

OPEN RESEARCH SOCIETY

Towards Open Access to Research

With advances in information technology and changes in the ways in which scientific knowledge is being communicated, there are moves afoot to develop an "open-research" model. To this end, the Open Research Society (ORS) has been created.

The society promotes itself as "a non-profit international organization dedicated to the promotion of the "open research" paradigm in scholarly publishing, research cooperation and dissemination of research results in the field of Information Technology in a broad sense".

Membership in the ORS is open to anyone who is interested in the society and it is free. The ORS currently has a Yahoo! Group through which its members communicate and exchange ideas. For more information visit the ORS website

(www.open-research-society.org).

Scholar is a bi-monthly publication of the University Research Committee (URC) at the University of Wollongong in Dubai (UOWD) Knowledge Village Blocks 5 & 15 PO Box 20183 Dubai UAE Phone: (04) 3672400 Fax: (04) 3672760 Web site: www.uowdubai.ac.ae



Message from the Chair

Welcome back! As we embark on another session of teaching, I hope that this issue of SCHOLAR will serve as a useful reminder of research-related activities at our university. In June and July, I spent a bit of time talking to each and every staff member at UOWD about their research interests and projects, to gain an understanding of the kinds of knowledge that we produce. What struck me about this exercise were the levels of expertise that we have in certain areas. For example, we have a very strong economics and finance contingent with a number of staff actively researching issues such as banking, financial integration, international trade and applied macroeconomics. Similarly, several academics are studying topics in management such as leadership, cross-cultural management, and human resource development. Over in the College of IT, our research strengths lie in information retrieval, network security and distributed systems. There are a number of research projects under way in these areas, the results of which are being published in international conference proceedings and journals.

Some of the latest staff publications are listed below.

In relation to this, I have often been asked what would be an "acceptable" publication output in a single year. While this is largely dependent on the discipline itself, as well as the quality of the conferences and journals being targeted, **on average**, one conference paper and one journal article per year is a solid output. (Having said that, it should be noted that conferences in certain field have lower acceptance rates than some journals in the same field.) A journal article usually begins its "lifecycle" as a working paper and seminar presentation. The feedback received from these activities is used to improve the paper and present it to a wider, international community at a conference. Finally, the conference paper is converted to a journal article. This "lifecycle" can take anywhere from 6 months to 3 years depending on a number of factors. A journal publication also doesn't necessarily mean that it's the "end of the road". Quite the contrary, it can lead to new ideas being generated and other related publications,

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leading to a build-up of knowledge in a particular field and, naturally, establishing oneself as an expert in that field. It is gratifying to see that a number of academics at our university are working towards this goal!

Happy researching!

*Dr Lejla Vrazalic,
Chair, Research Committee*

Publication Successes!

Associate Professor John Simpson has had two journal articles accepted for publication. The first, titled "Valuation in the Services Sectors of the Emirates Stock Market" will appear in the *Journal of Applied Economics*. The second article is a joint publication with Dr John Evans (Curtin University) titled "Systemic Risk in the Major Eurobanking Markets: Evidence from Interbank Offered Rates" to appear in the *Global Finance Journal*. Finally, Dr Simpson also presented a paper at the

Global Finance Conference in Dublin this April, titled "Cointegration and Causality in Global and European Banking Markets".

Dr Jamal Roudaki has had a paper titled "Financial Analysis of Performance of National Banks in GCC Countries" (with Prof Mokhtar Metwally and Dr Waleed Al-Sultan), accepted by the *Middle East Business and Economic Review*.

Dr Lejla Vrazalic and Dr Robert MacGregor (UoW, Australia)

have published a book chapter titled "The Shifting Sands of E-Commerce: Investigation of the Mapping between Expected and Actual E-Commerce Benefits in Small to Medium Enterprises" in *Global Electronic Business Research: Opportunities and Directions*. Another book chapter is due to appear in the book *Advanced Topics in E-Commerce* later this year, titled "The Role of Small-Business Strategic Alliances in the Perception of Benefits and Disadvantages of E-Commerce Adoption in SMEs".

(continued on page 2...)

UPCOMING RESEARCH SEMINARS!

