Research in the School of Business IT

The School focuses upon research that is relevant to industry, is collaborative and often cross-disciplinary. Essentially our interest is in addressing industry problems that need to be solved. We are concerned with the design, management and use of IT and knowledge-based information systems set within an organisational, business and societal context. In support of the School research mission, the broad policy objective is to grow the research effort to the point where qualitatively it is the equal of the best in Australia.

Current research activities

Research clusters

The School has two successful clusters of researchers, small teams working respectively in the areas of Business Systems and solutions to business problems and Digital Publishing/Knowledge Management. In both these areas, the School had gained an international presence, something that is reflected in research-led teaching, in publication and presentations at major national and international conferences and in the winning of research grants. Research students doing PhDs and research Masters work within these groups and under the supervision of experienced academic staff.

Current research projects with Industry and Government

Digital Publishing

This is a pioneer, in-depth analysis of the shifting relationships and alliances between key stakeholders in digital publishing, in a context of complexity, rapid technological change and Australian involvement in high value electronic information service markets. Using a multi-staged approach, the project aims to identify the fundamental requirements and expectations of key stakeholders in digital publishing. Investigators: Professor Bill Martin, Assoc Professor Hepu Deng, Mr Paul Merciaca and Dr Jonathan Boymal

Impact of E-Administration on Rural Citizens and Governments in France and Australia

This project aims to investigate the impact of e-administration on rural citizens in Australia and France. It will determine if rural citizens have access to equitable services offered by their governments via technology. This research is funded by the French Embassy in Australia and Academy of the Social Sciences in Australia. Investigators: Professor Mohini Singh RMIT University, Assoc Professor Said Assar and Assoc Professor Olivier Epinette, Institut national des t’l’communications, Evry, France

Health Information Systems Australia and Thailand

Two key projects are underway in Australia which deal with improving the effective communication and storage of collected data and knowledge, one with an Orthopaedic Surgeon and one with an AFL Football team’s medical staff monitoring injuries. Investigators: Professor Brian Corbitt, Dr Konrad Peszynski, Mr Brian Hanisch. In Thailand, two projects on the effectiveness of chronic pain technology for patients and on alignment of medical and business outcomes in hospitals are being undertaken. Investigators: Professor Brian Corbitt, and Dr Pacapol Anurit

Risk Management and Outsourcing of IT and Health Systems

This research focuses on both modelling risk in IT projects and IT outsourcing and on understanding the rationale for outsourcing of IT in all types or organisations and industries. Investigators: Professor Brian Corbitt, Assoc Prof Anne Rouse (Deakin) and Dr Ian Tho (Protivity)

The Application of Knowledge Management and Supply Chains

This project investigates the application of the principles and practice of knowledge management to the circumstances of the supply chain sector. A Melbourne based organisation, GS1 Australia, which is part of a global supply chain consortium and is experiencing rapid growth both in size and in the needs and complexity of its customer base, has commissioned the researchers to investigate some form of knowledge-based response to these challenges. Following a series of interviews and the conduct of a focus group, the team is on course to deliver a knowledge management strategy for the organisation. Investigators: Professor Bill Martin, Dr Alem Molla and Dr Konrad Peszynski

Kevin Leung

Being well-structured, the PhD program provides an excellent and friendly environment for research. Both the academics and students are very committed in their respective fields and a lot of support is provided to help students achieve their aims. In addition, RMIT has strong industrial contacts and hence, most research projects have direct application to the real world.

PhD Candidate
Key Researchers

Key current researchers and PhD supervisors and their areas of research interest are:

- **Professor Brian Corbitt PhD**: Health Information Systems, IT Policy
- **Professor Ross Smith PhD**: Systems Analysis, Requirements Engineering
- **Professor Mohini Singh PhD**: E-Business and e-govt; IT Evaluation and Governance
- **Assoc Professor Hepu Deng PhD**: Knowledge Management and Decision Analysis
- **Dr Frank Cheong**: DSS, Modelling & Simulation for Business, Data Mining
- **Dr Vanessa Cooper**: Knowledge Management
- **Dr Martin Dick**: IT Adoption, Information Systems Education and HCI
- **Dr Bonna Jones**: Organisation Studies, Process Thinking
- **Dr Peter Macauley**: Doctoral Pedagogy, Information Literacy
- **Dr Elspeth McKay**: Instructional Design, Effective HCI, eLearning
- **Dr Alem Molla**: E-Business Value, Development Informatics
- **Dr Konrad Peszynski**: Supply Chain Mgt, Knowledge Mgt, HealthIS
- **Dr Zijad Pita**: IT Strategy
- **Dr Suzie Prestney**: Museums and Postcolonialism
- **Dr Joan Richardson**: New Technologies in Higher Education
- **Dr Pradip Sahkar**: e-business and e-government
- **Dr Say Yen Teoh**: Enterprise Systems
- **Dr Hossein Zadeh**: Multicriteria Optimization, Expert DSS

Knowledge Navigation Development Training Tool for the Dept. Human Services

The primary aim of this project is to design an interactive Web-mediated training shell. Newly created knowledge-navigation/learning aid tools will be developed for replication and customization by other government departments and business sector organizations. The final online learning architecture will be practical and easy to adapt for the development of other training/learning systems. Investigators: **Dr Elspeth McKay, Nada Banjanin, Anastasia Howat and Prue Madison**

Evaluating the Impact of ICTs on the Livelihood of Rural Communities

This project will provide a better understanding of the rural community needs for e-learning, and e-government applications supporting ICTs initiatives, as well as highlight business opportunities in rural Australia. It will identify socio-technical, institutional and digital divide issues for ICT applications in rural Australia and contribute to the development of strategies to enable the rural community enjoy the same benefits of ICT as the urban society. Investigators: **Professor Mohini Singh and Dr Alem Molla**

E-business assimilation and its effects on the growth and export performance of Australian horticulture firms

This research aims to identify how and for what purposes agribusinesses in the horticulture sector use the Internet, the Web and other e-enabling technologies and applications; analyse organisational and supply chain characteristics that are associated with assimilation of e-business; and explore the broad scale impacts of e-business assimilation to the performance (growth and export) of the horticulture sector. **Dr Alem Molla and Dr Konrad Peszynski** investigators:

A hybrid data mining, agent based modelling and evolutionary algorithm approach for setting optimal credit card limits

This project aims to build a Decision Support System (DSS) for setting credit card limits to optimize profits for a major Australian bank. The DSS will model the impact of credit limit changes on key profit drivers such as utilization, attrition, risk, etc based on historical data. The approach used is a combination of techniques from data mining, agent based modelling and evolutionary algorithms. Investigator: **Dr Frank Cheong**

Jobs with a PhD

PhDs with IT industry experience are in high demand for corporate CIO positions, as researchers in large corporations, banks, finance and consulting companies, in technology-based industries and in IT companies and government departments and agencies. PhD graduates are also an essential part of all university IT-based Schools and Departments.

Applications

Application Forms and information about scholarships and fees can be found at: http://www.rmit.edu.au/browse;ID=DR048#entrance_requirements

Contacts:

In the first instance, you should write to any one of the above listed staff whose areas of research interest you. Sometimes some of the supervisors are in high demand but other staff will be able to assist you. If you have a research proposal and don’t have a specific staff member in mind, you should email hepu.deng@rmit.edu.au

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