Digital Imagery in Human-Computer Interaction Design Project 2.A Digital Imagery as Social Mechanism: Community Thursday February 18th 2010

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Project
Find or create your own images or illustrations which denote or picture how digital imagery is implicated in communities, especially but not exclusively online communities. This is a design research project—I am not interested in your original concepts, but rather things you find by observation or secondary sources that are interesting and compelling. Choose three contrasting images or illustrations. At least one of your choices must be connected to digital technologies in some way.

Explain why your choices complement or contrast one another and what’s interesting about them. To do so, you may want to use or research some of the following terms: Tagging, Copyright, Creative Commons, Photo sharing, Professionalism, Amateurism, Online Social Groups and Networking. This list of terms is by no means complete—use your own initiative to relate your research to existing concepts in interaction design and HCI as best you can.

Format:
Your project must be presented on three and only three landscape mode pages in pdf format. The first page should be a sketch, the second page should be your final research or concept, and the third page should be your primary and secondary attributions lists, as in the example/model solution that follows. Upload your work to oncourse, as instructed in class. Be certain to reference all of your sources accurately and completely.

The example on the pages that follow gives an idea of what a design research project could look like for the purposes of this class project. The example is by no means the most ideal project—yours should not be longer, but it can and ideally should be more compelling and interesting.

DUE Thursday February 25th no later than 9:00 AM
A FINAL form completed project.
professional
amateur
family
art
documentary
learning
equipment
genre
photo.net: probably the oldest online photography community
(source: photo.net)

Photo.net is probably the oldest online photography community started in 1995 by Philip Greenspun (http://philip.greenspun.com/). This is a very extensive community targeted at photography enthusiasts and professionals. There are lots of technical discussions and the gallery images are mostly very professional compared to many other sites. There is also a large section on learning about photography that is literally an online textbook resource.

rangefinderforum.com: highly specialized community
(source: www.rangefinderforum.com)

Rangefinder cameras are the original form of small format portable photography dating back to Oscar Barnack’s invention of the Leica film camera that was introduced to the marketplace in 1925. Rangefinder photography has at many times been the preferred tool of street photographers and photojournalists. There is a present renaissance of interest in rangefinder photography. The rangefinderforum is a small community of aficionados, who share images that are mostly in the style of the rangefinder tradition and who engage in discussions of all matters relating to this particular form of photography. The forum is sponsored by dealers who are in the business of supplying equipment to this niche market.

flickr.com: large general interest community
(source: www.flickr.com)

Flickr is probably the most well known online photography community. The site is targeted at anyone interested in images and is much more of a social forum than a professional and enthusiast photographic forum like the other two examples. The site itself claims that its purpose it to provide online photo management, rather than to target a specific professional class of photographer or genre of photography.

(All sites referenced on this page accessed on 2.10.2010)
Primary Attributions
None

Secondary Attributions
source: photo.net
source: rangefinderforum.com
source: flickr.com