**Introduction**
The HCI Browser is a tool to help Human Computer Interaction and Information Science researchers conduct experiments that involve presenting web browsing tasks to users. It is implemented as an extension for Mozilla Firefox 3 and can be easily installed as a Firefox add-on.

The HCI Browser can present tasks to users, administer pre- and post-task questionnaires using a variety of question types, and collect event data while the user searches and browses the web.

For more information and downloads, visit: [http://ils.unc.edu/hcibrowser](http://ils.unc.edu/hcibrowser)

**Features**
- Administers configurable pre- and post-task questionnaires (C & F)
- Presents tasks to participants in the toolbar area of the browser window (D & E)
- Records browser events:
  - Pages loaded
  - Links clicked
  - Window and tab focus changes
  - Open/close windows and tabs
  - Back/forward button clicks
  - Typed URLs
  - Scrolling
  - History/bookmark menu
- Automatically closes windows at task end
- Creates a new log file for each task
- Log entries include a timestamp, session number, participant id, and task number

**Start-up and Introductory Screens**
A start-up screen (A) allows the experimenter to enter data about the session number, participant id, and starting task. A configurable introductory screen (B) gives participants information before they begin the tasks.

**Configurable Questionnaires**
Pre- and Post-task questionnaires (C & F) can be created using multiple choice, Likert-type/semantic differential scales, and open-answer questions.

**Example Pre-Task Questionnaire Configuration File**

```
How often do you look for information about this topic using the Internet:
Daily
Weekly
Monthly
Quarterly
Never

How difficult do you think this task will be?
Very easy
Easy
Somewhat easy
Moderate
Somewhat difficult
Difficult
Very difficult
```

**Log File**
Records browser events, pre- and post-task questionnaire responses, and answers submitted to the primary tasks.

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