1. Mandate

The Institute for Research on Learning Technologies (IRLT) has a broad mandate to engage in systematic inquiry, discussion, and information sharing related to the uses of technology in teaching and learning. Originally established in 1987 within the Faculty of Education as the Centre for the Study of Computers in Education (CSCE), the Institute became a university-based research unit in June 2001 and was re-named. IRLT encourages the formation of links with faculty members across the university and with schools, government, and industry to provide collaborative, multidisciplinary approaches to research problems and issues. More specifically, the goals of the Institute are as follows:

- To engage in research, study, and public discussion of issues related to the pedagogical uses of technology and to the moral, ethical, and educational implications of its use;

- To develop projects that make innovative uses of new technologies in teaching and learning;

- To maintain an active program to disseminate findings of its projects, its activities, and developments in the field to educators and other interested parties;

- To foster collaboration between academics, educators, and industry and government personnel on research and development problems and issues of mutual concern and interest.

In 2006 IRLT members developed a six year plan with the aim of becoming one of the premier university-based research institutes in North America focusing on the study of teaching and learning with technology. Eight strategic goals were enunciated to help achieve this vision. These are listed below together with brief comments on achievements in each area during 2008-09.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>STRATEGY</th>
<th>ACCOMPLISHMENTS DURING 2008-09</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Form Special Interest Groups (SIG) in Focus</td>
<td>▪ Planning began to establish a second SIG in the area of teaching and learning with technology in higher education and the workplace.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Areas</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| Increase Our External Profile                | ▪ Increased efforts made to identify faculty as IRLT members when publishing/speaking  
▪ Tracked IRLT Website usage using Google Analytics, which will help us identify what visitors are viewing/downloading on our site, how often they do so (hits), their search query terms, and their geographic location. |
| Initiate a Visiting Scholars Program          | ▪ Due to the labour disruption during the academic year no initiatives were undertaken.                                                                     |
| Influence the Hiring Process                 | ▪ No new hiring opportunities were identified that related IRLT’s research agenda.                                                                            |
| Establish an External Advisory Committee      | ▪ Established in spring 2006 and continues to meet regularly.                                                                                                 |
| Restructure Executive Committee              | ▪ Coordinators of SIGs are members of the Executive.                                                                                                          |
| Raise Funding for Infrastructure             | ▪ Digital Futures Fund for faculty/staff donations is operating.                                                                                               |
|                                              | ▪ Plans were begun for a major fund raising event but they were delayed because of the labour disruption during the academic year.                          |
| Obtain Secure Support Services               | ▪ A 1/3 clerical support person was shared with the Faculty Support Centre.                                                                                  |

2. Organizational Structure and Staffing

**Personnel**

IRLT is a university-based research unit, therefore the Vice-President (Research and Innovation) appoints the director. The current and founding director is Professor Ron Owston (Education). York University provides release time and an administrative stipend according to the YUFA collective agreement. During 2008-09 when Professor Owston was on sabbatical, Associate Director Mary Leigh Morbey (Education) was Acting Director. In her stead, Professor Jean Adams (Schulich) served as Acting Associate Director. Digital Dimensions: the Arts and Virtual Culture Special Interest Group was co-chaired by Mary Leigh Morbey and Caitlin Fisher (Fine Arts).

IRLT employs Herb Wideman full time on annual contract as Senior Researcher, while Kathryn Cook (a faculty member at Georgian College) occasionally works part time as a Research Assistant and is our volunteer Webmaster. Joseph Ratnasingham
from CNS is employed as a clerical assistant on a 1/3rd time basis. Typically, the
Institute hires several students annually as Graduate Research Assistants to work on
various research projects.

**Governance**

The Executive Committee is responsible for setting strategic priorities and policies
for IRLT. Its membership consists of the following: the Director, Associate Director,
two Members-at-Large, SIG coordinator(s), and a Graduate Student. In 2008-09,
Professor Suzanne Macdonald (Health), Richard Jarrell (Science & Engineering), and
Denys Lupshenyuk (Education graduate student) filled the latter three positions.
Professor Morbey filled the Associate Director and the Digital Culture and the Arts
SIG coordinator positions. The Members-at-Large and the graduate student members
are approved annually by the membership; the others are ex-officio voting positions.

The terms of reference for the IRLT Advisory Board are as follows:

- To provide an external view of IRLT activities and outputs
- Advise on strategic directions and opportunities
- Raise the profile of IRLT with external communities.

The Board consists of three external members as well as the Executive Committee.
The external members in 2008-09 were Marty Keast (Pearson Canada), Wendy
Crawford (HP Canada) and Robert Martellacci (Mindshare Learning).

