The new standard: Computer Science conferences react to COVID-19

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Abstract: (600 Words)

The disruption from COVID-19 has been felt deeply across all walks of life. Similarly, academic conferences as one key pillar of dissemination and interaction around research and development have taken a hit. We analyse an interesting focal point as to how conferences in the area of Computer Science have reacted to this disruption with respect to their mode of offering and registration prices, and whether their response is contingent upon specific factors such as where the conference was to be hosted, its ranking, its publisher or its original scheduled date. To achieve this, we collected metadata associated with 170 conferences in the area of Computer Science and as a means of comparison; 25 Psychology conferences. We show that conferences in the area of Computer Science have demonstrated agility and resilience by progressing to an online mode due to COVID-19 (approximately 76% of Computer Science conferences moved to an online mode), many with no changes in their schedule, particularly those in North America and those with a higher ranking. Whilst registration fees have lowered by an average of 42% due to the onset of COVID-19, conferences still have to facilitate attendance on a large scale due to the logistics and costs involved. In conclusion, we discuss the implications of our findings and speculate what they mean for conferences, including those in Computer Science, in the post-COVID-19 world.

Importance of Research: (200 Words)

Academic conferences are one of the primary forms of dissemination of research output and scientific work. Particularly in the discipline of Computer Science, many conferences are highly prestigious with the reputation of some on par with peer reviewed journals (Vardi 2009; Vrettas and Sanderson 2015); some notable conferences having acceptance rates as low as 20% (Fathalla et al. 2017). Typically, proceedings of computer science conferences archive main track submissions as full papers normally in the range of 6 to 10 double column pages which are reviewed in their entirety and not as abstracts (Caires 2015), unlike other fields such as Business or Design. Further, bibliometric studies have shown that Computer Science researchers publish much more in conferences as compared to journals (Franceschet 2010). This focus has resulted in the establishment of conference rankings in Computer Science (Li et al. 2018), for instance, the popular CORE Rankings Portal.

Biography: (200 Words)

Gerald C has completed his PhD in Mathematics and has been majored in Engineering at MIT. He has attended different universities over 17 years and studied seven academic disciplines. He has spent 20,000 hours in T2D research. First, he studied six metabolic diseases and food nutrition during 2010-

2013, then conducted research during 2014-2018. His approach is math-physics and quantitative medicine based on mathematics, physics, engineering modeling; signal processing, computer science, big data analytics, statistics, machine learning and AI. His main focus is on preventive medicine using prediction tools. He believes that the better the prediction, the more control you have.

Information of Institute: (200 Words)

The university launched the first PhD program at a national university in the UAE. As a research institution it attracts national, international, and industrial grants. PhD programs and professional doctorate degrees cover a range including Pharmacy, Public Health, and a Doctorate of Business Administration. The university hosts research centers including the Zayed Center for Health Sciences and the National Water Center.

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