



Survey: 'The Wide Role of Informatics at Universities'

In the 1970s with the advent of the personal computer we entered into the Digital Age or Information Age. However it has only been in this century with the ubiquity of the internet, the smartphone, and the internet of things that digital has become truly pervasive. How do universities respond to this massive change? New Informatics Europe's working group is aiming to investigate what universities are doing to ensure that non-Informatics teaching and research is informed by best practice in Informatics. For that purpose, we are conducting a survey about widening role of Informatics at Universities and would be grateful to get your feedback.

Please take about *20-30 minutes* to complete the survey and share your views with us!

Thank you for your engagement!

Working group 'The Wide Role of Informatics at Universities'

Susan Eisenbach (Chair), Stuart Anderson, Luis Caires, Michael E. Caspersen, Elisabetta Di Nitto, Inmaculada Garcia Fernandez, Eduard Gröller, Brian Keegan, Ulf Lesser, Pekka Orponen, Marie Postma, Hannes Werthner.

Contact Information

Dear Colleague,

Please answer the questions listed below on behalf of your academic unit - Faculty or School, Department or Institute. All questions are about interdisciplinary activities where one of the disciplines is Informatics/ Computing (including Data Science).

University

Department/ Institute/ School

Name

Position



Section 1: Research

1A. When compared with single disciplinary research, does your university encourage or discourage (or neither) interdisciplinary research? If so how? (e.g. funding, time, physical centres)

Encourage

Discourage

Neither encourage nor discourage

1B. Does your Informatics department encourage or discourage (or neither) interdisciplinary research? If so how?

Encourage

Discourage

Neither encourage nor discourage

1C. Are there interdisciplinary areas of research where your university could (should) enter but aren't due to lack of university support? If so what are they?



1D. Are there other players who have helped increase the interdisciplinary research in your university?

For example has a funding body focused a programme on interdisciplinary PhD studentships which academics applied for? If so what external organisations and what programmes have increased interdisciplinary research at your university?

1E. Please comment on any advantages or disadvantages you perceive of your university's arrangements.

Section 2: Teaching

2A. Does your university run joint degrees (e.g. X and Informatics, Informatics and X, X with Informatics, Informatics with X). If yes, what are they?

Yes

No

2B. Are there plans to run new joint degrees or to close down joint degrees? If yes what are they?

Run new joint degrees

Close down joint degrees

Neither run nor close down



2C. Who teaches the Informatics component of non-Informatics degrees? For example, is programming taught to Physicists by members of the Physics department, of the Informatics department or is there a servicing organisation within your university that teaches Physics students to code (or some other mechanism)?

2D. If Informatics is taught by people not located in an Informatics department are they Computer Scientists by training or research?

They are Computer Scientists

They are not Computer Scientists

Informatics is not taught by people not located in an Informatics department

2E. Please comment on any advantages or disadvantages you perceive of your university's arrangements.



Section 3: People

3A. Does your university explicitly advertise/hire academics who focus on interdisciplinary research?

Yes

No

3B. Are they rooted in a department, have a joint appointment across departments, or rooted in a centre?

Rooted in a department

Have a joint appointment across departments

Rooted in a centre

3C. How is their quality judged for both appointment and for promotion? *For example are they judged according to the criteria of one of the departments or both? Are the people who judge from a single department or both?*

3D. Are there any initiatives planned to hire in interdisciplinary areas?

Yes

No



3E. Please comment on any advantages or disadvantages you perceive of your university's arrangements.

Section 4: Data Science

4A. Which department in your university is seen to own this area? Is it Informatics, Statistics, jointly or somewhere else?

Informatics Department

Statistics Department

Jointly Informatics and Statistics Department

Somewhere else (please specify)

4B. B. Has the rise of this area changed the perception of Informatics overall in your university?

Yes

No



4C. Please comment on any advantages or disadvantages you perceive of your university's arrangements.

Section 5: Structure

5A. Does your university set up centres for interdisciplinary work? If yes can you say which they are?

Yes

No

5B. Are they for research, translation (technology transfer), consultancy, and/or teaching?

Research

Translation (technology transfer)

Consultancy

Teaching

5C. Are they rooted in a single department (say which one), owned by the departments involved or independent?

Rooted in a single department

Owned by the departments involved

Independent



5D. Are they physically located within a department, nearby or elsewhere on campus?

Within a department

Nearby a department

Elsewhere on campus

5E. How are any centres funded? Does the university provide any money to startup or are they funded by external money? Does the university provide longer term money?

5F. Are there plans to set up more centres or to close centres? If so what will they be?

Set up more centres

Close centres

Neither set up nor close



5G. What are the drivers or pressures (both internal to the department/school/faculty/university and external to the university) that you see on the horizon that may lead to new activity?

5H. Is substantial interdisciplinary work undertaken by academics without any institutional or department support?

Without any institutional or department support

With an institutional or department support

5I. Are there any centres for interdisciplinary work that have been set up due to a strategic decision by the university or department/school/faculty rather than as supporting activities of existing faculty? If so which centres?

5J. Does your university have something in their official strategy to widen the role of Informatics or to encourage interdisciplinary research? If so what is it?



5K. Please comment on any advantages or disadvantages you perceive of your university's arrangements.

5L. Is there anything we have missed in the survey that you wish to tell us?

Thank you very much for filling the questionnaire!

Your feedback is of great value for the European Informatics research community!

We will keep you updated with the results!