

Chapter 7

Aspects and the Context for the Research

ABSTRACT

The literacy portal was created by the international and interdisciplinary team with the financial support of the European Union in the context of ICT Program, 7th framework – ICT-2011.5.5 (288596). The project aimed at the creation of a modern online portal for training of the reading technique and understanding, the effective usage of the internet environment in daily life, and the creation of the social communities of the users. The researchers used the mixed strategy of the research side by side with the triangulation methods from the analysis of documents, web pages content through the focus groups, user testing to the surveys. The portal was created using the rules of the human-centered design (HCD) approach. The initial steps in the HCD process specify that you need to start with the analysis of future users through article research, analysis of the current web application for the same target audience, and through personal interviews with people with dyslexia. The authors extracted and described the possible tasks for the literacy portal based on the information.

INTRODUCTION

In the previous chapter, the readers were introduced to the Literacy portal as a space for life-long learning, what it does, and what supportive tools it offers. This chapter aims to introduce the readers with goals, methods,

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and techniques of the research with the focus groups and the issues that the researchers faced. It points to readers what access strategies proved successful and where the problems originated. The readers will get to know about the state of the portal in the year 2019, five years after the end of the scientific research, including the reflection of the former respondents.

THE OBJECTIVE OF THE LITERACY RESEARCH PROJECT

The Literacy project aimed to create a modern online portal to teach reading and understanding techniques, to use the Internet environment effectively in everyday life, and to set up social user communities. It used a specialized web interface to improve the conditions of the target group for work with information by significantly simplifying otherwise complicated procedures. The basic research question was linked to the search for strategies to support adult people with dyslexia and dysfunctional reading skills and competencies using the internet environment. The researchers aimed to find out how to connect people with dyslexia who have reading problems to the Internet environment for everyday functioning. How can we strengthen them in developing reading skills? How can we activate their coping strategies? How can we provide them with effective reading skills?

The goals were pursued by the project consortium, which was composed of experts from special education, psychology, medicine, and information technology from five countries: Spain, Israel, the Czech Republic, Hungary, and Austria. Through their professional background, its members interconnected the academic, commercial, consulting, and school environment. On the one hand, this diversity in the team has proved beneficial, especially in being able to view issues from different platforms, with knowledge from different disciplines. On the other hand, it brought many different opinions, insights, and experiences from the positions and national socio-cultural experiences of the individual team members that the researchers had to deal with during the work on the portal.

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