The Autumn Research Seminar Series will commence on Monday, September 19, 2005. All regular seminars will be held on Monday afternoons at 4:30pm in the James W. Langridge Auditorium (Block 15, Knowledge Village). In addition, special seminars by visiting fellows have been scheduled in the coming months. (Please note that seminar timings will change during the month of Ramadan.)

Monday, September 19 at 4:30pm
A "Mystery Speaker" will inaugurate the Autumn Research Seminar Series

Sunday, September 25 at 2:30pm:
"The Application of Artificial Intelligence in Financial Engineering" – Dr Mohammad Khoshnevisan (Griffith University, Australia)

Monday, September 26 at 4:30pm:
"Optimization of Queries Over Multiple Sliding Windows" – Anita Dani (UOWD)

Monday, October 3 at 4:30pm: "Why do governments lack 'Political Will'? An Explanation from the Transaction – Cost Perspective" – Prof Ajit Karnik (University of Mumbai)

Monday, October 10 (timing TBA):
"Brain Computation" – Prof Ronan Reilly (UOWD/National University of Ireland)

Monday, October 17 (timing TBA):
"Macroeconometric Modelling for an Oil Dependent Economy: An Instruments-Targets Approach for the UAE Economy" – Dr Cedwyn Fernandes (UOWD)

Monday, October 24 (timing TBA): "A Novel Model for Enhancing Database Access in Interactive Applications" – Nawar Al Hakeem (UOWD)

Monday, November 7 at 4:30pm:
"Expert Political Risk Opinions and Banking Stock Index Returns: A Revisited International Banking Market Model" – Assoc Prof John Simpson (UOWD)

For more information about upcoming seminars, including abstracts and biographies of the presenters, please visit the UOWD Research website (www.uowdubai.ac.ae/research) and follow the Research Seminars link.

Publication Successes (continued)

Dr Lejla Vrazalic and Associate Professor Peter Hyland (UoW, Australia) have contributed an article titled "Measuring the Maturity Level of a Community Portal" to appear the *Encyclopedia of Developing Regional Communities with Information and Communication Technology* which is due to be published shortly.

Dr Michael Willemyns will be delivering a paper at the 7th International Conference of the International Leadership Association (ILA), to be held in Amsterdam from November 2 to 6, 2005. The title of the paper is "Cross-cultural communication and leadership in the UAE".

No less than three of our researchers have had papers

accepted at International Association of Science and Technology for Development (IASTED) conferences this year!

Associate Professor Ghassan Al Qaimari will be presenting a paper titled "Evaluating the Usability of Location Awareness: Application in Wireless Devices" at the Human Computer Interaction conference, **Dr Saied Khayat's** paper on the topic of "Performance Analysis of Counter Synchronization in IEEE 802.11 Encryption" will be presented at the conference on Communications, Internet, and Information Technology (CIIT 2005), and **Nawar Al Hakeem's** paper titled "A Novel Model for Enhancing Database Access in Interactive Applications" will appear at the

same conference.

Another "hat-trick" for UOWD comes from **Associate Professor Farhad Oroumchian** who has published three papers at the annual Computer Society of Iran Computer Conference (CSICC 2005), which his colleagues and PhD students. These include:

- "Evaluation of LSI Indexing in Persian Text Retrieval"
- "XML Document Retrieval with Theory of Human Plausible Reasoning"
- "Application of Human Plausible Reasoning in Development of Question Answering Systems" ^{ms}

Working Paper Series...

Thirty-eight working papers have been published to date in the Working Paper Series. Abstracts are available on

the Research website: www.uowdubai.ac.ae/research Contributions to the Working Paper Series are welcome. Please contact **Dr Swapna**

Koshy, the Working Paper Series Co-ordinator, if you wish to make a submission to the series. ^{ms}

UOWD Research Committee Update

Dr Ohan Balian from the Executive Office is the newest member of the UOWD Research Committee. Dr Balian joins the committee as our external member. In addition to being the Economic Policy Advisor at the Executive Office, Dr Balian is an economist with the United Nations Development Program. His primary interest lies in bridging the gap between policy

makers and the policy analysts using state-of-the-art modeling techniques. We would like to use this opportunity to welcome Dr Balian to the Research Committee and UOWD.

