

Expat Hive

a visual logging and sharing platform for people living abroad

[Project Video](#)

[Project web-page](#)

Visualizing the journey of people living abroad and making their stories more comprehensible through the flow of a visual story.

Every person has his/her own story, being interesting for another one, when it is documented.

Expats experience countries from a different point of view than a native or a tourist and they collect a lot of experiences.

This web page provide them the opportunity to tell their stories and experiences, and sharing them with others.

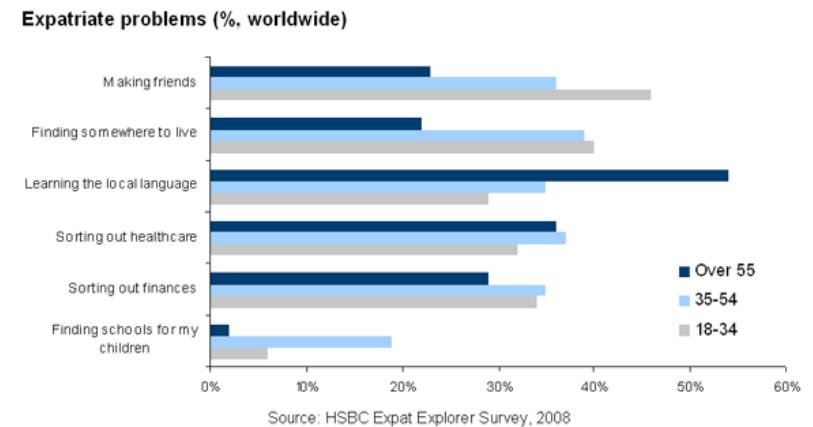


Research

Expatriate life could be so difficult in various ways. People need help when they move to a new country. Usually this help comes from a colleague or someone from their own country. However, if they don't have a good connection, they have to find another way to solve their problems. These are some common problems that expatriates face such as: language problems, loneliness, meeting new people, cultural differences, adaptation and healthcare.

General Research on Expatriate Life

At the first part of my research, I searched the Internet and found webpages about expatriates' lives. They can be grouped as blogs, social communication pages and company web pages. Blogs are the pages that people use as a platform of sharing their experiences. They usually use it as a diary. People can share their texts and/or follow the writer. In this term, people use it also a way of connection. In social communication pages, forums are extensively used. There are international and national forums that people use to obtain information on the country that they are going to relocate. Moreover they can ask the questions about daily life, culture and they can share their experiences. Some of the forums provide guides to relocate and adaptation. The private company web pages are the ones that give services as consultants. There are companies offering coaching about career building for spouses, relationship, adaptation, relocation and adaptation of children. Also there are relocation companies, which offer different transportation ideas of the goods/belongings.



Interviews

- I would like to know, if you use any expat forums. What are the names?
- If you used these kinds of forums, could you tell me what you liked about them or did not like?
- Where do you get the information about the country that you are moving in?
- You all move a lot. What are your experiences? What is the most difficult thing for you? What is difficult for you to adapt? What are the good things to experience?

"...language problems, the social life is so difficult, when you cannot speak with other people"
"I was lucky to have friends from Ecuador"



Estefanie,
student, 25
Ecuador-> Switzerland

"have information from State Department website (sometimes), local international womens associations (especially info on day-to-day life necessities)"
"no matter good or bad... great opportunity to be able to live in different countries."



Queen*,
spouse of a diplomat, 55
Hong Kong->Italy->India->Iraq->China->Turkey->Italy->Bangladesh

"problems to know or learn how services or things function ",
"Switzerland is not a place to eat!!"



Glenn,
graphic designer, 35
Mexico->Lebanon->Pakistan->Switzerland

"Expats can be very helpful, but also very depressing",
"a Swiss girlfriend and englishforum ch were helpful".
"always count on being charged for any activity you want to do. Maybe that is why everyone hikes in Switzerland!!"



