The Editor's Spotlight: TOCHI Issue 24:6

Time of Transitions at TOCHI. There is no easy way to say this, so let me just state it bluntly:

My first 3-year term as Editor-in-Chief will be coming to a close in September 2018 and today I must share the news with you all that I have decided not to seek a second term.

This was not an easy decision for me as I have been involved with *TOCHI* for almost 15 years now, and actually I have enjoyed serving as Editor-in-Chief quite a bit. And, I am tremendously grateful to Shumin Zhai for his confidence and support in bringing me into this role in the first place.

TOCHI is in an excellent state of health and has steadily been improving on all of our key metrics tracked by ACM. Downloads, citation rates, impact factor, submissions, and response time all have positive trends. The ACM Publications Board views *TOCHI* as one of their very top "Transactions" journals and values the publication greatly.

But the past year has been a time of transition in my career and it has become increasingly difficult for me to devote the time and attention to leading *TOCHI* that it really needs and deserves. Hence, rather than continue with the role for another 3 years and risk falling off the pace in the future, I feel it will be best to infuse the leadership of *TOCHI* with fresh energy and fresh perspectives, and allow an opportunity for somebody else to step forward and advance the journal into the future.

Our search for the next Editor-in-Chief is already underway as I write this. The process will take time and I have committed to stay on board until the transition is complete. And as a reader of the journal, please do feel free to nominate candidates by writing to tochi@acm.org.

But that's not the only change afoot.

A Departing Talent. Our Information Director, Dr. Hrvoje Benko, has taken on a new job and will be transitioning out of his current role at *TOCHI*.

But Benko will remain on our editorial road.

And he will also be chairing the *TOCHI* presentation process for CHI (which is a major job unto itself!) so he will still be quite involved with *TOCHI* for some time yet.

We owe Benko a huge thanks for all he has done on behalf of the journal. He has performed the Information Director role with distinction. To the extent that my tenure as Editor-in-Chief has been a success, I owe much of it to Benko's diligence and never-ending efforts.

Complemented by a Promotion. However, Benko's departure has also opened up a new opportunity at the journal, and I am extremely fortunate to be able to bring my wonderful colleague Dr. Shamsi Iqbal on board as *TOCHI*'s new Information Director.

I have known Shamsi for about 10 years, collaborated with her directly on research, and always found her to be an extremely resourceful and dedicated researcher. And she has already proved herself an outstanding Associate Editor on *TOCHI*'s Editorial Board. She truly embodies the rigor and ethos that make *TOCHI* a hallmark of excellence.

So I was thrilled when Shamsi graciously agreed to step up her role with *TOCHI* and help with the operation of the journal for the remainder of my term. Please do join me in congratulating her

on this new and demanding role. We are all in very good hands with her efforts on behalf of the journal.

A Welcome Infusion of Expertise & Wisdom. Alas, that is not all:

Even more change is upon the wind!

I have been working behind the scenes for some time to grow our editorial board, but it takes a lot of time and effort to find the right people.

So I am especially pleased to announce that six fantastic new Associate Editors have been vetted by our Editorial Board and have now agreed to lend their considerable talents and expertise to *TOCHI*:

- Brian Bailey (University of Illinois, United States);
<https://cs.illinois.edu/directory/profile/bpbailey>
- Barry Brown (Stockholm University, Sweden);
<http://barrybrown.se/>
- Carl Gutwin (University of Saskatchewan, Canada);
<http://hci.usask.ca/people/view.php?id=2>
- Gillian Hayes (University of California Irvine, United States);
<http://www.gillianhayes.com/>
- Anne Marie Piper (Northwestern University, United States);
<https://communication.northwestern.edu/faculty/AnnePiper>
- Koji Yatani (University of Tokyo, Japan).
<http://iis-lab.org/member/koji-yatani/>

With *TOCHI* already at a new high-water mark for submissions in 2017 (manuscript #224 having just entered the fray), we need the infusion of expertise and wisdom that these distinguished individuals bring, now more than ever.

So, please join me in welcoming each and every one of them to the *TOCHI* Editorial Board!

And keep in mind that you can now indicate them (along with any of our other esteemed editors) as one of your “preferred” editors when you submit. We cannot always honor such requests, but usually try to do so when we agree with the suggestion, and when it proves feasible in terms of balancing the load of submissions handled by each editor.

TOCHI Best Paper of 2017. We have witnessed another banner year for Human-Computer Interaction, with *TOCHI* continuing to advance its role as a flagship journal of the field. The journal publishes many papers that take topics to a scope, and depth, across a broad arc of research accomplishments, which just would not be possible to publish in our field’s often conference-centric culture.

And to recognize the best among the articles that have surpassed the very high bar of excellence demanded by the journal, we will soon be selecting the *TOCHI* Best Paper Award of 2017.

So let this be your annual call to action:

Please nominate outstanding papers from *TOCHI* Volume 24 that have caught your attention this year.

