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Visual Interfaces to Digital Libraries

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Preface

This edited book contains a selected set of extended papers that were presented at the first and second international workshops on "Visual Interfaces to Digital Libraries," held at the Joint Conference on Digital Libraries (JCDL) in 2001 and 2002.

Visual interfaces to digital libraries exploit the power of human vision and spatial cognition to help individuals mentally organize and electronically access and manage large, complex information spaces. They draw on progress in the new field of Information Visualization and seek to shift the user's mental load from slow reading to faster perceptual processes such as visual pattern recognition.

The workshop series aimed to raise awareness of several interconnected fields of research related to the design and use of visual interfaces to digital libraries, especially information visualization, human-computer interaction, and cognitive psychology. It also sought to encourage participants to reflect on the state of the art in their own fields by identifying challenging issues regarding visual interfaces, and thereby foster a multidisciplinary research agenda for future research and development.

While the first workshop (http://vw.indiana.edu/visual01) meant to broadly identify the past, present, and future of visual interfaces to digital libraries, the second workshop (http://vw.indiana.edu/visual02/) invited papers on specific topics such as web-based visual interfaces, mobile access to information, collaborative document spaces, usability and formal methods, as well as real-world needs, products, and applications.

The workshops brought together researchers, practitioners, software developers/ vendors, and graduate students in the areas of information visualization, digital libraries, human-computer interaction, library and information science, and computer science from around the world, and sparked exciting discussions and collaborations.

This book provides comprehensive coverage of the topics presented and discussed at the workshops. We hope it will familiarize a wider audience with current research on visual interfaces to digital libraries as well as inspire new explorations.

As workshop organizers, we would like to recognize the program committee for their expert input as well as very detailed and insightful reviews that helped to improve the quality of papers enormously. We also thank Steven Eick (Visual Insights) and Tim Bray (Antarti.ca Systems), both of whom gave stimulating and thought-provoking invited talks from an industry perspective in 2001 and 2002, respectively.

Special thanks go to the general workshop and local JCDL organizers Marianne Afifi, Richard Furuta, and Lynetta Sacherek for their support and cooperation. We also thank the team at Springer-Verlag for their assistance in the production of this book. Last, but not least, we would like to acknowledge the financial support the workshop received from VRCO systems, ACM, and IEEE.

The electronic version of this book containing color figures can be found at http://link/service/0558/tocs/t2539.htm.

September 2002

Katy Börner
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