

"Proceedings Sharing Program" at CHI 99

Report on the First CHI Proceedings Sharing Program

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The idea was for attendees with extra proceedings to carry them to the Local SIGs booth at CHI the conference. The donations would then be distributed to "needy" local chapters. An Web form was used to track desired proceedings and "pledges". A total of 16 proceedings were donated, which, while less than what was desired, would have been a useful and welcome addition to a few local chapter libraries where access to printed materials is limited.

To my surprise, when I arrived at CHI 99, I found many urgent messages about "what to do about the proceedings". Apparently, to save storage costs, and to phase out inventory of materials that are now in the ACM Digital Library (www.acm.org/dl), the ACM send about 1000 (+/- 200) proceedings from several years of CHI, CSCW, DIS, UIST, IUI, and other ACM HCI conferences. See www.hcibib.org/confer.html for more information.

Every day, volunteers at the booth opened new boxes of proceedings, and attendees, needy or otherwise, were carting off what was arguably too much to carry. I felt like a worker at a charity, scraping up a few dollars here and there, suddenly handed a cheque for a million dollars. I am sure there will never be another sharing program like 1999's because so many years of proceedings were distributed, but the program may continue to help disseminate proceedings to those who need them.

Many thanks to Richard Anderson, Mary Czerwinski, Hans de Graaff, and Dan Zhanping, who volunteered time, support, and/or proceedings. And many thanks to ACM and the SIGCHI volunteers who helped hand out all those proceedings.

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