

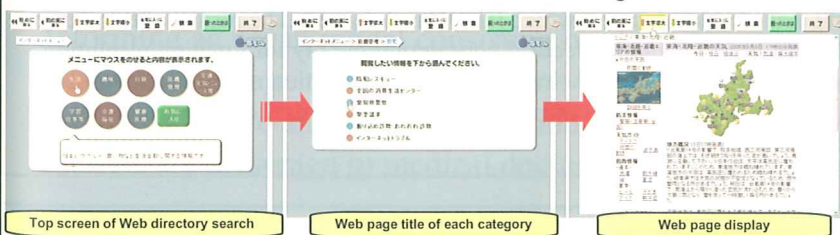
Learning Support

Development of Directory Web Search System and Learning Environment for Senior Citizens in Local Lifelong Learning

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The purpose of this study is to examine local lifelong learning support for first computer use by senior citizens, using cooperation between software and a human network. Today, Internet use is the norm among young people, although it is often difficult for senior citizens to search the Internet. Many of senior citizens find PC use frustrating, due to the wide array of functions and operations. First we developed Web directory search system takes into account senior citizens' typical characteristics (eyesight, powers of comprehension, and memory), by carefully considering factors such as the number of buttons, the size of characters, use of color, and the available functions. However, most participants said that "this system is useful to us" or "it was fun to use".

Our second purpose is developing a learning environment for senior citizens aimed at the practical use (in the "e-namo project") of the Web directory search system in local lifelong learning centers. We cooperate with two universities (Nagoya University, Chukyo University), the City of Nagoya, and an NPO. Our project also received coverage in the newspaper and on the television. As a result, more than 2,000 seniors applied to join the short courses run by the City of Nagoya in all wards, though the capacity was only 600 places. This highlights the level of demand from senior citizens for this kind of learning environment.



support system for senior citizens

