

# ASSETS 2008 Call for Participation

## Technical Papers

People with disabilities can use Computer and Information Technologies to overcome barriers encountered in day-to-day life, and to participate more fully in society. The ASSETS series of conferences explores the potential of Computer and Information Technologies to support and include individuals with disabilities, and those around them. ASSETS is the premier forum for presenting innovative research on the design and use of both mainstream and specialised assistive technologies by people with disabilities. Sponsored by the Association for Computing Machinery (ACM) and its SIGACCESS Special Interest Group on Accessible Computing, ASSETS single track and friendly atmosphere make it the ideal venue to meet researchers, practitioners, developers and policy makers to exchange ideas, share information and make new contacts.

High quality, original submissions on topics relevant to computers and accessibility are invited. This includes the use of technology by and in support of:

- Individuals with hearing, sight and other sensory impairments
- Individuals with motor impairments
- Individuals with memory, learning and cognitive impairments
- Individuals with multiple impairments
- Older adults

Submissions should present novel ideas, designs, techniques, systems, tools, evaluations, scientific investigations, methodologies, social issues or policy issues relating to:

- Assistive technologies that improve day-to-day life
- Assistive technologies that improve access to mainstream Computer and Information Technologies
- Innovative use of mainstream technologies to overcome access barriers
- Accessibility and usability of mainstream technologies
- Identification of barriers to technology access that are not addressed by existing research

Where relevant, work that includes empirical data from the target user group is strongly preferred. Technical Papers Submission Procedure

Technical Papers should be a maximum of 8 pages long, in the ACM conference format. Accepted technical papers will be presented at the conference and will appear in the conference proceedings. Authors of the

best papers will be invited to submit extended versions to a special issue of ACM Transactions on Accessible Computing (TACCESS).

All submissions will be peer-reviewed by an international panel. Submissions **MUST** contain substantial original, unpublished material. Please refer to the ACM policy on plagiarism for guidance.

When submitting to ASSETS, please be aware of submission and notification dates. If you require further information, please Contact the Chairs who will be more than happy to help.

Authors who have never published at ASSETS can request a mentor. Mentors will be experienced ASSETS contributors, who can help authors to improve their submissions. See the mentor programme page for more information.

The technical paper submissions also allow the author to respond to the reviewers comments before a final decision on acceptance is made. This gives the opportunity for authors to clarify key points in their work that may have been misinterpreted by the reviewers. The reviewers can then explain their comments should a rebuttal have been made.

## Posters and Demonstrations

Submitting a poster or a demo is an ideal platform for researchers and practitioners to present their work and receive valuable feedback. Participants are invited to submit high-quality posters and demonstrations presenting novel ideas, designs, techniques, systems, tools, evaluations, scientific investigations, methodologies, social issues or policy issues relating to any topics that may be of interest to the accessibility community.

A poster is a great way to test new ideas, generate interest in a research area, or describe useful or interesting work that is not substantial enough for a full paper presentation. A demonstration is a great way to communicate inventive accessible computing and IT technologies in action.

Submissions are limited in length to a 2 page extended abstract and must be formatted using the ACM conference format. Proposals will be reviewed, and accepted proposals will be included in the conference proceedings. Each accepted poster will receive sufficient space for presenting a poster. The author must bring the printed poster in size A1 as we are unable to print it. Each accepted demonstration will receive a table and a power outlet (USA standard). We cannot supply participants with computers, audio/video equipment or projectors. There is no security and no insurance.

All submissions will be peer-reviewed by an international panel. Submissions **MUST** contain substantial original, unpublished material. Please refer to the ACM policy on plagiarism for guidance.

When submitting to ASSETS, please be aware of submission and notification dates. If you require further information, please Contact the Chairs who will be more than happy to help.

## Student Research Competition

This year, the ASSETS conference will host the third annual SIGACCESS student research competition (sponsored by Microsoft Research). This is an exciting opportunity for students to participate in an ACM conference and get visibility for their research.

Students wishing to participate submit abstracts of their work, and up to 25 entrants will be selected for the competition. Qualifying research must deal with issues related to computing and information technology to help persons with disabilities. Selected students will receive partial support from ACM to attend the conference. At the conference, entrants will display a poster and make a brief presentation to a panel of judges. A small number of semi-finalists will be chosen by the judges to present their work in a conference session, and of those up to three undergraduate and three graduate students will be designated finalists by the judges, and entered in the Grand Finals of ACM's Student Research Competition.

