

Investigating the Level of Observing the Evaluation Criteria for User Interface in Farsi Web Pages of Iranian Self-made and Purchased Digital Libraries

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Abstract

Purpose: Concerning digital libraries, interaction between user and system is among major issues for using library software. Therefore, finding appropriate software for this purpose is of high importance. This study aims to evaluate and analyze the criteria related to user interface in Farsi web pages of self-made and purchased digital libraries in Iran.

Methodology: This is an applied and evaluative study. It uses a checklist which consisted of 10 major criteria and 114 subsidiary components. Additionally, Delphi technique was employed at different stages of the study in preparation of the checklist. When necessary, interview with software producers was carried out, too.

Findings: The results indicated that, out of total scores related to the ten criteria used for the study, self-made digital libraries got a high score in seven criteria including error correction, controlling the user, guidance, help, search, and simplicity. On the other hand, the purchased digital libraries gained better scores only in three criteria including language of user interface, information display, and consistency. Concerning total sum of mean gained scores, no much difference was observed between these two categories.

Originality/Value: In addition to preparation of a checklist for evaluation of user interface in digital libraries based upon existing literature and experts' opinion, this study has offered the opportunity for users of these libraries and similar software to make better decisions when choosing. Also, it facilitates for producers of studied digital libraries and similar software to decrease the weaknesses and reinforce the strengths. Besides, it makes them familiar with criteria and components existing in this field as well as their importance to utilize them in their future products.

Keywords: Digital library; User interface; Evaluation criteria; Human-computer interaction