**Publications**

IRLT publishes a series of technical reports based on members’ research. These
reports are made available to the research community at the Institute’s Web site. A
listing of this past year’s reports is below in the *Activities* section.

**3. Active Membership List**

IRTL has members from all Faculties at York as well as Glendon College. Some
IRLT members focus on learning technologies as their primary research interest with
all of their publications and grant writing centering on this topic; others have it as a
secondary or joint research interest and publish less regularly in this area; while still
others are mainly interested in improving their teaching through the use of
technology, receive teaching/project development grants, and/or write conference
papers about their teaching with technology and more generally support IRLT’s
goals. Membership is voluntary and members are not formally reviewed. York faculty
membership for 2009-09 was as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Affiliation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Alison Griffith</td>
<td>Faculty of Education</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ananya Mukherjee-Reed</td>
<td>Department of Political Science, Faculty of Arts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Avi Cohen</td>
<td>Department of Economics, Faculty of Arts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bill Found</td>
<td>Faculty of Arts/Environmental Studies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Caitlin Fisher</td>
<td>Department of Film, Faculty of Fine Arts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carolyn Steele</td>
<td>Career Centre</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Name</td>
<td>Affiliation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>---------------------------</td>
<td>-------------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chloe Brushwood Rose</td>
<td>Faculty of Education</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dalton Kehoe</td>
<td>Division of Social Science, Faculty of Arts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Evelyne Corcos</td>
<td>Department of Psychology, Glendon College</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Francoise Mougeon</td>
<td>Department of French Studies, Glendon College</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gareth Morgan</td>
<td>Schulich School of Business</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Graham Orpwood</td>
<td>Faculty of Education; York/Seneca Institute for Science, Mathematics, Technology, and Education</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Heather Lotherington</td>
<td>Faculty of Education</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ilo Katryn Maimets</td>
<td>Steacie Science Library</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jean Adams</td>
<td>Schulich School of Business</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Janet Murphy</td>
<td>ABEL Program, Research and Innovation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jennifer Jenson</td>
<td>Faculty of Education</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Karen Anderson</td>
<td>Dept of Sociology, Faculty of Arts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Laurie Wilcox</td>
<td>Dept of Psychology, Faculty of Health</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Margaret Sinclair</td>
<td>Faculty of Education</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mary Leigh Morbey</td>
<td>Faculty of Education; Associate Director, IRLT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mary Louise Craven</td>
<td>Communication Studies, Faculty of Arts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monique Adriaen</td>
<td>Dept of French Studies, Faculty of Arts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Niamh Hennessey</td>
<td>School of Social Sciences, Atkinson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peggy Warren</td>
<td>Reference, Scott Library</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peter Roosen-Runge</td>
<td>Department of Computer Science, Faculty of Science &amp; Engineering</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poonam Puri</td>
<td>Osgood Hall Law School</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Radu Campeanu</td>
<td>School of Analytic Studies &amp; Information Technology, Atkinson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Razika Sanaoui</td>
<td>Faculty of Education</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Renate Wickens</td>
<td>Fine Arts Cultural Studies, Faculty of Fine Arts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Richard Jarrell</td>
<td>Division of Natural Science, Faculty of Science &amp; Engineering</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Richard Saunders</td>
<td>Department of Political Science, Faculty of Arts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Roberta Sinyor</td>
<td>Department of Languages, Literatures &amp; Linguistics, Faculty of Arts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ron Owston</td>
<td>Faculty of Education and Director, IRLT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ron Sheese</td>
<td>Department of Psychology, Faculty of Arts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ros Woodhouse</td>
<td>Centre for the Support of Teaching (CST)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sam Lanfranco</td>
<td>School of Analytic Studies &amp; Information Technology, Atkinson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shelley Hornstein</td>
<td>Art/Architectural History, Department of Visual Arts, Faculty of Fine Arts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stan Shapson</td>
<td>Vice-President (Research &amp; Innovation); Faculty of Education</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stephen Chen</td>
<td>School of Analytic Studies &amp; Information Technology, Atkinson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Suzanne McDonald</td>
<td>Dept of Psychology, Faculty of Health</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
There are 43 York members in total excluding staff and graduate students; in addition, several Seneca College faculty are also affiliated with IRLT.

### 4. Member Activities

Listed below are selected (a full list would be too extensive) articles, chapters, and books of members, as well as conference papers, reports, awards, and technology development activities of members during 2008-09.

