Editorial

Information Design: Methods, Material Culture, and Communication

We are pleased to present Volume 23, number 2 of the InfoDesign Journal, the second issue of 2026. The four articles featured in this issue examine information design from historical, methodological, and applied perspectives, exploring topics ranging from typographic heritage and printed material culture to healthcare communication. Together, these contributions demonstrate how information design supports the documentation, analysis, and interpretation of information, highlighting its role not only in communication practices but also in research and knowledge production.

The issue opens with the article "Methodological procedures for the identification of typefaces: comparing the repertoires of letterpress printers and type foundries". In this study, Piaia and Farias present a set of non-digital methodological procedures for identifying historical typefaces through the comparison of printed specimens. Focusing on the typographic repertoire of the Hennies Brothers printing shop in São Paulo, Brazil, the authors investigate connections between Brazilian printing practices and German type foundries. By combining archival research, systematic documentation, and visual comparison techniques, the study offers a methodological contribution to research in typography and graphic design history, demonstrating the value of rigorous procedures for investigating historical printed artifacts.

Continuing the discussion on typography and cultural heritage, the second article, "YazıBursa: documenting the typographic heritage of public space", by Ertürk, examines vernacular typography in the urban landscape of Bursa, Türkiye. Through fieldwork and the documentation of 306 typographic artifacts, the author develops a georeferenced inventory that reveals relationships between graphic expressions, urban spaces, and local history. Grounded in Critical Heritage Studies, the research also proposes the Typographic Inventory Management Model (TIMM), a framework intended to support future preservation and conservation initiatives. The study emphasizes the cultural significance of everyday typographic manifestations and the importance of systematic documentation in recognizing and preserving graphic heritage.

The third contribution, "Visualizing the independent printed books: an analytical approach at the intersection of material culture and information design", by Martins Filho and Barros, explores how visual representations can support the investigation of printed artifacts. Drawing on material culture studies and theories of visual graphic language, the authors develop an analytical framework incorporating pictograms to describe and compare the material and technical characteristics of independent publications.

Applied to a corpus of fifty books produced by Brazilian independent publishers, the proposed system demonstrates how visual coding can facilitate the identification of patterns and relationships among artifacts. More broadly, the study highlights the potential of information design as a methodological instrument for research, extending its role beyond the presentation of information to the organization and interpretation of empirical data.

The emphasis on systematic approaches to research continues in the final article, which shifts the focus to healthcare communication. In "Information Design applied to Healthcare: an overview of Brazilian research on medication leaflets", Ferreira, Silveira, Souto, and Silva present a systematic review of Brazilian research on medication leaflets and related informational materials. Based on the analysis of 41 publications, the authors identify recurring approaches and research gaps, particularly regarding the diversity of audiences investigated and the limited attention given to pharmaceutical packaging and other medication-related artifacts. By organizing and synthesizing existing studies, the article provides an overview of research in this area and points to opportunities for future investigations aimed at improving the communication of medication information.

Taken together, the articles in this issue reflect the diversity of research approaches and contexts within information design. The first three contributions explore different dimensions of graphic and material culture, from historical typefaces and vernacular typography to independent publishing. Through distinct methodological approaches, they demonstrate how graphic artifacts can serve as sources of historical and cultural knowledge. The final article broadens this perspective by addressing healthcare communication, identifying gaps in existing research and opportunities for improving the design of medication information.

These contributions also highlight the interdisciplinary nature of information design and its connections with fields such as design history, heritage studies, material culture, and healthcare. By examining how information is documented, represented, and interpreted across different contexts, the studies offer insights into both the development of research methods and the understanding of communication practices. In doing so, they reinforce the relevance of information design in addressing questions that extend beyond the boundaries of the discipline.

The editorial team would like to express our sincere gratitude to the reviewers, section editors, and authors whose dedication makes the publication of each issue possible. Their continued collaboration enables InfoDesign to fulfill its mission of disseminating rigorous theoretical, methodological, and applied research in information design. As a continuous publication journal, InfoDesign welcomes new submissions throughout the year and remains committed to promoting high-quality international scholarship through a rigorous double-blind peer review process.

We hope that the contributions presented in this issue will encourage further reflections, stimulate interdisciplinary dialogue, and inspire new research on the multiple ways information design contributes to the investigation, interpretation, and communication of knowledge.

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