감성적 디지털 묘지 컨텐츠 디자인 제안

Digital Genealogy Design

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I. Introduction

1-1. Background and Objective

People want to cherish their memory of the deceased loved one. They want to keep the deceased in their mind after the death. Human memory however, has a limitation. Human memory can be distorted and lost as time goes by. In order to remember the deceased, human beings have carried on the traditional rites and recorded the life of the deceased. Physical cemeteries need substantial space and give little information about the deceased. Due to this limitation, Cyber Cemetery was designed to utilize good features of digital storage in the web environment. However, it is designed exactly like physical cemetery without considering specific characteristics of cyber space. The Emotional Digital Cemetery-Soul Forest emphasizes the importance of emotional features of Cyber Cemetery. It satisfies desire of the people to live spiritually forever even after the physical death. We will develop into a futuristic genealogy to keep huge individual data.

II. Main Subject

2-1. Research - Questionnaire

We analyzed people's pattern to cherish the memory of a deceased person.

Duration: 10.3-10.10, 2003

Objective: Understanding user's way of cherishing the memory of a deceased person.

2-2. Analysis of the questionnaire

People miss the deceased when they face similar situations which were previously related to the deceased. They also miss the deceased when they accidentally see objects related to the deceased.

People usually have their own way of remembering the deceased like seeing the old pictures, etc.

Normally, people have data of the deceased - pictures, moving images, clothes, letters and articles - to keep the memories of them. Most usually have negative attitudes about existing Cyber Cemetery because it is just an imitation of physical cemetery.

In conclusion, the reason people look for the memory of the deceased is because they miss them and long to be with them. People prefer to make Cyber Cemetery an intimate space enough to feel like living with the dead person somehow.

2-3. Present cyber cemetery on the web

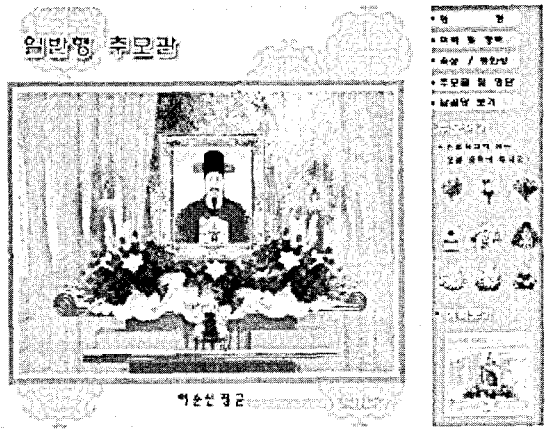

Figure1. Prototype of a general cyber cemetery on the web

The interfaces of exiting Cyber Cemeteries usually look like figure 1.These Cyber Cemeteries follow a figure of traditional Korean funeral. Users record simple information of a dead person and send a message to the dead person. However, the market of Cyber Cemeteries has become depressed. The writer thinks it is because these Cyber Cemeteries didn't utilize the merit of the digital technology well.

2-4. Design of Cyber Cememtery-Soul forest

2-4-1. Concept of a tree as a metaphor

The Family tree is used as a metaphor of family relationships. It means the history of a family over several generations, describing whom each person got married to and who their children were. Tree is also a symbol of links and relationship between people. Using digital technology, it'll be different enough to change a present meaning of the genealogy.

2-4-2. Interface of Soul Forest

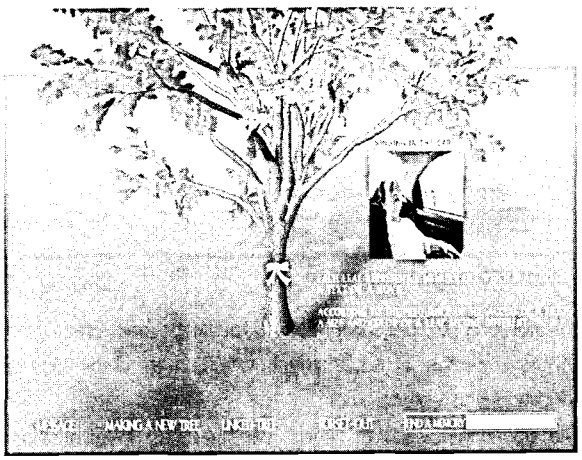

Figure 2. Interface of the personal memory tree

In **Soul Forest**, users can feel themselves going to a fantastic, mysterious world and relax in the virtual forest. Soul Forest is the web environment in which people can perform a cemetery to build the dead persons memory and set up an organic monument to the memory of the person by making a virtual tree. Users can store and recall the memories of other users as well as the decreased.

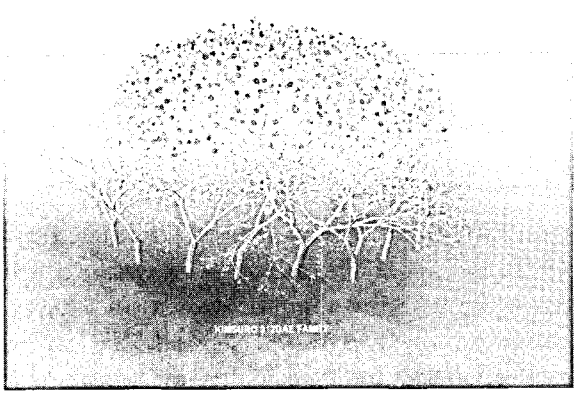

Figure 3. Interface of linked tree page

Planting and raising a memory tree makes a user feel connected to the decreased and allows him to have a continuous relationship with them. Moreover, a user receives feedback from his/her participation - the level of the affection toward a memory tree or a dead person in Soul Forest. The growth of a memory tree depends on the frequency of the access of the memory tree. It could be a family-tree (genealogy) which have information of the user's ancestor like figure 3. This is not only for the dead person but also for the living one. Living people can organize their own data and utilize it as memory aid or a personal documentary that have huge personal data..

III.Summary, Conclusion and Future work

Soul Forest will help people to store, recall, link, share and reproduce memories of the dead person and other user. Users have a virtual and an organic memory tree so that they can relax and enjoy building, planting and organizing memory tree in a virtual forest. It thus becomes a memory space to organize and keep data. Finally, it can be handed over to their descendants after they die as a futuristic genealogy. To dead people, it makes their lives more valuable by transmitting to and communicating with descendents. They will even have an eternal life in the memory of the living people.

At first, Soul Forest would start as a personal memory space to hold an individual history. As time goes by, it would become a futuristic and advanced genealogy that has a lot of data of families.

Ultimately, it is expected to be an enormous human memory bank in which Individual data are gathered.

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Web Resources

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http://www.visualthesaurus.com/desktop/index.jsp