Theme 1, project 2: user feedback

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Our mandate

- Evaluate with the target group (blind and vision-impaired users) the tool developed at CRIM to let users choose the level of video description
Previous project

- Validate the typology we developed (20 types of information given in described productions)
- Refine the method used to show when the description episode is recited in relation to the shot it describes (before, during, after, and how far away)
- Analyse the video description in 11 films, including 2 feature-length
This project

- The tool developed at CRIM:
  - of the 20 kinds of information in our typology, the player incorporates the 3 that could be automated
  - these also happen to be the most frequently used (data from our previous project)
  - one additional kind of information, describing the action, provided by a human
How these translate

- The 3 kinds of information from our typology that were automated:
  - characters
  - site or décor
  - textual information

- The kind of information from our typology provided by a human:
  - action
The VD manager online

- The Video Description tool (VD manager) made available online for users to test
- CRIM using this to analyse how users navigate in the system
- The system offers the possibility to volunteer for a group screening
- This helped us organise our viewing sessions
Method

• Choose clips for groups to view:
  • public affairs programme
  • short comic film

• Choose the level of video description:
  • automated
  • automated augmented with pauses

• Recruit participants, form 3 groups of 5, based on:
  • level of vision loss (completely blind, or vision impaired)

• Organise sessions, prepare documentation

• Screen clips together
  • 2 versions of each clip
  • guided discussion after viewing each, discussion shot on video
Data collection photos

Anne at the controls, Claire behind the screen

Laure, Suzanne, Véronique, vision-impaired participants discussing one of the clips
Preliminary results

• In general, very positive comments
• Marked differences in the needs of blind users compared with vision-impaired users
• Public affairs programme: VD helps fill out the information
• Short comic film: some users want more information on the characters
• Description of film before viewing greatly appreciated
Difficulties

- The quality of the voice synthesis sometimes inadequate (however, some of this may be due to network buffering)
- Sometimes VD episodes not well synchronised with the image (vision-impaired users)
More work

- Much more work to do (our last viewing session was last Sunday afternoon)
  - transcribe the discussions from the video
  - categorise the issues discussed
  - write research reports
Conclusions

• It’s very helpful to let users choose how much description they want to hear
• Some want much more description
• Needs of the blind are one thing, but a very broad variety of needs among vision-impaired users
• Overall, very positive and lots of hope generated!
The End
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