Randy,
student, 25
USA->Brasil->Switzerland->USA->Switzerland

"Each time there is an intense period, also after arrival I study country culturally and historically
"Bangladesh taught me that you have to build up your flexible relocation strategy"
"Administrative things: housing, banking and schooling. Banking is usually at the end, after arrival, school is important to decide to go to a country"



Alexander,
diplomat, 35
Germany->Bosnia Herzigovina->UK->Belgium->Germany->Turkey->Bangladesh->Belgium

"We were worried about our daughter and tried to motivate her before leaving the country"
"We had French lessons"
"I felt that we are settled down when we finally found a cleaning lady"
"The consultant made so many mistakes, I got better information from friends"
"We were lucky to meet someone from internet, which was a friend of my school friend. She helped us a lot"



Erin,
finance and strategy professional, 35
Turkey->USA->Turkey->France

"I used expats forums, facebook groups to get information"
"I found friends to play tennis and basketball group for my husband"
"Forums helped me through pregnancy period. Now I search some activities for the kid"
"Web sites were sometimes more helpful than the people in the embassy"



Arzu,
spouse and child of a diplomat, German Teacher, 30-35
Turkey->Jordan->Austria->Germany->Saudi Arabia->Estonia->Turkey->Bangladesh->Finland

"I always recommend people to be member of public clubs and socialize as soon as possible, not to rush to big decisions"
"For transition, I recommend not to go to the home country at the first holiday"
"Our daughter's adaptation was important for us"

Catherine,
freelance writer and radio program producer about expatriates, 45
UK->Greece->Israel->Italy->Indonesia->Chile->Uruguay->Scotland->Switzerland



"information from Community Liaison Officer (CLO) at the US Consulates or Embassies"
"Sometimes we stay in US for small periods like 5-6 months, so it is not worth it to find temporary work. It could cause financial problems"

Bred,
spouse of a diplomat, IT specialist, 45-50
USA->Russia->Georgia->Austria->Bangladesh->Brasil



"We had german course, we had started 6 months before relocate",
"We stayed 1,5 months in a temporary house"
"We had a little kid at the age of 2, and a teenager at the age of 12 at that time, we were afraid of how they would react"
"We had no furniture or household at first"

Meric,
spouse of a diplomat, diplomat (quited from her job for 4 years), 38
Turkey->Switzerland

