
Editorial: *IJHFE's* first volume

Denis A. Coelho

Human Technology Group,
Department of Electromechanical Engineering,
Universidade da Beira Interior,
6201-001 Covilhã, Portugal
E-mail: denis.a.coelho@gmail.com
E-mail: denis@ubi.pt

Biographical notes: Denis A. Coelho has researched car seat comfort, cognitive engineering of information systems and affective design and has also been interested in management systems, as well as in providing a contribution to the advancement of ergonomic design methods. Having participated in technical design endeavours, focusing on human factors and ergonomics (HFE), he carried out HFE research and made contributions in both industrially developing and developed countries.

This closing editorial for the inaugural volume of the *International Journal of Human Factors and Ergonomics* provides an overview of the actual contents coverage of the papers included in its four issues and compares this with the intended subject coverage of the journal, suggesting a quite complete match. The countries where the organisations of affiliation of the authors of the papers published are located is also listed, and some editorial board member encouraging remarks made at the time of the launch of the journal are commented upon under the light of the complete inaugural volume's content.

With four issues, comprising 18 regular papers (and four other papers which are part of the special issue featured in issue four in combination with regular papers), the inaugural volume of the *IJHFE* is complete. For a first year this has been a seemingly long journey, but looking back at what has been accomplished, it seems fair to say that most of many of the editorial board members' encouraging and forward looking vows, made at the time of the journal's launch, have been achieved. The 'truly international' nature is reflected not only in our multi-cultural editorial board, spanning the five continents, but also in the geographic diversity of this first volume authorship's affiliation encompassing Spain, Ireland, Italy, the UK, Finland, the Netherlands, Portugal, Sweden, the USA, Canada, South Africa, Japan, Indonesia, Singapore, India and Australia. Albeit a fairly recent publication, the *IJHFE* is hence starting to play its intended role and fulfilling its stated aim of providing 'integrated global insights' into human factors and ergonomics theory and practice from around the world.

Subject coverage has also been quite encompassing, even when looked upon on an issue by issue basis. This may be interpreted as a sign of a lively discipline supported, nurtured and developed by a large and vibrant international HFE community.

This first volume features a diverse set of articles. Most of the topics the journal intends to cover are already present in this first issue. This could not have been possible without the dedicated effort of the editorial board members, in submitting manuscripts from their own research teams and in procuring others, and the invaluable support

provided by the very large set of anonymous reviewers, who will be acknowledged in the appreciation of reviewers who performed reviews throughout the year of 2012, which shall be included in the forthcoming first issue of the second volume of the *International Journal of Human Factors and Ergonomics*.

Usability and cognitive ergonomics are addressed in the papers by Ojel-Jaramillo Romero et al. (2012) and by Parlangeli et al. (2012). Training design and design of critical systems is featured in O'Connor et al.'s (2012) contribution, while human-machine systems design is covered by Reiman and Putkonen (2012) as well as by Stone (2012). Pleasure and cognitive engineering approaches to human-technology interfaces were considered by Hartono et al. (2012), Thatcher (2012), van der Zwaag and Westerink (2012) and Camargo and Henson (2012). Modelling human performance and eliciting requirements on technology considering humans in transportation systems are part of the underlying aims of the papers by Fabriek et al. (2012), Scialfa et al. (2012) and Piccinini et al. (2012). Goal driven design of organisational systems was touched upon by Coelho (2012), simultaneously addressing the management of the complex participation of people in their environment, also touched upon by Thatcher (2012), Neto (2012) and by Domingues et al. (2012) addressing organisational design issues. Psychosocial factors are dealt in the first volume of the *IJHFE* by Silva et al. (2012).

Ergonomic tool design was addressed in the contributions to the *IJHFE*'s first volume by Singh and Khan (2012), Löfqvist et al. (2012) and Bano et al. (2012). Physical ergonomics approaches to elicit human requirements on technology were featured by Govindu and Babski-Reeves (2012), while physical ergonomics analysis were carried out and reported on the papers by Nag et al. (2012) and by Dias and Nunes (2012) within an organisational setting.

Hence, this inaugural volume covers most of the topics included in the journal's intended covered contents, as well as, at least in some cases, expanding that coverage, as the papers addressing affective issues in service design (Hartono et al., 2012) and in environmental design (van der Zwaag and Westerink, 2012) demonstrate. This is not at all unexpected from a journal that reports on the research results of a discipline that is growing and expanding, seeking new problems to tackle that involve people, technology and work, or human activity, in order to timely support and propose human centred solutions that are feasible and effective.

Note: Articles referenced in this editorial are listed in the rear cover of this issue.