Workshop on Developing Educational Material for HCI: Validation and Quality Control Issues

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1 Background

An IFIP WG13.1 Workshop was held during INTERACT '99 emphasising the need for material that supported the forming of an HCI mindset with the student. A follow-up workshop was held in 2000 coinciding with the NordiCHI 2000 conference. This workshop identified resources to complement existing HCI literature as the main concept to be pursued. A number of issues were raised and from these a number of recommendation and resolutions were made:

1. What resources are required to enable educators and learners?
2. What is required to make these resources useful? How would one use the resources to teach HCI?
3. Which topics need to be covered?
4. How to evaluate or validate resources or topics?

It was recommended that the resources needed should as far as possible be directed towards a distributed teaching context. Several types of material were identified and envisaged as typical material that would be both valuable and useful to all parties concerned. These include examples, textbook chapters, posters, cartoons, exercises, assignments, examination support, and specialised lectures. This material should focus on actual content and should not be confused with an HCI bibliography. A framework was identified that could be used to record and organise these sources.

2 Scope and Purpose

Two main issues were left unanswered during the previous workshops, and call for further investigation and study. The first relates to the topics that need to be covered by the resources and appropriate types of material that would be suitable for contributions to the data resource. One or more curricula developments could be used for the purpose of establishing the topics to be covered by the resources.

But the most pressing issue still remains the quality control or verification of the material to be stored in the repository, and enforcing such control. Without such control the material would be just another useless source of information. The INTERACT 2001 Workshop will be devoted to these issues.

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