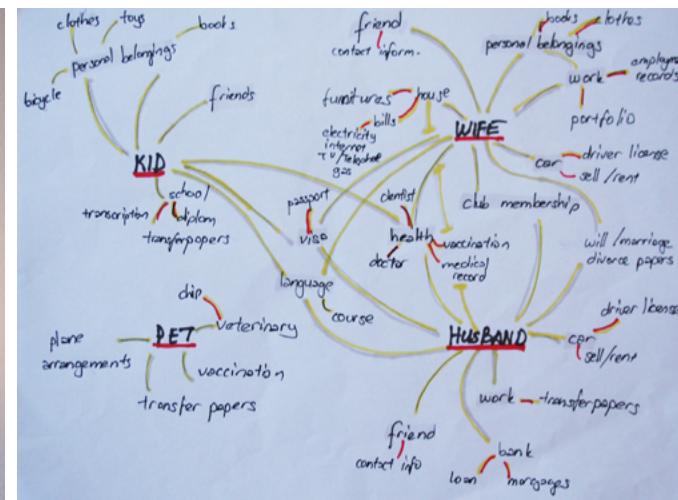
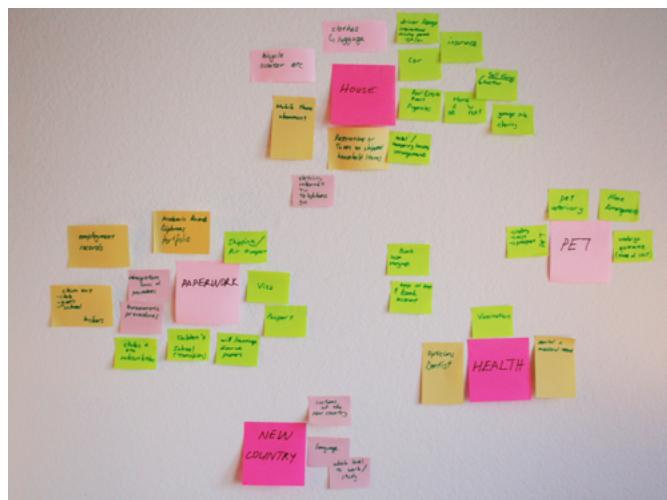
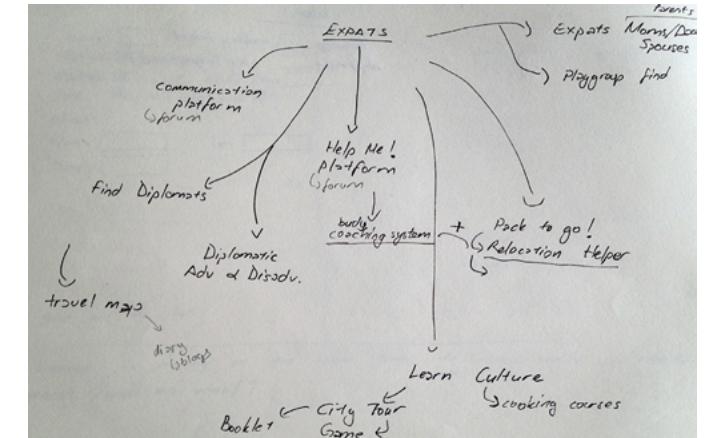
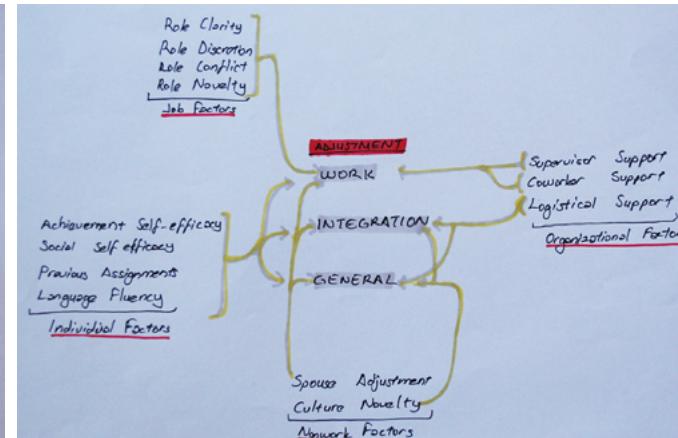
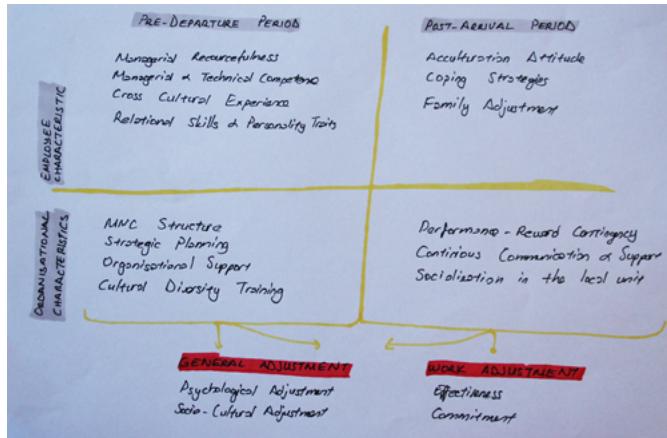


"language is always a problem"
"we moved to Antwerp with only 2 luggages and looked for a house, car, households... actually for everything"
