Design Research

(in HCI/IxD)

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Research areas:

- HCI, Interaction Design
- Health informatics
- Usability testing methodology
- User-centred design methods
- Sensor-based systems
- Mobile computing (apps)
- Prototyping techniques
- Theoretical foundations of HCI





What is product quality?

What makes one product better than another?



















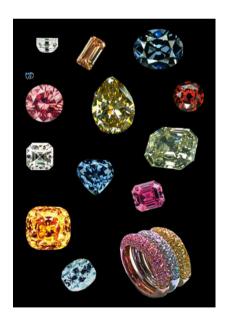




How do we measure quality?

Evaluation criteria!







Diamonds: 4Cs
Cut
Carat
Color
Clarity

Ski jump

• Criteria:

Length + style Style (max. 3x20):

- Jump
- In the air
- Landing





Mobiles: iPhone



iPhone imponerer stort, og irriterer litt. (Foto: KLAUS BØRRINGBO)

Brukervennlig til fingerspissene

Det var ikke mange minuttene vi måtte ha Apples iPhone i hånden, før vi fikk et klart inntrykk av at dette virkelig er noe for seg selv. Men helt perfekt er den dog ikke.

Criteria:

- Price
- Usability/design
- Functions
- Communication



"Good usability"

Canon EOS 50D + 17-85mm IS USM

Hører til test av digitalkamera

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Canon EOS 50D + 17-85 mm IS USM er et digitalt speilreflekskamera til en høy pris.

Det tar gode bilder, og er et veldig raskt og brukervennlig kamera. Testens beste søker/skjerm totalt, med live view. Lang batterilevetid. Har ikke filmfunksjon.

Produktgruppe	high-end
Cirka- pris, kroner	12500



Canon EOS 50D + 17-85 mm IS USM. (Foto: ICRT)

Interaction Design

- Interaction Design defined (ixda.org):
 - "Interaction Design is the professional discipline that defines the behavior of interactive products and how products communicate their functionality to the people who use them"
 - "Good interaction design makes products ranging from computer software to clock radios to cars more useful, usable, and desirable"

Interactive products: Quality criteria

Interaction Design: "useful, usable, and desirable"

Roman architect Vitruvius (50 BC): "commodity, firmness, and delight".

- Commodity:
 - Utility and usability.
- Firmness:
 - Technically well made.
- Delight:
 - Eye pleasing, culturally/socially desirable, interesting.





Usability defined

ISO 9241-11 (1998) defines usability:

"The extent to which a product can be used by specified users to achieve specified goals with effectiveness, efficiency and satisfaction in a specified context of use.

Context of use is defined as: "users, tasks, equipment (hardware, software and materials), and the physical and social environment in which a product is used".



Evaluation example: Eating utensil

Problem: Assess the usability of these three product







Three products in three contexts of use













A usability matrix











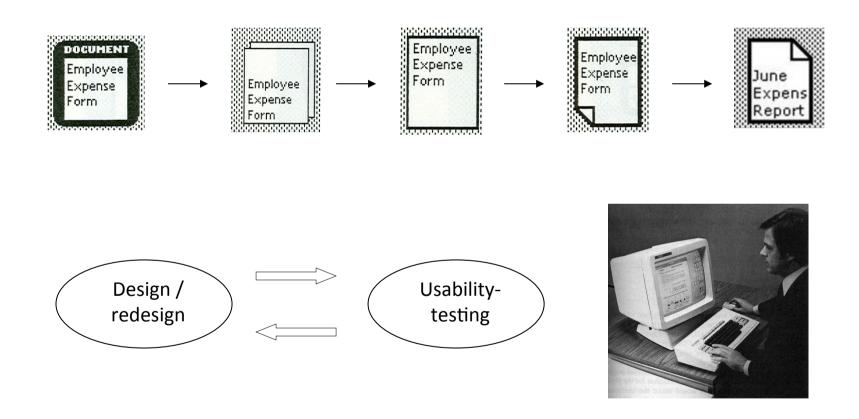


OK	+/-	X
+/-	OK	X
X	+/-	OK

Usability vs. other properties

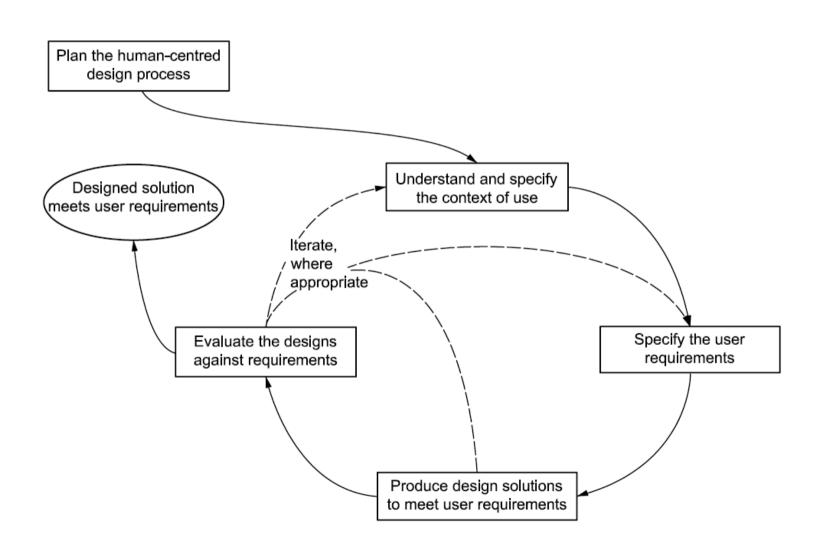
- Usability is not an objectively measurable property of a system or object.
- Only meaningful if we know the answers to the three questions:
 - Who are the users?
 - What do they intend to use the product for?
 - Where and in what social context do they intend to use it?
 - → Usability is context dependant.

Xerox Star (1980): Iterative design

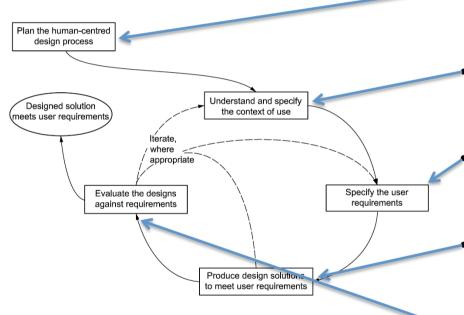


Stepwise refinement of the Xerox Star desktop document icon.

User-centered design: ISO 9241-210



Some research topics in HCI/IxD



Understanding the design process

E.g.: Usability requirements in large tender processes in healthcare.

Understanding users and use contexts

E.g.: Studying teenager's use of mobile phones

Improving the ideation process

E.g.: Role-play in the design of mobile apps

Improving prototyping methods

E.g.: New ways of prototyping interaction for touch tables.

Improving evaluation methods

E.g.: Evaluating lab vs. real-world usability testing.

Research approach: Mixed methods

