

Collaboration support for Joint Modeling and Simulation

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This minitrack aims to share knowledge on the support of and actual development of complex modeling activities. The domain is the design of information systems or other organizationally related systems that allow organizations to function and collaborate more effectively.

The track looks at processes that support collaboration activities and the tools and techniques employed. Modeling, including simulation, is specifically included and approached from two angles. Firstly, how does (joint) modeling as an activity support design? Secondly, how can we support modelers and their modeling activities so that they can be integrated in complex collaboration processes? Here tools or technology as such can figure prominently.

This is reflected in our selection of papers. We start with a presentation that aims to support collaboration between IS-systems and to ensure smooth development and re-design activities. The way that is proposed is to improve version management, hence the title: ‘Joint Reference Modeling: Collaboration Support through Version Management’.

In the second presentation the more technical slant is continued. It is a common problem that integration of models that, sometimes are designed in slightly different languages, lead to information losses. If that happens where there is ample redundancy the problem can be ignored. What is more important is to find a way to translate the different languages employed and unify them in such a way that parts of models can be easily inter-changed. In such a way that information loss is minimized or absent. This would create a more easy exchange of information across a range of platforms. An issue that often leads to abandonment of the use of technology at the group or organizational level and therewith the opportunity to make advances in the area’s of effectiveness and efficiency.. A paper that concerns itself with: ‘Information losses within the collaborative integration of different process models – BPML as a XML-based interchange format for BPMN business process models, is a interesting and potentially valuable addition to the literature on data-exchange.

The third paper takes a slightly different angle and concerns itself with the different steps one should take to model Enterprises that are in or are developing collaborative links. Modelling can then help decisionmakers choose between alternatives and help develop a sense of the outcomes and value generated when collaboration would fully ensue. In short the paper offers a: ‘Framework for Establishing Enterprise Modeling in the Context of Collaborative Enterprises’ as the title suggests.

The last paper further explores the (im-)possibilities or constraints that Cognitive Modelling as a technique brings along when applied empirically. It is a highly descriptive piece of work that offers valuable insights to what extent modeling can support meeting work and design the title: ‘Some considerations about cognitive modeling for collective decision support’ is therefore aptly chosen.