Guest Editorial

From the Interdisciplinary Conference of AHLiST 2011 Conference Program Chair

The 2011 Interdisciplinary Conference of AHLiST (Association of History, Literature, Science and Technology) was coordinated by researchers from different disciplines across the United States (University of Houston, Georgia Southern University, and Purdue University), and Spain (Universidad Complutense de Madrid, SLU-Madrid, and, Universidad of Nebrija). The 2011conference held its second interdisciplinary conference at University of Houston, Texas, from May 20 to May 22, 2011.

The Association of History, Literature, Science and Technology (AHLiST) is an organization established in 2008 by interdisciplinary researchers from Cambridge University, Universidad Complutense de Madrid, Universidad Nebrija, Universidad Pontificia de Comillas, Purdue University, Biblioteca Histórica Marqués de Valdecilla and the company DENODO technologies.

The 2011 conference theme, ''Technology and Future'' raises questions such as how technology has shaped contemporary notions of the future and how current concepts of the future will influence technological developments.

Technology has been a driving force of modern and contemporary cultural, socio-economic, and industrial development. Simultaneously, the future has been imagined and predicted by technology or vice versa. The future has not merely been a temporal space but an ideal point in which technology attempts to forecast. From technological utopianism to current anticipations of environmental catastrophe, technology has been the emblematic potential of the future. The 2011 conference aimed to consider distinct ways of thinking about the future, while questioning what is the future, other than the preoccupations of the present that is invoked when we discuss the future.

Our keynote speaker, Dr. John Lienhard, University of Houston, commenced the conference with ''Engines of Our Ingenuity.''   The 2011 AHLiST conference tracks were related to various areas in IS/IT, business (predominantly marketing), literature, communications, and tourism. Among many submitted papers, four manuscripts were selected after a blind peer review process to be presented in the International Journal of Emerging Technology in Learning : iJET.

1. "Future Direction for Next Generation Web" by Young B. Choi, Young Han Choe and Tae H. Oh
2. "Critical Factors and Resources in Developing a Game-Based Learning (GBL) Environment Using Free and Open Source Software (FOSS)" by J. M. Lothian, J. Ryoo
3. "Effect of Web Caching on Load Time" by Emma Tang, Tae (Tom) Oh, Young B Choi and Swapna Kalpagam Subramaniam
4. "The ARICE Framework: Augmented Reality in Computing Education" by Y. Wang, G. Vincenti, J. Braman, and A. Dudley

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