

## **CSCE-675 Digital Libraries: Daily Readings**

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### I. CROSS-CULTURAL USABILITY OF THE LIBRARY METAPHOR [1]

Details:

- Year: 2002
- Type: Proceedings of the 2nd ACM/IEEE-CS joint conference on Digital libraries
- Affiliations: Middlesex University, London, UK

Take-away points:

- The paper presents an investigation of the cross-cultural use and usability of such metaphors by studying the library metaphor of digital libraries in the cultural context of the Maori, the indigenous population of New Zealand.
- Their study examines relevant features of the Maori culture, their form of knowledge transfer and their use of physical and digital libraries.
- The paper points out why and when the library metaphor fails Maori and other indigenous users, and indicates how this knowledge can contribute to the improvement of future designs.

Questions to discuss

- One of the points made by the authors was that, Maori felt more comfortable learning from computers than interacting the Pakeha. I found this point interesting.
- I found it interesting how metaphors are used to display icons.
- The use of metaphors results in reverse learning of concepts used in metaphors.

### II. THE TRAVAILS OF VISUALLY IMPAIRED WEB TRAVELLERS [2]

Details:

- Year: 2000
- Type: HYPERTEXT '00 Proceedings of the eleventh ACM on Hypertext and hypermedia
- Affiliations: Information Management Group, Department of Computer Science, University of Manchester, Oxford Road, Manchester M13 9PL, UK

Take-away points:

- This paper proposes the inclusion of travel and mobility in the usability metrics of web design.
- This paper presents the ground work for including travel into web design and usability metrics by presenting a framework for identifying travel objects and registering them as either cues to aid travel or obstacles that hinder travel for visually impaired users.
- Knowledge of the differences in travel between visually impaired and sighted people will enable the model to be used in assisting the design of better user agents and web content for visually impaired and other users.

Questions to discuss

- How accurate is the evaluation.
- Shouldn't the sample size for evaluation be much bigger.

### III. INTERPRETATION OF WEB PAGE LAYOUTS BY BLIND USERS [3]

Details:

- Year: 2010
- Type: Proceedings of the 10th annual joint conference on Digital libraries
- Affiliations: The University of Texas, Austin, TX, USA

Take-away points:

- Currently, approaches that translate two-dimensional layouts to one-dimensional speech produce a very different user experience and loss of information.
- To address this issue, this paper conducted a study of how blind people navigate and interpret layouts of news and shopping Web pages using current assistive technology.
- Their study revealed that blind people do not parse Web pages fully during their first visit, and that they can miss important parts. Their study also provided insights for improving assistive technologies.

Questions to discuss

- How accurate is the evaluation.
- Shouldn't the sample set for evaluation be much bigger.

### REFERENCES

- [1] E. Duncker, "Cross-cultural usability of the library metaphor," in *Proceedings of the 2nd ACM/IEEE-CS joint conference on Digital libraries*, ser. JCDL '02. New York, NY, USA: ACM, 2002, pp. 223–230. [Online]. Available: <http://doi.acm.org/10.1145/544220.544269>
- [2] C. Goble, S. Harper, and R. Stevens, "The travails of visually impaired web travellers," in *Proceedings of the eleventh ACM on Hypertext and hypermedia*, ser. HYPERTEXT '00. New York, NY, USA: ACM, 2000, pp. 1–10. [Online]. Available: <http://doi.acm.org/10.1145/336296.336304>
- [3] L. Francisco-Revilla and J. Crow, "Interpretation of web page layouts by blind users," in *Proceedings of the 10th annual joint conference on Digital libraries*, ser. JCDL '10. New York, NY, USA: ACM, 2010, pp. 173–176. [Online]. Available: <http://doi.acm.org/10.1145/1816123.1816148>