**Concise Critical Notes: Articles and papers**

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| Name of author(s) | Saad Subair | | |
| Full title of article | Assessing the Usability of Institutions Web Pages | | |
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| Hypothesis: What is the paper setting out to prove? Are research hypotheses supported? | The usability of the web pages is assessed using some statistical models. Researchers argue that many usability results and recommendations lack empirical and experimental data, The main objective of this study is to investigate into the relations between the items of web pages design and their usability and to point out which items or variables contribute significantly to web pages design of the universities | | |
| What is the theoretical position underlying the research? Type of theory? | User interface is a system layer through which the computer and users communicate. It is an essential part of Human Computer Interaction (HCI). Dealing with or achieving goals using the interface is known as the usability of the interface. Usability of a system is how easy to use the system and how easy and efficiently the system performs tasks. In a survey conducted in the last few years | | |
| What is the key literature used as background to the article or paper? | Usability of the interface is an important issue. Nielsen conducted a usability test for software used by a company. The result concluded that there was a list of 130 usability problem. He concluded that the software design was sound and most of the usability problems were simple enough to fix.  Nielsen, J. (1993) Usability Engineering. Academic Press, Boston.  The interfaces used in the web pages are graphical user interfaces that utilize graphics, colours, and icons. Researchers showed that there was still a big gap between the researches of the HCI and hypertext systems, essentially the web. Shneiderman argued that many researchers’ experience lacked empirical data to validate or solidify their conclusions. Shneiderman reported that web sites could be well categorized by the originator’s identity such as individual group, university, corporation and non-profit organization. He concluded that information about users could guide web designers to a better design  Shneiderman, B., Norman, K., Plaisant, C., Bederson, B., Druin, A. and Golbeck, J. (2013) 30 Years at the University of Maryland’s Human-Computer Interaction Lab (HCIL). Interactions, 20, 50-57. | | |
| Which research methods are used? | 1) Designing and developing a prototype user interface for university web pages using recent web pages development methodologies;  2) Evaluating the prototype and other universities web pages usability in a comparative approach through a questionnaire;  3) Using correlation analysis to investigate the relationship and association between items or variables of universities web pages design;  4) Using regression analysis to investigate the causality relationships to find out the most significant independent variables (items) that form the best model or models for the universities web pages design. | | |
| What kind of sample is used? | The experiment conducted was a comparative evaluation of the usability variables of these web pages. A sample of 60 students was given a questionnaire to respond to. Data of the questionnaire were collected, organized, and saved in a flat file format to be ready to be transferred and manipulated by other packages and programs | | |
| Key results | The results showed that the universities web pages location tracking, hyperlinks semantics, text (alone) organization, icons (alone) organization, and design, and multimedia preferences were among the first five variables (items) that contributed significantly to the universities web pages ranking model. | | |
| Key conclusions or recommendations | These conclusions and findings showed the power of the correlation and regression models to figure out the importance and ranking of the variables that contribute significantly to the usability of the web pages. These models can be applied and extended to any other variables or (items) of web pages design to assess their usability importance. | | |
| **Strengths of the research**  - How does it advance our understanding of the subject or how to research it?  - Are there appropriate hypotheses, methods to test the hypotheses, sample sizes or types, controls for variables, recommendations?  - Considerations of ethics? | The research was Good, and gives a very good feedback about issues that the students could have when try to find information in the Universities web pages, the method was a poll, so I guess for this particular Experiment or research is very good enough because the people that faces the problems are the students | | |
| **Weaknesses of the research:**  - In what ways is it limited? When and where would it not apply?  - What are the flaws in the research, in the hypotheses, research design and methods, sample size and type, conclusions drawn on the basis of the results? | Maybe Could be the use of some Mathematics Formules that not everyone could understand, like lineal regression or statistical formules, even correlations, so I think that could be a problem, and there is no a very Clear example of what universities have more problems than others, they just evaluate some characteristics of web pages of some universities | | |