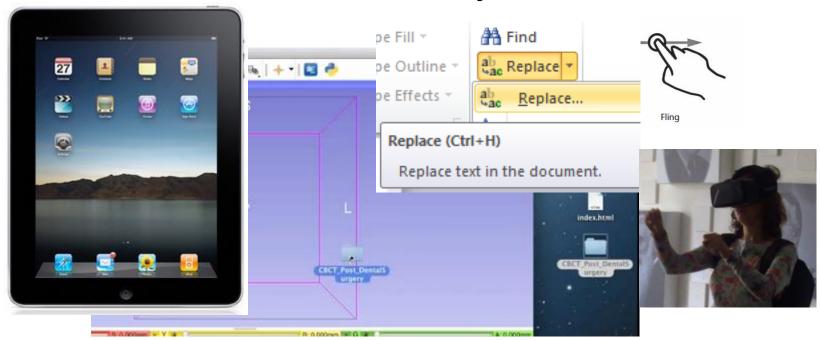


Interaction styles



Beatriz Sousa Santos, 2023

Interaction Styles

"The concept of Interaction Styles refers to all the ways the user can communicate or otherwise interact with the computer system."

Soegaard, Mads. Interaction Styles (Retrieved March 2020) http://www.interactiondesign.org/encyclopedia/interaction_styles.html

There are a lot of studies and design guidelines

Shneiderman's Eight Golden Rules of Dialogue Design

- 1. Strive for consistency
- 2. Enable frequent users to use shortcuts
- 3. Offer informative feedback
- 4. Design dialogues to yield closure
- 5. Offer simple error handling
- 6. Permit easy reversal of actions
- 7. Support internal locus of control
- 8. Reduce short-term memory load

These golden rules are paramount in the design process

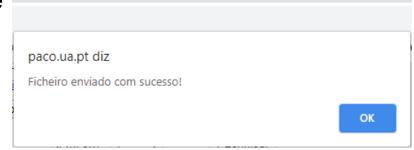
https://www.interaction-design.org/literature/article/shneiderman-s-eight-golden-rules-will-help-you-design-better-interfaces

Support internal locus of control

- Allow users to be the initiators of actions
- Give users the sense that they are in control of events

Design dialogue to yield closure

Don't keep users guessing.



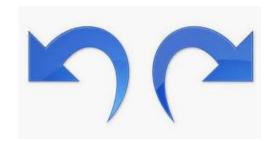
Tell them what their action has led them to

Allow easy reversal of actions

UNDO

encouraging exploration of unfamiliar options

undo – CTRL z



Allow frequent users to use shortcuts

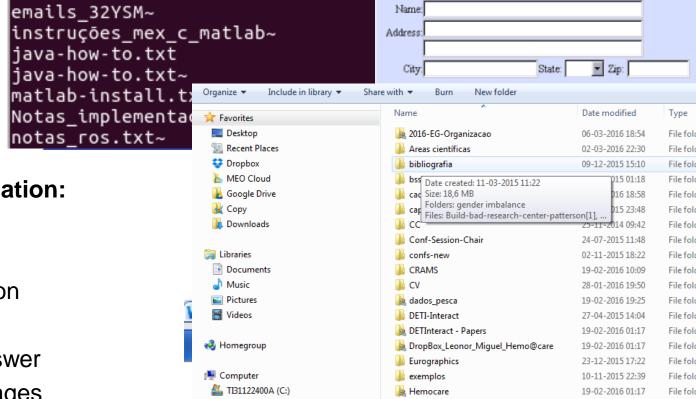
Common examples:

save - CTRL s

copy - CTRL c



Interaction/ Dialog styles



IEECG&A

InfoVis

bss@ua.pt (\\arca.ua.pt\sweet) (Y:)

bss@ua.pt (\\arca.ua.pt\Utilizadores) (Z:

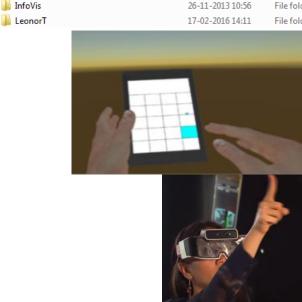
A possible classification:

- Menus
- Fill-in-forms
- Direct manipulation
- Function keys
- Question and answer
- Command languages
- Natural languages

Often two or more styles are used simultaneously

Less traditional user interfaces (UIs):

- 3D user interfaces
- Tangible user interfaces
- etc....

