



Problem?
 Hey Elise, I heard, that many elderly have difficulties to retain their physical, mental and social endeavors when they start their retirement. Is that true? What could be a reason for this?

Problem?
 Hey Timmy, Unfortunately this is true. Many elderly don't get visited much by their families and are left alone without any work or occupation. While some do volunteer work to keep themselves busy, others are getting social inactive and lonely. This often leads to isolation and depression.

Problem definition.

- Decreasing social activity of elderly
- Isolation, exclusion and loneliness
- Possible Reasons:
 - physical limitations
 - small social circle
 - lack of companionship
 - no schedule

Solution

“A simple web platform could bring elderly and younger people, interested in their stories together.”

- The younger generation can ask questions via a web platform (in text as well as in video format)
- Elderly are using the installation table to respond to certain questions or simply tell their stories by recording a little video.
- Elderly can also connect to other elders to ask questions by themselves and listen to stories from others.
- Depending on their computer skills, elderly can choose between a simple “answering”- mode and a social network like interface to connect to the interested world.

Advantages:

- additional purpose in life
- connection to the current generation
- stay in contact
- memory training
- learn computer skills

Installation for elderly

Aim

The focus: Lack of Companionship

“Elderly love to share and tell stories of their past adventures and they are keen to tell these to anyone with a listening ear. And there are people who are interested in the past and are looking for new ways to find or gain fascinating information or maybe have a specific questions to the older generation.”

Our goal is to reach all elderly and to give them the opportunity to keep in touch with the younger generation and fulfill their mental and social skills and needs.

Ask a Granny

- telling stories
- stay in contact with others
- cooking, sewing & household stuff
- helping with homework
- life tips
- online platform
- chattroulette
- interesting conversations
- answering questions

Requirements

must...

- work asynchronously
- opportunity to post questions
- opportunity to answer questions
- show questions
- profiles with personal information
- opportunity to record
- search function
- be moderated

could...

- sort questions and answers
- categories and tags

should...

- an login
- an intuitive interface

won't...

- be another facebook
- make friends addable

... have

Design

Technical Design.

- daylight lamps for lightning
- cameras & microphones to record video answers
- multitouch tables to type and interact with the system

“A round table allows multiple users to answer questions simultaneously and provides a comfortable environment for personal conversations.”

User Interface

- basic and simple
- different modi for different skill levels

Scenario

- Young user logs himself in the web application
- ... and asks a question about a certain topic using the “ask a question” field in his user interface. Alternatively he can also record his question with the application.
- The data gets sent to the “Ask a Granny” tables in elderly homes and appear in the installations interface.
- When elderly are using the installation, they can answer the appearing questions by pushing the record button and record a video message.
- The video answer then gets send back and saved and can be watched by everyone who is interested in the certain topic.

Why is it innovative?

- We focus on giving old people a profile and make them more individual. In an environment like an elderly home, residents can feel like they are only a number like they don't matter. Through our environment, elderly can create a profile that collects all their accomplishments in life. In return they receive a purpose by helping others with their experience.
- Other social media and communication networks could provide a similar experience, but they are not designed for people with small technological knowledge.
- One goal is to connect the old and young generation again. In other cultures and throughout history, the elderly are not a burden, but they are treated with the most respect and they are regarded as wise. When someone had a problem they used to ask the oldest person in their village. This project plans on sparking the interest of young people in the elderly. As soon as a young person is interested in the elderly, they will start to take care of them, talk to them and appreciate their wisdom.
- A similar idea is the multigenerational house, where an elderly home is in the same building with a kindergarten a youth center and a town meeting place. Nevertheless these houses are expensive and they can't be implemented everywhere. A digital environment with the same purpose can be accessible by many people everywhere in the world.

Innovation