# Visual Information Seeking Systems)

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Universität Konstanz

#### Interaction Design & Information Visualization





# inteHRDis





#### Zoomable User Interfaces for Small, Medium and Large Devices



**Usability Engineering Methods & Techniques** 

## **Information Engineering**



#### **Visualization and Exploration of large Information Spaces**



## Ongoing growth of information spaces in terms of

- Quantity
- Dimensionality
- Heterogeneity

(number of entries)

(amount of metadata per entry)

(multimedia content, documents, full texts, ...)



#### **Motivation: Poor Interface of local Library Catalog**

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### **Visual Information Seeking Systems**

- **combine** the functionality of **retrieval systems** with the possibilities of **information visualization systems**
- important aspect is their possibility to visualize a great variety of document attributes allowing the user to choose the most appropriate for his task



Zamir 1998



## **Visual Information Seeking Systems (VISS)**

- VISS support the task "searching and browsing".
- Key is the enormous capacity for human visual information processing (<u>Ware 2004</u>).
- Presenting information visually and allowing dynamic user control through direct manipulation UI
- Displays of textual and numeric information can be extended to incorporate spatial displays in which related information is clustered in 2-dimensional or higher spaces.





#### **Visual Web Search with Grokker**





#### http://www.grokker.com/

#### **Visual Web Search with Grokker**





#### http://www.grokker.com/

#### **Visual Web Search with Kartoo**





#### http://www.kartoo.com/

#### **Visual Music Search with liveplasma**





#### http://www.liveplasma.com/

### **Steps during Information Seeking**

Formulation: Expressing the search	Search form (simple, extended, visual); phrases; variants; size of result set
Initiation of action: launching the search	Search button; dynamic queries
Review of results: reading messages and outcome	Overview, zoom and filter, details on demand; clustering; change sequencing; visualizations
Refinement: formulating the next steps	Meaningful messages; support changing of search parameters; relevance feedback
<b>Use:</b> compiling or disseminating insight	Saving and annotating of results; sending via e-mail; input to other tools

Five-Phase Framework for Textual Search, Shneiderman, Plaisant 2004, p.567



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### VISS from our HCI group at the University of Konstanz

#### Past:

- INSYDER (VISS for the Web)
- INVISIP (VISS for Geo-Data)
- VisMeB (Visual Metadata Browser)
- ZUIScat (VISS for mobile devices)

#### **Present:**

- MedioVis (VISS for digital/multimedia libraries)
- BEST (VISS for automotive websites)

more information: <u>http://hci.uni-konstanz.de</u>



## **INSYDER – VISS for the Web**

## • Comprehensive **visual** support during

formulation of the query using a visualization of the semantic network (thesaurus)

 review of the search results using multiple synchronized visualizations

refinement of the query using a visualization of the semantic
 network (thesaurus)



#### INSYDER Video <u>starten</u>!















#### **INSYDER – Query Formulation**





http://hci.uni-konstanz.de/index.php?a=publications Diss Gabriela Mußler

### **INSYDER - Result Table**

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## **INSYDER – Scatterplot (1)**

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### **INSYDER – Scatterplot (2)**



### **INSYDER - Barcharts**

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#### **INSYDER - Stacked Columns**

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#### **INSYDER - List**

#### (integrated as benchmark for evaluation purposes)

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Apply Reset	European site: http://www.xephon.co.uk/news/89091708.html

#### **INVISIP – VISS for a Geo Metadata Database**



### INVISIP VisMeB - Visual Metadata Browser

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#### 1 of 146 Datasets selected.

### MedioVis – VISS for the Mediothek of the Uni KN



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traditional system "KOALA": Searching and Browsing is separated, long textual lists MedioVis: Search and Browsing integrated, different visual views



### MedioVis – VISS for the Mediothek of the Uni KN

# **MedioVis**

10.00

#### Hier MedioVis Demonstrationsvideo starten

10100



**HyperGrid** 

#### **Zoomable Scatterplot**



### **ZUIScat (VISS for mobile devices)**



A 10 10

ZuiScat – Overview & Detail



ZuiScat – Details only



ZuiScat – Fish Eye





#### **User Interface Design Principles for VISS**

- What user interface design principles for VISS have the potential
  - to reduce the users anxiety about the flood of information,
  - find needles in haystacks,
  - support exploratory browsing to develop intuition,
  - find patterns and exceptions, and
  - even make browsing fun?

(Ahlberg, Shneiderman 1994)



#### **Related Research Disciplines**



#### **User Interface Design Principles for VISS**

- 1. Design an **easy to use** system that supports the user's work in an effective and efficient manner. UE
- 2. Design an **easy to learn** system that shows the user the possibilities of its use during the interaction with it. HCI
- 3. Offer support during the **formulation of the query** to allow the user to express the right information needs. IR + InfoVis
- 4. Offer a quick and insightful **overview** about all search results to find the "needles in the haystack". InfoVis
- 5. Offer the right **amount of information** in the **context** where the user need it. InfoVis
- 6. Present **different aspects** of interest at the **same time** to compare them or to get more information at a glance. InfoVis
- 7. Offer possibilities to **restrict** the amount of **information** to selected topics of interest. InfoVis
- 8. Offer customization and individualization possibilities. HCI
- 9. Design an information space that offers a rich representation of **information from different information sources** in an **integrated fashion**.
- 10. Put visual information seeking in a **broader context** (knowledge work).