"The best is to interact with people to adapt"
"I do a small research on the country, the culture and the living cost!"

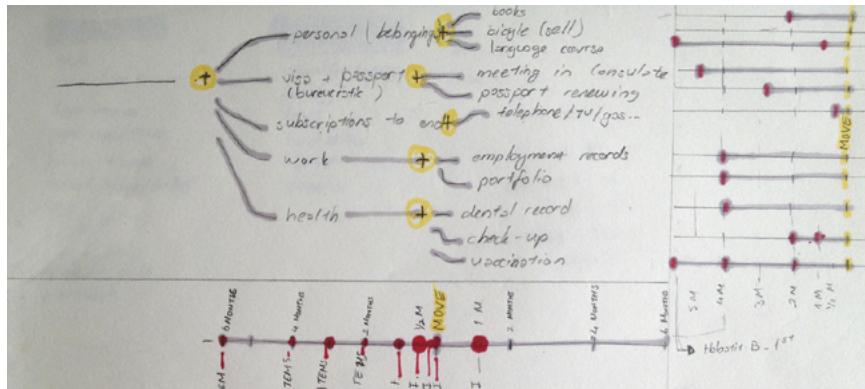
Narziye,
spouse of a diplomat, diplomat
(not to have been able to work as a diplomat), 38
Kirgizstan->Turkey->Algeria->Netherlands->Turkey->Switzerland



