

## Supporting a Rural Community's Interaction with its Cultural Heritage: Design and Use of a Situated Display based solution

Keith Cheverst, Trien Do  
Lancaster University

Nick Taylor  
University of Dundee





Work carried out through the EPSRC funded SHARC project. Previously funded by EPSRC CASIDE and Microsoft Research projects.

## Background..

- Longitudinal study of a community photo display system (Wray Photo Display)
  - Explore how members of the community use the display to interact with their past (and each other).
  - Research started back in 2006
    - Part of a research project which set out to investigate how situated displays could support rural communities, and in particular how such displays could support coordination and notions of community
  - As of July 2013, 2633 photos (over 10 categories with 26 subcategories) uploaded
  - Deployed at various community hubs





## Co-design: Approach and Issues

- Early PD workshops
  - Use of Cultural Probes
  - Agree on early deployment of Technology Probe (Photo Display)
- Encouraging sense of ownership
  - Moderation of categories
  - Moving of Display to a new location
- Need to engage with end-users at early stage in the project to agree upon an exit strategy
  - the technology support provided by researchers is gradually withdrawn and appropriate support facilities (e.g. back-up tools) put in place





## Sense of Community

- Shared sense of history...
  - McMillan & Chavis (1986)
- Example narratives
  - "I lived in the house with the yellow looking door & window lintels, my Mum & Dad rented from Mr Phillipson who lived next door (with the porch) 1968-1974. The house next door this way was a garage with my bedroom above and Betty & Cyril Rhodes lived in the house nearest the edge of the picture. Gill Lane (Meadowcroft)"
  - "the one at the end of the street was our grandparents house!"








A. Classification	101
A1. Classification of photos subject	18
E.g. "One of many from the last or last year"	
A2. Classification of place/location	13
E.g. "That looks like the building across from the bank"	
A3. Classification of date/year of photos subject	10
E.g. "Who knows? Is before the war?"	
E.g. "Was from last or last year 2000?"	
B. Identification	105
B1. Identification of oneself in the photo	1
E.g. "I'm the one in the top left is it?"	
B2. Identification of others in the photo	5
E.g. "I know a lot of them and I don't know the names of them"	
B3. Identification of other persons in the photo	40
E.g. "It's them and who knows are the teachers in this photo?"	
B4. Identification of the photographer	1
E.g. "Was from your house last?"	
C. Narrative	106
C1. Narrative relating to location within photo	6
E.g. "I lived in the house with the yellow looking door & window lintels, my Mum & Dad rented from Mr Phillipson who lived next door..."	
C2. Narrative relating to subject of photo	3
E.g. "I know the garage one now has leg trouble and may not come back to work but that will not stop him!"	
D. Interactive Comments	112
D1. Asking for response/clarification	17
E.g. "Was that house? I don't look like the photo, did they get it by a bank?"	
D2. An answer for someone request for response/clarification	13
E.g. "I know it, that was the house"	
D3. Correction information of negative/positive comments	1
E.g. "The next above building 'good' missed the 'g'"	
E. Personal Comments	118
E1. Emotional response	35
E.g. "I'm not signed, always remembered never forget!"	
E2. Dislike/Disinterest	17
E.g. "I know that that must be old but"	
E3. Indifference/neutral comment	10
E.g. "It is a bit old, it is a long"	
E4. Personal story	5
E.g. "Was my brother when I used to go on, if that they were brother for all the years we spent at work on holiday?"	
F. Other	113
F1. Quality of photo	7
E.g. "The picture is a nice picture"	
F2. Miscellaneous	8
E.g. "It's a bit"	

absolute occurrences of a given code from 320 comments

## Key Insights and Questions...

- Positive feedback regarding use of displays in supporting engagement of community with their cultural heritage
  - And social interaction around this...
- Need to focus on supporting sense of ownership...
- Need for negotiation and renegotiation of exit strategies
- How well would the Wray Photo display transfer from the Rural to the Urban?

TAYLOR, N. AND CHEVERST, K. (2012). Supporting community awareness with situated displays. IEEE Computer 45(5), 26-32.