

Call for Papers

Spatial Cognition and Computation

Special Issue on You-Are-Here Maps - Creating Spatial Awareness through Map-like Representations



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Having *spatial awareness*, i.e. knowing one's location in an environment, is a beneficial for successful wayfinding and navigation activities. While familiar environments allow us the luxury of unguided success in reaching our destinations, unfamiliar or partially familiar environments require the use of external spatial information in mostly map-like or verbal form. With the omnipresence of location based services (LBS) our dependence on information about individual location-action pairs has increased, that is we are often not creating survey knowledge but rely on navigation devices to guide us step by step. The impeding nature of this form of providing spatial information has become a focus in current research. With spatial information available in a much wider range of formats, currency, and fidelity, it is time to rethink how to provide spatial information for wayfinding from the perspective of creating *spatial awareness*. Otherwise, in situations such as emergencies, the lacking understanding of the location a wayfinder is embedded in might prove harmful or even dangerous. Research on people's dependence on navigation devices and a deeper understanding of how spatial information is acquired with both mobile and stationary You-Are-Here information are necessary in the pursuit of enabling active learning.

The special issue follows a successful workshop held in conjunction with the Spatial Cognition Conference 2008 in Freiburg, Germany. The papers of this workshop contributed to solving theoretical issues of providing You-Are-Here information that allows for establishing spatial awareness. The topics ranged from classical questions of You-Are-Here Map design such as the proper alignment of maps to the question of identifying patterns in the environment; from interpreting maps and how to apply knowledge we have gained on classical You-Are-Here maps to the question of how to present spatial information to visually impaired people.

Submitted papers will be refereed by the usual standards of Spatial Cognition and Computation. Instruction for submitting a manuscript can be found on the journal's website. Submissions will be handled through the submission system, Manuscript Central (<http://mc.manuscriptcentral.com/hspcc>), and should not exceed 6000 words.

Deadline for submissions is ~~February 28th, 2009~~ March 28th, 2009.