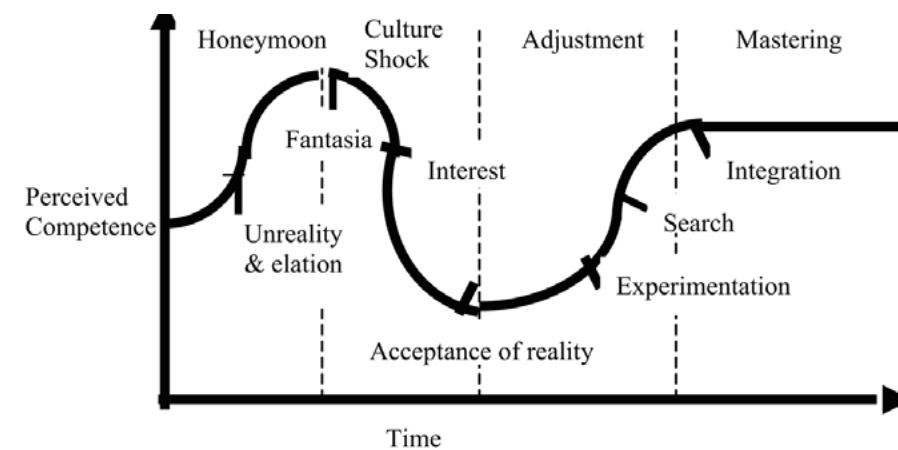
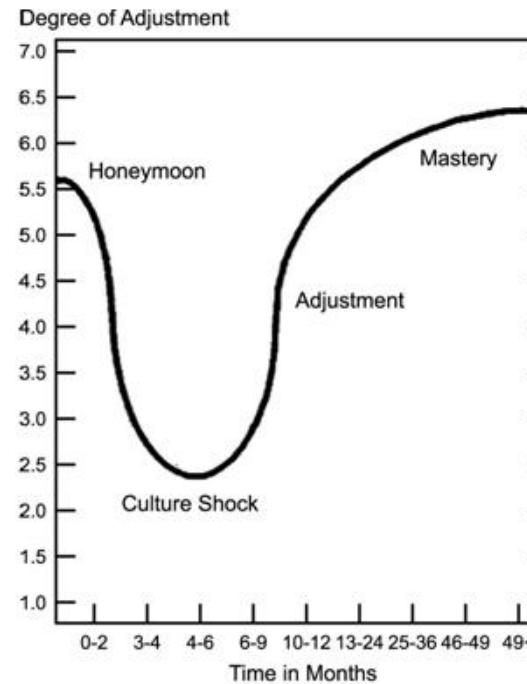
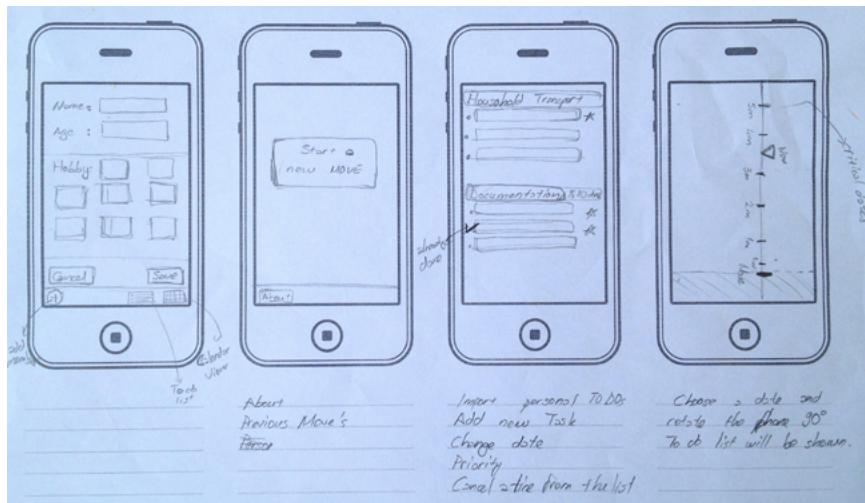
Cluster Mapping



