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Home > Vol 4, No 2 (1997) > Hawthorn



Revisiting the Usability of Graphical Displays: an experimental approach

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Abstract

The paper reports on the results of an experimental study of the usability of graphical displays for decision making. The literature points to inconsistent results that have been obtained by researchers looking at this issue. Instead of trying to find the 'best format* for a given task, our approach in this study examines common factors across various graph formats. Our focus is on the cognitive demands placed on a user instead of the task itself. It was found that assisting users to extract information from graphs with design features such as a mouse driven display has a significantly positive effect on performance.

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AJIS Vol 4, No 2 (1997)

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Reading Tools

Review policy About the author How to cite item Indexing metadata Notify colleague* Email the author* Add comment* RELATED ITEMS Author's work Book searches Web search

* Requires registration

Search

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