CSE Seminar Talk, Dr. Stephann Makri, "Coming Across Information Serendipitously: An Empirical Study", Concordia University, Montréal

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- Concordia
- CSE
- Seminar
- Stephann Makri

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Date & Place

May 1st, 2012, 11am-12noon, Concordia University, Montréal, SGW Campus, EV3.309

Abstract

We wanted to gain a detailed empirical understanding of how researchers come across information serendipitously, grounded in real-world examples. To gain this understanding, we asked 28 researchers from a broad cross-section of disciplines to discuss in detail memorable examples of coming across information serendipitously from their research or everyday life. We found that although the examples provided were varied, they shared common elements (specifically, they involved a mix of unexpectedness and insight and led to a valuable, unanticipated outcome). These elements form the core of 1) a descriptive model of serendipity and 2) a framework for subjectively classifying whether or not a particular experience might be considered serendipitous and, if so, how serendipitous. In this talk, we discuss this model and framework and the implications of our findings on the design of interactive systems.

Bio

Dr. Stephann Makri is a Research Associate at University College London Interaction Centre and is conducting research as part of a £1.87m UK Research Council funded project (SerenA: Chance Encounters in the Space of Ideas) which aims to understand how people come across information 'serendipitously' and to design ubiquitous computing systems based on this understanding.

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