

University of Dundee

Involving people with severe speech and physical impairments in the early design of a context-aware AAC system

Waller, Annalu; Black, Rolf; Rashid, Zulqarnain

Publication date:
2017

Document Version
Publisher's PDF, also known as Version of record

[Link to publication in Discovery Research Portal](#)

Citation for published version (APA):
Waller, A., Black, R., & Rashid, Z. (2017). *Involving people with severe speech and physical impairments in the early design of a context-aware AAC system*. 34. Abstract from Communication Matters , Leeds, United Kingdom.
http://www.communicationmatters.org.uk/sites/default/files/downloads/conference/Book_of_Abstacts_FINAL_web.pdf

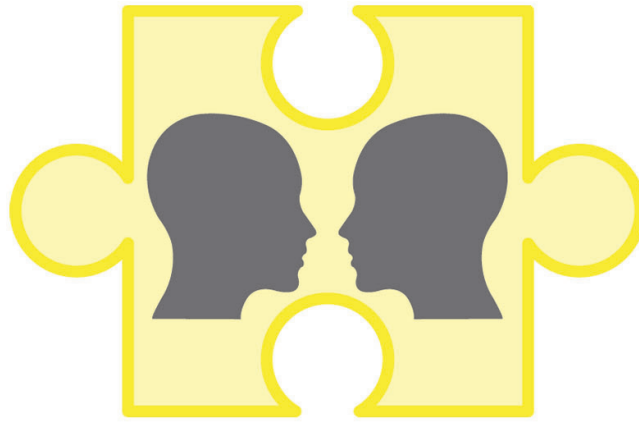
General rights

Copyright and moral rights for the publications made accessible in Discovery Research Portal are retained by the authors and/or other copyright owners and it is a condition of accessing publications that users recognise and abide by the legal requirements associated with these rights.

- Users may download and print one copy of any publication from Discovery Research Portal for the purpose of private study or research.
- You may not further distribute the material or use it for any profit-making activity or commercial gain.
- You may freely distribute the URL identifying the publication in the public portal.

Take down policy

If you believe that this document breaches copyright please contact us providing details, and we will remove access to the work immediately and investigate your claim.



Communication
Matters

Book of Abstracts

CM2017 National AAC Conference
10-12 September, University of Leeds



Communication
Matters

more than just talking

Involving people with severe speech and physical impairments in the early design of a context-aware AAC system

Platform - Abstract ID: 153

Prof. Annalu Waller (University of Dundee), Dr. Zulqarnain Rashid (University of Dundee), Mr. Rolf Black (University of Dundee)

Despite the increased availability of VOCAs (both as dedicated devices and, more recently, as apps on mobile devices), the limited use and abandonment of such systems remains high. One of the major reasons for the abandonment of assistive technology (AT) relates to the poor usability of devices. The importance of engaging with end users in the design and development of technology is now embedded in software engineering standards and is seen as key to ensuring usability. User-Centred Design is a methodology which demands the early and continual involvement of end users. However, the inclusion of end users with complex disabilities, such as those with severe speech and physical impairments (SSPI), pose challenges for designers with the result that few products reflect a truly user-centred approach. Designers of AAC devices tend to employ proxy users in the early stages of a project, only targeting disabled users in summative evaluation studies. This paper addresses challenges faced by designers in the early stages of a research project developing a novel context-aware communication system. We will describe the larger ACE-LP (Augmenting Communication using Environmental data to drive Language Prediction) project and will present the results of two early design workshops, highlighting challenges encountered and solutions adopted when working with disabled users.