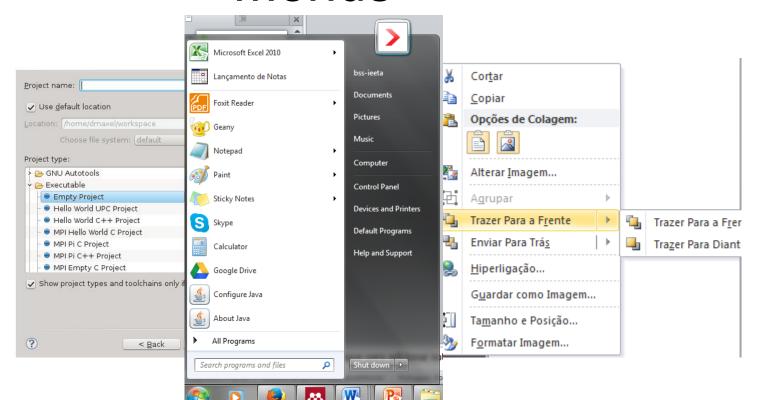


07-01-2016 00:06

File fold



Menus





- The concept existed long before computers
- Selection of options
- There are **several types**

```
Welcone to the Viridian Finance System

1. Payroll

2. Accounts Payable

3. Accounts Receivable

4. General Ledger

5. Reports

6. Write Checks

Enter Selection: ____
```

