



The ACM SIGCHI Education Survey

Gary Perlman

Computer & Information Science

Ohio State University

2036 Neil Avenue

Columbus, Ohio 43210 USA

Tel: 1-614-292-2566

Fax: 1-614-292-2911

E-mail: perlman@cis.ohio-state.edu

Jean Gasen

Information Systems Research Institute

Virginia Commonwealth University

Richmond, Virginia 23284 USA

Tel: 1-804-367-7128

Fax: 1-804-367-8884

E-mail: jgasen@cabell.vcu.edu

ABSTRACT

The HCI Education survey describes 68 programs, 162 faculty, and 139 courses in graduate-level education in human-computer interaction. In addition to the data files on each program, summary reports of programs, faculty, courses and other information have been generated. The survey was designed, conducted, analyzed, and distributed entirely online using Internet mail and ftp. The low cost and active nature of the medium of the survey administration and distribution makes it possible to have continuously updated information.

KEYWORDS

[K.3.2] Computer and information science education: Curriculum. Human-computer interaction, Electronic / online survey administration

INTRODUCTION

The HCI Education Survey contains information about programs, faculty, and courses with an emphasis on Human-Computer Interaction. The goal of the Survey is primarily to provide prospective students (particularly graduate students) information about educational opportunities, and secondarily to provide HCI educators information about other HCI educators. Unlike some other education surveys, we wanted the HCI Education Survey to be easily updated and accessed primarily in electronic form. The cost of printing and mailing the survey and the widespread availability of electronic mail and personal computers made the collection and dissemination of an electronic report preferred over print media.

SURVEY ADMINISTRATION

Before sending out the survey, we studied other surveys from The Human Factors Society [hfs91], The Software

Engineering Institute [sei91], Computer Graphics [Ferg89], and a previous survey on HCI [Man84]. We developed categories of information we wanted to collect from people teaching HCI-related courses. We field-tested the draft survey and made some revisions and sent the final survey to about 50 known educators in HCI.

SURVEY RESPONDENTS

As of the end of 1993, the survey data represents 68 programs in 12 countries (shown in Figure 1), 162 faculty and 139 courses.

SURVEY REPORTS

The results were checked for consistency and completeness, and from the data, several reports were developed: The **Program Report** `program.rpt` contains the program contact person (name, email, phone, and fax), the degrees offered, the focus, facilities, and faculty (name and email) for each unit (e.g., school or department) at each institution. The **Faculty Report** `faculty.rpt` contains the faculty name, degree, email and phone, interests and publications for each faculty at each institution. The **Course Report** `course.rpt` contains the title, instructor, text and tools used, and course description for each course taught at each institution. Other Reports (all ending in `.rpt`) include a list of contact names/email, a list sorted by region, and others. Other reports (e.g., a list of all texts used) can be generated from the raw data files (all ending in `.dat`).

CONTRIBUTING TO THE SURVEY

To create or modify an entry for an academic unit in the HCI Education Survey, send a mail message to `educhi@cis.ohio-state.edu`. Detailed instructions and an electronic form will be sent to you. Please do not submit data without contacting us first.

ACCESSING THE SURVEY DATA

There are several ways to get an electronic copy of the Survey results: Anonymous FTP (file transfer protocol), Email Service, and Floppy Disk.

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Internet/Anonymous FTP Access

To access the HCI Education Survey internet users can use FTP (file-transfer-protocol) to copy files and programs to their machines. See the file named README for more information. To log in to the archive machine, use the login name: *anonymous* and provide your internet account name as your password. The messages provided by ftp are cryptic; many users can not distinguish between positive feedback and messages about unrecoverable errors, so ignore them and plod along. The files are located at:

archive.cis.ohio-state.edu

(internet id no 128.146.8.52) in the directory:

pub/hci/Education

Electronic Mail Service

We can send the survey results via email. Send your request for files to educhi@cis.ohio-state.edu. A plain text version of what you are reading is available as the file README. Other files include data files for each respondent and report files. A request for everything will take up about 750 Kbytes.

Floppy Disk

Users who do not have internet/ftp or electronic mail access can request Macintosh or DOS floppies by sending a letter and a pre-addressed mailing label to: The HCI Education Survey, Computer Science, Ohio State University, Columbus, OH 43210-1277 USA.

Printed Copies

To receive a printed report, send an explanation to the above address of why you can't handle the above formats.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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QUESTIONS/COMMENTS?

Send email to educhi@cis.ohio-state.edu for information about the survey or about HCI education.

REFERENCES

- [Ferg89] Ferguson (1989) ACM SIGGRAPH Computer Graphics, 23:4, 243-272.
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- [sci91] Software Engineering Institute (1991) Graduate Programs in Software Engineering.



Figure 1: Locations of HCI education programs responding to the 1993 survey.