



Ergonomics & Human Factors 2013

Robinson College
Cambridge
15 to 18 April 2013

It's the New Year and it's full steam ahead to the next IEHF annual conference, Ergonomics & Human Factors 2013. This will take place in the historic city of Cambridge from Monday 15th to Thursday 18th April 2013. Each month we'll provide a little taster of what you'll find there.

Wikipedia – a call to arms

For many, Wikipedia is the destination of choice when we are presented with an unfamiliar term or reference. In the right situation, it's a very useful tool. Well-developed entries contain a succinct definition and description along with a list of more traditional peer-reviewed references for more information.

For others, notably those that have received formal deliverables that reference Wikipedia directly, it can be a source of frustration. One of Wikipedia's greatest strengths, the fact that anyone can add to it, is also one of its weaknesses. The reliability and the quality of the entries can be questionable. Recent cases in the press highlight this issue; a 25 year-old American student was falsely identified as the cofounder of *The Independent* newspaper in the Leveson enquiry report.

When the former editor of *Encyclopaedia Britannica* read the entry 'encyclopaedia' he gave it 5 out of 10, stating that it left him with the "impression that it was written by someone who had no previous knowledge of the subject and who, once he got into it, found it did not interest him very much."

Likewise, when the editor of *Vogue* magazine was asked to look at the entry on 'Haute couture' she found it "broadly speaking inaccurate and unclear", with "few correct facts"

and "every value judgement wrong". Zero out of ten. Not that it matters too much because chances are, by the time you read this, the entries will have changed.

Love it or hate it, with around 600 million page views per day, it is safe to say that Wikipedia will be around for the foreseeable future. Furthermore, at the time of writing, Wikipedia entries are the top hit for Google searches on 'ergonomics' and 'human factors'.

We are mistaken if we think that students aren't going to use Wikipedia and it is our responsibility as a discipline to make sure that the information, and referenced information, is as good as possible. With this in mind, the obvious question is, should we be doing more to participate in the upkeep of the entries that are relevant to our discipline?

If your answer to the previous question was yes, and you are interested in increasing the accuracy and the quality of the entries on the Wikipedia site, we are proposing a session at Ergonomics & Human Factors 2013 in April, in Cambridge, to make some changes. So please come along, armed with your laptop, tablet or smartphone, and help improve the quality of the relevant entries.

Dan Jenkins, Guy Walker & Hina Elton

Dr Dan Jenkins is Research Lead and Dr Hina Elton is a Senior Researcher at DCA Design International. Dr Guy Walker is a lecturer at the School of the Built Environment at Heriot-Watt University.

For full details of EHF2013, visit

www.ehf2013.org.uk



WEP2013

WORKPLACE
ERGONOMICS &
PRODUCTIVITY

1-2 October 2013
Ibis Earls Court
London

If you have an interesting case study involving ergonomics, human factors, usability, wellbeing, performance, etc., in the workplace that you'd like to share with an audience of like-minded professionals, please consider speaking at the second Workplace Ergonomics & Productivity Exhibition.

The Exhibition will be accompanied by two days of presentations in two theatres at the Ibis Earls Court on the 1st to 2nd October 2013. The audience will come

from healthcare, consultancy, retail, manufacturing, education, and be H&S managers and officers, managing directors, ergonomists, occupational health advisors, physiotherapists, osteopaths, H&S consultants and trainers.

Please send any proposals to Sue Hull, email s.hull@ergonomics.org.uk.

For details of WEP2013, visit www.wep2013.org.uk.