Further Research



- | | | |
|--|---|--|
| <p>1st Month (01.07.14)</p> <p>Item to check off</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Subscriptions to end ✓ TV (01.07.14) ✓ Gas (03.07.14) ✓ Telephone (10.07.14) ✓ Internet <p>✓ Health</p> <p>✓ Check up (28.06.14)</p> <p>✓ Personal</p> <p>✓ Language exam (18.07.14)</p> | <p>MOVING DAY</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Delivery address <input type="checkbox"/> Spare keys <input type="checkbox"/> Clean house <input type="checkbox"/> Check all ground <input type="checkbox"/> Check thermostat <input type="checkbox"/> Check windows/doors <input type="checkbox"/> Check appliances are off for moving day | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Check for damage and missing items <input type="checkbox"/> Check all utilities are working properly |
| <p>BEFORE (LEAVE)</p> | <p>AFTER (ARRIVE)</p> | |



Source: by the authors drawing from the literature reviewed

Static Infographics: Storytelling Capabilities



An analysis of static infographics featuring timelines according to the traditional storytelling principles

Infographics are presented as an effective way of storytelling through the use of graphical elements. Despite their visual appeal, static infographics as a medium suffer from several major drawbacks, such as the lack of some of the storytelling elements and narrative structures used in the telling of a story, however, there are both advantages and disadvantages to infographics in this regard. This thesis aims to assess the capability of static infographics in telling a story according to the traditional storytelling principles, while also revealing the advantages and disadvantages of their use. In this vein the research will make an analysis of static infographics and storytelling and examine selected static infographics by taking into account traditional storytelling principles.

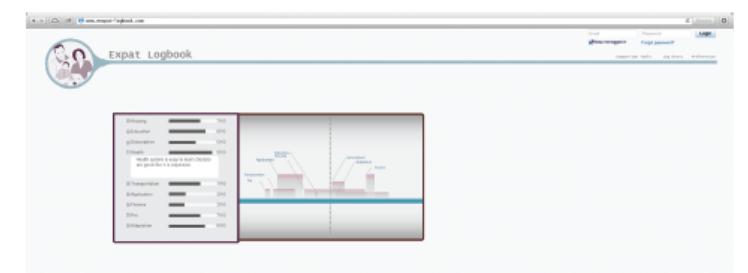
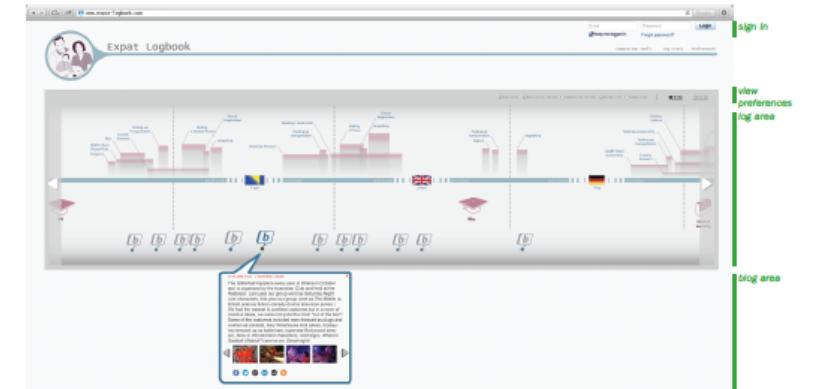
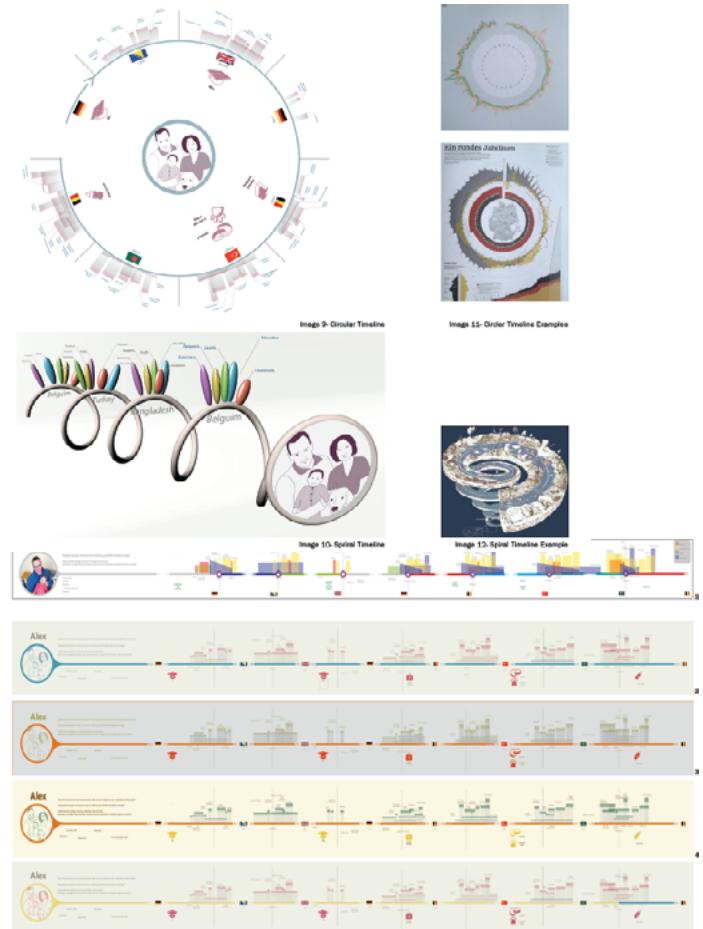


