

Multimedia Interface Design

The EDTC 611 course, Multimedia Interface Design, worked together during the Spring of 2003 to create a new interface design system for the JMU campus navigation structure at the Port Republic Rd. entrance to campus. The following is an outline of the steps involved in assessing, revising, and implementing this multimedia interface.



Choosing an Interface Project

During the initial phase of the semester project the team brainstormed about existing interfaces to improve. During an interactive virtual class session, the team identified the JMU campus navigation system as a problematic, yet feasible revision project. The team organized a project plan and assigned group roles.

Initial Research

The interface design team distributed two informal surveys to help define a target audience of users, and their respective needs for locating important information about JMU and its campus.

The Planning Process

Over the course of the semester the design team constructed a written design plan. Using the Blackboard course tool, the team continuously added, revised and refocused the Interface Design Plan. Through this document the team identified the following key areas of information:

- ⇒ Current System Description
- ⇒ Current System Limitations
- ⇒ Proposed Improvements
- ⇒ Specific Interface Description
- ⇒ User Analysis

The Design Process

The interface team worked closely to integrate individual talents and abilities and construct a new design for the proposed interface system.

Usability Testing

Using a preliminary interface prototype, the interface team developed and executed a usability test with six different test participants. Test Participants completed a set task list and gave debriefing answers that the team carefully analyzed. The team then used the qualitative and quantitative results to identify problem areas and formulate recommendations for revision.

Project Completion

The interface design team used the resources of the Educational Technology Lab to finalize the Information Kiosk Interface. The team also created a portfolio of the semester project, which compiled all the research, planning documents, and testing results.