Entrants must be undergraduate or graduate students, and members of ACM. Entrants must be sole authors of their abstracts and posters. Work accepted as a full paper for one of the technical sessions of the conference cannot also be considered for the Student Research Competition. Students having a technical paper, however, are encouraged to submit other research to the Student Research Competition.

Please note that the judges will look more favourably on complete, or nearly complete, work than research which is still in its early formative stages. Students at, or near, the outset of their work in this area are encouraged to submit to the Doctoral Consortium instead.

Note: Upon request, American Sign Language interpreters will be provided for the Student Research Competition and all other ASSETS events. Requests for an interpreter must be indicated on the conference registration form when registering for ASSETS 2008. Student Research Competition Submission

The ACM Student Research Competition (SRC) is an event open to undergraduate and graduate students, interested in presenting their research to a panel of experts. Students wishing to participate submit abstracts of their work. Qualifying research must deal with topics that are relevant to the mission of the ASSETS series, as described by the call-for-papers. Preference will be given to work which has been completed (or close to completion), and not submitted for presentation as a regular technical paper. Selected students will receive partial support from ACM to attend the conference. At the conference, entrants will display a poster and make a brief presentation to a panel of judges. A small number of semi-finalists will be chosen by the judges to present their work in a conference session, and of those up to three students will be designated finalists by the judges, receive cash prizes and award certificates from the ACM, and a chance to compete in the SRC Grand Finals, whose winners will be recognised at the Annual ACM Awards Banquet.

Abstracts must be formatted using the ACM conference format. Abstracts should be formatted for letter paper size (8.5" by 11") and should be a maximum of 2 pages long, including all figures, tables and references. Submissions MUST contain substantial original, unpublished material and be submitted in PDF format

## Doctoral Consortium

The Tenth International ACM SIGACCESS Conference on Computers & Accessibility (ASSETS 2008) invites doctoral students to apply for the Doctoral Consortium. The consortium provides a great opportunity to doctoral students to share and discuss their research with other students and a panel of established researchers. The consortium has the following objectives:

- Provide a forum for students to present their current research and receive feedback
- Promote contacts among doctoral students working in similar areas
- Support students with information and advice on their research

The Consortium will be held on Sunday 12 October 2008 in Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada. Approximately 10 students and four faculty members will be invited to attend and discuss each student's work in turn. Students will present their work during a poster session dedicated to the work of the Doctoral Consortium participants that will take place during the main conference.

Please note: the purpose of the Doctoral Consortium is to provide feedback to Doctoral candidates at an early stage of their research, to help guide and shape their research program. Student work that is complete, or near to completion, should be submitted as either a technical paper or poster.

Students submitting papers for the Doctoral Consortium may submit a different (and more complete) piece of work for the Student Research Competition, but may not submit the same work to both the Doctoral Consortium and the Student Research Competition.

Additional note: Upon request, American Sign Language interpreters will be provided for the Doctoral Consortium and all other ASSETS events. Requests for an interpreter must be indicated on the conference registration form when registering for ASSETS 2008.

The best Doctoral Consortium contribution will be chosen by a panel of established researchers by looking at the quality of both the research and the presentation given at the consortium. The winner will give a presentation at the main conference to address all conference delegates (details will be announced later).

### How to Apply

We encourage submissions from current graduate students pursuing a PhD project related to accessibility (for more information about topics see the main conference call. Participants would benefit from detailed discussions of their doctoral research by a panel of established researchers. The consortium will operate in a workshop format, providing feedback on the participants' current research and guidance for future progress.

### Doctoral Consortium Submission

The Doctoral Consortium contribution will be evaluated against the following criteria:

- Originality of work
- Importance of the work and potential impacts to the accessibility field
- Soundness and correctness of the proposed approach to address the problem

Following the Doctoral Consortium, the participants will be invited to submit revised and updated papers for publication in the January 2009 issue of the SIGACCESS Newsletter. Each Doctoral Consortium application must contain the following materials:

**Project summary:** This must be two pages long in the ACM conference format including: title, author information, abstract, keywords, thesis research summary, and references. This extended abstract has to clearly address:

- The problem that the proposed research is addressing.
- The motivation behind this research including a broad comparison with the related literature.
- The proposed solution including a brief description of the proposed methodology to the solution.
- The status of the progress (what has been done and what needs to be done).
- And finally, the envisioned contributions to the accessibility field.

**Letter of recommendation:** A letter from the primary thesis advisor/supervisor that briefly states what the advisor/supervisor expects from the student to gain from, and to contribute to the consortium.

Submissions should consist of an extended abstract and a letter of recommendation and submitted to the ASSETS 2007 Doctoral Consortium Submission site as a single ZIP file.