

Human-Computer Interaction

Call for Papers

Special Issue on Sensemaking

Special Issue Editors: *Peter Pirolli, Palo Alto Research Center*
Daniel M. Russell, Google

The purpose of this special issue is to provide an integrative survey and definition of the topic of sensemaking, as well as exemplary papers representing mature research spanning theory, empirical research, and systems.

Making sense of the world using information technology has become a ubiquitous activity in the digital era. Sensemaking is a natural kind of human activity in which large amounts of information about a situation or topic are collected and deliberated upon to form an understanding that becomes the basis for problem solving and action. It goes beyond simply finding information. It is also involved in learning about new domains, solving ill-structured problems, acquiring situation awareness, and participating in social exchanges of knowledge. Sensemaking involves collecting, organizing and creating representations of complex information sets, all centered on the formation and support of mental models involved in understanding a problem that needs to be solved. Examples of such problems include understanding a health problem to make a medical decision, understanding the weather to make a forecast, intelligence analysis to identify strategic threats, and the collaborative collection and understanding of an emergency by first responders. Seminal papers on this topic emerged quasi-independently in the fields of human-computer interaction (Russell, Stefik, Pirolli, & Card, 1993), organizational science (Weick, 1995), and cognitive science (Klein, Moon, and Hoffman, 2006). This special issue is focused specifically on advances in sensemaking research that have implications for human-computer interaction.

We invite papers that report on mature research in the following areas:

- Sensemaking by individuals
- Collaborative sensemaking
- Novel interaction techniques, tools, and systems to support sensemaking
- Theories, models, and metrics of sensemaking

We will prefer papers that (a) emphasize empirical research on ecologically valid sensemaking activities that has clear implications for future human computer interaction research, (b) describe well-motivated and tested designs and techniques for sensemaking, or (c) provide novel theory and models to serve as a scientific and engineering basis for the area.

Special Issue Schedule

General Call for submissions:	October 2008
Deadline for initial submissions:	February 6, 2009
Review results returned to authors:	June 19, 2009
Deadline for revised submissions:	August 14, 2009
Second review results returned to authors:	October 31, 2009
Deadline for final submissions:	November 28, 2009

How to Submit to the Special Issue

By February 6, 2009, authors should send an electronic submission (MS Word or PDF format) by email attachment to the *Human-Computer Interaction* Administrative Editor:

Patricia Sheehan <sheehan@parc.com>

Information about submissions to *Human-Computer Interaction* can be found at the journal's web site, <http://hci-journal.com>, under the Instructions for Authors tab).

References

- Klein, G., Moon, B. and Hoffman, R.F. (2006). Making sense of sensemaking 2: A macrocognitive model. *IEEE Intelligent Systems*, 21(5), 88-92
- Russell, D.M., Stefik, M.J., Pirolli, P., & Card, S.K. (1993). The cost structure of sensemaking. In the *Proceedings of InterCHI '93* (pp. 269-276). Amsterdam: Association for Computing Machinery.
- Weick, K (1995). *Sensemaking in Organizations*. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage.