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CSCW Project Proposal Spring 2010



Proposal

Photography societies and groups have been around almost as long as photography itself. Typically, they form to learn from and help each other navigate the complexities of photography. While photographers have used digital technologies for quite some time, the use of digital technologies has recently exploded with digital cameras being so affordable. Professional photographers, as well as amateur photographers now use digital technology in almost every aspect of photography from digital light meters, to wireless control of lighting, to remote control of cameras from laptops, to processing, to storage and backup, and now even delivery of photographs. The sheer breadth of digital technology use by photographers is staggering. The duration of this project cancels out the ability to study every technology used by photographers, but the expanse of use makes it hard to pin point what part of the whole to study.

I purpose conducting an ethnographic study on photography groups on the Indiana University campus in order to get a better understanding of where a designer such as myself could prove most helpful. In conducting this ethnographic study, I hope to find the

pains that photography groups, such as The Photography Society, have during their meetings and events. It is in these meetings and events where most of the collaboration happens between photographers of these groups. Upon completing an ethnographic study of these groups, I will analyze the data to find the pain points. Once these points of further study have been found, I purpose running a Contextual Inquiry study using the results from the ethnography. From there, I will conduct interviews with key members of the photography groups to make sure that I fully understand their problems and needs. Upon analyzing this data, I hope to find a problem for which I can design a solution. From there, I will start ideating and sketching, continually getting feedback from experts in the field. Once I have some basic sketches and ideas, I would like to go back to the photography groups to conduct some participatory design in an effort to really connect the design to the people who would be using it. Further sketching would lead to a final design mockup and a design document to be submitted to this class. My hope is that I will be able to design and build something that will help these photography groups collaborate with each other and run more smoothly.

Timeline

Week	Work in Progress	Deliverables
Feb. 8 – 14	Draft proposal Ethnography	Overview due Feb. 9th
Feb. 15 – 21	Ethnography Contextual Inquiry	
Feb. 22 – 28	Contextual Inquiry Interviews	
March 1 – 7	Draft status report Organize data	Status Report due March 4th
March 8 – 14	Ideation Sketching	
March 15 – 21	Spring Break	
March 22 – 27	Cont. ideation and sketching	
March 28 – April 4	Draft summary of research Expert review	Summary of Research due April 1st
April 4 – 11	Participatory Design Sketch iteration	
April 12 – 18	CHI week	
April 19 – 25	Finalize design Draft presentation	
April 26 – May 3	Finalize presentation Draft design document	Presentation due April 29th
May 3 – 9	Finalize design document	Design Document due May 4th

References

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