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Understand

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goal: gather, observe, and research available information to find the needs of the user

artifacts: design requirements

generate

1) identify the challenge & users

think big! what is the **problem**? **who** is affected by it? what is known/unknown? orient yourself with all of the project's who, what, why, when, & how

Investigators in biology, biotechnology, pharmacology, and medicine who study metabolism

1) Access information about biological entities and their relations.

2) Analyze relevant experimental data in context.

users

2) find questions & tasks

what can you **ask** about the challenge? what do users want to do with data? think high and low level. revisit this worksheet to break these down further.

Users want to explore simple yet representative subsets of the large and complex network.

Users want to recognize trends in experimental data in context of the network.

!! box #3 may help you revisit this box later

3) check with users or explore data

users: what did you find out? what sparked curiosity? data: characterize aspects of the data. what is it like?

I looked for sources of network data. These data sets are large and complex. I need to figure out how to organize/structure data appropriately.

!! get the real data and talk to real users if possible!

4) brainstorm design requirements

what are recurring trends? what are key design opportunities? are there **constraints** worth listing?

Users need an effective method to query comprehensive network data and select subsets.

Users need to explore these subsets and understand them, maybe with a variety of visual representations.

evaluate

5) compare and rank design requirements

choose a method for comparison. **pros/cons table**, **rank** based on your findings, user needs/tasks, **cross out** the list based on listed justifications, or **pick** top 3 to keep and why. explain and review with a group or partner.

Maybe I'll organize these design steps in a note? text file.

- Ability to query ~~the~~ comprehensive network database to select subsets according to interest.
- Visual representation of subsets
- Exploration of subsets via visual interface and more specific selection.
- Representation of properties on visual representation, including experimental data.

!! is this the right challenge to tackle? is it/are enough (or too much?) too many or not enough requirements? complete this worksheet again to refocus the project

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