Call for proposals

7th Annual
Symposium on Communicating Complex Information (SCCI)

February 26-27, 2018
East Carolina University
Greenville NC

Paper and panel proposals due October ~~15~~22, 2017 extended
Poster proposal due January 15, 2018

Symposium Overview

Building on the success of the previous symposia, the Symposium on Communicating Complex Information (SCCI) explores how the design and presentation of complex information affects how humans use it. Information complexity arises from the inherent relationships between context, content, and people using the information. SCCI seeks to examine these relationships by exploring how design and content choices influence people's behavior when they interact with complex information in different contexts.

Keynote address: Karen Schriver

Symposium Objective

The purpose of SCCI is to bring together individuals from a range of academic and industry backgrounds to share research findings and discuss approaches for sharing complex information in a variety of contexts. The Symposium strives to build upon what we already know about communicating complex information in order to clarify our understanding of what issues urgently need further research in this area.

General Focus

SCCI seeks to examine how an understanding of the settings in which people access and use complex information can improve the design of complex information systems for different audiences. The need to understand the issues affecting how we communicate/share complex information affects many areas. As such, it is of interest to fields as diverse as user experience, information design, technical communication, information architecture, data visualization, computer science, communication studies, and library sciences.

Health and Medical Communication Track

This year SCCI includes a special half-day session focused on the complexities of communicating health and medical information to various audiences in different contexts. The objective of this Health and Medical Communication Track is to share research results, theoretical models, and best practices for conveying health and medical information with academic researchers and industry practitioners working in or interested in these areas.

Symposium details

This two–day symposium is designed to maximize the exchange of information and ideas among the participants.   To do so, the symposium consists of short (15-20 minute) presentations followed by 20-30 minute group discussion. The objective is to share ideas and seek opportunities to collaborate on or expand research that examines communicating complex information in different contexts. In essence, the Symposium brings together teachers, practitioners, and scholars to address the over-arching questions of:

> *How can individual collaborate to devise new approaches to the design and evaluation of complex information systems?*

and

> *How can individuals work together to define what is meant by usability/user experience and what constitutes usable information in complex systems?*

In addition to the presentation and discussion sessions that take place on Monday and Tuesday of the Symposium, social events on Sunday and Monday evenings allow participants to network as well as to continue discussions started during Symposium sessions.

Types of presentations

Individuals can submit proposals for individuals or panel presentations or poster presentations.

Email general topic proposals to Michael Albers at albersm@ecu.edu

Email proposals for the Health and Medical Communication Track to Kirk St. Amant at kirk.stamant@gmail.com

Proposals should be submitted as a .doc file emailed attached to an email message with the subject line of the email reading "SCCI Proposal."

Presentation sessions are structured as follows:

Paper presentation

> *Proposals are due by October ~~15~~22, 2017*

> Paper presentations have a 30-40 minute time block, including a 15-20 minute presentation and 20-25 minutes of discussion.

> Submit a 250-300 word position paper about your ongoing work, new interaction designs, opinions or approaches to the problem, or conceptual frameworks or theories. Papers will be peer-reviewed and selected by relevance and likelihood of stimulating and contributing to this discussion.

Panel presentation

Proposals are due by October ~~15~~22, 2017

Panel presentations consist of a group of 3-6 individuals who will jointly share a 20 minute block for position statements on a focused topic, followed by an open discussion on that topic.

The panel organizer should submit a 200-300 word summary of the panel topic, a list of the panelists, and a 100-200 word position statement from each panelist on how they will address the topic.

Panel proposals will be peer-reviewed and selected by relevance and likelihood of stimulating and contributing to this discussion.

Poster presentation

Proposals are due by January 15, 2018

Poster sessions accommodate the presentation of late-breaking scientific research or preliminary research results.

Posters will be on display throughout the conference, and poster creators will present their posters at a dedicated session during the conference.

Submit a 200-300 word statement describing the topic of the poster.

Possible topics

Possible examples for topics could include but are not limited to the following:

- Examinations of how information architecture can address structuring complex information spaces.
- Methods of communicating the complexities of healthcare information to a non-medical audience.
- Methods to better visualize complex information to support decision making or better understanding by non-professionals.
- Examinations of how user experience can address improving the interactions within complex information spaces.
- Discussions of how can the results of big data analysis be displayed to both capture the subtleties and complexities but still remain usable?
- Reviews of what is common and what is different based on domain demands that should inform our analysis of needs, generation of requirements, designs and testing? How do we design information shared among interdisciplinary groups of experts?
- Methods required for testing and evaluating complex systems (e.g., health care situations, resources allocated among many projects, intelligence analysis of multiple

sources of data, customer service working across multiple technologies and/or cultures).

- Methods of designing to maximize the user experience and enhance user interaction within complex information.

- Methods of designing to improve decision-making within complex environments.

- Methods of measuring users' comprehension of complex material and ensuring maximal comprehension.

- Methods of developing usability tests appropriate for a specific domain and that account for users' extensive domain knowledge or lack of domain knowledge.

- Examinations of domain experts' retrieval and use of information on the web and best practices for designing and testing for this audience.

- Reevaluations of usability in light of visual analytics, i.e., using interactive visual interfaces to conduct analytical reasoning and complex knowledge work.

- Discussions of new usability approaches for examining the design of complex web sites.

- Descriptions and analyses of the ways experts in an area perceive complexity and simplicity in unique production environments, such as health care.

Schedule

Key dates for the Symposium are as follows:

Paper and panel proposal due: October ~~15~~22, 2017
Notice of acceptance: December 1, 2017
Papers for symposium website due: February 17, 2018
Symposium dates: February 26–27, 2018

Poster proposal due: January 15, 2018
Notice of acceptance: February 1, 2018
Poster proposals will be reviewed when they are received.

Additional details

For more information on the Symposium, see the Symposium website at
http://workshop.design4complexity.com/

If you have any questions, contact: Michael Albers (albersm@ecu.edu).

This symposium sponsored in part by
East Carolina University
SIGDOC
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