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In Brief

Visual Interfaces to Digital Libraries - The First International Workshop at the First ACM+IEEE Joint Conference on Digital Libraries

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The first International Workshop on "Visual Interfaces to Digital Libraries" was held at the first ACM+IEEE Joint Conference on Digital Libraries in Roanoke, Virginia, USA, on June 28, 2001. This one-day workshop drew an international audience of 37 researchers, practitioners, and graduate students in the areas of information visualization, digital libraries, human-computer interaction, library and information science, computer science, and geography.

The primary aim of the workshop was to raise the awareness of several interconnected fields of research related to the design and use of visual interfaces to digital libraries, especially in information visualization, human-computer interaction, and cognitive psychology.

The workshop started with Katy Börner's introduction and overview, followed by an invited talk from Stephen Eick of Visual Insights, entitled "Visualizing On-line Activity". Eick explained how their eBizInsights software provides a rich visual interactive workspace for analyzing user access to a given website and discovering browsing patterns.

Eight papers were presented in two sessions. The topics ranged from literature visualization and spatial hypertext, to geographic information systems.

1. Buzydlowski et al.: Co-Cited Author Analysis as an Interface for Digital Libraries
2. Weiss-Lijn et al.: Supporting Document Use Through Interactive Visualization of Metadata

3. Buchanan et al.: Spatial Hypertext as a Reader Tool in Digital Libraries
4. Sullivan: Hilbert Problems in Visual Interface Development/Evaluation
5. Skupin: Cartographic Considerations for Map-like Interfaces to Digital Libraries
6. Cai: GeoVIBE: A Visual Interface to Geographic Digital Library
7. Boyack et al.: Information Visualization, Human Computer Interaction, and Cognitive Psychology: Domain Visualizations
8. Christel: Accessing News Video Libraries through Dynamic Information Extraction, Summarization, and Visualization



Workshop attendees enjoy one of the workshop demonstrations.

Time was provided for two interactive demonstration sessions. Demonstrations included one of VRCO's VGeo system and several others by workshop attendees. An expert panel discussed the future of research and development and started formulating top-ten research challenges for visual interfaces to digital libraries to help focus and guide research. In his concluding remark, Chaomei Chen outlined promising areas for future information visualization research: Visual Information Retrieval, Visual Information Exploration, Visual Information Organization, Accommodating Individual Differences, Supporting Collaborative Work, Information Visualization for Bibliometrics, Information Visualization for Scientometrics, Knowledge Tracking, Knowledge Discovery, Designing and Deploying Tangible and Meaningful Visual-Spatial Metaphors in Digital Libraries.

The workshop achieved its goal of bringing people together across disciplines and stimulating interest in this multidisciplinary research. In response to the enthusiastic audience, the high-quality inputs, and many promising works in progress, we plan to hold the workshop again at the next JCDL Conference in Portland, Oregon, US, July 14 - 18, 2002.

Papers, presentation slides, and other information are available from the workshop's homepage <<http://vw.indiana.edu/visual01>>.

The workshop was sponsored by Virtual Reality Software & Consulting. Their homepage is <<http://www.vrco.com>>.