Iconic





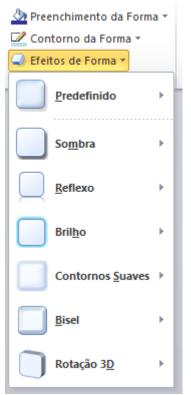


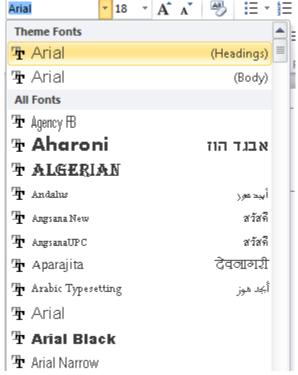


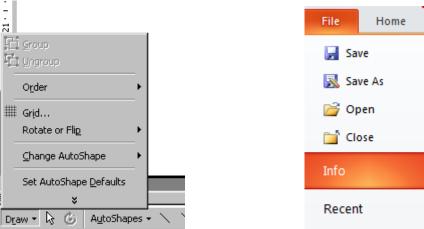


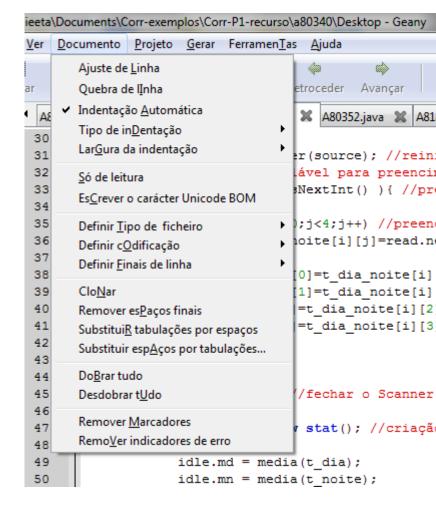


Textual



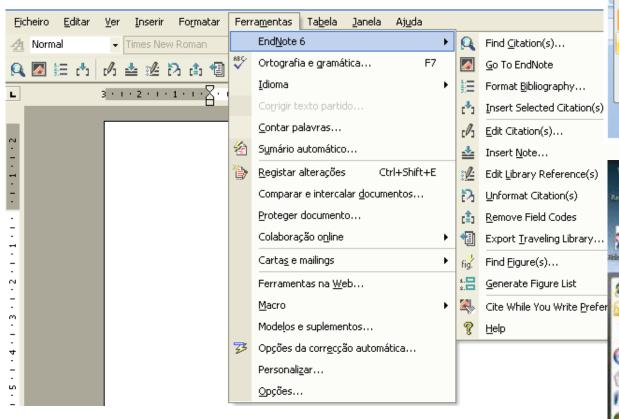


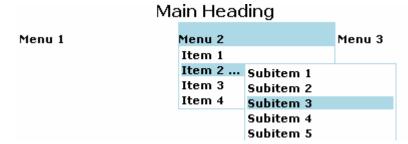




Pull-down/ pull-up menus

Cascading menus

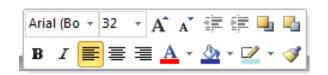


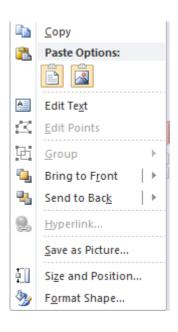




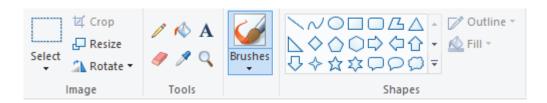
Always visible / Pop-ups

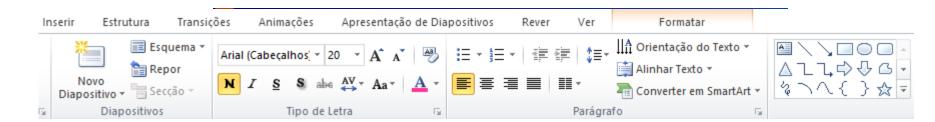












Menus: main advantages and disadvantages

Advantages (potential, i.e. if properly designed)

- Auto-explanatory
- Do not load memory (recognition rather than recall)
- Prevent syntactic errors
- Visible improvements

Disadvantages

- Not efficient
- Not flexible
- Not practical for many options

User profile to whom menus are adequate:

Knowledge and experience:

- Low system and task experience
- Frequent usage of other systems
- Low computational literacy

Work and task:

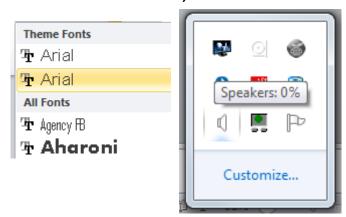
- Low frequency of use
- No training
- Optional usage
- Highly structured tasks

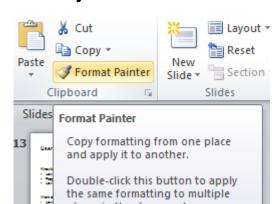
Menu design: relevant aspects

- Menu structure
- Option ordering
- Option selection
- Menu invocation
- Navigation

Menu design: guidelines

- Adequate the menu structure to the task structure
- Minimize depth increasing breadth (within reasonable limits)
- Use an adequate ordering method
- Be coherent (design, option names, etc.)
- Give selection feedback to the user
- Include tooltips if names or icons are not auto-explanatory
- Indicate currently unavailable options
- ...
- Etc. etc.





Menu design: guidelines

Find the adequate structure using card sorting:
 a low-cost method that helps understanding how users expect to
 find content or functionality



- Card sorting (usually performed by potential users of an interactive solution) provides information on:
 - Terminology (what people call things)
 - Relationships (proximity, similarity)
 - Categories (groups and their names)
- that can be used to decide upon:
 - which items should be grouped together in displays
 - how menu contents should be organized and labeled
 - what words should be employed to describe the objects of our users' attention

Card sorting example: think about how to sort the fruits and vegetables sold in a supermarket (may be it is not as easy as it seems...)



Select adequate option ordering

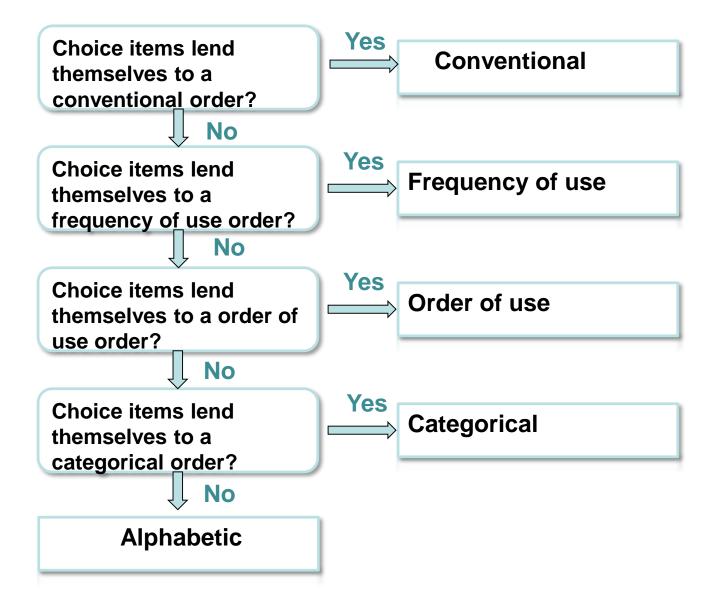
Which ordering scheme would you select?





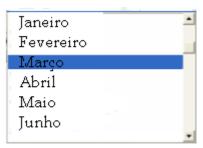
Why?

Select adequate option ordering

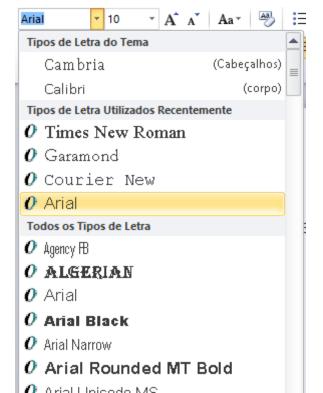


Option ordering

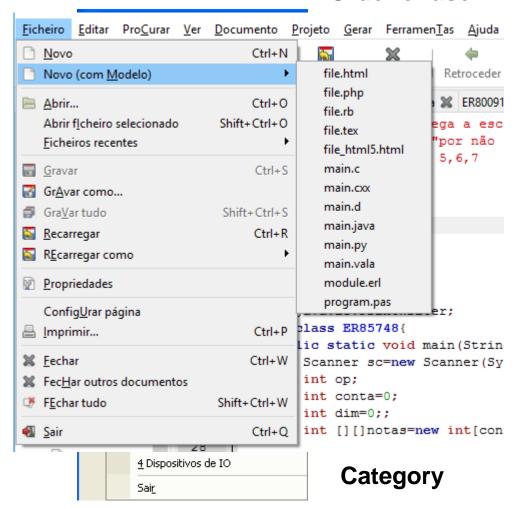
Conventional



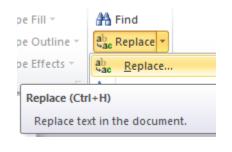
Alphabetic + frequency



Order of use

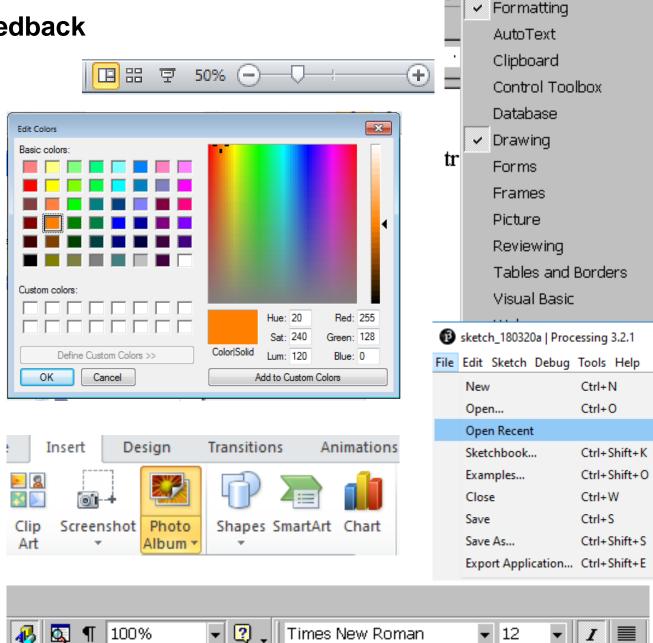


Give selection feedback









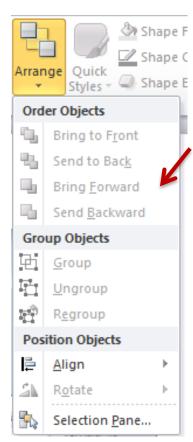
110.00

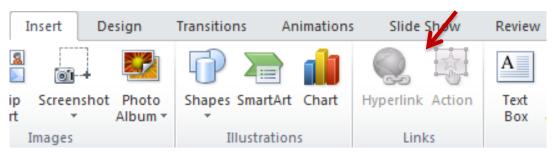
Standard

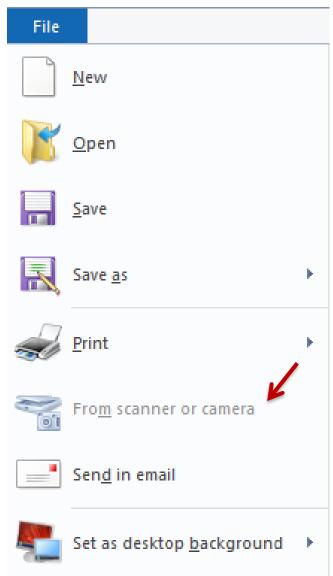
Indicate currently unavailable options

In grey to let users know they exist, but are unavailable

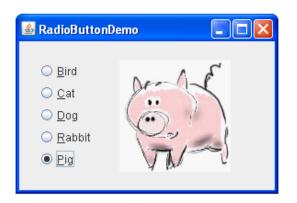
- Preventing errors
- And showing existing options (functionality)







Make clear the difference between choices of only one or several

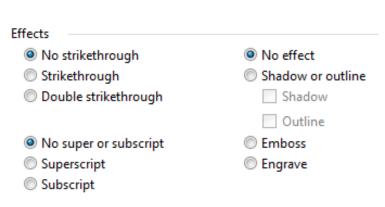




"Radio button":

Only a single option can be selected from several mutually exclusive options

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Radio_button



"Check box":

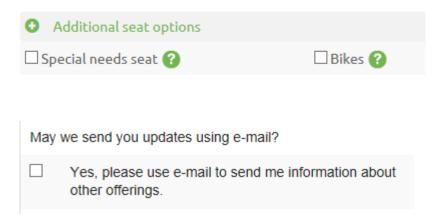
Permits to make a binary choice.
A series of checkboxes may be presented
The user may select several of the choices



Select only one alternative:

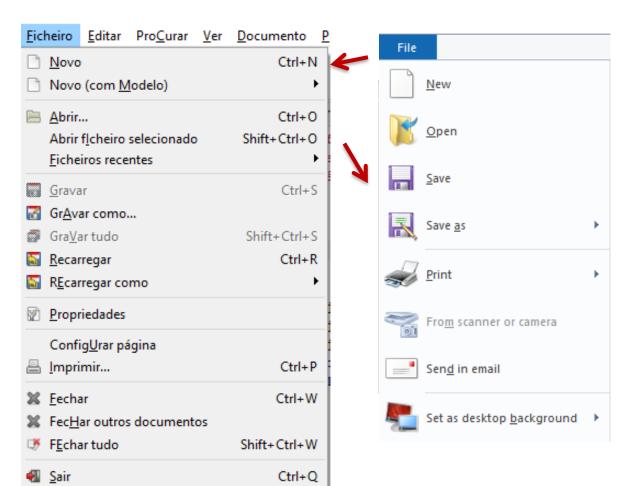
	Service	From	То
0	AP No. 180	06:21	08:22
•	AP No. 130	07:21	09:22
0	IC No. 520	07:31	09:52

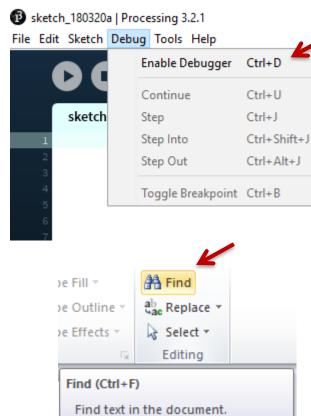
Possible to select more than one alternative:



https://www.nngroup.com/articles/checkboxes-vs-radio-buttons/

Show alternative ways of accessing the same functionality

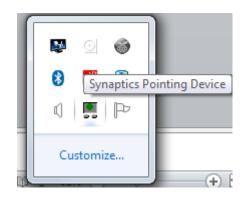


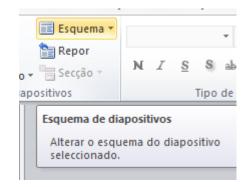


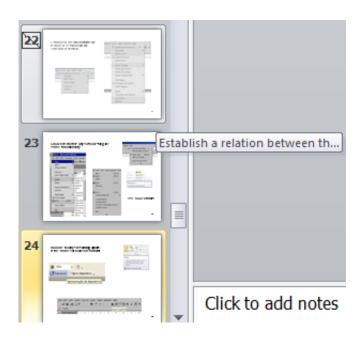
Use accelerators

(Flexibility and efficiency of use)

