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INTERACTING WITH COMPUTERS

Instructions to Authors

SCOPE OF THE JOURNAL

Interacting with Computers (IwC) is the interdisciplinary journal of Human–Computer Interaction, an official publication of BCS, The Chartered Institute for IT and its interaction Specialist Group . *Interacting with Computers* actively fosters communication between academic researchers and practitioners to encourage the flow of information across the boundaries of its contributing disciplines. It is a major international forum for the discussion of HCI issues – a catalyst for novel and inspired thinking, which demands of its readers a forward-looking perspective.

GUIDE FOR AUTHORS

Writing for an Interdisciplinary Journal

The journal's fundamental interdisciplinary ethos is applied to individual papers as well as to each issue. The Editors and Editorial Boards are strongly committed to publishing only papers fulfilling the minimum requirement of accessibility to readers with HCI interests who nevertheless are not specialists in a particular subject area. At the same time, papers should be of interest and relevant to HCI specialists. A great deal of useful information can be conveyed in brief papers that address a single issue while still meeting interdisciplinary requirements. People are unlikely to read extremely long papers, especially if they do not work in academia. Authors thus should be as succinct as possible and avoid needless repetition.

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Authors should attempt to describe work that crosses traditional boundaries among the many disciplines represented in the HCI research and practitioner community. Take care to address

an interdisciplinary audience, by ensuring that the contribution is comprehensible to the majority of readers in Interacting with Computers' diverse readership.

Papers can be made more interdisciplinary by giving them both a wider context and a forward-looking and speculative perspective. Applications-oriented work should be explicit about the utility and generalisability of content, and about the broader implications of the set of empirical or theoretical issues to which the work relates; the goals and functions of an application must be provided in terms which can be understood by the entire readership. Authors of research papers are strongly encouraged to be explicit about the applied relevance of their work. Authors of theoretical papers are expected to make a serious attempt to relate their manuscript to application-related problems. Authors of papers emphasising practical applications are expected to make an attempt to go beyond "show and tell" by addressing the broader relevance of their project. While it is not a requirement that every paper submitted to the diurnal adopt such a perspective, authors might consider these suggestions useful means of introducing and managing interdisciplinary relevance.

Paper Types

As an international journal, we require that submissions be in well-written and stylistically correct English: poorly written English places an unfair burden on readers whose native language is not English. We encourage authors who do not have strong English writing skills to have their manuscripts edited by someone with the neccessary skills.

Research
Research papers may have a substantial theoretical basis or contain the findings of experimental work. Typically, papers in this category will contain both. Such papers should place the work in context by describing the practical consequences of the research for the design, evaluation and use of computer systems. Authors should not assume that all readers will be familiar with, or even interested in, the full details of experimental design and statistical analysis, or in complex mathematical or logical formalisms. While such detail is often necessary in the body of a paper, authors should ensure that these aspects are clearly described in plain English.

Applications While a considerable amount of HCI work is applied to specific products within the public, commercial and industrial sectors, such work is of little utility to the international community if it is only described with respect to a particular application. Authors are strongly advised to use such work as examples in support of the more general points their paper is intended to make. This approach also may help to avoid many of the typical objections to publication of material that otherwise might betray sensitive information to competitors.

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Critical Reviews
Interacting with Computers welcomes reviews, either of individual pieces of work, or of entire

areas, which can advance the state of HCI. A well-written review of this type can make a substantive and original contribution to the HCI community. Eclecticism is both encouraged and supported. In the process of describing the targeted work, authors are expected to provide a critical commentary. This commentary should give the reader insight and an ability to fit the work into a broader context and enable them to judge the review's relative contribution to the field of HCI.

State-of-Art Reviews

Interacting with Computers also welcomes reviews that give a critical overview of a topic for the benefit of readers who are not familiar with the relevant literature and who may work in other disciplines. Although it is beneficial for these reviews to meet some of the criteria given for "critical reviews", the major objective of this type of review is to give a clear, self-contained account of the chosen topic, and to demonstrate its broader relevance to the entire field of HCI.

Unorthodox Submissions

Interacting with Computers is prepared to publish papers when referees agree about the quality of the submission, but some aspect of the work may be contentious or "risky" and goes against prevailing orthodoxy. The referees may publish a commentary paper relating to such a paper, or another author may subsequently decide to submit commentaries on published papers. In such cases, the author has a right of reply. Used judiciously, this approach may illuminate areas of controversy in the theory of, or approaches to, HCI.

Publication Ethics

Authors should observe the highest standards with respect to publication ethics as set out by the *Commission on Publication Ethics (COPE)* in their document, International Standards for Editors and Authors . Falsification or fabrication of data, plagiarism, including duplicate publication of the authors' own work without proper citation, and misappropriation of the work are all unacceptable practices. Any cases of ethical misconduct are treated very seriously and will be dealt with in accordance with COPE guidelines .

Authorship

All authors listed on the manuscript should have contributed significantly to the work and have been involved in the writing of the manuscript at draft and any revision stages, and have read and approved the final version. Anyone who made major contributions to the writing of the manuscript should be listed as an author. Any other individuals who made less substantive contributions to the experiment or the writing of the manuscript should be listed in the Acknowledgements section.

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Experimental Ethics

Ethical standards adhered to should be as described in Ethical Guidelines for Educational Research (2011) [ISBN 978 0 946671 32 8] published by the British Educational Research Association (BERA) .

Manuscript Submission

All material to be considered for publication in *Interacting with Computers* should be submitted
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The journal operates a double blind review system. This means there must be nothing identifying the authors in the submitted manuscript. Identifying information should be submitted under the 'Title Page' option.

The title page of the article should include the following information (where applicable):

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Names and affiliations of all contributing authors

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Acknowledgements

Abstract
Abstracts are crucial for confirming a reader's intentions to read a paper. They should provide an extremely brief overview of the issues addressed, the approach adopted and the conclusions drawn. It is particularly important that the practical consequences of the work are made explicit in the Abstract. This should be between 100 and 150 words in length. An abstract is a summary of key aspects of the paper, not an introduction to the paper.

Keywords
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fairly specific, but short. Brief bullet points seem to work quite well.

The Body of the Paper

The style of the paper will be mainly determined by its contents. Consider using sections to add to readability and provide a clearly delineated introduction and conclusion. Use a maximum of three levels of section heading, and make sure all headings are informatively titled.

References

Interacting with Computers adheres to the citation style of the Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association (APA) (6th edition, American Psychological Association) which provides many useful examples.

An insistence on consistent style from issue to issue is a hallmark of professionally edited publications. At times, style at variance with standards causes delays in publication deadlines, with a risk of introducing significant errors in the text. The Editors sincerely appreciate efforts by authors to conform to style as much as possible.

References can be an important part of a paper because they place a paper in its historical context. It is possible to either under-or over-reference. A balance between the two needs to be struck. Authors should be wary of over-citing their own work relative to the work of others. References never should substitute for explanation; there should be little loss of immediate comprehension in a paper if they were to be removed. If footnotes are used, they also should be expendable. Wherever possible, authors should cite publicly available work that is available readily from most libraries. Generally speaking, doctoral and masters theses should not be cited.

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