Human-Computer Interaction:  
Card Sorting Exercise

This card sorting exercise is companion material to the video “Human-Computer Interaction Design Techniques: Card Sorting and Paper Prototyping”. Card sorting is a techniques used to gather data regarding the organization of application and web site material.

The video discusses Participatory Design in general and the methods of card sorting and paper prototyping for gathering user data. The video was shot within the context of a course lecture but also contains directions for doing the exercise as a class activity. It also contains example card sorting and paper prototyping sessions.

We hope you find this material useful.

Jerry B. Weinberg  
Department of Computer Science  
Southern Illinois University Edwardsville  
Edwardsville, IL 62026-1656

Email: jweinbe@siue.edu

Exercise
In this exercise student teams are to work on a design for the University’s website. The cards reflect some common things you would find or do on any university website. Using the data gathered and the scenarios the teams should design a paper prototype of the website.

Print and cut these cards out. You should have enough copies for each group in the class. Below are the scenarios used during the paper prototyping session. For details please view the video.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Men’s Basketball Schedule</th>
<th>Program in the School of Engineering</th>
<th>Office Directory</th>
<th>Cost of Parking Stickers</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cost of Student Meal Plans</td>
<td>Admission to the University</td>
<td>Information on Becoming a Resident Assistant</td>
<td>Student Directory</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Layout of Residence Hall Rooms</td>
<td>What to Bring to University Housing</td>
<td>Student Organizations</td>
<td>Student Government</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Scenarios**

Print each scenario on a separate piece of paper. This is to allow the user to focus on one task at time without reading ahead.

1. You are working on a group project and you need to call one of your teammate about the upcoming deadline.
   - Use the University Website to find out the number for Bob Smith who lives in the Woodland Hall Dorm, room 465
2. You are trying to get an estimate of how much extra money you will need to start the semester.

   • Use the University Website to determine what the security deposit will be for your dorm room. You live in Edgar’s Hall.
   • You will also need to find out what the cost of parking will be, and a meal plan.

3. You are interested in becoming a very involved student.

   • Find out what professional organizations are in your school related to Computer Science and send an email to one of their officers asking about becoming a member.

4. You have been assigned a research paper on the use of forced feedback devices for human-computer interaction.

   • Look us any articles on forced feedback devices, and then find out when the library is open so you can go pick it up.

5. You are having some trouble with a program for your Artificial Intelligence class.

   • Find out which tutors are available and which ones have taken the Artificial Intelligence course.