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Abstract

Mobility assistance ICTs have become important companions in daily life due to rising digital affordances. However, understanding and researching everyday way-finding is still challenging, mainly because of the sheer difficulty to collect empirical data of concrete occasions. Hence, we argue that those methodological challenges make it harder to understand the mobility needs of certain user groups. We aim to address this gap while focusing on elderly people, a user group that becomes increasingly important in HCI studies, and ask the following questions: (1) What are the everyday way-finding practices of that user group? And (2) how can these be supported by mobility assistance ICTs? For answering them, we developed a methodological framing to study daily mobility as way-finding practices and conducted an interview study with 15 young elderly people supplemented with a probing technique. The paper concludes with reflections on potentials for and limits to, the study of, and designing for, way-finding as practices.

Keywords: mobility; mobility assistance ICT; elderly people; young elderly people; way-finding practices; senses of place; mobile sensing; mobility probes.

1. INTRODUCTION

Nowadays the digitalizing of mobility affordances is proceeding apace. Mobility

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