings, while the results of the working conferences are often published as collections of selected and edited papers.

Any national society whose primary activity is in information may apply to become a full member of IFIP, although full membership is restricted to one society per country. Full members are entitled to vote at the annual General Assembly, National societies preferring a less committed involvement may apply for associate or corresponding membership. Associate members enjoy the same benefits as full members, but without voting rights. Corresponding members are not represented in IFIP bodies. Affiliated membership is open to non-national societies, and individual and honorary membership schemes are also offered.

QUALITY EDUCATION @ A DISTANCE

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Contents

Quality Education @ a Distance Conference overview <i>Gordon Davies and Elizabeth Stacey, Editors</i>	1
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Keynotes

Globalisation and reflexivity: some challenges for research into quality education mediated by ICTs <i>Terry Evans</i>	3
Quality assurance and quality development: what will make a difference? <i>Jocelyn Calvert</i>	17
Necessary aspects of quality in eLearning systems <i>Hermann Maurer</i>	29

Stream A Quality of systems that support online learning

Overview of stream A <i>Gordon Davies and Brian Garner</i>	39
What do we need to know about e-learning standards? <i>M. Llamas, L. Anido, J. Rodríguez, M. Fernández, J. Santos and M. Caeiro</i>	45

Quality model for multi-level course specification and delivery <i>Brian Garner</i>	53
Enhancing distance learning using quality digital libraries and CITIDEL <i>John A.N. Lee, John Impagliazzo, Lillian Cassel, Edward Fox, Lee Giles, Deborah Knox, Manuel Pérez-Quñones</i>	61
Systems support for virtualizing traditional courses in science and engineering <i>Thomas Ottmann, Stephan Trahasch and Tobias Lauer</i>	73
A QoS-aware network supporting an E-learning framework <i>Antonio Pescapè, Stefano Russo, Vincenzo Vecchio and Giorgio Ventre</i>	83
Developing a local framework for quality in an online learning environment: a case study <i>Robert McDougall, Margaret Flanders, Renay Buchanan and Sue Lindsay</i>	93
Students' perspective of online learning <i>Jo Coldwell and Jason Wells</i>	101
Digital libraries: quality resources for distance education <i>John Impagliazzo, John A.N. Lee, Sue McKnight and Nicki McLaurin-Smith</i>	109
Stream B Quality of teaching and learning experiences	
Overview of stream B <i>Peter J. Smith, Vicki Lowery and Elizabeth Stacey</i>	113
Quality practice in computer supported collaborative learning: identifying research gaps and opportunities <i>Peter J. Smith and Elizabeth Stacey</i>	119
Factors influencing quality online learning experiences <i>Ron Oliver and Jan Herrington</i>	129

Building productive online learning communities: investigating and interacting with internet educational genres <i>Roger Carlsen</i>	137
Quality @ a distance includes preservice teachers: one democratic approach <i>Niki Davis and Rema Nilakanta</i>	145
CMC to support an online learning environment <i>Dianne Chambers</i>	153
Using concept maps to improve the quality of learning law at a distance <i>Gayani Samarawickrema and Jennifer O'Reilly</i>	161
Improving the quality of distance education through online learning <i>Robyn Benson</i>	169
Actor network theory and the study of online learning: new perspectives on quality <i>Leonie Rowan and Chris Bigum</i>	179
Quantifying quality: an examination of the factors which define 'quality' in a professional development program <i>Vicki Lowery</i>	189
 Stream C Measuring quality: evaluation and assessment	
Overview of stream C <i>France Henri and Bernadette Charlier</i>	199
Developing an evaluation methodology for ICT supported learning: enhancing and promoting quality through 'change knowledge' <i>Bernadette Charlier, Joël Bonamy and Murray Saunders</i>	203
Evaluation for knowledge: an approach to supporting the quality of learners' community in higher education <i>France Henri, Bernadette Charlier, Amaury Daele and Béatrice Pudelko</i>	211
Regulation of training systems for adults in educational technology <i>Brigitte Denis and Sylvie-Anne Piette</i>	221

The challenge of measuring E-learning quality: some ideas from HCI <i>Janet Wesson and Lester Cowley</i>	231
Improving distance education through Programme Quality Assurance <i>Bill Davey and Arthur Tatnall</i>	239
Stream D Administration and policy to support quality education @ a distance	
Overview of stream D <i>Anne Forster & Carolyn Dowling</i>	247
Quality goes online: new challenges for Distance Education <i>Ian Reid</i>	249
Components of quality in distance education: distance education guidelines from different countries <i>Rowena Sinclair</i>	257
Preserving the 'human quality' in education at a distance <i>Carolyn Dowling</i>	265
Perspectives on the quality of online education: new conceptions of curriculum, student roles and learning? <i>Catherine McLoughlin</i>	273
Knowledge networks and inter-organisational learning in the context of information industry: issues for quality management <i>Mikko Ruohonen and Tarja Tiainen</i>	281
Establishing quality online: supporting productive academic teams <i>Janine Epps and Elizabeth Stacey</i>	289
Erratum to: Quality Education @ a Distance <i>Gordon Davies and Elizabeth Stacey</i>	E1
Information about authors	299