Report to Faculty of Information Council

Konstantinos N. (Kostas) Plataniotis, Ph.D., P. Eng.

Professor,   Director - KMDI

February 16, 2010

1. Introduction to KMDI & KMDI leadership (2010-2011) – See 1st attachment
2. Faculty membership list – See 2nd attachment
3. Report on KMDI collaborative graduate program – See 3rd attachment
4. Report on KMDI research activities – See 4th attachment
5. Future research initiatives – See 5th attachment
6. Report on KMDI outreach activities – See 6th attachment
7. KMDI operational summary – Oral report

The Director’s oral report will focus primarily on items (4)-(5).
Attachment 1: KMDI - introduction & overview

KMDI is dedicated to the creative design of the knowledge media that will shape tomorrow and the insightful analysis of the digital media of today. Knowledge media are systems or technologies that aid thinking, creativity, learning, knowledge building, communications, and collaboration. Current interest in knowledge media is typically focused on those that are digital, incorporating computer and communications technology. Examples are the World Wide Web; computer graphics and visualization systems; blogs, wikis, and other social media; courseware management and other eLearning systems; and web-casting and rich media archiving systems. Knowledge media design is the design, deployment, and evaluation of novel knowledge media, and is informed by the thoughtful analysis of the interplay between knowledge media, culture, society, and human values.

The Knowledge Media Design Institute is a multidisciplinary community of over 150 University of Toronto faculty, associates, graduate students, and alumni from the sciences, engineering, social sciences, humanities, and the arts. It comprises individuals from 29 departments, 10 UofT faculties on 3 campuses as well as colleagues from other universities (Cornell University and York University) who have been at U of T and continue collaborations since moving to other institutions. In 2001 KMDI was assigned 66 nasm in the Bahen Building, but currently occupies roughly 3 times this amount through a partnership with Bell University Laboratories and through informal arrangements from other faculty. Its base budget is approximately $115,000, but is currently at an effective level of over $225,000 per year including allocations for the Director, research overhead, and research indirect cost

Since 2002, KMDI has delivered a graduate collaborative M.Sc. and Ph.D. program. There are nine partnering units — the Departments of Computer Science, Curriculum Teaching and Learning (OISE/UT), Mechanical and Industrial Engineering, Medical Science, Sociology, Theory and Policy Studies (OISE/UT), and Visual Studies; and the Faculties of Information (the iSchool) and Architecture Landscape and Design. We are seeking to recruit at least three more partnering departments within the next year, and are actively considering how we could best utilize our expertise in the development of new educational programs sometime in the future, likely around 2012 or 2013.

KMDI currently administers over $1 million dollars. Current major research grant includes the GRAND: NSERC sponsored Network Centre of Excellence (NCE) in Graphics, Animation and New Media (Baecker and Penn, 2010-2015). In 2010, the Designing Digital Media for the Internet of Things (DDiMIT, Matt Ratto) project received $150,000 from the OMDC Creative Clusters fund. Other recent major research grants have included 1) NECTAR, a $5 million, Canada-wide NSERC research network focusing on collaboration technology; 2) CRACIN, the Canadian Research Alliance for Community Innovation and Networking; and 3) Project Open Source / Open Access. In a recent survey 40 KMDI members indicated that they supervise 112 master’s students, 141 doctoral students, and 16 postdoctoral fellows, with an annual research budget of $7.5 M and over 100 partners from other universities, companies, non-profit organizations, and government agencies
KMDI has created and incubated novel knowledge media that have resulted in numerous academic publications and in some software products. A recent example is ePresence Interactive Media (see http://epresence.tv), the world’s first open source interactive webcasting and rich media archiving solution, currently in active use by hundreds of institutions located in five continents.

As an intellectual incubator over the past 13 years, KMDI has brought over 250 hours of innovative academic programming about knowledge media — lectures, panels, and conferences — to the university. Most notable have been The Internet: Beyond the Year 2000, which drew roughly 1000 people to Convocation Hall in 1996; Open Source and Free Software: Concepts Controversies and Solutions, with an attendance of almost 300 in 2004, and finally the recently completed KMDIat13, 2009 series with over 30 U of T speakers.

