

Publishing Procedure and Presentation at Conferences, Journals

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INVESTMENTS IN EDUCATION DEVELOPMENT

Conferences vs. Journals

- The two main types of publication media
- Conferences:
 - Rapid dissemination of currently examined ideas
 - Reporting “smaller” results
 - Meeting people at social events
- Journals:
 - Reporting important (finalized/almost finalized) results
 - Longer validity of results expected
 - Automatically distributed to subscribers (*global impact*)
- Understanding the purpose of each varies in different scientific fields
- The term 'a good conference/journal' varies as well

Availability

- Ask colleagues where they publish
- Check publication lists of competing/cooperating groups
- Check your favourite papers
 - Where they were published
 - Where relevant cited literature was published
- Check citation databases and search engines with proper keywords:
 - Google, WOS, <http://arnetminer.org/>
 - <http://academic.research.microsoft.com/>
- Check field specific list of conferences:
 - Wikipedia, e.g., <http://imagescience.org/>
- Check publisher or society calendars:
 - <http://www.iasted.org/conferences/>
 - Springer, LNCS series

Eligibility

- Institution evaluate the conference quality
- Masaryk University relies on some metrics (rankings)
- Ranks worth considering:
 - http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_computer_science_conferences
 - http://core.edu.au/cms/images/downloads/conference/08sort%20acronymERA2010_conference_list.pdf
 - http://www-inf.it-sudparis.eu/~nguyen_n/conferences/conference_ranking
 - <http://thomsonreuters.com/conference-proceedings-citation-index/?subsector=scholarly-search-and-discovery>

Eligibility at FI MUNI

- According to prof. Hliněný's grant (2013): Any top CS conference should meet 2 out of 4 following requirements:
- Rating >40 at <http://academic.research.microsoft.com/RankList?entitytype=3&topDomainID=2>
- Rank A or A+ at <http://lipn.univ-paris13.fr/~bennani/CSRank.html>
- Rank 1 or 2 at http://www.cs.ucla.edu/~eklee/paper/CS_conf_rank.htm
- Rank 1 or 2 at <http://www3.ntu.edu.sg/home/assourav/crank.htm>

Conferences: Choosing the Right One

Eligibility at FI MUNI

- According to the Evaluation of Employees (2015): A good conference is such that is included in at least one of the ranks below with ranking A, B, 1, or 2:
- CORE: <http://www.core.edu.au/index.php/conference-rankings> (rankAneboB)
- CHAN: http://www-inf.it-sudparis.eu/~nguyen_n/conferences/conference_ranking (rankAneboB)
- BHOWMICK: <http://www.ntu.edu.sg/home/assourav/crank.htm> (rank1nebo2)
- MICROSOFT: [http://academic.research.microsoft.com/RankList?entitytype=3&topDomainID=2\(FieldRating>=13\)](http://academic.research.microsoft.com/RankList?entitytype=3&topDomainID=2(FieldRating>=13))
- WIKI: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_computer_science_conferences (přítomnostvseznamu)
- OTHER: konference je objektivně svou kvalitou srovnatelná s konferencemi dle předchozích žebříčků
- Metodika FI 2013: https://is.muni.cz/auth/do/fi/katedry/eval_katedry/Ranking_FI_2013.docx

Which Are Appropriate

- There are many criteria to consider
- Impact on the audience of the presentation:
 - Single- vs. multi-track, oral vs. poster presentation
 - Typical number of participants
 - Page number limit, full (long) vs. short paper vs. extended abstract
 - Organization behind the event, publisher
- Acceptance ratio, deadline extensions, committee members
- Variance of topics in the CFP vs. your paper scope
- Recommendations of your colleagues and supervisor

Which Are NOT Appropriate

- Recently we've started to dislike:
WSEAS, IASTED, and INSTICC organizations
- Generally:
- Watch out for strings in CFPs:
“multi-conference”, “Orlando Florida”, “World Congress”
- SciGen story: <http://pdos.csail.mit.edu/scigen/>

Conferences: To be avoided...

From: IIIS Summer conferences
Subject: 3rd CFP for Summer Conferences in Orlando and Australia

We would like to inform you about the deadlines for this 3rd Call for Papers, and to invite you to submit an abstract or draft paper to the following conferences being organized in the summer 2014 in Orlando, Florida, USA, and in Wollongong, NSW, Australia.