# Design an easy to use system that supports the user's work in an effective and efficient manner.

 Follow an User-Centered Design approach: Start with an analysis of the context of use considering the factors of the "5-T Environment".



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Card, Mackinlay, Shneidermann, Reference Model of Visualization, Readings in Information Visualization, 1999



### **Context of Use influencing the Success of Visualizations**

- Five factors are influencing the usefulness of a given visualization "**5T-Environment**" (Mann, Reiterer 2000):
  - 1. **Target user group**: e.g. interpersonal differences in information perception and processing, which influences for example the way people think in spatial dimensions or abstraction
  - 2. Tasks to be done: e.g. knowledge worker: monitor, detect, search, extract information, fuse different sources, find schema, recode information into schema, organize, compare, simulate, decide, distribute
  - 3. Type and number of data: e.g. text or numeric data; hierarchy in the data; number of documents or data items
  - 4. **Technical possibilities**: e.g. size of monitor, memory size, processor power, available input/output devices
  - 5. **Training**: to find the right balance between learnability and efficiency or between simplicity versus power; long term benefits must out weight the amount of training



#### **User-Centered Design**

- User-Centered Design makes use of the following **Usability Engineering techniques**:
  - Factors of "5-T Environment" have to be considered during Requirements Engineering using techniques like contextual task analysis and user profiles
  - Prototyping of different visualization ideas offers a rich design space
  - Formative and summative evaluation techniques during the whole development process to "proof the concepts"
  - Iterative process model (e.g. Usability Engineering Lifecycle) allows the consideration of the evaluation results



## **Prototyping, Evaluation, Iteration**





# Design an easy to learn system that shows the user the possibilities of its use during the interaction with it.

- Proposed design solution (MedioVis):
  - "Multi-layered" interface combined with an Integrated Initial Guidance help approach using the metaphor of "sticky notes", allowing users to use the interface or run automated demonstrations while reading the sticky notes overlaid on the interface (Shneiderman 2003, Kang et al. 2003).







# Design an easy to learn system that shows the user the possibilities of its use during the interaction with it.









# Offer support during the formulation of the query to allow the user to express the right information needs.

- Design solution (INSYDER and INVISIP):
  - Visual Query or Dynamic Queries help users to specify their information need more precisely using interactive query refinement techniques based upon visualization.

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# Offer a quick and insightful overview about all search results to find the "needles in the haystack".

- Follow the visual-information-seeking mantra: "Overview first, zoom and filter, then details on demand." (Shneiderman 1998)
- Design solutions (INSYDER, INVISIP, MedioVis):
  - Scatterplot with zoom and filter functionality for overview
  - Table for details on demand











# Offer the right amount of information in the context where the user need it.

- Design solutions (INVISIP and MedioVis):
  - Focus & Context techniques based on Zoomable User
     Interfaces (ZUI) offering semantic zooming:
    - TableZoom: the whole table moves to another level of detail
    - **RowZoom**: single rows can change their level of detail independently
    - CellZoom: single cells can be viewed in different levels of detail



#### TableZoom, RowZoom, CellZoom

# TableZoom



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# Offer the right amount of information in the context where the user need it.

- Proposed design solution:
  - Semantic zoom based on ideas of **Zoom Navigation** (Rüger 1998):
    - Combines the Degree of Interest (DOI) of the Fisheye View (Furnas 1981) with an Aspect of Interest (AOI)
    - AOI could be based on the analysis of user interaction logs to draw conclusions of the desired information

	Aspects AOI						
Level of Detail DOI	Title						
	Abstract						
	Year of origin	Names of actors	Poster				



Representation Matrix for MedioVis

#### **AOI based on DROID**

"How often? How long? Last time visited?" for each aspect





# Present different aspects of interest at the same time to compare them or to get more information at a glance.

- Design solution (INSYDER, INVISIP and MedioVis):
  - Use of Multiple Coordinated Views (MCV) following the eight design rules of (Baldonado et al. 2000):
    - Rule of Diversity
    - Rule of Complementarity
    - Rule of Decomposition
    - Rule of Parsimony
    - Rule of Space/Time Resource Optimization
    - Rule of Self-Evidence
    - Rule of Consistency
    - Rule of Attention Management



#### **Multiple Coordinated Views (INVISP)**



#### **Alternative Views:**





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### Multiple Coordinated Views (MedioVis)

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# Offer possibilities to restrict the amount of information to selected topics of interest.

- Design solutions:
  - TableFilter, Moveable Filter, CSV Filter and Dynamic Queries

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### Offer customization and individualization possibilities.

