**OJAX evaluation**

*(Adapted from a test script by Steve Krug (www.sensible.com).)*

**Introduction.**

You probably already know, but let me explain why I’ve asked you to come here

today: I’m testing a federated search system that we’re working on. It’s called OJAX. I want to see how people use it and what they think of it.

**Introducing federated search.**

A federated search system is a search system that searches across more than one database – or repository at the same time.

The implementation that you’re going to be looking at is set up to search for academic articles, and the like, across Cogprints. Cogprints is a database of articles on Cognitive Science.

**Reassurance:**

* I want to make it clear right away that I’m testing the software, not you. You can’t do anything wrong here.
* I want to hear exactly what you think, so please don’t worry that you’re going to hurt my feelings. I want to improve it, so I need to know honestly what you think.
* As we go along, I’m going to ask you to think out loud, to tell me what’s going through your mind. This will help me.
* If you have questions, just ask. I may not be able to answer them right away, since I’m interested in how people do when they don’t have someone sitting next to them, but I will try to answer any questions you still have when we’re done.
* With your permission, I’m going to videotape the computer screen and what you have to say. The video will be used only to help me figure out how to improve the site, and it won’t be seen by anyone except the people working on the project. It also helps me, because I don’t have to take as many notes. I will destroy all personal data after the study.
* Would you mind signing to say you don’t mind me videotaping you and using the video as I just explained?
* Do you have any questions before we begin?

**Reactions to OJAX.**

First, I’m just going to ask you to look at this page and tell me:

* What strikes you about it?
* What you think you would do first if you wanted to carry out a search?

Again, as much as possible, it will help me if you can try to think out loud so I know what you’re thinking about.

**Key task testing.**

Now I’m going to ask you to perform some searches.

Please read the details of each search and ask me any questions you have about the particular search before you performed it.

Again, please think aloud as much as possible.

* Search query #1. Imagine you want to find out what articles are available on the subject of dreaming. Do a search and look at the results.
* Search query #2. Imagine you want to find out what articles have been written on neurology since 1996. Which of them are written by Robin Allott?
* Search query #3. In article “Self-awareness, self-esteem, and alcohol use in famous and relatively well-known individuals.” by Alain Morin, who’s short stories indicated “increased use of first-person voice after he attained celebrity”?
* Search query #4. Search for all articles involving “epistemology” published after 2005 under the subject “cognition”. If you can’t find any results for this search, expand the search to cover all articles covering “mind” as well.
* Search query #5. OJAX can be used directly from the browser search bar (top right). Try any search you like using the browser search field.
* Search query #6. What do you think the “Save this search as a feed” button does?  Post-evaluation questionnaire
* How would you describe your experience of using OJAX?
* What features did you particularly like/dislike?
* How long would it take you to feel as competent using OJAX as you are using your favourite search system?
* What new features would you like in OJAX?
* Are there any features from other systems you would like to see incorporated in OJAX?
* Overall, how do you rate OJAX?