INNOVATION PARTNERSHIPS
UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

Braid

TECHNOLOGY NUMBER: 2024-192

OVERVIEW

Vocational storytelling community enhancing knowledge sharing through personal narrative

- Democratizes expert and lived experience knowledge sharing
- For professional development, community building, educational enhancement

BACKGROUND

Public interest technology (PIT) aims to leverage technology for societal benefit, yet diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) issues persist within the field. Historically, efforts to integrate DEI have been fragmented and often overlook the nuanced experiences of marginalized practitioners. Traditional approaches, like policy changes or diversity training sessions, frequently fail to address the intrinsic barriers or utilize the wealth of knowledge within these communities. Existing platforms often silo knowledge, impeding the spread of nuanced insights and tacit knowledge pivotal for community-wide learning and advancement. Consequently, marginalized voices are frequently underrepresented or unheard, limiting their impact and contribution. There is a need for a more inclusive, integrative approach to harnessing the lived experiences and valuable insights of these individuals, which could enhance visibility and effectiveness in public technology initiatives.

INNOVATION

Braid, developed at the University of Michigan with support from the Public Interest Technology University Network (PIT-UN), offers a unique approach to vocational storytelling. This open-access and open-source platform allows students, faculty, and practitioners to share their

Technology ID

2024-192

Category

Software
Content
Software & Content
MOSS - Michigan Open Source Software

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vocational stories and insights in a supportive environment. The technical innovation lies in its design, which eschews traditional social media engagement metrics in favor of deeper, more meaningful interactions through story-sharing and braiding—adding personal stories to existing narratives. Potential real-world applications include enhancing professional development, fostering collaborative learning environments, and building stronger, more connected communities. By making storytelling accessible and joyful, Braid supports knowledge development and fosters collaboration based on deeper human connections, focusing on the 'muddy middle' of vocational journeys rather than just milestones.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

PROJECT LINKS:

- Braid Website

DEPARTMENT/LAB:

- PIT-KN (MIDAS)

LICENSE:

- N/A