Call for Papers

Special Issue

Quality of Media Accessibility Products and Services

About the UAIS Journal

The UAIS Journal solicits original research contributions addressing the accessibility, usability and acceptability of the Information Society Technologies by *anyone*, *anywhere*, at *anytime*, and through *any media and device*. Universal access refers to the systematic effort to proactively apply principles, methods and tools of universal design, in order to develop Information Society Technologies which are accessible and usable by all citizens.

The Journal's unique focus is on theoretical, methodological, and empirical research, of both a technological and non-technological nature, that addresses equitable access and active participation of potentially all citizens in the Information Society.

For further information, please, refer to the "Aims and scope" section on the Website of the UAIS Journal.

Aims and scope of this special issue

The pervasive reshaping of our society by information and communication technologies has been providing new opportunities but also "difficulties […] in accessing multimedia services" (Stephanidis and Emiliani 1999, p. 23) by end users. Understood as a "set of theories, practices, services and technologies providing access to media content for people that cannot, or cannot properly, access that content in its original form" (Greco 2016, p. 11), Media Accessibility (MA) is consequently becoming increasingly central in providing universal access in the information society.

MA services and products are now well-established topics within a variety of contexts, including smart cities, museum education, live events, tourism, childhood education, second-language acquisition, filmmaking, and new media. While for a long time its main concern was providing

access to persons with disabilities; in recent years MA has broadened its scope: it initially sought to include other groups at risk of cultural and social exclusion such as the elderly, children, and language minorities, then expanded even further to encompass the human rights of all. This has made MA a pivotal instrument for addressing the most pressing concerns of many international bodies as well as a driving area within the field of Accessibility Studies (Greco 2016; 2018).

The key aim of research on universal access is "to prevent the exclusion of users from the information society while at the same time increasing the quality and usability of products and services" (Stephanidis 2009, p. 1). For a long time now, policies and research involving MA have been mainly concerned with quantity; e.g. development of solutions for mainstreaming accessibility as well as the implementation of regulations that set quotas or impose the widespread adoption of MA services. Now that in various countries regulations are being implemented and quotas are being met, attention is shifting over to quality. This holds true for both policies and research. Taking a closer look at the landscape of Media Accessibility Quality (MAQ), the resulting picture conveys both a lively yet scattered scene. Lively, precisely because policy-makers, industry and researchers have increasingly started to focus on quality (see e.g. Burchardt et al. 2016; Castro Botega et al. 2017; Cristóbal-Fransi et al. 2017; Ismailova and Inal 2017; Orehovački and Babić 2017; Pedersen 2017; Romero-Fresco and Martínez 2015; Romero-Fresco and Pöchhacker 2017). At the same time, it is scattered, because attention has been spread out over a very diverse range of issues while lacking a unified venue for the discussion of quality. This is needed in order to provide a more efficient and interconnected account of those issues as well as of other topics strictly related to quality, such as accuracy, completeness, and reliability.

This UAIS special issue aims to start filling this gap. It will be the first collective publication to explicitly address, from various angles, the issue of quality in MA.

Main topics

This special issue will focus on research on quality in the context of the design, development, implementation, evaluation, and use of MA products and services.

Contributions are solicited in, but not limited to, the following topics:

- Theoretical issues and the theoretical foundation of quality in Media Accessibility
- The use of Data/Information Quality models and theories to address quality in MA
- The different dimensions composing MAQ (reliability, accuracy, etc.)
- One-size-fits-all approaches versus context-dependent approaches to MAQ
- Metrics for measuring quality and quality dimensions in MA
- Quality issues in specific MA services and products: subtitling, audio description, design and localisation video games, web applications, etc.
- Quality in MA standards, guidelines, and regulations
- The human factor in the definition and assessment of quality in MA
- Quality issues in the use and impact of specific technologies for providing media accessibility: machine translation, augmented reality, object-oriented broadcasting, etc.
- The role of MA value chain stakeholders (industry, end-users, regulators, scholars, etc.) in the definition and evaluation of quality

- The use of experimental methods for the evaluation of quality of MA services and products, e.g., EEG, galvanic skin response, eye tracking, etc.

Important dates and Information

Deadline for submission of papers: 30th of October 2018.
Notification of acceptance: 15th of January 2019.
Deadline for submission of camera-ready version of accepted papers: 15th of February 2019.

Selected papers from the UMAQ conference 2018 (http://pagines.uab.cat/umaq/umaq-conference) will be invited. Their presentation at the UMAQ conference will not guarantee publication. Only papers that have passed blind review as well as screening by the guest editor and the journal's editorial staff will be accepted.

Submission guidelines

Submissions should be prepared according to the author instructions available at the journal homepage, http://www.springer.com/computer/hci/journal/10209. Please see the link entitled "Instructions for Authors". Typical manuscript length is 20-30 pages.

Initial manuscripts must be submitted electronically in the form of PDF file through the Springer Editorial Management System available at https://www.editorialmanager.com/uais/default.aspx. During the submission process, please select the article type "S.I.: Quality of Media Accessibility Products and Services".

Reviewing process

All papers will be peer-reviewed by two reviewers who are experts in the field, appointed by the Guest Editor of the issue in consultation with the editors-in-chief of the journal.

Copyright information

Submission of an article implies that:

- the work described has not been published before, except in the form of an abstract or as part of a published lecture, review, or thesis;
- it is not under consideration for publication elsewhere.

For further information, please refer to the "Copyright information" section on the website of the UAIS Journal.

Guest Editor

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