Design Notebook #6

HCI Platform Chosen: Wikipedia



Wikipedia is typically an information database which encompasses information associated with a variety of topics which basically includes popular public figures to simple animals. It is usually allowed to be edited by users themselves and is a good starting point for research figures most of the time, even though the accuracy is questioned couple of times. Wikipedia makes good use of signifiers especially when to show existence of affordances in terms of a Wikipedia page existing for the word in blue, i.e. if a word or set of words are in blue, it typically means that there exists a specific Wikipedia page associated with it. There is consistency maintained throughout the website and resultant pages in terms of color scheme, font etc. One is also able to view their search history, so it is easy to map back to our initial search and there isn't a great memory load for the user. Wikipedia has a rather minimalistic design like with the white throughout and every hyperlink is properly signified with a blue color. The page is often arranged chronologically, the index of which is also built with hyperlinks. Wikipedia leaves a lot of control in hands of the user, in terms of editing the page as well as selecting what goes where so the administrator has minimal control overall. I believe that Wikipedia is good example of good HCI, but it could improve on streamlining control between the administrator and users, as opposed to completely giving users ultimate control as that leads to the inaccuracy of data.