**Selected Articles, Chapters, Published Conference Proceedings, and Books (IRLT members indicated in bold, graduate students with *)**


---

**Table:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Tom Johnson</th>
<th>Osgoode Hall Law School</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Zbigniew Stachniak</td>
<td>Dept of Computer Science &amp; Engineering, Faculty of Science &amp; Engineering</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


of the Paris International Conference on Education, Economy and Society, 2, 627-638.


**Selected Conference Papers/Talks/Invited Addresses**


Murphy, J., & Sterling T. (November 2008). *Responding to the challenge - putting digital in literacy*. Quest for Improved Student Achievement, Toronto, ON.


Teachers of Mathematics 2009 Annual Meeting and Exposition, Washington, DC.


Sinyor, R., & Gabriella Colussi Arthur, G. C. (2009, May). *Bologna live and online: Video technology as the bridge to cultural immersion*. American Association of Italian Studies (AAIS), St. John’s University, Manhattan Campus, New York City, May 7-10.


Other Selected Member Activities: Projects /Course Development/Grants/ Awards/Media Appearances

Adams, J. (2009). University-Wide Teaching Award awarded by the Senate Committee on Teaching and Learning (SCOTL).

Adams, J. (2008-2010). $150,000 HP Technology for Teaching Leadership research grant awarded to further pedagogical innovation aimed at deepening, broadening and accelerating individual and collective learning in management education: e-Powering Tomorrow’s Leaders - see: http://hpresearch.schulich.yorku.ca/


Cohen, (2008-09). Dean’s Advisor, TEL Initiatives – Faculty of Arts, York University, 2003 - 2009. Taught one session (Fall 2008) of Arts do TEL Faculty Development course.
Cohen, (2008-09). Development (with Kelly Parke of York Faculty Support Centre) of dynamic screen capture system for mobile devices, allowing students to download MP4 files to watch lectures on mobile devices with audio and full dynamic motion of instructor pointing at and highlighting visual images (http://avicohen.apps01.yorku.ca/podcast/).


Murphy, J. (2009) HRSDC, *Building Capacity in Early Years Project*, $40,000.00.

Murphy, J. (2009) *G.O.T. Game*, Inukshuk Learning Fund (together with Teach Magazine and Wero Creative) $75,000

Murphy, J., (2009) *Race to Mars*, Inukshuk Learning Fund (together with Teach Magazine and Wero Creative) $75,000.

Morbey, M. L. (2008-09). Research leader and project director of the Museum Web 2.0 project for the Uganda National Museum, Kampala, Uganda; research project is comprised of six Ugandans and two Canadians; Elizabeth Paula Napeyok – the Uganda Ambassador to France and representative of UNESCO Uganda is a research team member.


Wilcox, L. (2009). Working with Rob Allison in the Department of Computer Science & Engineering and Christie Digital Corporation on a project supported by a grant from the Ontario Centres of Excellence, Photonics.
**IRLT Technical Reports (available at website)**


**IRLT Speaker Series**

To fulfill its mandate of public dialogue and dissemination of research, IRLT sponsors a speaker series each year. Links to more details, handouts, and videos are available at [http://irlt.yorku.ca/events.html](http://irlt.yorku.ca/events.html). The events held in 2008-09 are below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>SPEAKER</th>
<th>TOPIC/TITLE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>October 2008</td>
<td>Brian Goldfarb</td>
<td>Networks for Redefining Disorder: Internet-based Public Health Intervention Projects</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 2009</td>
<td>Jean Adams, et al.</td>
<td>Blended Learning for Advancing Education &amp; Workplace Learning</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 2009</td>
<td>Shelley Hornstein et al.</td>
<td>Impact of Google Earth, YouTube, and Twitter have made on what we took to be fixed notions of what is local and global.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 2009</td>
<td>John Bonnett</td>
<td>Implications of the Topographic Revolution for the Digital Humanities</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**5. Measures taken to Promote Equity**

IRTL has a very diverse membership in terms of gender and field of specialization: 60% of its members are female which far exceeds the University’s female representation on faculty; and the membership list above illustrates the variety of fields of specialization from which IRLT draws its members. Also, all three graduate students formally employed by IRLT were female. There are no barriers to
membership because the only requirement for membership is an interest in teaching and learning with technology. In addition, IRLT's Website complies with W3C standards and best practices, and is accessible for person’s with disabilities.

6. Statement of Operations – see appendix

7. Budget for Current Year – see appendix

8. Student Activities/Accomplishments
   As in previous years graduate students participated in all aspects of IRLT. They collaborated with faculty members and/or solely authored refereed numerous publications and conference papers. These are noted with an asterisk in Section 4 above.

9. Changes in Physical Space
   No changes in space occurred during 2008-09.

10. Contractual Obligations
    No contractual obligations were made during 2008-09.