Call for Proposals

10th Annual
Symposium on Communicating Complex Information

The SCCI Steering Committee invites proposals for the 10th Annual of the Symposium on Communicating Complex Information (SCCI) to be held virtually from February 22nd to 23rd, 2021. Paper and panel proposals are due November 15, 2020. Registration is free.

Symposium Objective and Overview

SCCI examines the relationships between humans, technology, and information by exploring how design and content choices influence interactions with and responses to complex information in different contexts. Our goal is to exchange ideas and share information on how to address the communication, design, and usability challenges associated with using complex information.

SCCI brings together individuals from a range of academic and industry backgrounds to share research findings and engage in meaningful discussions. We strive to build upon what we already know to clarify our understanding of issues that urgently need further research in this area.

Audiences and Participants

SCCI has been of interest to scholars, teachers, and professionals in fields as diverse as user experience, information design, technical communication, information architecture, health communication, data visualization, computer science, communication studies, regulatory documentation, and library sciences. Scholars and practitioners at all career stages are invited to submit proposals.

Key Questions

SCCI 2021 will focus on two key questions:

- How can individuals collaborate to devise new approaches to the design and evaluation of complex information systems?
- How can individuals work together to define what is meant by usability/ user experience and what constitutes usable information in complex systems?

Virtual Symposium Structure

This two-day virtual symposium is designed to maximize the exchange of information and ideas. Over the previous nine years, our approach has been to offer 15 minutes of presentation time and 15 minutes of open discussion to each individual presenter. This format facilitates robust feedback and integrates the voices of attendees across all presentations.

To maintain the spirit of feedback that has helped SCCI maintain its identity over the years, SCCI will be scheduled around four sessions that include brief (5-10 minute) live presentations followed by a group discussion. Each session will last approximately two hours. All sessions will be moderated by a member of the SCCI Steering Committee. We are also planning a Works In Progress session. Participants will receive works in progress in advance and then work in small groups to provide feedback and support.

- **Session One**: **Monday, February 22nd, 10am-12pm EST**
  Moderated by: Michael Albers, East Carolina University
- **Session Two: Monday, February 22nd, 1pm-3pm EST**
  Moderated by: Huiling Ding, North Carolina State University
- **Works in Progress**: **Monday, February 22nd, 3:30pm- 5pm EST**
  Organized by: Lisa DeTora, Hofstra University
- **Session Three**: **Tuesday, February 23rd, 10am-12pm EST**
  Moderated by: Dan Richards, Old Dominion University
- **Session Four**: **Tuesday, February 23rd, 1pm-3pm EST**
  Moderated by: Lisa DeTora, Hofstra University

Possible Topics

Possible examples for topics could include but are not limited to the following:

- Presenting complex healthcare information for medical and non-medical audiences
- Adapting complex information to support expert and/or non-expert decision making
- Improving user experiences with complex informationÂ
- Big data analysis, display and usability
- Information sharing in interdisciplinary expert groups
- Testing and evaluating the structure and function of complex systemsÂ
- User experience design
- Assessing user experience, understanding and decision-makingÂ
- Domain-specific usability testing for experts and/or non-experts
- Assessing expert retrieval and use of information in complex systemsÂ
- Reevaluating usability in light of visual analytics
- New approaches for examining the design and experience of complex web sites
- Expert and non-expert perceptions of complexity and simplicity in specific production environments

Submission Instructions

Submit a 200-word abstract to Conference Chair Dan Richards (dprichar@odu.edu), which should include a preferred session (e.g., session two, session three, works in progress) and presentation type (e.g., individual or panel). Attendees can propose an abstract for presentation and for the works in progress session. The abstract should give an overview of the topic or research being covered and a specific statement about what will be covered within the 5-10 minutes allotted to each presenter. The abstract should end with 2-3 suggested discussion questions to help guide along the open discussion.

Registration

Registration is free. The link to register is scciannual.com/registration-contact.

Additional Details

For more details, visit the Symposium website at scciannual.com. If you have any questions, contact Conference Chair, Daniel Richards, at dprichar@odu.edu.

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