The UOWD Research Committee meets on a regular basis approximately every eight weeks. The meeting agendas, minutes

and other related documents can be viewed online on the Staff Intranet (secure.uowdubai.ac.ae). Once you have logged in, click on the For Academic Staff link and select Research from the list of options. This page will be updated shortly with additional information including new policies, forms and procedures. ^{ms}

Book Contract

Dr Lejla Vrazalic and Dr Robert MacGregor (University of Wollongong, Australia) signed a contract earlier this month with IDEA Group Publishing (USA) to write book about e-commerce in regional small to medium enterprises (SMEs). The book is based on an ongoing, five-

year research study of e-commerce adoption and use in SMEs located in regional areas of developed countries, including Australia, the USA and Sweden. Of interest to researchers and policy-makers alike, the book is expected to be published in September 2006. ^{ms}



Source:
http://www.trentu.ca/continuing/insidet_courses_t_courses/images/writing.jpg

Dubai Economic Research Awards: *Deadline extended to November 2, 2005!*

The Dubai Economic Research Award (DERA) is a joint initiative of the Department of Economic Development and Zayed University, which aims to promote knowledge transfer between universities and public policy makers, to support the economic growth of the UAE. The award is for "original, applied economic research that makes recommendations for the future development of the UAE" in the following areas (amongst others): finance & banking, industry & trade, education, oil & gas. In addition, general areas such as Dubai's competitive edge, small to medium enterprises, investment climate in the UAE, etc. have been specified.

The competition is open to all researchers (and students!) who are residents of the UAE and the deadline has been extended to **November 2, 2005**. Information about the submission format and the judging criteria can be found at the DED website (www.dubaied.gov.ae) by clicking on the FAQ link in the top right hand corner.

A few **important points** to note if you intend to make a submission:

- Research that has been published prior to 1st December 2004 is not eligible
- Team-based research is acceptable
- Research that deals with the UAE in a marginal or minimal way will not be considered as eligible

Research Training Workshops

Four research training workshops will be held this Autumn session during the common hour on Tuesdays from 1:30 to 2:30pm (timings will change during Ramadan). These are as follows:

- October 11, 2005: 10 Simple Ways to Boost Your Research Track Record
 - October 25, 2005: Getting Published
 - November 15, 2005: DEST Points - What are they?
 - November 29, 2005: Writing Research Grants
- To find out more or register for any of the above workshops, please send an e-mail to research@uowdubai.ac.ae



And the prize is...

The cash prizes for 1st, 2nd and 3rd places are Dhs 50,000; 20,000; and 10,000 respectively for general researchers and Dhs 10,000; 6,000 and 4,000 for students.

This award is an excellent opportunity for UOWD academics to showcase their research and all academic staff are encouraged to consider making a submission to the Award.

RESEARCH PAGES "CLICK"!

According to the latest statistics from our webmaster, the UOWD research pages on the web (www.uowdubai.ac.ae/research) had no less than 2033 'hits' in the (quiet!) month of August! The pages are ranked 15th on the list of Most Requested Pages on the UOWD website.

SPECIAL MENTION

The UOWD Research Committee would like to express its gratitude to the webmaster, Mr Mohammad Fallaha, for his ongoing and professional support with the research website.



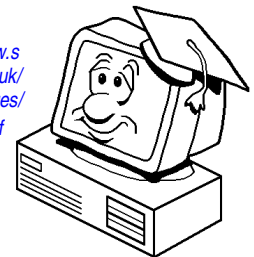
my current research deals with finding a show with both a laugh track and humor so far i have failed

Source: www.toothpastefordinner.com

IBM Fellow

Dr Mohamed Salem has just returned from Toronto where he participated in the activities of IBM's Centre for Advanced Studies (CAS) as a Research Fellow. CAS was established at the IBM Toronto Lab in 1990 with the aim of developing links between research communities and IBM. CAS works together with academic institutions, and other research groups on various projects related to the products developed at the IBM Toronto Lab. Dr Salem was invited by CAS to participate in these projects earlier this year.

