

HCI Research at the Carleton HOT Lab

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HOT Lab Mandate

- **Teaching**
- **Research**
- **Consulting**
- **Advocacy for HCI**

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Research

- **Student research**
 - Thesis and course research
- **Operating grant research**
- **Targeted research grants**
- **Contract research**

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University Research

- **University provides**
 - Facilities
 - Superb environment to do things
- **University gets**
 - Publications
 - Prestige
 - Training
 - Overhead (on salaries)
 - » 40%/ 20% faculty
 - » 20%/10% students
 - » Some 65%/40%

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Operating Grant Research

- **Agencies**
 - Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council (NSERC)
 - Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC)
 - Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR), formerly Medical Research Council -- MRC)
- **Funds to individuals for pure research, theoretical not applied**
- **1-3 years**
- **Typically under funded**
 - Enough funds to work yourself to death
- **Not important in HCI**
- **Canadian granting agencies don't pay salaries to grant holders**

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Targeted Government Research Grants

- Targeted Research – Train students, create jobs, market potential, topics important to Canada
- Typically requires matching funds from Industry
- Multiple year projects
- Multi-disciplinary and multiple organizations
- Good money
- Usually don't pay faculty salaries, but can occasionally negotiate teaching reduction

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Targeted Research Grants (cont'd)

- **NSERC Strategic Grants**
 - 78- mid 80s lot of HCI research
- **CITO/OCRI**
 - Ontario Telepresence project (90-94)
 - UIs for QOS with audio and video over the Internet (99-01)
 - Evaluate video remand system (94-95)
 - UI for radiological workstation (90-91)
- **Federal Network of Centres of Excellence (NCE)**
 - Telelearning NCE (95-99)
- **Canadian Advanced Network for Research, Innovation and Education (CANARIE)**
 - TeleCHI with Tom Carey at Waterloo (00-01)
- **SSHRC Initiatives for the New Economy (INE)**
 - Cybercartography (02-07)
- **Ontario Research and Development Challenge Fund (ORDCF)**
 - Ontario Research Network for E-Commerce (ORNEC 02-07)
- **CBRN Research and Technology Initiative (CRTI)**
 - Triage communication project (2003)
- **Canada Foundation for Innovations (CFI)**
 - New building

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Contract Research

- **Government departments]**
 - CIHR (web site evaluation)
 - CampusDirect (web site evaluation)
- **Private companies**
 - Cognos (Usability testing)
 - Nortel (videoconference camera switching)
 - Amita (User-centred process for Air Traffic Control)
 - Canadian Marconi (Heuristic evaluation of helicopter displays)
 - Royal Military College (usability testing air traffic control system)
 - SHL (UI design)

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Contracts

- **Companies, government departments approach us**
- **Refer to consulting companies**
- **Try not to compete with private consulting firms, but do take on contracts**
 - Particularly interesting
 - Opportunities for students
 - Summer especially (student placements)
 - Pay faculty and students

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How to get money for research

- **Operating Grants, Targeted Research Grants**
 - Incredible amount of work writing proposals
 - Month or two lost from your life
 - Often group effort, somebody tries to coordinate
 - A few years back seems all I did was write proposals
 - Very competitive
 - If win, win big. If lose, lose a lot of time and effort.
- **Contracts**
 - Contact us
 - Much less effort to write proposal
 - Less competitive

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Student Research

- **Support (\$)**
- **Training**
- **Experience – see what getting into, what is required, etc.**
- **Make contacts**
- **International students**

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