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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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# Table of Contents

Visual Interfaces to Digital Libraries: Motivation, Utilization, and Socio-technical Challenges .....	1
<i>Katy Börner, Chaomei Chen</i>	

---

## Part I: Visual Interfaces to Documents, Document Parts, Document Variants, and Document Usage Data

---

Spatial Hypertext as a Reader Tool in Digital Libraries .....	13
<i>George Buchanan, Ann Blandford, Matt Jones, Harold Thimbleby</i>	
Accessing Libraries as Easy as a Game .....	25
<i>Michael Christoffel, Bethina Schmitt</i>	
Interactive Timeline Viewer (ItLv): A Tool to Visualize Variants Among Documents .....	39
<i>Carlos Monroy, Rajiv Kochumman, Richard Furuta, Eduardo Urbina</i>	
An Empirical Evaluation of the Interactive Visualization of Metadata to Support Document Use.....	50
<i>Mischa Weiss-Lijn, Janet T. McDonnell, Leslie James</i>	
Visual Analysis of Website Browsing Patterns .....	65
<i>Stephen G. Eick</i>	

---

## Part II: Visual Interfaces to Image and Video Documents

---

Extreme Temporal Photo Browsing .....	81
<i>Adrian Graham, Hector Garcia-Molina, Andreas Paepcke, Terry Winograd</i>	
Accessing News Video Libraries through Dynamic Information Extraction, Summarization, and Visualization .....	98
<i>Michael G. Christel</i>	
Handwritten Notes as a Visual Interface to Index, Edit and Publish Audio/Video Highlights .....	116
<i>Anselm Spoerri</i>	

---

### Part III: Visualization of Knowledge Domains

---

Term Co-occurrence Analysis as an Interface for Digital Libraries ..... 133  
*Jan W. Buzydowski, Howard D. White, Xia Lin*

Information Visualization, Human-Computer Interaction,  
and Cognitive Psychology: Domain Visualizations ..... 145  
*Kevin W. Boyack, Brian N. Wylie, George S. Davidson*

---

### Part IV: Cartographic Interfaces to Digital Libraries

---

On Geometry and Transformation  
in Map-Like Information Visualization ..... 161  
*André Skupin*

GeoVIBE: A Visual Interface for Geographic Digital Libraries ..... 171  
*Guoray Cai*

Interactive Information Visualization in the Digital Flora of Texas ..... 188  
*Teong Joo Ong, John J. Leggett, Hugh D. Wilson, Stephan L. Hatch,  
Monique D. Reed*

Visual Explorations for the Alexandria Digital Earth Prototype ..... 199  
*Dan Ancona, Mike Freeston, Terry Smith, Sara Fabrikant*

---

### Part V: Towards a General Framework

---

A Lightweight Protocol between Digital Libraries  
and Visualization Systems ..... 217  
*Rao Shen, Jun Wang, Edward A. Fox*

Top Ten Problems in Visual Interfaces to Digital Libraries ..... 226  
*Chaomei Chen, Katy Börner*

**Author Index** ..... 233



# Author Index

- Ancona, Dan 199
- Blandford, Ann 13  
Börner, Katy 1, 226  
Boyack, Kevin W. 145  
Buchanan, George 13  
Buzydlowski, Jan W. 133
- Cai, Guoray 171  
Chen, Chaomei 1, 226  
Christel, Michael G. 98  
Christoffel, Michael 25
- Davidson, George S. 145
- Eick, Stephen G. 65
- Fabrikant, Sara 199  
Fox, Edward A. 217  
Freeston, Mike 199  
Furuta, Richard 39
- Garcia-Molina, Hector 81  
Graham, Adrian 81
- Hatch, Stephan L. 188
- James, Leslie 50  
Jone, Matt 13
- Kochumman, Rajiv 39
- Leggett, John J. 188  
Lin, Xia 133
- McDonnell, Janet T. 50  
Monroy, Carlos 39
- Ong, Teong Joo 188
- Paepcke, Andreas 81
- Reed, Monique D. 188
- Schmitt, Bethina 25  
Shen, Rao 217  
Skupin, André 161  
Smith, Terry 199  
Spoerri, Anselm 116
- Thimbleby, Harold 13
- Urbina, Eduardo 39
- Wang, Jun 217  
Weiss-Lijn, Mischa 50  
White, Howard D. 133  
Wilson, Hugh D. 188  
Winograd, Terry 81  
Wylie, Brian N. 145