CALL FOR PAPERS (for both conferences):

July 15 - 18, 2014 - Orlando, Florida, USA

The 18th World Multi-Conference, Systemics, Cybernetics
and Informatics: WMSCI 2014, www.iiisconferences2014.org/wmsci

June 30 - July 4, 2014 - Wollongong, NSW, Australia

International Conference on Complexity, Cybernetics, and Informing
Science and Engineering: CCISE 2014, www.iiisconferences2014.org/ccise

For WMSCI 2014, submissions for virtual participations will also be accepted, besides the usual submissions for face-to-face presentations.
...

Conferences: To be avoided...

From: IIIS Spring Multi-Conference
Subject: 2nd CFP Education, Society, ICT and Complexity

We would like to invite you to submit a draft paper or an abstract to the *spring Multi-Conference* being organized by the International Institute of Informatics and Systemics (IIIS) in Orlando, Florida, USA, on March 10 - 13, 2015.

The following are the submissions deadlines of some the events being jointly organized (These deadlines are also posted *along with the respective webs sites URLs* at ...

December 3rd, 2014 for The 6th International Conference on Society and Information Technologies: ICSIT 2015

December 3rd, 2014 for The 6th International Conference on Education, Training and Informatics: ICETI 2015

December 3rd, 2014 for The 5th Ibero-American Conference on Complexity, Informatics and Cybernetics: CICIC 2015

November 20th, 2014 for The 6th International Multi-Conference on Complexity, Informatics and Cybernetics: IMCIC 2015

...

Conferences: To be avoided...

From: Internet Medical Society <noreply@booksofmedicine.com>
Subject: Medbrary, the online medical library (registration is free)
Please, let me introduce myself, I am Dr David Ryan, from Internet
Medical Society. I am contacting to introduce you Medbrary.com, the
online medical library that we are developing. Although we are still
launching the site and recruiting both publishers and subscribers,
we expect to have more than 10000 publications and about 4000
subscribers early next year.
...

How could they say the last sentence?

Timeframe

- Paper bidding: 2 days – 1 week
- Reviews: 4–5 weeks
- Rebuttal (optional): 1 week
- PC discussion: 2–3 weeks
- Full version: 1–2 weeks

Reviewers

- PC members, $\sim 2 - 20$ papers each
- Many distributed to *subreviewers*
- PC member is responsible for the subreviewers, participates in the discussion

Paper assignment

- PC *bids* for papers, few days after submission deadline
- Can be accelerated by the *abstracts first* policy
- *Conflict of interest* must be declared
- *Each paper requires 2–4 reviews!*

- Nowadays almost exclusively "distributed"
- The first pass: remove *clear accepts and rejects*
- Ask for *additional reviews* if necessary
- Some papers initiate a long discussion
- *Gray zone*: somebody must fight for the paper
- Luck always plays a role in success. . .

- Rebuttals: not for adding new material but respond to reviewers' comments!

- Check who is in the programme/review committee
- Cite their work (usually relevant if the conference is chosen appropriately. . .)
- Check time-zone of the submission server to find out how much you can be late. . .
- Fill metadata ahead of the deadline (e.g., a day earlier):
 - may require a modification of the text
 - e.g., limitation of number of words in the abstract
 - may take a considerable amount of time
 - e.g., find correct categories, sub-topics
 - may require discussion with the co-authors
 - e.g., propose 4 reviewers. . .

Presentations: Importance and Impact

- Presenting your research is an extremely important moment of your work
- Both content and form matter
- It can change your career (important people are listening to you)
- Moral: never underestimate the presentation of your work
- Prepare continuously, even if no presentation is on the horizon (it will come soon):
 - Look for examples (internet, events at MUNI, passive attendance),
 - <https://www.ted.com/>
 - Listen to presentations as if you were going to ask a question,
 - Explain what you are doing to people you now (exciting research)
You do not really understand something unless you can explain it to your grandmother. (A.Einstein)
- Focus on both the slides and the talk (oral presentation) *before the conference starts!*

Preparing Presentations: Things to Consider

- Prepare your slides before leaving for the conference:
 - It allows for rehearsing before leaving (in lab, with friends),
 - You will be busy at the conference (sessions, social events, jet-lag)
- The presentation ought to tell the *story of your paper*
 - Select the most important points of the paper (reviews can help according to time you have for the talk)
 - Do not add new results w.r.t. the paper (only rarely, and not in details if necessary)
- Take into account the community you are going to face:
 - Adjust the motivation, description of context and background
 - Choose proper vocabulary (e.g. linear, non-linear can mean 5 different things in different communities)
- Get familiar with the program and guidelines (usually known several weeks ahead):
 - Length of the talk: usually between 10 and 30 minutes (invited talks, keynote lectures much longer)
 - My rule: one slide per minute (or less)
- Switch on the slide numbering (for the audience, questions)

