SPECIAL

Music
social info
Email
ASYNCHRONOUS

WE used but despite regular communication and visits there was a lack of intimacy. A wide range of both traditional and new mediums are available to others, moments, and places that remind them of their partner.

• Email

Communication at a Distance

The context of communication for long-distance couples focuses on daily events and relational maintenance. A wide range of both traditional and new mediums are available to others, moments, and places that remind them of their partner.

Five interviews living in Pittsburgh agreed to record their distant partners and participate in an eight-day web questionnaire and photo journal. These couples, consisting of four men and six women, represented a range of relational situations and geographic distances as well as diversity in amount of time separated. Because both partners were participating their answers could be compared and contrasted. The quotes on the right give a sample of the testimonials expressed through the journals.

I would say the context of the letter was secondary to the act of sending it. There is longevity in tangibility. I know that if I tell her where I am she will have a true memory of being in that place with me.

The most meaningful communication is when one of us goes out of our way to do something for the other. I was secondary to the act of sending it. I would say the context of the letter was secondary to the act of sending it. There is longevity in tangibility. I know that if I tell her where I am she will have a true memory of being in that place with me.

Daily delights... to find a common time to talk. Slower communication by email can be a very different emotional experience. I miss you too just doesn’t seem like enough.

I silently say hello to him when (see those spots—imagining him when he was there).

I want to know everything that he wants to tell me—not just what we have time for. I would say the context of the letter was secondary to the act of sending it. There is longevity in tangibility. I know that if I tell her where I am she will have a true memory of being in that place with me.

Tele-Copresence

The majority of relevant projects are synchronous in nature with varying levels of explicit presence in the left quadrant of the matrix representing implicit and synchronous communication. This discovery, informed my user research studies where among other topics I focused on better understanding the advantages and drawbacks of synchronous and implicit communication.

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Twentieth-century letters were conducted with personal notes, or more recently, in long-distance relationships. These travelers, aren’t more than roses, are being away from their partners for a variety of reasons including, school, work, and military deployment. There was also diversity in the distance of separation as shown on the above map, which plots each participant’s relationship to Pittsburgh and his or her partner. These interviews established a high level of understanding of problems and opportunities and provided initial contact with five participants who would participate in the larger web-based journal study.

EXPLICIT

IMPLICIT

Communication + Presence

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