

ICT Capacity Building @ USP ICT Research Grant

Examples (Models) of Research Projects

Presentation by Esther Williams

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- What is the next step?
- Why are the benefits of ICT research?
- What type of research can I undertake?
- What are some examples?
- How do I access assistance from USP's ICT Capacity Building Project?
- Expectations?

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What is the next step?

You will wish to investigate something that will add to our knowledge; make a difference to our lives

Action research or applied research is important

Action research builds projects on the ground and tangible best practices

We need research that emphasises the importance of both theory and application

There is no single model of action research. There are a number of approaches.

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7 principles for ICT4D

Offer concrete solutions

Move at the pace of the community

Learn from mistakes

Localise global communication

Work with gender perspective

Speak with one voice

Generate new knowledge

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Putting people first - benefits?

- Innovation and creative applied research/development offering concrete solutions
- Strengthen and Build Capacities within the region
- Investigate Patterns and Trends - overview the changing ICT needs in the region
- Replication and Multiplier Effects: identifying where ICT can be used to solve real regional development problems, replicating these solutions, and creating multiplier effects learning from mistakes
- Collaborate more effectively

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What type of research can I undertake?

What must you, as a researcher, bear in mind when deciding on a research topic - Scope:

- Research and development into innovative ICT and networking solutions and applications
- Focus on practical and replicable approaches and techniques
- Research on the outcomes and social and economic impacts of specific ICT policies and interventions and application of Internet technologies
- Research on policy matters affecting Internet networking in the Pacific region, especially gender equity, social equity, sustainable communities, and technology diffusion/transfer, and benefits to rural areas
- Research on ICT for use in industry, businesses esp SMEs

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Before you start, You need a vision, for instance:

- Providing accelerated access to ICT for all Pacific Islanders
- Create ICT-enabled environments
- Create e-opportunities that will improve the lives of the rural and urban poor
- Ultimately, ICTs permeates all levels of society

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Some Project Areas which you could consider

- Bridging the digital divide and providing equitable access - focus on rural poor, rural access, overcoming gender divide, connectivity, socio-economic cultural issues
- Developing capacity to deploy ICTs - DE, SMEs, e-business, e-government
- Engaging regional technical engineers - leapfrogging technical adoptions
- Networking innovations - opportunities for south-south ICT4D exchanges
- ICT policy and development

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Some of our research themes

- poverty reduction and ICT (including the MDG)
- education technologies and DE
- rural connectivity and telecommunication community centres
- ICTs and gender issues
- networking
- e-government
- e-commerce
- ICT and SMEs

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• **WSIS Theme for 2003 (World Summit for the Information Society)**

- **Access to ICTs for All**
 - "ensure that the benefits of new technologies, especially information and communication technologies ... are available to all".
- **ICTs as a Tool for Economic and Social Development – Meeting the Millennium Development Goals**
 - "the urgent need to harness the potential of knowledge and technology for promoting the goals of the United Nations (UN) Millennium Declaration and to find effective and innovative ways to put this potential at the service of development for all".

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What are some examples?

I would like to share with you some information on examples as member of the IDRC R&D Grants Committee for Asia and the Pacific.

- Present Grants programme built on IDRC's Pan Asia Networking (PAN) Programme Initiative in October 1997 – The PanAsia RnD Grants Programme (1997-2001)
 - A total of 26 grants were awarded during this period
 - www.panasia.org.sg/grants/awards/
- The new IDRC/APDIP/APNIC/AMIC partnership - 2002 - 2003
 - IDRC, APDIP, APNIC are the principle contributors
 - AMIC manages and administers the Programme

This Committee commits funds ranging from US\$5,000.00 for small projects to US\$30,000.00 for large ones

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- **1st Competition Round (January 2002)**
 - 97 proposals received from 26 countries
- **2nd Competition Round (September 2002)**
 - 103 proposals received from 17 countries
- Thirteen (13) Grants were awarded for 2002
- **3rd Competition Round (February 15, 2003)**
 - 49 proposals received from 20 countries
- Six (6) Grants were awarded in March 2003

