Characterizing students’ interactions with stakeholders during the design process

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Study Participants & Data Collection
- Semi-structured in-depth interviews
- Three senior capstone design teams were interviewed during the course of their project
- Two interviews: at mid-project and end-point of project

Data Analysis
- Grouping into overarching categories
- Iteration until changes stop being made

Realized Benefits
- There I: Interviews with stakeholders were consistently cited as the most relevant and useful source of information during the design process.
- There II: Students reported that experts were able to explain highly technical information quickly and accurately.

Missed Opportunities
- Theme: Students did not always take full advantage of stakeholder knowledge.
- Theme: Students struggled with problems attempting to find answers via online or literature research, but did not consult with stakeholders.

Challenges
- Theme: Students obtained inconsistent or incorrect information from stakeholders.
- Theme: Students had difficulties asking the appropriate questions to the appropriate stakeholders or finding the appropriate stakeholder to interview.

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