SICSA report for Human Computer Interaction workshop Monday 11th December 2017

Children and Technology: towards interdisciplinary collaboration

The event attracted many people from industry, academia and beyond. Forty-one participants registered for the event, of which 33 participants attended on the day.

The talks throughout the day were organized into three themes including: Empowering children, from design to use, and putting children first. There were 2-3 talks in each theme, at which point a general discussion about issues raised in each theme was initiated. Participants were randomly placed in groups for each discussion to encourage discussion and networking with as many people as possible. Participants were encouraged to share their ideas using TopHat, an interactive live feed where participants could share thoughts anonymously, and others could read these. A link to the feed was projected on a screen for everybody to see as shown by Figure 1.

Prior to the event, all participants were asked to bring demonstrations along with them to share examples of their work/research (Figure 3). We also asked them to produce a short information sheet, which was then digitally converted and used as part of our own demonstration. This demonstration showed the profiles submitted by each participant projected on a wall throughout the day (Figure 2).

Overall, the event was a success, bringing together people from a variety of fields, sharing their research among each other and developing wider networks. We asked participants to fill out a quick card with their feedback. The comments were overwhelmingly positive, with a clear appetite to develop this network further.

"Really interesting and helpful. A chance to meet people from a variety of backgrounds I wouldn't normally meet. Opportunity to keep in collective touch would be great."
"Interesting way to gather people with similar interests and experiences – maybe making this event more frequent to introduce more themes and ongoing research/projects."
"Good day, always nice to meet people from different areas who I may not have otherwise met. Always good to see about what others are working on with some good thought provoking discussions."
"Really interesting workshop structure. Do it at CHI 2019 in Glasgow."

We would therefore welcome the opportunity to discuss development of a Children and Technology network or working group with SICSA in the near future.
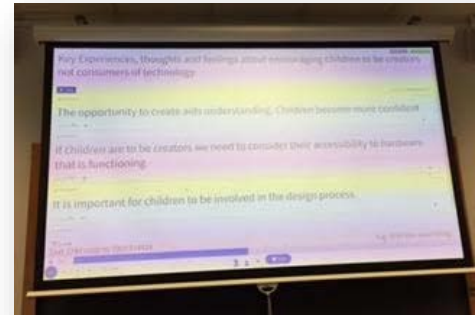

Figure 1: Live feed of group discussion

Figure 2: Demonstration of participant profile

Figure 2: Examples of demonstrations & technology shared

Figure 4: Participants engaged in discussion