

## The Transference of Dance Information through Interface Design

This thesis is concerned with the careful arrangement and organization of technical content. That subject matter in the context of observation or ideation, acts in concert with the abilities of the designer and available materials to shape the form of a product with its functional purpose and relevance. To assist this inquiry a poetic strategy has been adopted which includes elements of dialectic, rhetoric and grammar to better understand the requirements of design and formulate a solution. Within this framework a prototype application, LabanAssist has been designed to provide dancers, choreographers, artistic directors, choreologists, students and educators with a tool designed to enhance dance literacy through greater provision and accessibility of the dance notation system "Labanotation".

The ephemeral nature of dance and the absence of a widely acknowledged system to provide an objective record of dance movement have contributed to the scarce historical references to dance material (Calvert et al. 2002). An increasing awareness of the drivers surrounding the preservation of movement highlight the necessity to effectively preserve dance works that risk being contaminated or lost (Wang 2004).

The integration of technology into the arts has motivated the development of complex computer applications that supply artists with a greater means of creative expression (Assey 2005). Movement can be effectively documented by use of dance notation. Languages such as Labanotation provide a precise system of recording movement, analogous to the techniques musicians' employ to notate music (Calvert et al. 2002). Up until now current literature places emphasis on the fact that existing dance notation applications are not equipped to detect or prevent errors made during the composition of Labanotation scores. These would otherwise require an expert knowledge of Labanotation to operate effectively (Calvert et al. 2005). Thus fuelling the risk of further contamination as dance knowledge is transferred to a digital environment.

The integration of an operational structure for the documentation of movement within a notation application will ensure the correct syntax of dance notation is established. Coupled with the visual interpretation of notated movement in an immediate environment it functions as a diagnostic tool in which novice users of Labanotation may evaluate their notation and more easily interpret errors in their notation. The prototype, LabanAssist, was tested in the dance community to assess levels of user response, understanding, accessibility and capability.

## References

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