

DBM170 Final reflection

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Staying up to date with emerging technologies

In my mid term reflection, I reflected on my new skills regarding scanning papers and finding new trends, technologies and methods to incorporate in my projects. Before starting my master study at the university, I did not have to do literature reviews like I am expected to now. I can already tell that the paper presentations have helped me learn how to scan papers and get an overview of what valuable information is there. I believe this will mostly be useful in my future research projects, but to be honest, I am not pursuing a career as a 'true researcher'. I therefore believe the skills will mostly be applicable to my last year of studying at the university. After that, time will have to tell how I can use the gained skills in my aspirations to become a design director. Writing this now makes me have a new learning goal to add to my PDP next semester: Learn how to connect my research skills to design in business where there are time and budget limitations that have to be dealt with.

Working with emerging technologies

As I wrote in my mid term reflection, my specialty lies more in digital design than working with tangible materials, Arduino etcetera. However, I have learned a lot about tangibility, physical interaction and physical design during my masters. This course has made it clearer for me that I want to focus on strategy, creation and validation of concepts in (group) projects, rather than the actual creation of physical prototypes. This might change in the last year of my master since I do see the added value of prototyping etcetera, but I do believe this will remain on basic prototyping levels for researching purposes only. The group project shows this too: my main contribution lies with the methodology and execution of the user study. That being said, I see this as a positive thing. Through the last half year, I have found focus in what I want to do and where I want to go after my studies. I knew I have a passion for Calm Technology, but I realised that I truly want to work towards a position as a user experience designer after which I can continue to learn to be a design director.

Technology first perspective

Reviewing an emerging technology and using the new possibilities to explore the design space without thinking of a specific design problem up front is something I didn't expect to learn as mentioned in my mid term reflection. What I will take away from this is: keep an open mind and don't stick what seems possible right now. Push the boundaries because you can always scale back if needed. Keep thinking creatively in all aspects of design and research. Researching in the COVID-19 situation is a perfect example of this. Definitely something to remind myself of in the future more often. This is not only applicable to research and design, but to everything we are dealing with in this line of work. It helps to create innovative designs that fit into the lives of users seamlessly. That satisfy and communicate without being too intrusive. All aspects very relevant to Calm Technology, thus my interest and vision and identity.