Include tooltips describing options if the names or icons are not clear



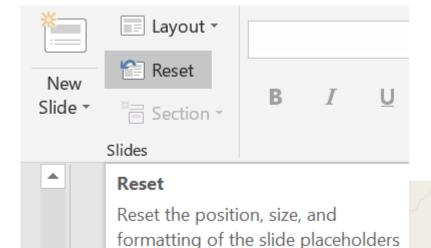




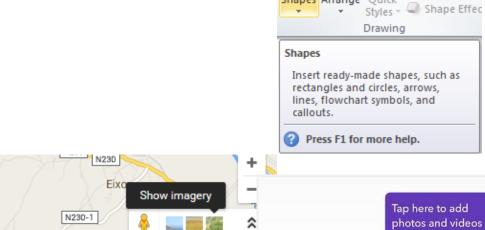
Shapes Arrange

Shape Fill ▼
Shape Outli

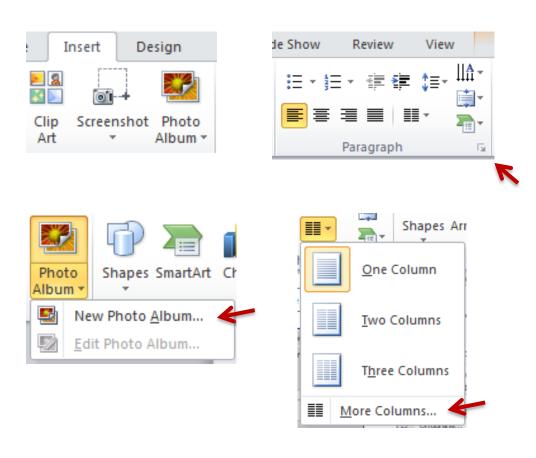
0

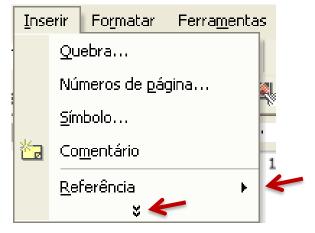


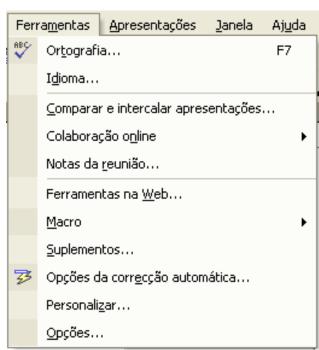
to their default settings.



Make clear that there are more options

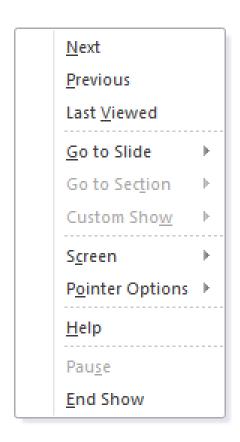




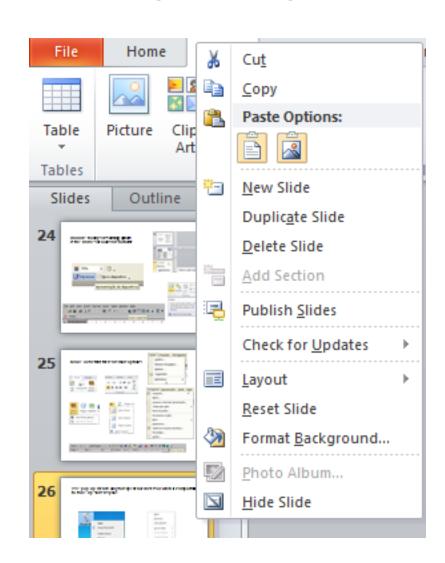




Use pop-up menus (context menus) only for experienced users or when it is very important not to take up screen space



(e.g.: during a Power Point presentation)



Main Bibliography

- Ben Shneiderman, C. Plaisant, M. Cohen, et al., *Designing the User Interface-Strategies for Effective Human–Computer Interaction*, Pearson, 6th edition, 2016
- Soegaard, Mads. Interaction Styles (Retrieved March 2020)
 http://www.interactiondesign.org/encyclopedia/interaction_styles.html
- Hudson, W., Card Sorting. In: Soegaard, Mads and Dam, Rikke Friis (eds.). "The Encyclopedia of Human-Computer Interaction, 2nd Ed.". Aarhus, Denmark: The Interaction Design Foundation (Retrieved March 2020)
 - http://www.interaction-design.org/encyclopedia/card_sorting.html