

ECDL Doctoral Consortium 2010

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Introduction

The ECDL Doctoral Consortium provides doctoral students with an opportunity to present research papers in an informal atmosphere whilst still receiving constructive feedback from expert Doctoral Consortium Mentors and from peers. The consortium is also a chance for the students to develop relationships with peers and future colleagues. The doctoral consortium is particularly valuable in providing students with critiques from external experts that they may not encounter within their own institution.

In 2010 eight proposals, each up to ten pages in length, were selected from ten applicants by the Doctoral Consortium Co-Chairs. Applicants were provided with feedback that concentrated on presentational issues and clarity of arguments so as not to pre-empt the advice of the mentors.

The papers presented at the doctoral consortium reflected the high quality of new researchers, the varied topics under consideration and the geographic spread of the discipline. Where concern does arise is in the volume of new researchers coming through to renew the discipline. The number of applicants to a single event is not necessarily indicative of the extent of new researchers, nevertheless, the Co-Chairs were somewhat surprised by the low volume of applicants. Two of the presenters at the ECDL doctoral consortium had also presented papers at the JCDL doctoral consortium. If the discipline is to renew itself then ongoing attention on the nurturing of doctoral talent will be even more important.

The DC Co-chairs are especially grateful to the mentors who gave their advice and comments so willingly:

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