
IADIS NEWSLETTER

July 2026 - Issue 30



Upcoming events

International Conferences CELDA, AC, ICWI and DSDI 2026 in Lisbon, Portugal, from 24 to 26 October 2026

The [23rd International Conference on Cognition and Exploratory Learning in Digital Age](#) (CELDA 2026), the [23rd International Conference Applied Computing](#) (AC 2026), the [25th International Conference WWW/Internet](#) (ICWI 2026) and the [International Conference on Data Science and Digital Innovation 2026](#) (DSDI 2026) will be held in **Lisbon, Portugal**, from **24 to 26 October 2026**.

23rd International Conference on Cognition and Exploratory Learning in Digital Age:

The [CELDA 2026](#) conference aims to address the main issues concerned with evolving learning processes and supporting pedagogies and applications in the digital age. There have been advances in both cognitive psychology and computing that have affected the educational arena. The convergence of these two disciplines is increasing at a fast pace and affecting academia and professional practice in many ways. Paradigms such as just-in-time learning, constructivism, student-centered learning and collaborative approaches have emerged and are being supported by technological advancements such as simulations, virtual reality and multi-agents systems. These developments have created both opportunities and areas of serious concerns. This conference aims to cover both technological as well as pedagogical issues related to these developments. Main tracks have been identified please check <https://www.celda-conf.org/conference-topics/>

23rd International Conference Applied Computing 2026:

The [Applied Computing 2026](#) conference provides an international forum for researchers, practitioners and industry experts to present and discuss advances in computing methods, software systems, digital infrastructures and applied computational solutions. The conference focuses on the design, development, implementation and evaluation of computing technologies across organisational, industrial, scientific and societal contexts. The conference is divided into more detailed areas, for more information please check <https://www.computing-conf.org/conference-topics/>

25th International Conference WWW/Internet 2026:

The [WWW/Internet 2026](https://www.internet-conf.org/conference-topics/) conference provides an international forum for researchers, practitioners and industry experts to discuss current advances, emerging challenges and future directions in Web and Internet research. The conference focuses on the Web as a socio-technical ecosystem, addressing Web technologies, digital platforms, online communities, Web data, Internet governance, trust, safety and the societal impact of Internet-based innovation.

The conference accepts submissions in the following six main areas: Artificial Intelligence for the Web; Web Platforms and Ecosystems; Web Data and Knowledge; Trust, Safety and Internet Governance; Human-Centred Web; Digital Society and Internet Applications. For more details please check <https://www.internet-conf.org/conference-topics/>

International Conference on Data Science and Digital Innovation 2026:

The International Conference on Data Science and Digital Innovation ([DSDI](https://www.datascience-conf.org/conference-topics/)) invites researchers, practitioners, industry experts, and policymakers to submit original contributions addressing the role of Data Science in enabling digital innovation across organisations, industries and society.

DSDI aims to provide an international forum for the presentation and discussion of cutting-edge research, practical applications, emerging methods, and interdisciplinary perspectives at the intersection of Data Science, artificial intelligence and digital innovation. The conference welcomes contributions that advance theory, methods, tools, systems, and applications, as well as papers that critically examine the organisational, ethical, and societal implications of data-driven innovation. For more details please check <https://www.datascience-conf.org/conference-topics/>

*** Paper Submission:**

These are blind peer-reviewed conferences. Authors are invited to submit their papers in **English** through the conferences submission systems by **July 31, 2026**. Submissions must be original and should not have been published previously.

*** Important Dates:**

- Submission Deadline (2nd CFP): **31 July 2026**
- Notification to Authors (2nd CFP): **4 September 2026**
- Final Camera-Ready Submission and Early Registration (2nd CFP): **Until 21 September 2026**
- Late Registration (2nd CFP): **After 21 September 2026**

**Join us in Lisbon, Portugal
in October 2026!**



OECD Report

Digital Government Outlook 2026

From Foundations to Transformational Impact

The **OECD** has just released its first [Digital Government Outlook](#), assessing progress across OECD Members and accession candidate countries and identifying where further effort is needed to translate the public sector's digital ambitions into tangible impact.

Governments are under increasing pressure to deliver faster, be more responsive and ensure reliable human-centered public services, while operating under tight fiscal constraints. The rapid advance of artificial intelligence (AI) reinforces this imperative, opening opportunities as quickly as it raises governance challenges. Yet many public sector systems have struggled to keep pace.

The effective use of digital technologies and data offers a critical pathway to address many of these pressures. However, public trust in their governments' use of data and new technology remains fragile: only 52% of people across 30 OECD countries trust their government to use their personal data for “legitimate purposes.” This highlights that progress in digital government depends not only on technology, but also on strong governance, skilled workforces and credible safeguards.

The Outlook shows that governments have made significant progress in building the foundations of digital government, including shared infrastructure, interoperable systems and open data frameworks. The challenge now is to move beyond these foundations to deliver transformational impact for people and businesses. This includes filling important gaps in several areas, including institutional capabilities, governance mechanisms and workforce skills.