Simply drop us a line at tochi@acm.org, ideally with a brief paragraph explaining why you think the article would be a great candidate to be recognized. And do not be shy because you are “just a student,” or simply a reader of the journal. Anyone may nominate.

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Since so much has been afoot with the operation of *TOCHI* itself, I am only going to offer some very brief editorial remarks about the contents of the issue itself. But it is jam-packed with excellent work—often touching on extremely timely topics—and as usual I learned a ton from reading this month’s articles.

**OVERVIEW OF VOLUME 24, ISSUE NUMBER 6:
MONEYWORK, USER IDENTIFICATION FOR MULTI-TOUCH, TEXT IN TALK,
NEUROFEEDBACK IN BRAIN-COMPUTER INTERFACES FOR CHILDREN, AND
PREDICTING HOW FUNNY A COMIC IS THROUGH PHYSIOLOGICAL SIGNALS**

Moneywork: Practices of Use and Social Interaction around Digital and Analog Money. This article explored the fascinating attributes of the “moneywork” that surrounds use of mixed-media (digital and analog) currency in support of mobile payments, particularly for the case of the Bristol Pound.

The authors explore and unpack an entire lifecycle of pre-transaction maintenance and preparatory activities, at-transaction exchange, and post-transaction housekeeping steps that are not only necessary but also oft-desired steps (even when posing *extra* steps) by users who employ such technologies.

These attributes trigger a whole cascade of human-human and human-computer interactions that are “hiding in plain sight” yet under-studied and essential to such transactions.

(<https://doi.org/10.1145/3162082>).

A Unified Model for User Identification on Multi-Touch Surfaces: A Survey and Meta-Analysis. While touchscreen interaction is commonplace these days, most devices have no way to know *who* is touching the screen, much less what finger (or which hand, left or right) provided the input. This greatly limits the scenarios that can be supported on shared tabletops, or large electronic whiteboards, for example, since the device can never quite be sure who is taking what action.

This article, then, offers a thorough and wide-ranging survey and analysis of various user identification technologies for multi-touch interactive surfaces. The authors show how this is a thorny technical problem, with many desirable attributes to an ideal solution, none of which are fully supported by any known solution.

Hence, this article offers not only a design space but a set of challenges, and a road map of the solution space, for future work to explore.

(<https://doi.org/10.1145/3144569>).

Text in Talk: Lightweight Messages in Co-Present Interaction. This article offers a short but unusually sweet exploration of a little studied phenomenon, namely how text messages—sent remotely and asynchronously—can take on a surprising sort of second life, and play unanticipated roles, during co-present conversation.

The article works through a series of examples drawn from a corpus of interactions recorded during naturalistic use of mobile phones. The work thereby documents this phenomenon, and some of the manifestations of valuable social exchanges embodied by text messages, during co-present human-human communication.

(<https://doi.org/10.1145/3152419>).

Opening up the Design Space of Neurofeedback Brain-Computer Interfaces for Children. This work explores a framework for Brain-Computer Interfaces (BCI) that helps children learn and practice brain state self-regulation through the techniques of neurofeedback—that is, the response to brain states made visible through computer-based visualization of data such as EEG (electroencephalogram) signals.

The authors apply their rigorously defined framework for the case of urban and indigenous children with anxiety and attentional challenges, as well as to diverse types of self-regulation, including selective attention and working memory, pain management, and depression. This opens

up the emerging and challenging area of neurofeedback BCI's for children to other researchers and designers.

(<https://doi.org/10.1145/3131607>).

No Need to Laugh Out Loud: Predicting Humor Appraisal of Comic Strips from Physiological Signals. I promise, this one is no laughing matter!

Because it represents a serious scientific effort that employs brain, skin, and cardiac physiological signals to accurately predict how humorous participants found a web comic. The authors studied the utility of these signals in isolation as well as when fused together, or with affect recognition from facial video recordings.

(<https://doi.org/10.1145/3157730>).

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A Mundane Diary. Well, that is a wrap for 2017, which has not exactly been the most impressive year if one is of a democratic and progressive mindset.

It is always possible to be optimistic, of course, but the reality is that while Trumpism remains in force, things are likely to get uglier in 2018 before the United States (and indeed the entire world) finally emerges from its waking nightmare, and embarks upon a more enlightened path.

In some ways these little editorials have been my own way to keep track of what I am witnessing and to document the long series of diversions from normality that otherwise might go unnoticed. This simple act, which should be no more than a mundane diary of reality, becomes by circumstance an act of resistance.

And so by being good scientists and designers—that is, people who are often particularly astute observers of reality—we can all help to formulate the vibrant future that we all want and imagine, for our children if not for ourselves.

Until 2018, then, and may the next year bring peace—and in the pages of *TOCHI*, an abundance of scientific advances for human-computer interaction.

Ken Hinckley
Editor-in-Chief

Redmond, Washington

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