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Evangelos Kapros · Maria Koutsombogera
Editors

Designing for the User Experience in Learning Systems

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ISSN 1571-5035

ISSN 2524-4477 (electronic)

Human-Computer Interaction Series

ISBN 978-3-319-94793-8

ISBN 978-3-319-94794-5 (eBook)

<https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-319-94794-5>

Library of Congress Control Number: 2018951211

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The registered company address is: Gewerbestrasse 11, 6330 Cham, Switzerland

It is in the very nature of the human condition that each new generation grows into an old world, so that to prepare a new generation for a new world can only mean that one wishes to strike from the newcomers' hands their own chance at the new.

Hannah Arendt,
The Crisis in Education, 1954

Preface

Technology-enhanced learning has been a subject of discussion since the very early days of computer science and human–computer interaction. However, many of these early promises, such as intelligent tutors or personalised learning, were never realised. Several of these ideas were technology oriented, and the popularisation of user-centred information systems made apparent that user-centred design techniques were appropriate for technology-enhanced learning too.

In this spirit, we co-chaired a conference session with Aimilia Tzanavari of the University of Nicosia, Cyprus, initially titled ‘Dissecting the User Experience when the User’s Objective is to Learn’, and then ‘User Experience in and for Learning Technology’. The session found a good home at the International Conference on Learning and Collaboration Technologies (LCT) as part of the Human-Computer International conference (HCII) for several years.

The idea for the book was born as a result of these sessions. Over the years, a community of tens of experts in these sessions has contributed their ideas to the body of knowledge; however, we did not select the material for this book to be exclusively by these authors, and instead issued an open call so as to include more contributions. We believe we managed to give the opportunity for fresh ideas in designing learner experiences to come forward.

We would like to thank Aimilia Tzanavari, now at Proto.io, for the years we co-organised the session; Panayiotis Zaphiris and Andri Ioannou, of the Cyprus University of Technology, Cyprus, for organising LCT as part of HCII; Gavriel Salvendy, of Purdue University, USA, and Tsinghua University, Beijing, P.R. of China, and Constantine Stephanidis, of University of Crete/Foundation for Research and Technology—Hellas (FORTH), Greece, for organising HCII.

In addition, we would like to acknowledge Trinity College Dublin, the University of Dublin, for their flexibility which allowed us to prepare this book. Evangelos would like to thank his colleagues at the Science Gallery Dublin and Maria at the School of Computer Science and Statistics.

The research of Evangelos Kapros has received funding from (a) the Learnovate Centre at Trinity College, the University of Dublin, under the Technology Centre Programme through the Government of Ireland’s state agencies Enterprise Ireland

and IDA Ireland and (b) SySTEM 2020, from the European Union's Horizon 2020 Research and Innovation Programme under Grant Agreement No. 788317.

The research of Maria Koutsombogera has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under the Marie Skłodowska-Curie Grant Agreement No. 701621 (MULTISIMO).

This book could not have been completed without the help of many people. We sincerely thank all the authors for warmly supporting this endeavour through contributing to this book with their chapters and for engaging in peer-reviewing. We would also like to thank Beverley Ford and Nancy Wade-Jones at Springer (London, UK) for their invaluable support and assistance in publishing this book in a timely fashion.

Barcelona, Spain
Dublin, Ireland
June 2018

Evangelos Kapros
Maria Koutsombogera

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