

# Guidelines for submitting Research Papers for ALT-C 2004

## Introduction

The Association for Learning Technology Conference (ALT-C) Research Papers strand seeks to fulfil the aims of the Association, two of which are to:

- i) promote good practice in the use of learning technologies in education and industry;
- ii) facilitate collaboration between practitioners, researchers, and policy-makers.

## ALT-C criteria for full research papers

The maximum word count is 6,000 words. This includes everything: from the title to the references. Longer papers will not be accepted. For your paper to be accepted it must be formatted as a Microsoft Word 6.0/95 file (.doc or .rtf), of 10mb or less, including diagrams (if any). To avoid upload problems ensure that there are no spaces or punctuation in the filename, and that there are 40 or less characters before the 'dot'.

We strongly prefer authors to format research papers according to the template accessible from the "Papers" area of the ALT-C 2004 web site – <http://www.alt.ac.uk/altc2004/>.

Papers need to address the conference title - *Blue skies and pragmatism - learning technologies for the next decade* - and one or more of the conference themes. Furthermore, submissions to the Research Papers strand should cover, as a minimum, two essential criteria.

1. **Theory.** Research must have a sound theoretical basis.
2. **Methodology.** The paper must present the research in the context of a qualitative or quantitative methodology.

Papers would normally also be expected to address at least one of these three desirable criteria.

1. **Users.** Research should demonstrate engagement with a community of users, and that use should be evaluated.
2. **Interdisciplinarity.** Work that crosses disciplines - for example, computer science and education - is welcomed.
3. **Breadth.** Work should show a readiness to engage in broad scientific debate about discipline-level enquiry in the field.

The Association is determined to establish the area of learning technology as a discipline in its own right; any submission whose quality and distinctiveness support this ambition will be considered, even if the focus lies slightly outside the boundaries delineated by the above criteria.

The editors of the research papers strand will work with referees (2 per paper) to anonymously peer review and select research papers that meet conference criteria for full research papers (above). Papers will be accepted for publication in the conference proceedings provided that they meet these requirements and that they have not been published elsewhere, in whole or in part. ALT-C 2004 research papers will be published in the conference proceedings prior to the conference. At least one author from each accepted paper is required to enrol for the conference by 11 June 2004 and to attend to present the paper. Presented papers can be edited after the conference and resubmitted for publication in ALT-J.

(But, please note that papers will be reviewed in the normal way for ALT-J; there is no special conference issue).

### **Examples of submission types**

Although not exhaustive, typical subjects for submission include the following.

1. Practical applications at developmental stage.
2. Evaluative studies of courseware used in the teaching and learning process.
3. Studies that play an active and significant role in methodological innovation.
4. Studies that are of a larger scale or longitudinal in nature.
5. Computer science combined with education research is welcomed. For example, this could include research on vision and imaging for mobile learning, agent technology in a specific domain, hepatic devices to aid disabled learners, knowledge technology and HCI specialisations in collaborative learning systems and virtual learning environments.
6. Assessment of potential of technological advances in the delivery of post compulsory education whether HE, FE or Adult Community Learning.
7. Theoretical debate on learning strategies and their influence on learning technology design.
8. Discussions of policy and strategy at institutional, sector, or discipline levels.
9. Survey papers are welcomed provided that they are timely, up to date and well structured.

### **Paper Awards**

All presented research papers will be considered by the Conference Committee for an *Outstanding Research Paper Award*. To receive this award, both of the anonymous reviewers and the Conference Committee must agree with the statement: *This paper presents a significant work that advances the field of learning technology with particular respect to a conference theme.*

### **Further Information**

If you have any queries related to the Research Papers strand, please contact the Research Papers Editor, Dr John Cook, [john.cook@londonmet.ac.uk](mailto:john.cook@londonmet.ac.uk).