HÖGSKOLAN VÄST

Sense and Storyfication:

From virtual worlds to storyworlds

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Abstract

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This text explores how virtual reality (VR) can be used as a medium to convey experiences, particularly in the context of work-integrated learning (WIL). These worlds can help users explore, create, and understand complex information in a more engaging and effective way than traditional teaching methods.

Semiotic principles are employed for the design of VR environments and provide a framework for understanding how meaning is created. By selecting and placing signs, designers can create specific meanings and experiences for the users. The text also emphasises storytelling as a cognitive tool for structuring and understanding experiences.

Two VR prototypes were developed and evaluated during the project. Both prototypes simulated a situation in palliative care, where the user's task was to interact with a patient and their relatives. User tests were conducted to evaluate the effectiveness of the prototypes. The studies showed that VR can effectively convey the experience of being in a specific situation. The analysis of users' behaviour and interviews showed that the VR environments successfully triggered storyfication leading to meaningful reflections about palliative care. Important factors in the environments included content that introduced cognitive chafing and required participants to fill in the blanks to make sense of the situation.