MAT 200C

Research Tactics
and other practical actions
for artistic and academic agendas

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today:

1. please email me the 15 minute papers from last class
2. how to find papers

3. summarization exercises

1. Usually easier to start with a particular journal or particular article.

- identify unusual phrases, jargon that indicates a sub-field of interest
- most technical papers require a detailed related work section, so can work backward from there
- many conferences have their proceedings online (everyone should do this... online papers are cited more often)

UCSB Library → off-campus access

UCSB Library → Article Database
  ACM Digital Library
  IEEE Xplore
  JSTOR

(if looking for a particular paper, start with google scholar
  to get info and then use libary to access it)

If you don't know which of the databases has your journal, use

UCSB Library → Electronic Journals

and search for the title of the journal to see if you can get online access.

UCSB Library → Article Database

Academic Search Complete, way to look up terms across *all* disciplines

Goal for multimedia researchers:

how to identify relevant information quickly...
how to have insider information about
the most prestigious journals, the most widely talked
about articles, the hot topics, the major players, etc etc.

important, because certain topics, phrases, agendas will
clearly mark you as outsider or as an amateur, which
may limit your ability to communicate.

I'm sure you all have lots of examples of precise moments
    of realizing someone doesn't have the same knowledge
    as you. And you probably make similar "mistakes"
    without realizing it.

digital humanities people make "mistakes" like over-
    emphasizing basic facts, or referring to topics that are
    "old news". i.e., a CS person would think that...

ex. design aesthetic of a mysql database (?)

ex. talking about virtual reality and second life economics

Of course, you will often be an outsider if you are working between fields or in an evolving field, but you want to be able to indicate that you are an equal participant.

So... how to get this information?

1) ask an expert ... what are the most important conferences/journals? what topics are most exciting?

2) look at the CV of people you respect, where do they publish/present?

3) Look for respected "brands" : IEEE or ACM for technical conferences

I made a mistake with the Information Visualisation (vs the IEEE information visualization) when doing literature review for my quals.

citations counting, influence numbers are great, but not as useful for recent papers; and you can usually find the widely cited papers by starting with a recent paper.

Exercise:

1) Find the most respected journals & conferences that discuss face tracking techniques. Provide examples of papers.

2) Find the most respected journals & conferences that discuss surveillance in an artistic context. Provide examples of papers.

Presentation Exercise

10 minutes to prepare a 3-minute Powerpoint. Include things such as:

Your main point, Why it's important, Why audience should care, Quotes, Graphics, Bullet points, etc

For the people who are not presenting, evaluate them according to different criteria and explain why you think that criteria is important.   e,g.. relevance, creativity, originality, concept, clarity, speaking prowess… These will be anonymous, btw

Patterns of presentation…

Similar to Design Patterns in software engineering.

Read papers in journals in your field.
   How are they framing their arguments?

   Claim: There are a finite number of strategies for each field. … (?)

Homework: skim/read a number of articles and try to identify as many "paper patterns" as you can. Look for overarching patterns as well as specific patterns. Why are these patterns used? Are they effective?

Example of overarching pattern: Prototype project as example of potentially interesting research.

Why effective?

shows that your work is important to other people, has a scope beyond a particular project.

takes pressure off of the project details -- it's just an intriguing prototype...

Example of specific pattern: Citing previous work and then
    subtly disparaging it as not being relevant to an
    important task.

Why effective?

Shows you are familiar with the field.

Shows that know why specifically your work is important.

Raises expectations that you will demonstrate relevance.

Creates a narrative interest via implied conflict. (?)

In Rhetorical Analysis there is the dual concept of

making a *claim*
    which implies
        a *burden of proof*

What claims are you making?

Why should people care about them?

How can you back them up?

empirical studies

logic

quotes, citations

charts

images

language tone (formal, jargon, amusing... etc)

compare/contrast

breadth/depth of analysis

analogy, metaphor

etc...

Homework

1) find 10 "paper patterns" (both general and specific) from articles of your choice in fields you are interested in. Write a blog post describing them. Are they effective? Why or why not? Are they common? Are they only found in particular kinds of papers or particular fields? Cite and link to the papers you've skimmed/read.

1b) Bring to class 3 interesting papers that are less than 10 pages each. Print them out on PAPER and provide LINKS to a complete digital copy (ie, not behind a paywall).

Homework

2) Use your analytical skills to uncover the implicit or explicit philosophies of a particular author of an article. What is important/meaningful to the author(s)? Why are they important/meaningful to the author(s)?

Where in the article do you find it? What citations support your findings? What is the relationship between the philosophy and the field in general?

Do you agree with the "tenets" of the author's outlook?