

FLAIRS-30 Poster Abstracts

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Human-Computer Interaction in a Debate Decision Support System

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There are different types of user interaction possible with debate systems, and we identify those that lead to a better quality of the information exchange. We evaluate the information exchange based on its amount. We identified and analyzed a set of fora that were specially designed for debates. We used surveys and interviews as a question-driven mode of evaluating the understandability for each studied system by asking the user to respond with yes, no, or with a value showing the clarity of the ideas presented on the system as perceived by them. The questions for surveys and interviews, a data-driven mode, were designed to capture general and specific expectations and beliefs that users have concerning the threading, structure, and content of debates on the corresponding user interfaces/platforms. Different types of inter-comment links lead to different degrees of understanding and memorization, which can be evaluated with interviews. We found out that DirectDemocracyP2P mechanisms of keeping only the last comment per user offer the best understandability in terms of number of ideas involved in the debate that are learned by users in a fix amount of time. YourView mechanisms of allowing for multiple final comments per user offer the best refined understandability in terms of remembering which ideas out of a list of ideas were used in support or rejection of the central thesis. The familiarity of the user with a given system was factored out by the execution of multiple experiments with each system and with randomized order between addressed theses.