

Web design guidelines: Investigating issues of interpretation and efficacy

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Abstract

This poster describes ongoing doctoral research regarding issues specific to web design; guideline understanding and interpretation by designers, and the effects of guideline use on user interaction. The main study involves designers assessing ten cancer information health websites using an abbreviated version of the 2006 US Department of Health and Human Services guideline set. The designers assess the extent to which the sites meet a set of 68 guidelines. Following this assessment, the designers are paired, discuss their evaluations and attempt to reach consensus. Then all the participant designers meet to discuss those guidelines for which consensus has not been reached. The use of discussions is intended to draw out issues around the understanding and interpretation of the guidelines. The research will ideally lead to improved guideline presentation.

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