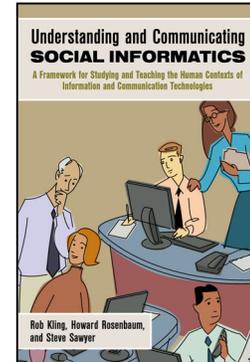


NEWS RELEASE



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Understanding and Communicating Social Informatics

New book offers a framework for studying and teaching the human contexts of information and communication technologies

October 17, 2005, Medford, New Jersey—Information Today, Inc. (ITI) has announced the publication of *Understanding and Communicating Social Informatics*, by Rob Kling, Howard Rosenbaum, and Steve Sawyer.

The new book presents a sustained investigation into the human contexts of Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs), covering both research and theory in this emerging field. The authors demonstrate that the design, adoption, and use of ICTs are deeply connected to people's actions, as well as to the contexts in which they are used.

In Chapters One and Two, the authors define Social Informatics and offer a pragmatic overview of the discipline. In Chapters Three and Four, they articulate its fundamental ideas for specific audiences, and present important research findings about the personal, social, and organizational consequences of ICT design and use. Chapter Five covers Social Informatics education; Chapter Six discusses ways to communicate Social Informatics to professional and research communities; and Chapter Seven provides a summary and look to the future. Other features include a bibliography, glossary, four appendices, and two indexes.

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“*Understanding and Communicating Social Informatics* illustrates the value of Social Informatics,” according to Professor William H. Dutton, Director of the Oxford Internet Institute, writing in the book’s foreword. “It is a product of decades of research on the social aspects of information and communication technologies, from the mainframe to the Internet and beyond.”

About the Authors

At the time of his death in May 2003, **Rob Kling** was Professor of Information Science, Computer Science and Information Systems at Indiana University, Bloomington, where he also directed the Center for Social Informatics. His research focus was on topics within social informatics, such as the roles of digital libraries and electronic publishing in improving professional communication and the relationships between technologies and organizational and social change. He wrote, edited, and contributed to numerous books and journals and served as Editor-in-Chief of *The Information Society*.

Howard Rosenbaum is an Associate Professor of Information Science in the School of Library and Information Science at Indiana University. He is currently studying the social informatics of computerization movements, such as electronic business, e-government, and community networks. He has received several awards for his innovative use of technology in teaching and recently for teaching excellence at Indiana University.

Steve Sawyer is a founding member of and Associate Professor with the School of Information Sciences and Technology at the Pennsylvania State University at University Park. His research focuses on the take-up and uses of information and communications technologies. Steve’s passion for research is matched by his passion for teaching, having earned several teaching awards.

Understanding and Communicating Social Informatics: A Framework for Studying and Teaching the Human Contexts of Information and Communication Technologies (240 pp/ hardcover/\$39.50/ISBN 1-57387-228-8) is published by Information Today, Inc. (ITI). For more information or to order, contact the publisher at (800) 300-9868 [outside the U.S. call (609) 654-6266]; fax (609) 654-4309; e-mail custserv@infoday.com; or log on to the ITI Web site at www.infoday.com.

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