The Outlook underlines that the next phase of digital government will require a strong focus on delivery. Consistent with more mature digital governments, this means embedding digital, data and technology into everyday public sector operations – from budgeting and regulation to service design, procurement and policymaking – while adopting more iterative, agile and collaborative ways of working. It also requires aligning governance frameworks, skills and digital investments with the goal of achieving measurable improvements in outcomes for people and businesses.

Download (pdf): [Digital Government Outlook 2026](#)

Introduction:

People expect their government to act quickly, adapt to change and respond effectively, putting pressure on public institutions to keep up. Digital technologies and data are integral

to meeting these demands: they have become core infrastructure for governments to perform and address today's policy and service delivery challenges.

This report presents results from the OECD Digital Government Index (DGI) and the Open, Useful and Re-usable Data Index (OURdata), illustrating how governments across 36 OECD countries and 8 accession countries have been improving coherent, effective and human-centred digital transformation in government in recent years.



Book

"In the Era of Convergence: One Woman's Exploration of Humans and Digitalization from its Beginnings"

by Gunilla Bradley

In these pages, Gunilla Bradley shares her journey from growing up in the 1940s in a small village in Småland to working in the academic world in Sweden and internationally.

As a researcher, she explored how digitalization changed our work lives and social lives during various historical periods, over more than 40 years. Her work was important in Sweden, and after her formal retirement, she shifted to international collaborations. Her work highlights the transition to the digital world, which has become a global issue in this time of the coronavirus pandemic.

This book is an extended academic autobiography, and a personal meditation on life. Bradley's story is that of a woman in academia, at a time and in a field where gender mattered and continues to matter. Most of all, this biography highlights the many people working in an important area of research.

Through photos, text and academic literature, Bradley brings the reader with her on her life's journey. The importance of being present in real life – meeting loved ones, listening to music, and seeing and creating art together – are her passions, and her autobiography a reminder – while digital permeates, real life is all around us.

A short biography:

Gunilla Bradley is Professor Emerita in Informatics at KTH Royal Institute of Technology in Stockholm and has been a visiting professor at Stanford University. She has a broad background in the social/behavioral sciences and has authored thirteen books in the field of Social Informatics. In 1997 she received the IFIP Namur Award and later on she initiated and chaired the IADIS international conference on "ICT, Society and Humans". Her latest book is "The Good ICT society – From Theory to Actions" (Routledge 2017). More info on her homepage <http://gunillabradley.se>



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Publication

"Beyond the chatbot: Conversational agents and the future of higher education"

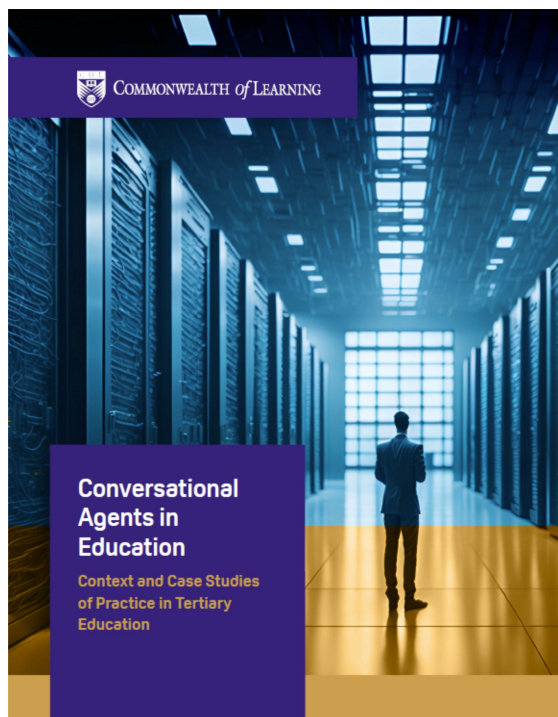
Abstract:

This report examines the emergence, uses and implications of conversational agents in education, with a particular focus on further and higher education. It situates current developments in generative artificial intelligence within a longer historical trajectory of artificial intelligence in education, reviews policy and research trends, and analyses four institutional case studies from the United Kingdom. Across these cases, conversational agents are shown to support student services, formative feedback, learning analytics and accessibility, with promising benefits for personalisation, responsiveness and student engagement. At the same time, the report highlights persistent challenges in data quality, ethics, governance, staff capacity, evaluation, and the gap between policy and practice. The findings suggest that successful implementation depends on co-design, secure, well-curated data, a strong institutional strategy, and a clear focus on student needs. The report concludes with priorities for governments, institutions, policymakers, and researchers to guide the ethical, inclusive, and effective adoption of conversational agents in education.

Subject:

Artificial Intelligence (AI) , AI in Education , Higher Education , Governance , Ethics

Full text: [Beyond the chatbot: Conversational agents and the future of higher education](#)



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