

Special Issues: A Theme or Conference Extended Papers

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1 In this issue

This is a relatively thin issue; we plan on compensating by bringing out a special issue with extended papers from the SAICSIT 2013 conference early in 2014.

Irene Govender and Elvira Naidoo write about “Perceived relevance of an introductory information systems course to prospective business students”. They do a statistical study, using the theory of reasoned action, of attitudes of students who do not plan on majoring in IS to their subject. Their findings could prove useful to IS academics planning on winning more business students over to their subject.

Carl Marnewick’s paper, “To mature or not to mature: The information systems conundrum”, focuses on project management maturity in the South African context. He shows that over a period of 10 years, maturity in IS projects has barely improved.

Anisa Ragalo and Nelishia Pillay report on “Improved evolvability in genetic programming with polyandry”, a new addition to genetic programming. Their results show some speed gains over conventional GP in some scenarios, with promise of further improvements.

2 Special Issues and Special Sections

Should at least four papers be approved for publication on a special theme, that issue will generally be billed as a *special issue* on that topic, with regular papers appearing in addition. Should fewer than four papers be accepted, they will instead appear in a *special section*. Whether the target is extended conference papers or new papers, guest editors drive the review process in consultation with the regular editorial team, using the *SACJ* online review system. In either case, guest editors write a guest editorial summarising the theme and the accepted papers.

The general rule for extended papers from conferences is that we require 30% new material (of substance, not padding). The process for extended conference papers is:

- propose a special issue or section to the editor-in-chief, including nominating one or more guest editors; the proposal should address:
 - why there are no copyright issues with reusing the conference paper in this way

- how such an option will be worded in the conference call for papers (an optional step, but it is better that authors are forewarned)
- how guest editors will screen accepted papers for those suitable for extension – the best papers in the conference may not always be suitable if they are self-contained without scope for addition

- Once papers are selected by guest editors:
 - they pass on the list of recommended papers to the *SACJ* editor-in-chief, who
 - invites authors to submit an extended paper, with a deadline set to target a specific issue of *SACJ*
 - authors who accept submit a statement of how they have added to the paper
 - guest editors check that the additions are sufficient, before sending the paper out for review – some conference reviewers may be reused, but each paper should be reviewed by at least one new reviewer

Extended conference papers should cite the original paper, and have a new title reflecting the additional content.

In *SACJ 50*, we published two extended papers from the Health Informatics South Africa (HISA) conference, a precedent we plan to repeat.

In addition to conference special issues, we solicit special issues driven by guest editors. Currently there is a call for papers for a special issue on ICT for development (ICT4D). For more detail, contact one of the guest editors, Judy van Biljon (vbiljja@unisa.ac.za) or Hugo Lotriet (lotrih@unisa.ac.za). Papers are due 24 February 2014.

Requirements are that guest editors should:

- write a proposal to the editor-in-chief, addressing:
 - ability to invite a minimum of 4 authors who are likely to submit
 - text of a call for papers, and relevant mailing lists they will use to publicise the call
 - a due date at least two months before 1 July or 1 December
 - a plan to recruit at least 1 new reviewer per submitted paper