Sample Reviews of CHI 2002 SIG Proposal:
How can usability be certified? A practical test of your skills

Review 1

Please rate your expertise in the topic of the SIG between 1 and 5, where 1 is "no knowledge of the topic" and 5 is "expert."
[4]

1. Are there authors from at least two different organizations?
[x] Yes
[ ] No. If no, do not continue reviewing. We must reject the submission.

2. Please evaluate the TOPIC of the SIG (e.g. is the topic important and appealing to an identifiable segment of the CHI audience? is the topic appropriate for a SIG? is there something new to discuss about this topic? is there a potential for a large audience? etc.). Choose ONE of the evaluations below and elaborate.
Very good because: "To certify" or not "to certify" is an interesting question, and very timely since the UPA has launched a certification working group.
Good because:
OK because:
Poor because:
Very poor because:

3. Please evaluate the FORMAT of the SIG (e.g. are the activities appropriate and interesting? are the activities reasonable for the expected level of attendance? are the goals clear? is there a high level of interactivity? will the activities lead to the desired outcome of the SIG? etc.). Choose ONE of the evaluations below and elaborate.
Very good because: This would be a lot of fun for people to do: try the test themselves in a non-threatening situation (scoring your own work, no need to discuss scores with anyone).
Good because:
OK because:
Poor because:
Very poor because:

4. Please evaluate the RELEVANCE of the SIG to the conference theme "changing the world, changing ourselves." Choose ONE of the evaluations below and elaborate.
Very relevant because:
Somewhat relevant because: The self-assessment process could spur self-improvement.
Not at all relevant because:

5. Please give us your overall recommendation for whether to accept or reject this SIG proposal. Choose ONE of the overall recommendations below and elaborate.
Definitely accept because:
Probably accept because: I think we should accept at least one SIG on the subject of certification, and this format of this SIG is very engaging. I have been to SIGs before run by Rolf Molich and he does an excellent job.
Maybe accept because:
Probably reject because:
Definitely reject because:

6. (Optional) Please comment on any OTHER issues not covered above. Include any additional advice you may have to the organizers about ways to improve the SIG.

Review 2

Expertise (1-5): **3**

1. Authors from two different organizations (Y/N): **Yes**

2. Topic (Very good/good/OK/poor/very poor): **Very good**
Because: This SIG will draw lots of people. It is practical, it concentrates on a "special" topic, and - it will be fun!

3. Format (Very good/good/OK/poor/very poor): **Very good**
Because: This SIG gives handouts, as I understand, to all participants, people will work in parallel, on their own, maybe in dialogue with their neighbours, and afterwards they have the possibility to express themselves. The scheme is tight, of course, but it is worthwhile to try this different - and interactive! - scheme.

4. Relevance (Very/Somewhat/Not at all): **Very relevant**
Because: The more usability is/becomes a practiced discipline of work, the more it should be clear what qualifications the people doing it should have. This is certainly relevant to the CHI community, as many of them are "living" usability daily.

5. Overall recommendation (Def acc/Prob acc/Maybe acc/Prob rej/Def rej): **Def acc.**
Because: It is a great idea, it is very appropriate for a SIG.

6. Other issues: **Typo - twice "the" first para, second col, first page;**
UCD is used but not explained

Review 3

Please rate your expertise in the topic of the SIG between 1 and 5, where 1 is "no knowledge of the topic" and 5 is "expert."
[4]

1. Are there authors from at least two different organizations?
[x] Yes
[ ] No. If no, do not continue reviewing. We must reject the submission.

2. Please evaluate the TOPIC of the SIG (e.g. is the topic important and appealing to an identifiable segment of the CHI audience? is the topic appropriate for a SIG? is there something new to discuss about this topic? is there a potential for a large audience? etc.). Choose ONE of the evaluations below and elaborate.
OK because: Many people who are not in the field of usability may need a way to determine a candidates skills, but just like the HFES went through a certification process, very few individuals that I know in the field have actually become certified, instead the proceed on their own recognition and reputation. I am concerned that the attendees of this session will either have reasons why or why not this certification should exist or may be people who are wondering how they stand up to "professionals."

3. Please evaluate the FORMAT of the SIG (e.g. are the activities appropriate and interesting? are the activities reasonable for the expected level of attendance? are the goals clear? is there a high level of interactivity? will the activities lead to the desired outcome of the SIG? etc.). Choose ONE of the evaluations below and elaborate.
Very good because: The format of this session is attractive since it involves a high level of interactivity; however, I am unsure about the type of audience it may attract. I like the three modules approach which lends for a moving session.

4. Please evaluate the RELEVANCE of the SIG to the conference theme "changing the world, changing ourselves." Choose ONE of the evaluations below and elaborate.
Somewhat relevant because: More individuals are calling themselves usability professionals without formal training and there can be many advantages to having a certification process.

5. Please give us your overall recommendation for whether to accept or reject this SIG proposal. Choose ONE of the overall recommendations below and elaborate.
Maybe accept because: I am mixed on whether to accept or reject this session based on who the attendees might be. If everyone who attended had the mindset of the presenters than this session can be very worthwhile, I am just concerned that there would be some people who are against the certification process due to prohibitive fees and other reasons not related to usability skills. The results of this session can vary greatly on whether experienced or novice practitioners attend.

6. (Optional) Please comment on any OTHER issues not covered above. Include any additional advice you may have to the organizers about ways to improve the SIG.