A Study of Information Presentation System Using Handbill Metaphor Based on Contents Importance

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The information technology's developing and spreading including the Internet caused an explosive increase in the volume of information that the human produced and managed . This phenomenon is called the information explosion. There is the research to take out necessary information of a large amount of, various information biases none efficiently, and to use it in shape that accepts easily for human race. This research is requested as a new basic technology to information. In this thesis, we propose a system using a handbill metaphor that extracts information in real time from databases that is frequently updated on the Internet. This system reflects "importance" of contents for the users such as interest or preference of them. The handbill metaphor that reflects importance rouses user's interest, and can improve the visibility of contents.   We adopt three systems for the layout of the handbill metaphor. One is "seven classification methods according to the purposes" by Haruyosi Nagumo. A good handbill sets priorities to contents by the purpose. Important things for our handbill are to stands out, to be comprehensible, and to be fresh. The second is a grid system. The grid system draws supplementary lines that are called grid in space and consistency is obtained. The third is an eyeflow inducement. We induce user's glance by combining the color with shape and arrangement. The system consists of four parts, client, database, conversion engine, Style Sheet. The client software sends user's input to database, and displays the output from the engine. The database stores data about items. The conversion engine converts output XML from the database into HTML according to Style Sheet. The Style Sheet sets the conversion style of XML. Evaluation experiments were done by questionnaires and interviews by using this system. The result of experiments showed

that our system improved the visibility of items, because this system was able to dress user's interest in. Additionally, visibility of whole items was improved from the characteristic of the handbill metaphor.