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Examples

- Development of ICT Based Telemedicine System for Primary Community Healthcare in Indonesia Biomedical Engineering Laboratory, Institute Teknologi Bandung, Indonesia
- Information & Communication Technologies (ICTs) Assisted Learning Tool for the Deaf in Pakistan, Sustainable Development Networking Programme
- Wireless Internet Post Office, IBM India Research
- Jhai Remote IT Village, Jhai Foundation, Lao PDR
- Nepal Internet Exchange, Computer Association of Nepal
- ICT Serving for Agriculture and Rural Development in a Prototype County, China Agriculture University

Jhai Remote IT Village, Jhai Foundation, Lao PDR

- Pedal Power** – where there is no electricity
- Lao Language system
 - Access through Open Source and Wireless Technologies
 - Innovative, Affordable, and Replicable



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Other Examples

- Distance Learning Application of the Solomon Islands People First Network (PFnet), Rural Development Volunteers Association (RDVA), Solomon Islands
- Evaluating the Impact of Universal Access Models, Strategies and Policies in ICTs on Poor Communities in the Philippines, National College of Public Administration and Governance (NCPAG), Quezon City, Philippines
- Diffusion of Information and Communication Technologies in India: Labour Market Implications for Developing Countries, Indian Institute of Information Technology, Bangalore, India
- Leveraging Information Communication Technologies (ICT) Through Weekly Market Centres for Tribal (indigenous) Communities, Satpura Integrated Rural Development Institution (SIRDI), Maharashtra, India

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USP: 1st round of competition 2003 the University received 9 applications. Of these:

One has been undertaken and completed:

Evaluation of Computer Studies Curriculum in Fiji Schools by Esther Williams, Maki Kato and Natasha Khan

Two others being considered:

E-Commerce in the tourism sector in Fiji by Biman Prasad, Shiu Raj, Paresh Narayan

Maximising the benefits of ICT? Multimedia in the South Pacific: Cultural Pedagogy and Usability Factors by

Christopher Robbins, Maraia Lesuma

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Evaluation of Computer Studies Curriculum in Fiji Schools by Esther Williams, Maki Kato and Natasha Khan

Develop recommendations for a model CS/IT Curriculum for Fiji

Methodology:

- Literature search for possible benchmarking
- Questionnaires
- Surveys
- Face to face interviews
- Focus groups interviews
- Meetings with the Ministry of Education staff

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Evaluation of Computer Studies Curriculum in Fiji Schools by Esther Williams, Maki Kato and Natasha Khan

Scope

- 80 schools of the 84 offering CS/IT courses were visited and interviews conducted.
- Three questionnaires were prepared: for students, teachers and stakeholders. Schools were asked to complete the questionnaires as well
- 52% of teachers questionnaires were returned; 72% students and 68% stakeholders

Outputs

- Clear recommendations to the Ministry of Education, Fiji for a way forward for developing a model curriculum for CS/IT
- Establish a network, a webpage, for teachers
- Produce a final Report that will be shared and available

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E-Commerce in the tourism sector in Fiji by Biman Prasad, Shiu Raj, Paresh Narayan

- Collaborative research
- Investigate the expanded use of ICT in and impact on Fiji's tourism industry
- Methodology will include structured questionnaire interviews, data collection.

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Maximising the benefits of ICT? Multimedia in the South Pacific: Cultural Pedagogy and Usability Factors by

Christopher Robbins, Maraia Lesuma

Attempts to determine how educational ICT/Multimedia can be developed so as to be responsive to the particular needs of the region, and to apply these findings to the production of a model educational multimedia project such as an interactive CD-ROM and website.

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There is another that is being developed :

Promoting Open Telecommunication Legislation and Non-Regulatory Environment in Fiji for Improved Economic Growth and Social Development

-comprehensive study and indepth analysis showing that regulation, monopolistic situation in the industry and associated limited bandwidth, expensive and restricted access, unused capacity in the Southern Cross Cable constitute an unacceptable drag on the Fiji economy

What is the impact of telecommunication policies on economic and social development? Will compare Fiji to Tonga and Samoa

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How do I access assistance from USP's ICT Capacity Building Project?

The ICT R&D Grant is for research project funding only, and may not be accessed to cover core or recurrent funding needs such as staff. Grants can be applied for, as follows:

- Grants, up to a maximum budget of FJD\$40,000.00 available over a term not exceeding 12 months.

The second round of applications closes 2nd June 2003

The form is on the website. You must complete the proposal as per the form

If you need further information, contact Kato_m@usp.ac.fj

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Expectations?

Your Questions?