Source: <http://www.ussex.ac.uk/srac/images/scholar.gif>



Economics Working Paper Series

The Economics Discipline at the University of Wollongong (Australia) has an active Working Paper Series which may be of interest to academics in the College of Business. All of the papers can be downloaded from the website (www.uow.edu.au/commerce/econ/wpapers.html) dating back to 1990.

In Other News

Dr Sami Khedhiri and Dr Naeem Mohammad are currently undertaking a study that explores the relationship between the development of the financial sector and the long-term economic growth in GCC countries.

Dr Ghassan Al Qaimari's research into location awareness applications in wireless devices, undertaken in collaboration with Telstra Research Labs (Australia), was reported in an article published by The Age newspaper in Melbourne. Dr Al Qaimari has also been selected as a member of the International Association of Science and Technology for Development (IASTED) technical committee.

Dr John Simpson was invited to present a seminar at The Executive Office this month on the topic of "Volatility in the Dubai Stock Market". Dr Simpson also continues to write the regular column "Banking on Simpson" for the Emirates Evening Post.

ENDNOTE Manage Your References FOR FREE

EndNote is a database that allows the user to store and manage bibliographic references. Users can also import data files saved from online sources, CD-ROMs or our library databases. This greatly simplifies management of your references in research papers and theses.

UOWD library has the **EndNote version 7** software for loan. Under the terms of our licence, borrowers are able to freely download the software onto their own computers and thus be able to use this useful referencing tool. Both staff and students are entitled to borrow and use the EndNote software, which is located at 025.002855 EN DN in the Main (shelf) section. Installation instructions are on the pack.

There is an online tutorial to learn how to use EndNote on the UOW Australia Library website: "Help/Teach yourself/Library guides & tutorials/EndNote" www.library.uow.edu.au/help/training/tutorials/index.html

For more information, please contact Jane Whiteside at the Library.

Refereed Conferences: CFPs

Joint 8th IEEE Conference on E-Commerce Technology (CEC' 06) and 3rd IEEE Conference on Enterprise Computing, E-Commerce and E-Services (EEE' 06)
26 to 29 June 2006; San Francisco, USA
Website: <http://linux.ece.uci.edu/cec06>

CFPs *continued...*

Deadline for submissions: 9 December 2005

International Conference on Business and Finance 2005
22 to 23 December, 2005; Hyderabad, India
Website: www.icfai.org/icbf2005
Deadline for submissions: 1 October 2005 (abstract); 31 October 2005 (full paper)

5th Global Conference on Business & Economics

6 to 8 July, 2006; Cambridge University, UK

Website: www.facultyforum.com/gcbe
Deadline for submissions: 30 November, 2005

2nd International Business Research Conference
5 to 8 December, 2005; Sydney, Australia
Website: www.worldbizconference.com
Deadline for submissions: 28 October 2005

For more CFPs sign up for alerts at www.conferencealerts.com ■

CALL FOR REVIEWERS

Interested in staying at the cutting edge of research in your field? Then sign up to become a reviewer! There are a number of journals and conferences that require experts to review papers in their fields every year. Not only does this provide you with an opportunity to read research before most other academics, it also develops and hones research skills. If you are interested in becoming a reviewer, the following journals have made a "Call for Reviewers":

- International Journal of Electronic Business
- International Journal of Information and Computer Security (IJICS)
- International Journal of Information Policy and Law (IJPL)
- International Journal of Internet and Enterprise Management (IJIEM)
- International Journal of Internet Marketing and Advertising (IJIMA)

To sign up as a reviewer, go to <http://140.138.148.205/JMS> and follow the "Reviewer" link. ■

RESEARCH RESOURCES

Here's a sample of what you can find in the Library to help with your research:

- Research methods for business and management (650.072 GA RE)
- Survey research methods (300.72 FO SU)

- Basics of qualitative research: Techniques and procedures for developing grounded theory (300.72 ST BA)
- **Surviving your dissertation: A comprehensive guide to content and process**

(808.02 RU SU)

Are there any useful research resources that you know of, but our Library doesn't hold? Fill out a Library Acquisition Form (available on the Staff Intranet) and forward it to the Library Committee. ■



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