A. Knowledge Media Design Institute: Executive Committee (2010 – 2011)

Konstantinos N. Plataniotis, Director
Adriana Ieraci, Executive Director
Gerald Penn, Chief Scientist
Peter Pennefather, Director - Outreach Activities
James D. Slota, Director-Collaborative Program

B. Human Resources

New Hires:  Tessa Liem  (part time)
Departures:  Aadila Dosani  (part time)
### Knowledge Media Design Institute (KMDI)

**MEMBERS as of 15 February 2010**

*Highlighting indicates those members from the iSchool*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Affiliation</th>
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<tr>
<td>Joel Alleyne</td>
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<td>Zaheer Baber</td>
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<td>Jeremy Birnholtz</td>
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<td>Clare Brett</td>
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<td>Ron Bulting</td>
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<td>Nadia Caidi</td>
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<td>Leslie Chan</td>
<td>New Media, UTSC</td>
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<td>Mark Chignell</td>
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<td>Andrew Clement</td>
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<td>Mariano Consens</td>
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<td>Nina Czegledy</td>
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<td>Henry Moller</td>
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<td>Matt Ratto</td>
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<td>Brian Cantwell Smith</td>
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<td>Lisa Steele</td>
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<td>David Ticol</td>
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<td>Robert Wright</td>
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<td>Eric Yu</td>
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Attachment 3: Report on KMD collaborative program

Academic Director: Professor James Slota
Director of Collaborative Program: Dr. Barbara Soren

Since 2002, KMDI has delivered a graduate collaborative M.Sc. and Ph.D. program. There are 76 current students and graduates. There are nine partnering units - the Departments of Art/Visual Studies, Computer Science, Curriculum Teaching and Learning (OISE/UT), Mechanical and Industrial Engineering, Medical Science, Sociology, and Theory and Policy Studies (OISE/UT); as well as the Faculties of Information (the iSchool) and Architecture Landscape and Design.

The KMD CP Program Committee consists of representatives of our collaborating units. Program Committee members currently include: Jim Slotta (CTL), Chair; John Danahy (ALD); Steve Easterbrook (CS); Nadia Caidi (FI); Mark Chignell (MIE); Brent Berry (SOC); Megan Boler (TPS), Lisa Steele (VIS); as well as Kostas Plataniotis and Adrian Ieraci representing KMDI.


   We typically make changes to the KMD CP on an annual basis. During 2009-2010, we have been implementing the changes we detailed in our November 2009 report, that is:

   1. A reduced number of requirements for students
      - One less elective for Masters level students
      - No requirements to take KMD 2000 level courses as an elective (i.e., the elective can be an affiliated course within the student’s home unit)
      - Requiring only one core course (KMD1001) and a credit / no-credit seminar (KMD1002)

   2. A requirement of participation in the KMD CP student community
      - An end-of-program portfolio rather than a portfolio as part of a student’s application to the CP
      - Presentation of the portfolio at a student research fair
      - Active student committees, student organizational meetings, and online community

   3. An expectation of expanded enrollment, justified by the reduced program requirements.

2. Preparing for 2009-2010

   Our 2009-2010 courses include:

   - Fall 2009 - KMD 1001, KMD: Fundamental Concepts, co-listed with TPS 1447 – Technology in Education: Philosophical Issues, taught by Prof. Megan Boler in Theory and Policy Studies (21 students completed the course; 12 were KMD CP students and 10 students were from FI)
- Winter 2010 – KMD 2003 / CTL 1926, Knowledge Media and Learning, taught by Prof. Jim Slotta in Curriculum Teaching and Learning (18 students are enrolled in the course; 4 are KMD CP students and 1 student is from FI)
- Winter 2010 - KMD 2001, Human-Centred Design, co-listed with INF 2169, User-centred Information Systems Development was cancelled due to insufficient enrollment. Three KMD CP students who had enrolled in the course are taking KMD 3000, Readings in Knowledge Media, under the supervision of Prof. Ron Baecker (two of these students are FI students in the last semester of their Masters program)
- Spring 2010 – KMD 1002, KMD: Contexts and Practices, will be taught by Prof. Jim Slotta and two PhD students in Curriculum Teaching and Learning.

At our next Program Committee meeting February 25, we will be planning courses for 2010-2011.

3. Ongoing Program Developments

3a. Affiliate courses
   We have contacted affiliate course Instructors and invited them to join the KMD CP Drupal community, The Hub@KMDI (http://hub.kmdi.utoronto.ca/), and complete the Affiliated Course page for their course (i.e., description, contact, and relevance to KMD). All of our affiliated courses have now been added to http://hub.kmdi.utoronto.ca/collaborating-units.

