

Olivia Vane



Job title: PhD candidate, Innovation Design Engineering

Organisation: Royal College of Art

Twitter: @OliviaFVane

Abstract:

Title: Visualising the Cooper Hewitt collection

How can timeline visualisation be used to make sense of cultural heritage data? This talk begins with a background to timeline visualisation for presenting/analysing themes across digitised collections. I then focus on an experimental interface design for exploring the Cooper Hewitt Smithsonian Design Museum collection. This interface visualises the collection by timelines and tags (informal keywords assigned to records, connecting diverse objects across the collection by visual characteristics or abstract themes).

Through this visualisation design, I explore what the consequences and considerations are for visualising connections between objects that ignore traditional catalogue structures. And through feedback from museum visitors and staff, I demonstrate the interface's potential to serve as both a browsing and display tool, and spell out the advantages and challenges of applying tags to cultural heritage data.



Cooper Hewitt collection interface – 'coffee & tea drinking' – by Olivia Vane

Bio:

Olivia is a designer and researcher currently pursuing a PhD in Innovation Design Engineering at the Royal College of Art, London. Her work explores how interactive data visualisation may be used to 'make sense' of cultural heritage data. She works with digitised collections from cultural institutions including the Wellcome Library, the Science Museum and the British Library. During her PhD, Olivia completed a Smithsonian Fellowship at the Cooper Hewitt Design Museum and interned at Microsoft Research Cambridge in the Human Experience & Design Group. Olivia holds a BA Natural Sciences and an MSci History and Philosophy of Science from the University of Cambridge.