Meerkat: Exploring Semantic Music Discovery Using Personalized Radio

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Survey Results:
Website Results:
Almost all users liked using tags. Users who could see the future songs added more tags, possibly because of the visual feedback from adding tags.

Meerkat plays songs that correspond to the tags in the radio station. Tags can be added or deleted as the user listens to music.

Meerkat first lists the two past songs (top), then the current song (red), and then the two future songs (bottom). The songs slide upward as the user listens to the station.

The upcoming songs change when a user adds or deletes a tag. Ex.: User adds the tag "female vocalist," -> future songs change to ones by female artists.

Users who could see the future songs enjoyed the interface more and skipped through fewer songs. They also completed more songs.

Time Liked Didn't Care Disliked
No Future 4 3 1
Future 0 0 0

Average Skipped Songs Average Finished Songs
No Future 0.5431 0.4547
Future 0.4409 0.5591

Tags Added per Song
No Future 0.2204
Future 0.2688

• Meerkat is an Internet radio player that uses semantic tags as a mechanism for controlling a personalized stream of music.
  ➢ This increases the interactivity of the radio player over standard commercial players (e.g., Pandora, Last.fm).
• We reveal the identity of the two upcoming songs to the user to provide context for the current state of the radio station.
  ➢ This gives the user instant visual feedback when the radio station is altered by tag addition or deletion.
• Based on a small user study of 15 participants, our data suggests these two features improve the user experience.

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Does knowing the songs that will be played in the future improved the music discovery experience?

Are semantic tags useful as a controlling mechanism for personalized Internet radio?