

Whatever happened to the psychology of human-computer interaction

# Whatever happened to the psychology of human-computer interaction? A biography of the life of a psychological framework within a HCI journal

Torkil Clemmensen (Copenhagen Business School, Denmark)

Information Technology & People

ISSN: 0959-3845

Publication date: 1 April 2006

## Abstract

### Purpose

To outline how psychology as one of the original approaches to human-computer interaction (HCI) has formed a key part of the HCI literature, and to discuss the need for psychological approaches to HCI and system development.

### Design/methodology/approach

The contributions to the journal *Human-Computer Interaction* is examined from the journal's start in 1985 up to the millennium. The analysis focuses the three main elements, task, user and computer, in the classic study "Psychology of human-computer interaction" from 1983.

### Findings

Provides information about authorship, and form and focus of research published. The paper concludes that already from the beginning, HCI researchers too narrowly used Card *et al.*'s analytical framework. Today it has developed into a sub-theory within a multidisciplinary HCI science and in this role it continues to be an important cumulative factor in HCI.

### Research limitations/implications

The main conclusion about the role of psychology in HCI only applies to the mainly US authors who published in the journal investigated in the given period. European research focusing on information technology and people may differ in important ways.

### Practical implications

A much needed discussion of a central document of historical importance tying together many HCI researchers and a range of HCI studies.

### Originality/value

This paper fulfils partly the need for meta-analyses of the psychological approach to HCI.

## Keywords

Psychology Computer theory Psychological research Research work

### Citation

Clemmensen, T. (2006), "Whatever happened to the psychology of human-computer interaction? A biography of the life of a psychological framework within a HCI journal", *Information Technology & People*, Vol. 19 No. 2, pp. 121-151. <https://doi.org/10.1108/09593840610673793>

 Download as .RIS

Publisher: Emerald Group Publishing Limited

Copyright © 2006, Emerald Group Publishing Limited

To read the full version of this content please select one of the options below

You may be able to access this content by logging in via Shibboleth, Open Athens or with your Emerald Account.

To rent this content from Deepdyve, please click the button.

If you think you should have access to this content, click the button to contact our support team.