3b. KMDI student community (not just KMD CP) in Drupal
   - We are continuing to populate the Drupal website, Hub@KMDI – it continues to need ongoing testing and monitoring, e-mails, KMDI and CP student support, etc.
   - In continuation of the previous two years, we enrolled students in one of 6 committees during a Student Organization meeting in September. These Committees help coordinate the activities of the student community. Committees are actively meeting, planning activities, and coordinating and promoting events. Working Committees during 2009-2010 include:
     - Information / Curatorial: creating and maintaining a digital layer for the KMD CP / documenting KMD CP student products
     - Academic: enhancing the scholarship experience of KMD CP students
     - Professional / Industry Link: supporting career development and connecting with the alumni community / building professional contacts and maintaining relationships
     - Social: having fun and building our community.

3c. Portfolio process, and updating the KMDI CP student database / spreadsheet
   At the KMD CP Program Committee meeting in October 2009, we continued to develop the criteria for the end-of-program portfolio. We also have met with students completing their Masters programs in 2009-2010 to discuss portfolio requirements with each of them, and how we can work with them on integrating their portfolios into the Drupal site. Student Committees will help to plan a May-June student fair to celebrate the portfolios produced in 2009-2010. And we will communicate decisions to student supervisors.
3d. Expanding the program to other collaborating units

Jim and Barbara are continuing to approach other faculties or departments. Jim has approached the Faculty of Nursing, but they have expressed concern about the lack of motivated faculty, students and courses. We have invited Electrical and Computer Engineering in the Faculty of Applied Science and Engineering to consider becoming a collaborating unit. Barbara has had an initial discussion with the Faculty of Social Work. At our February 2010 Program Committee meeting we will be discussing how to reconnect with existing collaborating units and connect deeply with their programs, students and faculty. We also will continue to talk about getting the KMD CP in shape to help inform any future efforts to expand the program and know more precisely what we are pitching to other units.

4. 2009-2010 Student Enrollments in KMD CP

- Changes to our student enrollments since our November 2009 report are:
  - One PhD student from FI and one Masters student from FI graduated in November
  - Two more PhD students – one from FI and one from CS have completed their dissertations and will be graduating in June 2010
  - Three masters students from FI also are expecting to graduate in June 2010

- 40 students are currently in the KMD CP:
  Masters students:  16 (ALD-3, CS-1, CTL-4, FI-7, MIE-1)
  PhD students:  24 (CTL-10, FI-7, MIE-5, SOC-2)
To graduate, June 2010:  2 (CS-1, FI-1)

- 36 students have graduated from the KMD CP since it began in 2002

- The deadline for KMD CP 2010-2011 applications is May 31, 2010
As we initiated in 2009-2010, we want to draw in as many applicants from our collaborating units as possible. Barbara will ask the contact person in each of our collaborating units (the program coordinators, chairs, or associate chairs of graduate affairs) for the list of admittees who have indicated an interest in the KMD CP on the application to their program, and invite those students who have not already applied to apply for the KMD CP. Then she will cross-check with the list of applicants that she will request from SGS who checked "KMD CP" on their UT application, and send those students who have not yet applied for the CP a reminder to apply with a summary e-mail about the application and program requirements.
A. University of Toronto Digital Media Research Strategy

The development of a University of Toronto Digital Media Research Strategy was initiated in the summer of 2009 by the founder and Director Emeritus of KMDI, Dr. Ron Baecker in response to an absence of a coordinated university-wide effort to secure funding for digital media initiatives proportional to the scale that other institutions were able to secure and in an effort to communicate in a cohesive manner the exciting activities underway both within KMDI and across the three campuses. We consulted widely with our faculty members to better understand what they were interested in working on with us and how we could foster inter-disciplinary collaborations. The work was the culmination of these consultations in addition to the diligent work of a few key theme leaders who through the leadership of our Chief Scientist, Dr. Gerald Penn, have identified exciting opportunities that will build on existing assets here at the university.

The report garnered the written support of:
- Eric Miller, Director, Cities Centre
- Dimitrios Hatzinakos, Director, Identity, Privacy and Security Institute (IPSI)
- Seamus Ross, Dean, Faculty of Information

The report was presented to Dr. Paul Young, the VP of Research at the university and he subsequently presented it to Dr. David Naylor, President of U of T. Both support the proposal.

B. Designing Digital Media for the Internet of Things (DDiMIT)

In the fall of 2009 KMDI worked with Dr. Matt Ratto of the Faculty of Information on a project entitled Designing Digital Media for the Internet of Things (DDiMIT).

The 'internet of things' heralds new opportunities for media content creators. DDiMIT provides a platform for collectively exploring these new possibilities. The project will develop a physical space and tools for hands-on workshops, collaborations and showcase events as well as a virtual space for disseminating the work of local media companies. By sustaining knowledge-sharing & exchange between consortium members and by leveraging ongoing work by university partners, the project will work to build Ontario as a global centre for innovation in designing new digitally-enabled objects and related media. The project will also explore possible models for long-sustainable support for its mission.

