

Winner of the SIGCHI Finland thesis competition 2021

Receiver: Sampo Utriainen, University of Vaasa, School of Marketing and Communication, Technical Communication

Title: Saavutettavuusvirheiden tulkinta. Keinoja digitaalisten koulutustietopalveluiden saavutettavuuden kehittämiseen.

The thesis explores methods to identify and correct accessibility problems. The study focuses on education information providers. Four services from different countries were included in the study. Accessibility problems were identified by multiple methods including usability evaluation, accessibility evaluation and expert interviews. As the result of the research it was shown that several parallel evaluation method support the finding of accessibility faults.

The topic of the thesis is current. Both the need for research as well the need for practical tools on the topic of accessibility is high. Education information services are a well-thought context for the study because of the importance of general access to education. The research is conducted profoundly and the results are supported by the analysis of broad research data. The results are easily generalizable and imminently usable for practitioners in the field.

The assessment of the submitted theses and the selection of the winners were done by a panel of experts, including both researchers and practitioners in the HCI field. The competition was organized by SIGCHI Finland, sponsored by Suomen teknisen viestinnän yhdistys and coordinated by Laura Havinen. The members of the panel were:

- Tapani Joelsson, University of Turku
- Pia Karasjärvi, Suomen teknisen viestinnän yhdistys
- Timo Rossi, Jakamo
- Leena Salmi, University of Turku
- Johanna Silvennoinen, University of Jyväskylä
- Jouni Smed, University of Turku
- Tiia Suomivuori, Coresbond / Tampere University

In the final discussion, also the following people were present:

- Nick Hill, Suomen teknisen viestinnän yhdistys
- Kirsikka Kaipainen, Tampere University
- Jari Kangas, Tampere University
- Helena Tokkonen, University of Oulu

sigchi
FINLAND



SUOMEN TEKNISEN
VIESTINNÄN YHDISTYS

Honorable mention in the SIGCHI Finland thesis competition 2021

Receiver: Juuli Haapasaari, University of Jyväskylä, Faculty of Information Technology, Cognitive Science

Title: Interpretations of sustainability and its importance in the context of technology

The thesis explores how sustainability is understood in the context of technology and what is the perceived importance of sustainability for technology. The thesis consists of literature review and empirical study with an online survey. The survey data was broad consisting of 235 answers. The results of the research reveal that the technological sustainability was mostly understood forming of the environmental, developmental and social dimension. In addition, the participants mainly considered sustainability important for technology. The experienced importance correlated with sustainability consciousness.

The topic of the thesis is current. Both the research task and the concept of sustainability are challenging. These challenges have been exceptionally well approached in this thesis. Throughout the thesis, a good mastery of the topic and a mature scientific approach is demonstrated. The research methods are well applied. The thesis is an excellent starting point for further research and opens a possibility for developing tools for practitioners on how to add engagement to sustainable design efforts.

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Honorable mention in the SIGCHI Finland thesis competition 2021

Receiver: Jarmo Seppälä, Aalto-yliopisto, School of Science, Information Networks

Title: User Experience of Learning Systems: Enhancing Student Motivations for Frequent Mobile Language Learning Application Use

The thesis focuses on the improvement of learning experiences related to a mobile language learning application KoToToMo+. The research approach of the study is design science. The aim of the research is two folded. Firstly, the experiential needs related to positive learning experience in a mobile language learning application are investigated both in general and in relation to KoToToMo+. Secondly, the success and suitability of design science research method to this research task is evaluated. In the results of the research, the experiential needs were identified and the suitability of the chosen research approach was discussed as suitable for the research task.

The thesis is scientifically very well conducted. The theory base is multidisciplinary and linked well to the empirical study. The research data is broad and collected in multiple ways: from interviews, questionnaires and user testing sessions where developed prototypes were evaluated. Throughout the thesis, a very good command of usability research is demonstrated. Additional challenge to this was that because of the pandemic the user tests were forced to be conducted remotely. Overall, the thesis fulfills very well the criteria for an exceptionally meritorious thesis.

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