

User interface in Iranian children digital libraries: The experts' view and offering a proposed model

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Abstract

Purpose: This research aims to study the experts' view about the features and components of children digital libraries (DLs) user interface and propose a model in this respect.

Methodology: To do this descriptive survey, the related texts were reviewed and consulted. Then, criteria and components of children DLs user interface were extracted and designed in the form of a Likert's five-point checklist. The checklist was sent for professionals, faculty members, and authors of DLs texts. The collected data were analyzed using SPSS software. To determine the threshold score for acceptance of each component in the model, T-score was used.

Findings: Among the criteria of the study, the experts rated 'the error message' with T scores 4.7 (94%) as the highest ranked component and 'personalization of the texts' with T-score 3.72 (74.4%) as the lowest ranked one. 'Personalization of resources retrieved from the library' with a standard T-score of 4.55 (91%), and "variety of available resource formats in the library" with a T score of 4.53 (90.6%) got the second and third ranks, respectively. Finally, based on those criteria which achieved the accepted scores by the experts, a model (consisting of 15 criteria and 98 subcriteria) for children DL user interface in Iran was proposed.

Conclusions: It is concluded that despite the different opinions of experts regarding the components and criteria, it is possible to propose a unique and common set of criteria for children DLs in Iran.

Keywords: Iran, User interface, Digital libraries, Children digital library

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