- Offer the possibility to customize the system reflecting the user's personal needs.
- Design solutions (INVISIP, MedioVis):
  - Assignment tool allows individual configuration of the visualizations
  - MCV could be customized by the user



### Offer customization and individualization possibilities.

- Design an information workspace that allows the user to keep and manage his information needs, search results, etc. for later use.
- Design solution (INSYDER):
  - User Environment stores different Spheres of Interest (SOI)
  - SOI are available for the main functions: Search, Watch, and Bookmark / News
  - Country- and industry-branchspecific predefined SOIs with selected bookmarks, collections of starting points like search engines and URL-lists, specific thesauri to improve the relevance ranking of the semantic analysis module, or rule files to classify hits by user definable host-types.







Design an information space that offers a rich representation of information from different information sources in an integrated fashion.

- Proposed design solution (MedioVis):
  - Media Warehouse offers an "added value" by providing a comprehensive collection of all relevant data from various sources, e.g.
    - MAB2 catalog providing basic information
    - Metadata from online databases/ websites (covers, posters, plot summary)
    - Geographical information, ground plan/maps (e.g. for orientation or origin information)
    - Digitized content (audio clips, trailers, full-texts, video streams)





#### Put visual information seeking in a broader context.

Collect	Learning from previous works stored in libraries, on the Web, etc. Searching and browsing digital libraries, the Web, etc.
	Visualizing data and processes to understand and discover relationships
Relate	Consulting with peers and mentors for intellectual and emotional support
Create	Explore, compose, evaluate possible solutions
	Thinking by free association to make new combinations of ideas (brainstorming, lateral thinking)
	Exploring solutions – what-if tools and simulation models
	Composing artifacts and performances step by step
	Reviewing and replaying session histories to support reflection
Donate	Disseminating the results to gain recognition and contribute to libraries, the Web, etc.

Framework for Mega-Creativity (Shneiderman 2002, p.214)



#### Put visual information seeking in a broader context

- **Genex** is a framework for an integrated set of software tools that support creativity in science, medicine, the arts, and beyond.
- A medical scenario shows how a physician might treat a patient by collecting information from databases using information visualization tools, exploring innovative treatment plans, consulting with specialists, and disseminating the refined treatment plan to relevant people. The playful scenario begins when Dorothy Gale returns from the Emerald City in the Land of Oz with a mysterious ruby red rash. (www.cs.umd.edu/hcil/pubs/presentati ons/genex/index.shtml)







#### MedioVis - InfoVis 2007 Contest



#### **A Visual Explorer for Motion Picture Data**

Sebastian Rexhausen Mischa Demarmels Hans-Christian Jetter Mathias Heilig Jens Gerken Harald Reiterer firstname.lastname@uni-konstanz.de

University of Konstanz Human-Computer Interaction Group http://hci.uni-konstanz.de/Blockbuster









### **Knowledge Media Workbench for Digital Libraries**

- Knowledge Media Workbench as a couple of creativity support tools for users of Digital Libraries:
  - Visual information seeking with search, watch, bookmark, news functions
  - Information Workspace to store different spheres of interest and knowledge artifacts
  - Media Warehouse that fuses different sources and offers integration of data to support data sharing accomplished by providing compatible data types and file formats
  - Media Editors (e.g. word processors, presentation graphics, spreadsheets, slide presentation, photo/movie editing) to create and present new knowledge artifacts; offer integration of actions and consistent terminology; support higher level of actions like "collectexplore-visualize" or "annotate-consult-revise"
  - History Tool for reviewing and replaying session histories
  - E-mail, Website, CSCW functionality
  - **Zoomable User Interfaces** (ZUI) offering multiple coordinated views

- ...



### **Design Principles for a Knowledge Media Workbench**

- 1. Offer comprehensive visual support for all activities of creative work.
- 2. Support searching and browsing of digital libraries, the Web, etc.
- 3. Offers the user a **rich representation of information (multimedia) from different information sources** in an integrated fashion.
- 4. Allow the user to keep and manage his information needs, search results, knowledge artifacts, etc. for later use.
- 5. Support the creation of knowledge artifacts.
- 6. Support reflection based on the interaction history.
- 7. Offer a variety of possibilities to disseminate knowledge artifacts.
- 8. Offer smooth integration across windows.



#### **Conclusion & Outlook**

- Conclusion:
  - There is some empirical evidence (based on user tests) that the presented design principles lead to better design solutions ... but we need more design principles + design solutions, and more empirical tests!
- Outlook:
  - Development of a comprehensive "Style Guide" or "UI
     Design Patterns Collection" for VISS and KMS.
  - Development of a Knowledge Media Workbench to support creative work.



#### **Publications of HCI Group**

 <u>http://hci.uni-</u> konstanz.de/index.php?a=publications&lang=de



#### More on Information Visualization...



#### Zusatzmaterial: Slides "Grundlagen der Datenvisualisierung":

VSS\_Skript\_WS0607\_Zusatzfolien\_Grundlagen\_Datenvisualisierung\_WS0607.ppt



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