Preparing Presentations: Grammar, Typography

- Double check the grammar when preparing slides:
 - Look-up words in a good dictionary
 - Check phrases (corpus, Google can help...)
 - Use spell-checker (typos are huge on slides)
 - Be consistent (British vs. American English)
- Be careful about style:
 - Sans-serif fonts, not smaller than 30 pt (depends on slide resolution...)
 - Avoid exclamation marks (!), minimize question marks (?), use correct quotation marks
 - Avoid complicated equations and schemes; if they are necessary, be sure to have enough time to explain
- Attract audience attention:
 - *A picture is worth a thousand words*
 - *Or you waste one slide (if the picture is not self-explaining)*
 - Use simple plots, graphs, clearly visible
 - Try animations and videos (but be reasonable, effort vs. gain)

Preparing Presentations: The Talk

- Rehearse, rehearse, rehearse (before leaving for the conference):
- *By failing to prepare, you are preparing to fail.* (B.Franklin)
 - Be careful about the pronunciation of frequently used words.
 - <http://dictionary.cambridge.org>: IPA, audio
- Become familiar with the place and people before the talk:
 - Test your equipment (laptop, micro) before the session start.
 - Say a word or two to the session chair before the session starts.
- Be careful about any jokes or “funny” slides:
 - The audience’s reaction can be different from your expectations which could make you uneasy.
 - Some “jokes” can be controversial in given context, country, culture.
- Questions and discussion after talk
 - Be polite to the inquirer (“thank you for asking this question”); it seems that the question allows you to be more precise in your presentation.
 - If you do not understand, excuse yourself and suggest a face-to-face discussion after the session.
 - If you are “under attack”, suggest a discussion after the session.

Journals

Reminder from the last session

- The two main types of publication media
- Conferences:
 - Rapid dissemination of currently examined ideas
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- Journals:
 - Reporting important (finalized/almost finalized) results
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- Understanding the purpose of each varies in different scientific fields
- The term ‘a good conference/journal’ varies as well

Which Are Available

By access

- Traditional — subscription based (*serials crisis*)
- Open access (outside funding vs author pays)
- Hybrid open access
- Delayed open access

The “big three”

- Elsevier
- Springer
- John Wiley

More than 42% in CS!

Which Are Available

By contributions

- Longer (10–50 pages)
- Include all details

Also check the IF!

Taxonomy of journal papers

- Regular paper
- Special issue
 - For a conference/workshop (selected papers only)
 - Anniversary (person/area)
 - For active new topics
- Survey
- Short paper
- Editorial

Which Are NOT Appropriate

- Those published by Hindawi
- Those who desperately invite you to publish :-), e.g.:

Date: Wed, 14 May 2014 08:57:36 +0530
From: "Managing Editor (SDI)" <editor.1@journalpromo100.com>
To: xulman@fi.muni.cz
Subject: Journal of Scientific Research and Reports :
An OPEN peer reviewed journal

- Editorial board
 - Active members
 - Ceremonial members
- Associate/assistant editors
 - By topics
 - Additional advice to editors
- Chief editor(s)/Editor-in-Chief

Two types of editors

- Academics (may, or may not be paid)
- Professional editors (should have at least postdoc experience)

Differences from conferences

- Takes *much longer* (months/years)
- Much more *thorough*
- *Guided* by the editor
- Multiple *iterations*
- Decision is not binary (accept/reject)

Possible (and typical) outcomes:

- Accept, no changes
- Accept, minor changes (no extra refereeing needed)
- Accept, subject to major changes (new round of refereeing)
- Reject

- Authors—Reviewers(via Editor) communication is sometimes public:
<http://elifesciences.org/content/4/e06156v2>

- You can also publish a book, once you negotiate a deal with some publisher.
- More likely, you may get invitation to publish a chapter in a book.
- You can publish an extended version of the conference paper as a journal paper.
- You can publish an extended version of the conference paper as a technical report, if you feel the need.
- <http://www.fi.muni.cz/reports/>