Image 17- Blog Page - First Draft
View of timeline / log area

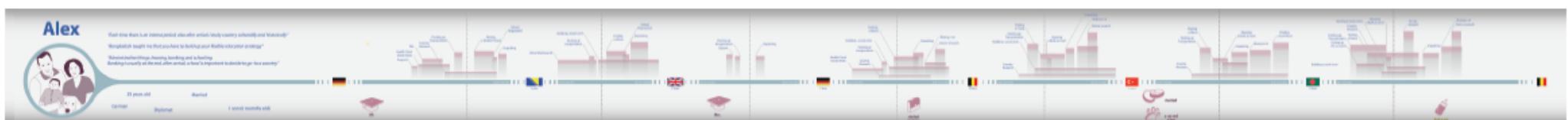
Image 18- Comparison Page - First Draft
Map and Information dialog box

Image 19- Timeline Entry - First Draft
via manipulating bars or drawing rectangles . Adding comment

Expat Journey Visualisation



Final Version



Expat Hive

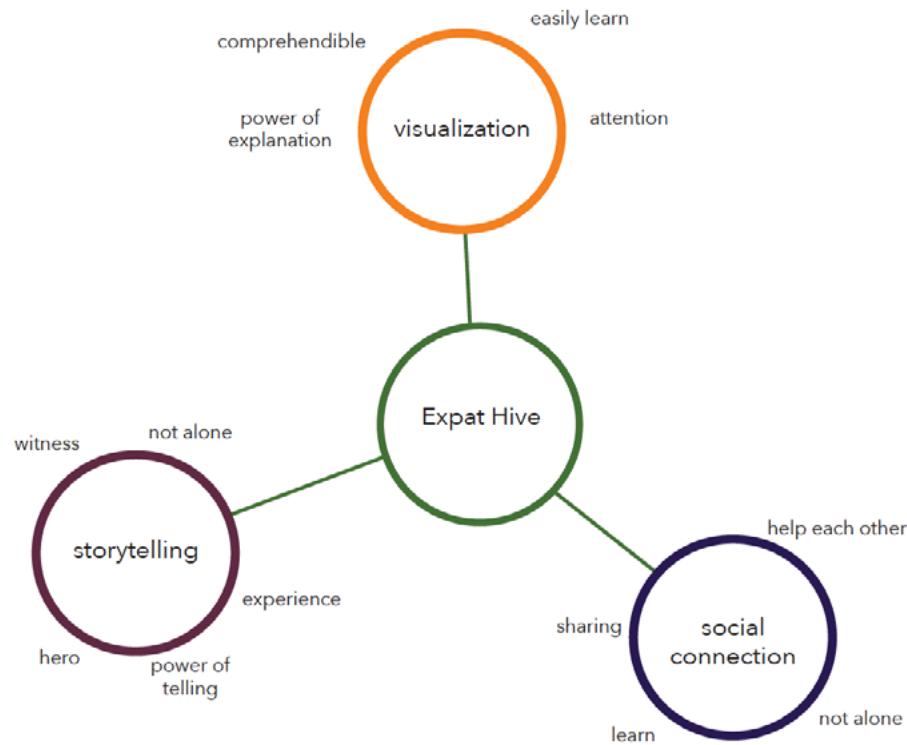


Image 21- News Feed and Editing your Information view



Image 22- 3 steps of editing your emotional scale on timeline view



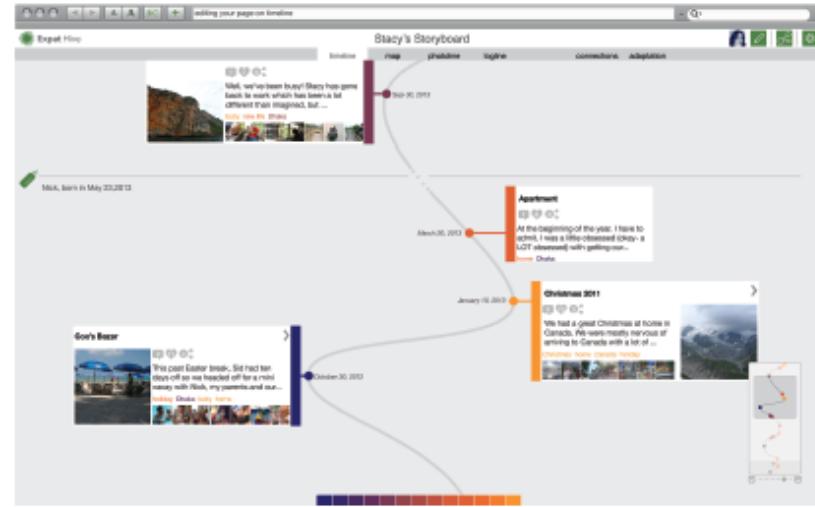
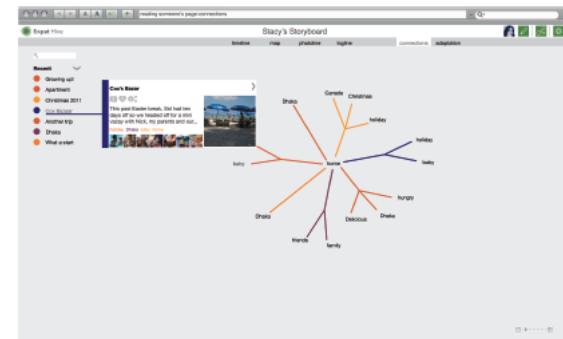
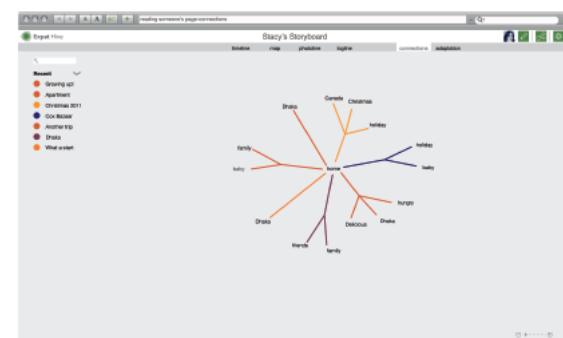


Image 19- Timeline view





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HSLU MFA 2014 Gratuation Project

Project Video

Project web-page

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