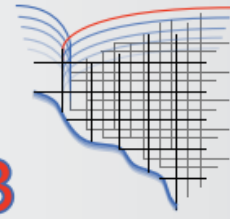


AMCIS CHICAGO 2013



In the summer of 2013, I participated at the 19th AMCIS (Americas Conference on Information Systems) in Chicago, USA. This year, the theme was Hyperconnected World: Anything, Anywhere, Anytime. From my professors, I heard that AMCIS is one of high-ranked conferences and it has a great lineup every year. Fortunately, the paper, which was based on my master thesis and was written with my supervisors` help, got accepted. I felt even luckier that the university provided me financial support to visit the conference. But the list of surprises did not end here, waiting for the departure in Amsterdam I ran through the program guide of the conference and realized that our paper got nominated for the best paper award. What a great feeling when people appreciate your work! AMCIS took place between 15th and 17th of August, but to avoid jetlag and to find budget prices I could spend 6 days in the great city of Chicago. The conference was organized in the building of Hilton Hotel in the city center. The location was very impressive however I have to admit that some of the rooms were not perfect for the event.



On the first day, there were three workshops offered. I wanted to check out the Web2013 Workshop in the morning but I did not manage to register in time and the room was already full. Therefore I used this time to discover the hotel and the locations of the `must see` events. In the afternoon, I joined the IBM workshop, which was held in a way too small room. The topic was some kind of mix of Big Data, Open Data and Business Intelligence, but the presentation was called Smarter Analytics and Big Data. The IBM professionals introduced some problems and showed how their solution can help in these situations. Since the audience of the conference consists of mostly academics, there were several presentations and workshops regarding education and teaching. I did not visit these, but meanwhile had time to talk to the sponsors of the conference. These companies (some big guns such as Microsoft, IBM and SAP and many other US based companies or universities) occupied a big room with their information booths. Everyone tried to give you something here, either a book, or a database list or just a merchandising gift. In the end, I managed to spend more time than expected here. The result was some useful books in topics I am interested in and a few flyers of companies that had something interesting to say.



On the second day, I had to be in the hotel early, because the breakfast started at 7 am, but what is more important was, my paper session started at 8:30 am. The topic of this session was Data Quality and Data Standards Quality and the chairman was Yang Lee from the Northeastern University. We had four presentations here and I was the third to show our findings with the Instant Standard Method. It was exciting to answer the questions of people who have already spent many years with standards and standardization and who were really appreciating the fact that we dared to think out of the box in our proposed method. Since our research ended after the submission deadline of the paper, we already had some new findings that

could be shared and added to the presentation answering the questions. This gave me satisfaction that the final results got presented.

After the paper session, we all went to the best paper and `some more` awards ceremonies. Our paper did not win in the end, but the University of Twente still managed to win a prize thanks to the work of A. Arviansyah, Ton Spil and Jos van Hillegersberg (Evaluating IS/IT Projects: Emergence of Equivocality in Practice). Congratulations to them! Right after the ceremony another presentation started. During this keynote session, Jeanne W. Ross was talking about the hyperconnected business world (The Hyperconnected Business: Hyper-successful or Just Hyper?). Her conclusion was that the scholars have a huge pressure now to show the path for business regarding big data usage and business intelligence techniques. Personally, I think it is odd to expect the business actors to wait till the silver bullet will be designed or the hype will be eliminated by proving that it has less advantages than expected. But the presentation was still interesting using many real case examples.

On Saturday, the panels were all education related so I just checked out a few paper sessions regarding Monetizing E-Business models, How to improve Healthcare solutions and Social Media Researches. I can conclude that all these paper sessions had disappointing and surprisingly interesting presentations as well. My disappointment could have been avoided though if I take the time and read the papers before selecting the visited sessions. I learnt this lesson. In the evening, the conference closed with a social event. We got a free pass to The Art Institute of Chicago and a free drink for the closing garden party.



In general, the conference was a great experience and I am glad that I managed to get in contact with some scholars of the fields I am also interested in. We exchanged business cards and maybe I will find these contact useful later. As a Business & IT student, I think AMCIS is great place to be. The topics of the paper sessions are nicely cover your interest no matter which aspect of BIT you prefer.