

**Conference Attendance report template - to be sent to gertrud@internetcz.net.nz  
1 month after attending the conference**

Grant reference number:	# CANov2016003
Name of recipient and contact details	<i>Please include mobile and email</i> Dr Edgar Pacheco <a href="mailto:e.pacheco1000@gmail.com">e.pacheco1000@gmail.com</a> 0210760480
Name of organisation (if applicable)	n/a
Name, date and location of conference attended	CONF-IRM Democratization and Participation: People's Roles in the Digital World, Santiago, Chile. 17-19 May 2017.
Amount of funding received	\$2,670.00 + GST
<i>Budget details</i>	<p><i>List a breakdown of any expenditure to date and compare it with your expected expenditure</i></p> <p><b>Expected expenditure:</b> Flight tickets - \$1,700  Conference registration - \$620  Accommodation - \$350</p> <p><b>Factual expenditure:</b> Flight tickets - \$1,722 (NZ dollars)  Conference registration - \$570 (US dollars)  Accommodation - \$450 (US dollars)</p> <p><i>Have you achieved what you expected to achieved and with this spend? (If "No", please provide more details)</i> Yes, I presented a research paper at Conf-IRM2017. The grant helped me to pay for main costs of attending the conference in Chile.</p> <p><i>Please account for any areas of overspend or underspend.</i> There was an overspend of approx. \$490 in part because costs of conference registration and accommodation were in US dollars. I realised about these costs being in US currency after I submitted my conference</p>

	grant application to InternetNZ. I also had to stay one more day due to fly availability. I will not request reimbursement for extra costs.
What were the highlights of the conference?	<p><i>Favourite sessions, contacts made, etc</i></p> <p>I presented a research paper based on the findings of my doctoral thesis. The article was entitled <i>The role of ICTs in students with vision impairments' transition to university</i> and it was well-received in the conference. The article will be available soon at the Association of Information Systems' eLibrary (<a href="http://aisel.aisnet.org/conf-irm/">http://aisel.aisnet.org/conf-irm/</a>)</p> <p>There were several interesting sessions I attended. The one that I enjoyed the most was the Journal Editor Panel. Presenters were all well-reputed scholars from around the world. For an early career researcher as myself, the session was useful as I got a better understanding about getting published in high-ranked academic publications.</p> <p>Research topics presented at the conference were diverse although Big Data and the Internet of Things were dominant. It was useful to know what other researchers are doing and how they are approaching these topics methodologically and epistemologically.</p> <p>I also make some connections with researchers from Latin America interested in topics related to new technologies in education and the current projects I am conducting. Hopefully new opportunities for international collaboration will emerge from networking with researchers from Mexico, Brazil, and Chile.</p>
What were the lowlights of the conference?	<p><i>What would you do differently?</i></p> <p>Overall, the conference met my expectations, however the only lowlight was the lack of diversity in the use of research methodologies and philosophical paradigms among researchers. It was not an issue of the conference per se but a personal choice of each researcher. During the conference, journal editors called researchers to apply in the future innovative approaches such as design science.</p>
Was their media coverage or media-worthy content at the Conference?	<p><i>Please note that report/s might be included in a media release if applicable. Is there any information in this report that is not publicly available?</i></p> <p>It was a conference aimed at scholars and researchers. While there was some coverage from local media, the organisers would had used platforms such as social media to attract more attention.</p>