SIG Writing Newsletter

Winter/Spring 2012

Event: SIG Writing Conference 2012 (July)

We are only five months away from our biennial Conference! Following a very successful thread of 12 inspiring European cities, this time we'll be meeting in Porto, Portugal. Replies to proposed presentations will be sent out by mid March.

Registration will open soon, early bird registration will be available until May 11. Please register as soon as possible and do not forget to book a hotel. Following Heidelberg we keep the same price for regular members (220 €) and offer a reduced fee for PhD students (150 €). We'll be awarding some travel grants for PhD students presenting their research at the conference.

The keynote speaker at the SIG Writing Conference 2012 will be John R. Hayes. We feel very honored that he accepted to deliver the keynote in Porto.

We are initiating the John R. Hayes Lecture which, at each SIG Writing Conference, will be given by the previous recipient of the John Hayes Award. We are delighted to announce that the first Hayes Lecture will be delivered by Ronald T. Kellogg, who received the Hayes Award in 2010 in Heidelberg.

Get ready to attend our largest SIG Writing Conference ever!

URL: `http://www.fpce.up.pt/sigwriting2012/`

SIG Writing Logo

Have you noticed the logo in the upper left corner of this newsletter? It's our new logo! We thank Michele Pieretti, who created it.

New Version of Inputlog

There is a new version of Inputlog 5 available (version 5.0.24 dated February 2012). The main changes in this version are: guided installation procedure; a language component in the record-functionality to be used in the linguistic component that will be added later this year; product-process ratios in the summary analysis; more possibilities to filter your data (e.g. time filters); batch processing of the analyses; optimization of replay and S-Notation. You can also find some new videos on the website.

URL: `http://www.inputlog.net`

COST: Training School in Potsdam (March)

The Training School "Multilevel Modelling in Eye-Tracking and Keystroke-Logging Research: Hands-on-Training" is to be held at the University of Potsdam (Germany) from March 28 to 31, 2012.

The Training School aims at providing intensive training on Multilevel Modelling using statistical software on datasets gained from combined Eye-Tracking and Keystroke-Logging experiments.

COST: Training School in Poitiers (April)

The Training School "Mastering *Eye and Pen* software for studying handwriting in real time" is to be held at the laboratory CeRCA-CNRS in Poitiers (France) from April 10 to 12 2012; in collaboration with the MSHS-CNRS and the University of Poitiers.

The Training School aims at providing intensive training in the Eye & Pen software with practical experience. This software allows the study of handwriting in real time, combining eye and graphomotor movements recording.

COST: Training School in Padua (April)

The Training School "Assessing in writing difficulties: methods, tools and measures for the analysis of the product and the process" is to be held at the Department of Developmental Psychology in Padova (Italy) from April 17 to 19, 2012. An International Day on Writing Research, in honor of Pietro Boscolo, will follow on April 20th. Attendance to the Writing Day will be free and will not require subscription fees.

The Training School aims at providing intensive training in the use of direct and indirect methods for the assessment of writing difficulties (related to poor writing, LI, deafness, dyslexia, and dysgraphia). The trainees will have the opportunity to analyze and discuss technics and methods in the measurement and analysis of the writing process and product of writers with writing difficulties. All the levels at which writing difficulties can be analyzed will be considered: sublexical, lexical, sentence-level, and textual. The assessment of writing skills across genres and languages will be also discussed.

Event: CL&W 2012

The "Second Workshop on Computational Linguistics and Writing (CL&W 2012): Linguistic and Cognitive Aspects of Document Creation and Document Engineering" will take place in Avignon (France) as co-located event of the "13th Conference of the European Chapter of the Association for computational Linguistics" on April 23, 2012.

The workshop aims to provide an overview of current developments in the area of computational linguistics for authoring aids, and an overview of recent advances in writing research. It brings together researchers from writing research and computational linguistics to stimulate discussion and cooperation between areas of research.

Registration is open and you can see the list of accepted papers.
URL: `http://lingured.info/clw2012`

JOWR: Special Issue on Writing and Gender

The third issue of the third volume of "The Journal of Writing Research" is available online. It is a special issue on Writing and Gender, edited by Shelley Stagg Peterson and Judy M. Parr. It focuses on gender patterns in what and how students write, cognitive and sociocultural factors influencing gender differences in student writing, and attempts to provide alternatives to stereotypical gender patterns in student writing.

The special issue includes an introduction and four papers:

"Gender and literacy issues and research: Placing the spotlight on writing" by Shelley Stagg Peterson & Judy M. Parr, pp. 151-161

"Mapping the landscape: Gender and the writing classroom" by Susan Jones, pp. 161-172

"Children's gendered ways of talking about learning to write" by Nora Scheuer, Montserrat de la Cruz, Ana Pedrazzini, María Sol Iparraguirre & Juan Ignacio Pozo, pp. 173-192

"Girls, identities and agency in adolescents' digital literacy practices" by Dimitrios Koutsogiannis & Vassiliki Adampa, pp. 193-209

"Is it differences in language skills and working memory that account for girls being better at writing than boys?" by Lorna Bourke & Anne-Marie Adams, pp. 211-239
URL: `http://jowr.org/current.html`

New newsletter editor

Since 2012 I am the newsletter editor. My name is Cerstin Mahlow, currently I work at the University of Basel. I am a computational linguist by training. My research interests include the role of writing tools in the writing process, resources of natural language processes to support authoring, and document engineering. I joined SIG Writing in 2009.

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European Association for Research on Learning and Instruction