

E.M-Y. Wang, S.L. Hwang, W-R. Hsu, Y-H. Liu, Y-T. Lin, W-Y. Kung, S-Y. Feng. Website browsing requirements for middle age and elder people. Gerontechnology 2008; 7(2):238. Internet users are no longer limited to young people as World Wide Web becomes more and more prevalent. And because of this user population extension phenomenon, it is imperative to establish a friendly user interface for those whose requirements have not yet sufficiently considered before, such as the elderly people in the Taiwanese/Chinese society. **Method** This study focused on understanding the website interface design guidelines for the middle age to elder people whose age ranged from 45 to 65 years old. Their website browsing requirements were collected and summarized through literature review and questionnaire survey. Then suggestions of elder people website interface design were proposed, which included content of website, browsing, user support, and input devices for website user interface. **Results and discussion** Design guidelines developed from survey and literature review were compared (*Table 1*). Survey results represented Taiwanese/Chinese elders' requirements, and literature review mainly reflected those for western elders. Mostly, the requirements were consistent across the border. However, some differences may be traced to their cultural roots that are worth for further analysis. Further discussion and conclusion were given accordingly.

References

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Table 1. Comparison between the results of the questionnaire survey and the literature review

Item	Questionnaire survey	Literature review
Content	16 point type size for body text	12~14 point type size ¹⁻³
	Standard Kai typeface	Sans serif typeface, such as Helvetica ^{2,3}
	White foreground and black background	or Arial ² High contrast ^{2,3}
Browsing	Avoid pull down menus	Avoid pull down menus ^{2,3}
	Avoid pop-up windows	Only one open window ³
User support	Provide an online help tutorial	Provide an online help tutorial ³
	Provide location of the current page	Provide location of the current page ³
	Provide a site map	Provide a site map ¹⁻³
	Provide an online printer	Provide Navigation cues ³ Search engine should cater for spelling errors ³
Input device	Prefer using mouse and keyboard as input devices	Single mouse clicks for icons ²