DDiMIT is focussed on hands-on collaboration opportunities with small digital media firms in Ontario and has initially focussed on entertainment and content firms interested in developing digital objects to complement their current product offering. The project will provide opportunities to engage all of the expertise available within KMDI including technical, design, and social sciences researchers’ work. DDiMIT activities to date include:
A hands-on workshop delivered in the fall 2009 to teach digital media firms to use Arduino programmable logic controllers and develop sensing devices that send Twitter messages

A roundtable workshop for the magazine industry (scheduled Feb 22, 2010) to identify research opportunities focussed on the future of the printed magazine in light of new devices, augmented reality, availability of data etc..

A hands-on workshop (scheduled for March 2010) to teach digital media firms to build a wearable sensing device

KMDI developed the following proposal to support DDiMIT:

- Ontario Media Development Corporation (OMDC) Entertainment and Creative Clusters Partnerships Fund program to fund a collaboration space and coordinator
  - $150,000 in funding confirmed (announced February 10, 2010)
  - total budget of just under $300,000
  - $77,000 raised in in-kind commitment from partners

- Federal Southern Ontario Economic Development Program (FedDev) to fund workshops and roundtables to identify research opportunities
  - Total request approximately $170,000
  - Total budget approximately $236,000
  - proposal is still under review however most of the program funds have been allotted

- MITACS Elevate program to fund a research coordinator and facilitator for the lab for
  - Total request of $90,000 in funding
  - Total budget $100,000 over 2 years.

Partners in DDiMIT include:
- University of Western Ontario - Laboratory for Humanistic Fabrication
- Interactive Ontario
- Ontario College of Art and Design (OCAD)
- Brock University
- Three S Productions - Home of BunnyEars.tv
- Aesthetec Studio Inc.
- Marblemedia Interactive Inc.
- Torch Partnership Inc.
- Emerging Methods Inc.
In January KMDI led a university-wide initiative for a proposal to the federal Networks Of Centres of Excellence (NCE) Centres of Excellence for Commercialization and Research (CECR) program. The initiative proposed a centre for the commercialization of data which would act as a trusted third party for the collection, curation, management, and distribution of data as well as connect disparate data sets including public data, commercial, user generated and research data. The initiative would leverage data sets already in U of T’s possession, Scinet the high-powered computing facility, the high-speed network across campus and the connection to the ORION and CANARIE networks, and the various research expertise across the university including technical, business, and policy expertise. It was proposed that U of T undertake to coordinate the development of a platform and relationships to make data from a multitude of data sources available in a web services/cyber-infrastructure model.

The opportunities for data, from new research activities, new tools and products, are endless and the Data Commercialization Centre addresses this from two different perspectives:

- What new ideas and opportunities will entrepreneurs and organizations envision in emerging fields at the cross-section of health and environment once data from these fields is unlocked?
- How can data from these fields break out of their silos and be repurposed to solve tomorrow's challenges?

The planned platform is not only technical infrastructure to house and deliver data but also to identify partners with their own data stores and support their efforts in making this available with resources and expertise. (i.e. a researcher in med sciences wanting to make imaging data available to the community but doesn't know web services, xml, or have any resources to do so, a social services organization wanting to share anonymized data for small non-profits to use to identify challenge areas)

The platform also would address issues of ownership, copyright, business model (micro-payments, licensing schemas etc), policy (i.e. public availability of research data), interoperability (XML shemas and data cleaning), and verifiability.

The proposal would have required 50% support for commercialization costs and 25% support for all other costs and raising this level of contribution required significantly more time. As such KMDI will continue its outreach initiatives and coordination of the related research activities within the university in order to prepare for a 2011 CECR application and possible additional applications for other funding programs this year.
KMDI engaged administrative support from across the campus including:

- Peter Lewis, Associate VP Research
- Ron Venter, Interim Assistant Vice-President, Innovations & Partnerships
- Tim McTiernan, Assistant Vice-President, Government, Institutional and Community Relations
- Paul Young, VP Research
- Stewart Aitchison, Vice Dean of Engineering
- Robert Baker, Vice-Dean, Research and Graduate Programs
- Craig Boutilier, Chair, Computer Science
- Ravin Balakrishnan, Associate Chair for Research and Industrial Relations, Computer Science
- Lino Defacendis, Innovations & Partnerships
- Krista Jones, MaRS Innovation
- Joes Liederman, MaRS Innovation
- Charles Lim, MaRS Innovation

