

Invitation to participate in a
Forum to Envision the Future of Learning Technology
Thistle Brighton Hotel
Brighton, England July 4-5, 2009

This forum explores major opportunities for future learning technology research. The goal is to identify the next big computing ideas in education, to achieve open access of global educational resources, and to reuse, repurpose, and share such resources. We will develop a research agenda for various funding agents and produce two documents: one that articulates a broad vision and the other articulates specific research areas, issues and promising directions to reach that vision. These documents are directed at funding agencies and, hopefully, will be turned into funding mechanisms for future research.

During the forum, we will address our challenge with several working groups whose themes will be shaped by the people participating. While these topics and themes may change, we currently see the core issues as:

Wireless, Pervasive and Ubiquitous Learning. Accessing digitized artifacts anytime, anywhere; effectively invisible computing from many computers; augmenting physical space; aggregating across all students; technical, physical and security considerations.

Assessing and Enhancing Learning. Improving human capabilities; building cognitive partnerships; develop instructional databases and digital libraries; educational data mining.

Social Learning. Distributed cognition, learning communities, networking, collaboration, mobile and ubiquitous computing to create seamless social learning.

Intelligent Virtual Environments. Customized instruction; user-models; intelligent tutors; gaming environments; adaptive hypermedia.

Rich Computer Interfaces. Intelligent agents; multimedia; learning companions; teachable agents; detecting and responding to student emotion.

This forum will be held at the Thistle Brighton Hotel, England, starting at 10:00 AM on Saturday, July 4, 2009, and concluding before dinner on Sunday, July 5. The dates are just before the AIED Conference (in the same hotel) and a few days after the UMAP Conference in Trento, Italy.

To join the Forum, please express your interest by sending a recent vita to Burt Woolf. (bwoolf@acad.umass.edu) and indicate "Brighton Future of Learning Technology" in the subject line. Enrollment is limited; please respond as soon as possible. A small registration fee will be charged.

The Forum is part of the Global Resources for Online Education (GROE) project which engages leaders in a worldwide conversation on the future of learning technologies. Principal Investigator is Dr. Beverly Park Woolf, University of Massachusetts Amherst, USA. GROE is funded by the National Science Foundation (NSF) through the Computing Community Consortium (CCC) under the aegis of the Computer Research Association (CRA).