

Information Systems and Activity Theory:

Volume 3 Expanding the Horizon

*edited by
H. Hasan, I. Verenikina and E. Gould,*

University of Wollongong Press

First published 2003
by the University of Wollongong Press

Copyright © H. Hasan, I. Verenikina and E. Gould, 2003
Individual © chapters the authors, 2003

All rights reserved. Except under the conditions described in the Copyright Act 1968 of Australia and subsequent amendments, no part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording or otherwise, without the prior permission of the copyright owner.

Cover designed by Robert Hood
Printed by the University of Wollongong Printery

National Library of Australia
Cataloguing-in-Publication data

Information systems and activity theory: volume 3 expanding the horizon

ISBN 0 86418 736X

1. Management information systems - Design - Congresses.
2. System design - Congresses.
3. Information storage and retrieval systems - Business - Congresses.

I. Hasan, Helen. II. Gould, Edward. III. Verenikina, Irina.

651.842

Contents

<u>Introduction</u>	1
<u>Part I Perspectives on Activity Theory</u>	3
1. Vygotsky's Socio-Cultural Theory and the Zone of Proximal Development <i>Irina Verenikina</i>	4
2. Technology as the Object and the Tool of the Learning Activity <i>Helen Hasan, Irina Verenikina, Lejla Vrazalic</i>	15
3. A New Evolutionary Path for Cultural Historical Activity Theory <i>John Findlay</i>	31
<u>Part II Knowledge Management through the Lens of Activity Theory</u>	73
4. Communities as Activity Systems and other such Frameworks <i>Helen Hasan</i>	74
5. Social Learning through Activity Theory <i>Leoni Warne, Irena Ali, Helen Hasan</i>	96
<u>Part III Activity Theory, Usability and the Internet</u>	121
6. The Application of Activity Theory to Web-Mediated Communication <i>Koo-Won Suh, Paul K. Couchman, Jong-Won Park, Helen Hasan</i>	122
7. Exploring Social Interaction in Web-Mediated Communication <i>Koo-Won Suh, Paul K. Couchman, Doo-Hee Lee, Helen Hasan,</i>	141
8. An Activity Theory Approach to Usability: A Theoretical Perspective and Practical Application <i>Irina Verenikina, Edward Gould</i>	156

9. Evaluating Usability in Context: An Activity Theory Based Method <i>Lejla Vrazalic</i>	171
<u>Part IV Activity Theory: Learning and Thinking</u>	193
10. Activity Theory used in an Educational Investigation <i>Mary Coupland, Kate Crawford</i>	194
11. Innovations: Emotions and Thinking <i>Kate Crawford, Kathleen Fittler</i>	218
12. The Application of Activity Theory to investigate Information Seeking Activity: Why Information Seeking is an Activity <i>Joseph Meloche</i>	233
<u>Part V Activity Theory and Business Process</u>	243
13. An Activity Theory Framework for Business Process Modelling <i>G Michael McGrath</i>	244
14. An Activity Theory Approach to Analysing Government Business Process <i>Peter Larkin</i>	262
<u>Contributors</u>	275
<u>Previous Volumes</u>	277