Protocol (Final)

Megan Pai

1. Pre-Study Interview

What is your name and affiliation?

* Megan pai, graphic designer

What is your field of research or study?

* Researched architecture and art history

How often do you read research papers?

* Pretty rarely - through an article online, not in full

How do you read a paper? Do you read it through multiple times? Which section(s) do you focus on the first time, second time, etc. and why?

* Read through abstract and authors and their background if not familiar. and citations. then read thru paper and **annotate**

Have you used any tools or techniques to help you read papers? Are there any tools that you wish existed that you think would help you?

* sporadic about methods. digital is definitely important. but many professors printed papers out. **this provided a spatial or physical representation** - better orientation. think about book format and adjacency. e.g. footnotes at bottom of page
* **idea - platform that can accommodate all levels of knowledge.**

2. Think-aloud Study

* read the title and feeling quite loss
* noticed authors which are cs = not in her field
* reading abstract
* lots of highlighting and interaction with text with cursor
  + LIKE A LOT
* HARD to highlight stuff until you’ve read
* hard to know where key terms are widely-used or self-defined. this could be something good to clarify
  + like CSCL
  + like peer acknowledgement
* after abstract, scanning length of article
* kind of a random scroll around, just sizing it up
* participant feeling uncomfortable LOL
* looking for key ideas in large blocks of text and then highlighting those
* highlights are for helping process words, not necessarily flagging text to return to
* now looking at first and last sentences to see if things are digestible
  + then scans for things that happen to catch her eye
* should we be taking data on how well they actually understand the paper? because this influences whether their methods are effective or not. or is it an assumption that their methods are effective
* found bolded main points in front of some paragraphs helpful. allows her to move past the more detailed information.
* charts
* read caption
* doesnt understand shapley value
  + searched keyword then found first reference
  + then searched online
* compared to similar charts
* more ideas
  + do it on things people have read
  + audio component - bc reading out loud helped here
  + provide a digital analgog for handwriting/highlighting
    - take in information slower

3. Post-Study Interview

Which sections of a research paper do you consider most important for understanding its content?

* The sections on research qs, procedure, and findings are most important for me. The parts where they get into the nitty gritty findings (Results) are not helpful bc I am not familiar enough with the content and its technicalities.

When summarizing a paper, which sections provide the most useful information?

* First sentence of each paragraph (something I learned from a news writing class). Including last sentence too.

What aspects of the summarization process do you find most challenging?

* Finding a balance bw hypothesis and detailed findings

Can you describe how you typically navigate through a research paper?

* title > abstract > authors > citations > sections > read in full

Is your reading process linear, or do you follow a different pattern?

* Linear, multiple times, each time w increasing granularity

What challenges do you encounter when reading data-intensive research papers?

* I have a really hard time with reading comprehension when there are multiple unknown terms or concepts in sequence. This seems to happen often.

What aspects of interpreting charts and statistical data in research papers do you find most difficult?

* Hard for me to generate a summary of the specific data points without having a textual cue; difficulty synthesizing

How do you approach understanding the “Results” or “Evaluation” sections of a paper?

* Taking a high-level approach is usually most helpful here. Read the first and last sentence of paragraphs to understand the overall discovery while avoiding the technical details.

Do you find it challenging to connect data presented in charts to real-world implications? If so, what do you think contributes to this difficulty?

* ​​It depends, but often times yes, because I often find that scientific research papers or papers that are data-heavy consist of very specific/narrow studies requiring a good amount of technical knowledge.