

Structure for Community Around Information

ALEX CHEEK
INTANGIBLE INDUSTRIAL DESIGN
SPRING 2009, PROF. JOSH WELSH

Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

NEWS STAND 2.0 beta

An Enriching Experience

As fewer people are getting news from a daily paper subscription and moving towards web- and mobile-based sources of information, we see a simultaneous shift towards information that is self-directed and non-contextual. While the thought of complete user control over information they receive sounds preferable, it becomes more impoverished and filtered, greatly reducing any serendipity. For instance, in unfamiliar cities a traveler will be less likely to get news that's particular to their

location should news stands and news boxes begin to disappear along with the paper artifact. Free papers at the coffee shop will disappear and be replaced with a user-centric access to news rather than human-centric. This news kiosk brings people together around live information that is easy to access and inviting to interact with. It does not address immediate needs of the industry which are new business models, but envisions a future where respectable journalism is still valued and desired.

The Community Ethos

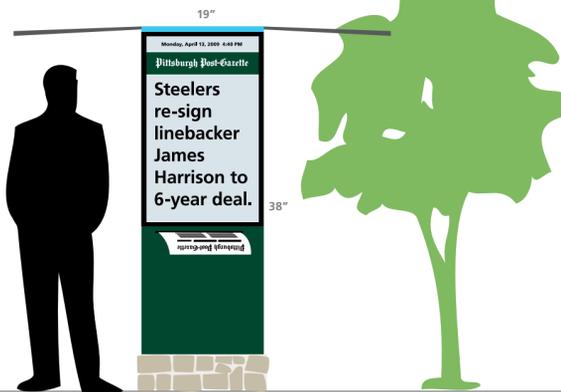
While many people love the *paper* aspect of the news-paper, it's becoming increasingly evident that it has numbered days. Reader rituals around the newspaper are disappearing and not being replaced with comparable rich, social experiences. A Sunday morning stroll to the corner bodega for the *Times* and to the bakery for a spinach croissant is being superseded by logging onto a web site without any sort of sharing or community interaction. Additionally, travelers may lack the chance

encounters with a paper at their current location, not receiving relevant information for their surroundings from trusted sources. The kiosk contributes to the community not just for the members of it but visitors as well. The rich experiences of the past should not be falsely replicated but replaced with new experiences — design.



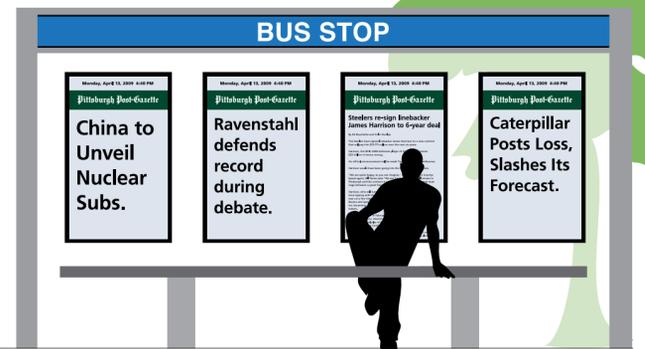
Four Panel Kiosk

The four panel kiosk allows many people to mingle around different news items. Above, an ambient device that illuminates blue for new stories and red for breaking news. Users can choose any story from a list to read or print. People who wish to take their news with them can swipe their phone to "grab" the story and keep walking. The kiosk is covered with a circular roof, is solar powered and wi-fi enabled.



Single Screens

Single screens offer interaction for spaces where users are more likely to spend time reading in the given location. To the right, a person waiting for the bus reads a story and can opt to transfer it to their mobile device. These panels are also wi-fi enabled and solar powered, and offer all the same content but without the option to print. All screens are proportional to legal-sized paper.



Materials & Technologies

Cellular technology

"Beyond 3G" will be a complete replacement of current networks able to provide a comprehensive and secure IP address for data and streamed multimedia at much higher data rates than previous networks. 4G is capable of streaming high-definition video at rates of 100 Mbit/s. SOURCE: WIKIPEDIA

4G

Photovoltaic Panels are low-cost and durable power sources, shown here built onto the top of the kiosk and out of sight. With lifespans of twenty years or more, solar panels such as this are wafer-based crystalline silicon cells, common on many semi-conductors. Infrared panels which could be a second generation improvement contain billions of "nanoantennas" which are actually able to collect heat not just from the sun but from other sources as well, enabling nighttime power generation. These panels would be considerably thinner and up to 50% more efficient. SOURCE: WIKIPEDIA

	Stone	For use in parks to evoke a natural feel, altered to match region.
	Red Brick	For use in commercial districts and corporate spots.
	Cobblestone	For use in historic areas, altered to match specific location.
	Granite	For general use on sidewalks and corners to withstand harshest conditions.
	Wood/Plastic	For use on campuses, at municipal buildings, and libraries.

Interactive Display & Ambient Alerts



The core component to this kiosk is the interactive display which combines touch-screen and gestural interaction. When nobody is present the screens rotate between headlines and the Post-Gazette flag. When people approach the display, it automatically turns to a list of headlines from which one can scroll up or down or select an article for further reading. Headline rotations will fade through, and selecting into articles will wipe right to reveal. Typography is optimized for each type of interaction. New headlines brighten the ambient light above and breaking and important news turns both red.

Traditional touch-screen technology is employed for the movement through the articles while gesture technology is used for recognizing when people are present, and for "swiping" articles downward to the printer. The screens are mounted behind heavy glass and surrounded by a black frame that wraps like a band around the kiosk. Dispersive Signal Technology by 3M "uses sensors to detect the mechanical energy in the glass that occurs due to a touch." It is the most durable of touch-screen technologies, resistant to dust, dirt, and scratches. SOURCE: 3M

Print Edition

Single-serve stories can be printed directly off the kiosk at no charge. Any story on the screen can be gestured into the print slot below for on-the-go media consumption that is also timely. Recycled and lightweight paper will greatly reduce environmental footprint when the articles are disposed of. Partially supported by advertising, the ads will be completely contextual to the spot at which it was printed. While the mass-production paper editions will likely be extinct but for a weekly edition or interest magazine, the printouts help to fill the community desire for this traditional form of consumption while being mindful of current pressures and needs.