The proposal already secured either verbal or written support from:

- Stephen Perelgut, IBM
- Rick Hull, IBM
- Rafi Hofstein, Mars Innovation
- Brian Campanotti, Front Porch Digital
- Tas Venetsanopoulos, Ryerson
- Arvind Gupta, MITACS
Attachment 6: Report on outreach activities

KMDI 2010 Lecture Series - Making Sense with Digital Media

Information has never been so accessible but there is a deficit in tools for harnessing this deluge of data for guiding action. Individuals and groups are experimenting with new digital media to access and share this information in ways that support development of provisional interpretations for helping to better understand our bounded rationality. This pre-action, pre-commercial, hypothesis generating phase of inquiry that intermediates mediates the cycle of action and discovery has been called sense-making. In communication theory, sense-making is also being applied to the social communication between different types of expertises as diverse groups seek to work together. Sense-making bridges the fundamental or foundational discovery oriented inquiry and development of practical and mature plans of action using well established knowledge. Exploration of knowledge media design strategies that helps to bridge this gap between discovery and action will be a major theme for this years KMDI outreach and community building seminar program. This seminar program will consist of three types of seminars:

1) How communities build knowledge and make sense together
   Allan Collins Feb 11, 2010 (co-sponsor OISE, York)
   Rethinking Education in the age of technology
   Jonathan Grudin April 28, 2010 (co-sponsor CS)
   Conferences, Community, and Technology
   Brenda Dervin TBD (possibly March 18th) (co-sponsor OCAD)
   Making Sense of Sense-Making

2) How can new media technologies be adapted for sense-making purposes
   Chris Csik, May 20, 2010 (i-School)
   Acting Locally: IT for Civic Engagement
   Aaron Marcus, June 17, 2010 (co-sponsor TORCHI)
   Graphic Design in Interface Design

3) What design needs are perceived within sense-making communities.
   Trisha Greenhalgh, Aug 4, 2010-02-16 (Co-sponsor Medicine, Nursing)
   Tensions and Paradoxes in Patient Electronic Records
   Mathew Anderson, CEO Toronto Central LHIN (TBD July)
   Knowledge Media and Ontario Local Health Integration Networks

This last group of seminar type will be aimed developing opportunities for KMDI researchers to help in bridging the gap between the practical and the theoretical especially in collaboration with professional programs in engineering health business and design education sectors. The format will consist of lectures from thought leaders who developing lines of inquiry that inform these concepts alternating with applied researchers who will be asked to imagine what forms of sensemaking media might be applicable to their fields.
KNOWLEDGE MEDIA DESIGN

Lectures on Digital Media Research and Innovation at the University of Toronto: Part 2

KMDI AT 13 - Webcast, archives and details at: http://KMDlat13.utoronto.ca/

DIGITAL MEDIA AND THE POLITICS OF TRUTHS AND FORGETTING

Thursday, March 26 / Bahen Centre for Information Technology, 40 St. George St. / BA1130 / 4:10pm

“Whose Right to Know? Information Control and the Politics of Forgetting Past 9/11”
Nadia Caldi-Faculty of Information

“Digital Dissent Producers’ Conceptions of Truths and the Media”
Meghan Boer-Theory and Policy Studies (DISE/UT)

“Blogs and the Memory Hole: Writing, Reading, and Recapturing History”
Nicholas Burbules-Educational Policy Studies, University of Illinois

UNDERSTANDING LANGUAGE UNDERSTANDING

Tuesday, April 14 / Bahen Centre for IT, 40 St. George St. / BA1210 / 4:10pm

“Understanding Speech”
Gerald Penn-Computer Science

“Understanding Text From Both the User’s and the Writer’s Perspective”
Graeme Hirst-Computer Science

“Understanding an Author’s Intentions with Computer Text Analysis”
Ian Lancashire-English

ENSURING PRIVACY AND SECURITY

Thursday, May 7 / Please visit http://KMDlat13.utoronto.ca/ for location and time

“Privacy, Identity Cards and Public Participation in Information Policy Making”
Andrew Clement-Faculty of Information

“Technological Challenges in Ensuring Privacy and Security”
Kostas Plataniotis-Electrical and Computer Engineering

ENABLING COLLABORATION TO IMPROVE HEALTH

Thursday, May 28 / Please visit http://KMDlat13.utoronto.ca/ for location and time

“Internet Telehealth Programs for Patients with Chronic Disease”
Elsa Marziali-Social Work

“Collaborative Diagnostics and the InterCase: Addressing the One Person One Record Problem”
Peter Pennefather and West Suhani-Pharmacy

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