

## **SGB Position: SGB EC Member at Large**

Vicki Hanson

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### **BIOGRAPHY:**

B.A. in Psychology and Speech Pathology & Audiology, University of Colorado, 1974; M.A., Ph.D. Cognitive Psychology, University of Oregon, 1976, 1978. Postdoctoral Fellow, The Salk Institute for Biological Studies, La Jolla, California (1978-1980); Research Associate, Haskins Laboratories, New Haven, CT (1980 – 1986). Research Staff Member, Manager, IBM T. J. Watson Research Center, NY (1986 - 2008); IBM Research Staff Member Emeritus (2009). Professor, School of Computing, University of Dundee, Scotland (2009 - ). Research interests include IT for older adults and people with disabilities.

Professional activities: NSF programs in Information and Intelligent Systems, Committee of Visitors (2003); NSF and NIH Review Panels; Member of Peer College, UK Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council, (2003 – present); Advisory Council, University of Colorado Health Sciences Center, (2006 - ); Advisory Panel, Center for Applied Special Technology (2005 - ); Advisory Board, Georgia Tech, RERC on Workplace Accommodations (2003 – 2007); Advisory Panel, WGBH Public Broadcasting, Boston (1991-1994).

Fellow ACM, Fellow British Computer Society; Royal Society Wolfson Merit Award holder

ACM Member since 1993; Member SIGACCESS, SIGCHI SIGCSE; Conference Chair ACM CUU 2003 and ASSETS 2002; Chair, SIGACCESS (2004 – 2009); Conference organizing and program committees for ACM ASSETS, CHI, CUU, Hypertext, WWW, and OOPSLA; ACM Awards Committee (2006 – 2010); SGB-EC Member-at-Large (2005 – 2009); Associate Editor, *ACM Transactions on the Web* (2005 - ); Guest Editor for Special Issue of *Transactions on Computer Human Interaction*; Founder and Co-Editor in Chief of *ACM Transactions on Accessible Computing*.

## **STATEMENT FOR PUBLICATION:**

SIGs often are a member's personal contact with ACM. It is through SIG conferences that these communities interact professionally and intellectually. The SIG newsletters and announcements keep members up to date in the field. In short, SIGs provide a vital role in the life of computing professionals.

The current economic climate is difficult, which challenges ACM to provide benefits that professionals consider of value in times of belt-tightening. ACM has been doing an excellent job of retaining members and attracting new members. The SIGs overall, however, have seen challenges in retaining members and developing an active volunteer community. While the conferences and other member benefits provided by the SIGs are highly valued, it is becoming increasingly difficult for SIGs to demonstrate the economic value of SIG membership. Without strong SIGs, however, conferences and other SIG benefits would not be possible.

The SGB EC plays an important role by supporting SIGs and providing a forum for the sharing of best practices. In the years that I have been involved with the SGB and SGB EC, I've been impressed with the dedication of SIG leaders not only to needs of their SIG members, but also to needs of the profession at large.

The reasons for volunteering for SGB EC are numerous and likely to vary from person to person. As Chair of SIGACCESS, a SIG that had struggled in the past, I am very appreciative of the efforts made by the SGB to support SIGs, especially the smaller ones, which do not have many of the supports of the larger SIGs. In seeking election to the SGB EC I look forward to working with the SIG leaders in supporting one another through these challenging times. I am especially eager to help broaden the international impact of ACM and the SIGs. Having just taken up a new university position in Scotland, and with strong research ties in both the US and EU, I hope to find new ways to appeal to the larger worldwide ACM community.