



Individual Differences in Performance Technical Group

The Individual Differences in Performance Technical Group was established to serve HFES members who share an interest in any of the wide range of individual differences or variables that are believed to mediate human performance. Members of IDTG share a common view that the study of these differences as related to human performance is not only useful but also may lead to better design of equipment, prediction of human task performance, operational environments, and training and selection. A motto adopted as a guide for the group is "Prevent injury and improve performance and human-technology interaction by recognizing individual differences in human capabilities and limitations."

TECHNICAL FOCUS

Medical systems are increasingly dependent. The important shared characteristic of IDTG members is their interest in how individual differences variables relate to human performance in some important theoretical or applied manner. The domain of research and applied topics shared with-in this technical group includes a broad range of individual differences such as performance ability, gender, intelligence, education, training level, personality traits, and anthropometric variables. The IDTG domain also includes investigating a wide range of social, cognitive, and biological origins of individual differences. The crucial unifying principle of the IDTG is the importance of such variables for the advancement of human factors theory, research, and application.

Most of the research related to individual differences in human performance is conducted at universities, government and military agencies, and companies, many of which are concerned with training, selection, or improving performance.

In addition, many researchers are interested in exploring the basic theoretical foundations that underlie individual differences or the relationship between physical, cognitive, and affective traits and human performance relationships. Current research activities include:

- Investigating individual differences in human capabilities and limitations and how these interact with task and environmental factors to influence system performance
- Identifying individual differences in performance through different approaches
- Promoting the exchange of ideas in a diverse group of cognitive engineering, biomechanics and human factors
- Developing individual biomechanical and physiological templates or profiles
- Individual differences in stress responses and performance under stress
- Relationship of cognitive complexity to performance and empirical-based knowledge representation

- Individual differences-based taxonomies of human performance as applied to training system design
- Personality type as related to human–computer interaction and user-system interfaces
- Cognitive and learning styles in operations skills training
- Personality and individual differences in the measurement and prediction of workload
- Effects of personality and individual differences on crew selection and team design of complex systems

MEMBERSHIP

The IDTG consists of more than 200 members representing numerous educational institutions, government agencies, branches of the military, and a wide variety of consulting, manufacturing, and contracting firms. The IDTG seeks to foster the exchange of information among its members and to promote the integration of personality, individual differences, and human factors research and applications. Most IDTG members are also HFES members.

BENEFITS OF MEMBERSHIP

The IDTG, like other technical groups within the Human Factors and Ergonomics Society, performs a variety of functions and services for its members. In addition to sponsoring technical paper sessions at the HFES Annual Meeting, the IDTG conducts special symposia and poster sessions on topics of special interest to members. A newsletter is sent to all members at least two times each year, which provides important news, current research, and announcements for our members. Additional information or membership in IDTG can be found in the HFES Web site <http://hfes.org>. It is not necessary to be an HFES member to join the IDTG.