

Title: It Takes a Village - Designing Social-technical Systems for People with Cognitive Impairments

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Abstract:

Designing technologies for people with cognitive impairments takes more than a team of technologists – it also requires a village of social scientists, practitioners, family members, and experts in care giving to obtain a nuanced understanding of what is needed and how technology can be designed to complement a user’s abilities, needs, and social network. This presentation will discuss several social-technical systems that have been developed to support people with cognitive disabilities and their caregivers in the Cognitive Levers (CLever) Project at the Center for Lifelong Learning and Design in Colorado. Each of these projects uncovered a myriad of user needs, technical requirements, and evaluation challenges that were explored through an interactive, participative design process involving users, technologists and the user’s social community, or “village”. This talk will present the challenges and rewards of designing technologies for a community with individual and diverse needs.