

Title:

Designing a Full-Page Tactile Display: What we Know and What We Don't Know Yet

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Abstract:

For the past eight years, I have been part of a team at the University of Michigan that is exploring new techniques for building a full-page tactile display. Though no such devices have reached the market, there are a number of manufacturers who are getting close to releasing products. It is safe to say that in the next five years there will be at least one product released. However, we are only now beginning to think about what interacting with content on these displays might involve.

In this talk, I will discuss this journey, placing emphasis on how important it is to cultivate both deep roots and broad branches when you are designing technologies for a community of use to which you may not yourself belong.

Bio:

Sile O'Modhrain is an associate professor at the University of Michigan where she holds a joint appointment in the Performing Arts Technology (PAT) program in the School of Music, Theatre and Dance, and in the school of information. Her research focuses on human-computer interaction, especially interfaces incorporating haptic and auditory feedback. She earned her master's degree in music technology from the University of York and her PhD from Stanford University's Center for Computer Research in Music and Acoustics (CCRMA). She has also worked as a sound engineer and producer for BBC Network Radio. In 1994, she received a Fulbright scholarship, and went to Stanford to develop a prototype haptic interface augmenting graphical user interfaces for blind computer users. For the past six years, she has been working with Brent Gillespie and Alex Russamanno to design and build a full-page tactile array to support the display of braille and tactile graphics.