

Conference Attendance 1 2018/19

Post Conference report

Application 00010 From Dr Kathleen Kuehn

Conference Report

Conference attended

Hawaii International Conference on System Sciences (HICSS)

This question is read only.

Location of the Conference

Maui

Start Date

08/01/2019

Must be a date.

Finish Date

11/08/2018

Must be a date.

What were the highlights and main takeaways of this conference?

The highlights were the diversity of the presentations on offer. I learned quite a bit about the scope of international research taking place on issues pertaining to digital media. I gained quite a bit of insight about international movements taking place around digital rights. A highlight included ethnographic work conducted by a professor working in the low-income neighborhood of Camden, New Jersey, that explored African-American youth and how they negotiate privacy. I also gained valuable insight into some of the coping strategies youth adapt after suffering from online interpersonal rejection, which I believe can inform some of the work being done in NZ on cyberbullying and digital harmful communications.

What were the favorite sessions, any contacts you made, etc.

What were the lowlights of the conference?

Generally the conference was too big and the focus was much more on IT from a technical standpoint than a political or cultural standpoint. This was quite disappointing given that's not how the tracks were represented in the conference material or promotion. The presentations were also incredibly short - 10 minutes max - and often did not leave enough time for meaningful discussion. I was disappointed too that the social and networking events were so large that it was difficult to find many of the people you wanted to speak to. Overall, the sheer size of the conference - which initially appealed - was its ultimate downfall.

What would you do differently?

How will you plan to share your learnings with the New Zealand Internet Community?

I will be using some of the ethnographic work and the work being conducted on fake news and its automation in a course I'm teaching: MDIA 104: Social & Interactive Media. I will also be giving a seminar for Victoria International to foreign exchange/study abroad students in the next trimester that will also share some of the research findings on dataveillance and fake news, as well.

We'd love to see some visual and audio representations of your work. Please share below.

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Upload files: *No files have been uploaded*

and/or

Provide web link: Must be a URL

and/or

Provide additional details: I did not present at the conference but I am happy to supply a video of the lecture(s) I give that incorporate this information at a later date.

Please include captions, if relevant

Can we use your media content in our own communications? Yes No Please contact us first
e.g. in our annual report, social media

Financial Report

* indicates a required field

Project Income & Expenditure

Please provide details of any project income (funds received) and project expenditure (funds spent) to date.

Use the 'Notes' column to provide any additional information you think we should be aware of.

Income Description	Income Amount (\$)	Notes
InternetNZ Conference Attendance Grant	\$3,589.00	Award total
Can be grants, donations, personal funds etc.		

Expenditure Description	Expenditure Type	Expenditure Amount (\$)	Notes
Return flights	Flights *	\$1,709.18	WLG to Hawaii

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Conference Fee (post-early bird)	Conference registration fees	\$1,142.30	As the funds were not distributed in time, I missed the early bird registration I based my grant funding requests on
Rental Car	Other expenditure (add note please)	\$339.64	The conference hotel rooms sold out before the grant deposited to my account so I had to stay off-site, which required a rental car
Airport transfer	Other expenditure (add note please)	\$50.00	Between home & WLG airport
Accommodation	Accommodation	\$1,083.32	Off-site accommodation from 8-11 Jan
Accommodation	Accommodation	\$350.93	Before/after conference accommodation (cheaper, but much further from conference site) 7-8 Jan & 11-13 Jan

Income and Expenditure Totals

Total Income Amount	Total Expenditure Amount	Income - Expenditure
\$3,589.00 This number/amount is calculated.	\$4,675.37 This number/amount is calculated.	-\$1,086.37 This number/amount is calculated.

Have you experienced any issues with your intended project budget to date? If so, please explain reasons for any major variances or for providing incomplete information:

Overall, this has been a somewhat disappointing experience as I ended up spending significantly more personal funds than expected, largely due to circumstances related to the late receipt of conference funds from InternetNZ. I submitted my invoice to InternetNZ shortly after confirmation of the award on 15/10/2018, but the conference grant was not deposited into my bank account until 12/12/2018. After following up multiple times, I was informed by InternetNZ on 30 November (6 weeks after submitting my invoice) that "your invoice was missed out with the scheduled payment run" and I'd have to wait until the following pay period to receive it. When applying for the Conference Grant I should have anticipated that the Dec/Jan holiday season is a peak travel period in Hawaii, but this was not really on my mind in August 2018. However, the delay in receiving the funding meant that the original prices of the flights and accommodation I quoted in my grant application rose far more than I would've anticipated. Further, the conference hotel rooms were entirely booked out, which forced me off-site into one of the few remaining Air B & B

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accommodations I could afford (a much cheaper option than the few hotels left). In turn, off-site accommodation also required hiring a car to travel to the conference location which was not accessible by public transportation (I did not originally account for needing a rental car in my grant application since I'd planned to stay on-site). The payment delay also meant I missed early bird registration, so the fees associated with conference registration were also much higher than I originally anticipated/requested.

By November I couldn't reasonably wait anymore so I purchased everything out of pocket. This was extremely stressful during the holiday period, especially with a partner who has children going on school holidays. Being \$4600 in the hole at Christmas caused a lot of financial strain and ultimately I regret applying for the conference as a result. However, had I waited to book everything after the funds were distributed on 12/12/2018, I don't think I would've been able to even attend at all (given the prices by that point). While I really appreciated the opportunity to attend HiCSS but the reason I'd never attended before was due to cost. I spent an exceptional amount of personal funds that could have been offset (at least somewhat) by timely payment of the grant. The above also does not even include food, petrol, airport transfers and incidentals!

Feedback

Feedback

You are almost at the end of our application process. Before **submitting** your application, please take a few moments to provide some feedback.

Please indicate how you found the acquittal process:

Very easy Easy Neutral Difficult Very Difficult

How many minutes in total did it take you to complete this form?

75

Estimate in minutes (i.e. 1 hour = 60 minutes)

Please provide us with your suggestions about any improvements and/or additions to this form that you think we need to consider:

I think the form is the least of your concerns...!