

## BIOGRAPHY

Maria Fernanda Trujillo-Mendoza was born in Santa fé de Bogotá, Colombia and raised in Cali, Colombia.

She graduated as Industrial Engineer from the Universidad del Valle, Colombia in 1989, with a thesis entitled “Knowledge representation for the construction of a shell for developing consulting expert systems” and received a letter of commendment. From 1989 to 1990 she pursued a Master degree in Knowledge Based Systems in Artificial Intelligence from the University of Edinburgh, Scotland. Her Master’s thesis was entitled “A learning environment for the Citizen’s Advice Bureau based on the apprenticeship framework.”

From 1990 to 1992 she worked as Research Assistant and Informatic Unit Coordinator for CIMDER - Center for Multidisciplinary Research in Development funded by the IDRC - International Development Research Center, Canada. During this period, she participated in research projects involving inventory control in hospital management, development of a paper-based information system to track public health indicators, implementation of a network for the Center, and training and publication of technical materials related to information technologies.

From 1992 to 1997 she was the Director of the Center of Information Services of the Universidad del Valle in Cali, Colombia leading of a group of 60 engineers and technical staff receiving the Scientific Merit Award offered by the Junior Chamber International in 1996. Her responsibilities included management of the Internet connection of the Universidad del Valle, and acting as representative to the Board of Directors of InterRed in charge of the first operational Internet connection in Colombia. During five years, she was in charge of the design, purchase (approx. one million dollars) and management of the Institutional Data Transmission Network (Red Farallones), the largest data transmission university network in Colombia at the time.

In 1997 she became a doctoral student in the Payson Center for International Development and Technology Transfer.