

Editorial

(Re)inventing Futures for Information Design

The 12th edition of CIDI – Information Design International Conference featured the theme “Informing and (Re) Creating Futures”. This special issue of InfoDesign brings together papers featured at the event and selected through evaluation by the conference reviewers and the journal’s editors. The issue also includes articles prepared by the event’s keynote speakers. The work published here collectively consolidate Information Design as a mature discipline capable of articulating ethics, social justice, and innovation.

Inclusion and representation are recurring themes, particularly in the articles by two keynotes speakers – Gillian Harvey and Cláudia Mont’Alvão. Inclusion is highlighted by Harvey, who reports on the use of co-design and information design in healthcare systems to strengthen the patient’s voice in equity-seeking populations. Mont’Alvão, addresses inclusion through communicational effectiveness, discussing the Plain Language approach and its positioning within Information Design as fundamental for strengthening citizenship. The theme of racial representation is analyzed by Schuelter, Vassali & Santos through Black representation in infographics, focusing on the construction of positive cases in contemporary design. Meanwhile, Santos, Oliveira & Marinho approach feminist and gender perspectives through a critique of data visualization regarding reproductive labor, proposing a feminist and non-oppressive approach to social data. These text prompt reflections on ways of acting, giving voice to marginalized groups, and combating systemic prejudice.

Information Design in healthcare, along with issues related to well-being and human behavior, is a topic addressed by Harvey, and other articles. Lourenço & Amorim, for example, provide a critical counterpoint to persuasive design and addiction by analyzing how interface elements and User Experience (UX) adopted in the game ‘Fortune Tiger’ are designed to stimulate gambling addiction. On the other hand, Silva, Souto & Oliveira explore how the Bullet Journal method utilizes information design strategies for mental health management and emotional regulation.

Education, ideation tools, and pedagogical practices are themes covered, including the article presented by keynote Claudio Pinhanez. Pinhanez and his co-authors address indigenous linguistic preservation through the development – co-authored with indigenous teachers and students – of writing assistants for the Nheengatu language, combating the dominance of Portuguese in the digital environment. Palhano and colleagues, on the other hand, analyze digital media that support the teaching of type design through the lens of information design principles. Lastly, Zimmermann & Padovani report on the evaluation of using creativity cards (CAOS) as an ideation tool to help teachers structure more creative classes.

Memory, technology, and identity are themes that permeate the articles of keynotes Helena de Barros and Giselle Beiguelman, among others. Technical and historical analysis of color is the focus of Barros, who proposes a method that combines microscopy and data visualization to analyze graphic language and color memory in 19th-century chromolithographic prints. The understanding of visual and cultural identities of the past is the focus of the article by Siqueira and Braga, who investigate the informative potential of typography in early 20th-century São Paulo magazines to disseminate ideas from the *anthropophagic movement* and Brazilian cultural identity.

The spatialization and physicality of information is the focus of the article by Rajan, which explores how exhibition design and tangible interfaces can make data visualization less intimidating and more accessible. Artistic mappings are analyzed by Araújo & Velloso in search of visual principles in contemporary mappings displayed in gallery environments, defining categories for the spatialization of data in art. Past, present, and future intertwine in Beiguelman's article, which connects visual memory to the politics of images, treating technology's latent space as a site of historical dispute. The author explores how AI can perpetuate racism and 'machine eugenics,' but also how it can be used to fabulate archives of historically silenced narratives.

This collection of articles demonstrates the field's maturity in addressing the complexities of today's society.

Enjoy the reading!

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