Signs and Symbols (and imagery) in Visualizations

Symbols

*symbol* (sɪml-)

1. Something that represents something else by association, resemblance, or convention, especially a material object used to represent something invisible. See Synonyms at sign.
2. A printed or written sign used to represent an operation, element, quantity, quality, or relation, as in mathematics or music.
3. Psychology: An object or image that an individual unconsciously uses to represent repressed thoughts, feelings, or impulses: a phetic symbol.

If: sym bol, sym bol ing, sym bols

To: symbols.

(Middle English symbolle, from Old French, from Latin symbolum, token, mark; from Greek symballos, token for identification (by comparison with a courteous); soun-, sym + ballein, to throw; see *gēlein* in Indo-European roots.)


‘Insert Symbol ...” in Powerpoint
http://www.justachat.com/chatsymbols.htm
Men's Relaxed Fit

http://www.shirtcity.com/

Signs

sign (ntr)

1. Something that suggests the presence or existence of a fact, condition, or quality.
2. An act or gesture used to convey an idea, desire, information, or a command: give the go-ahead sign.
3. Sign language.
4. A displayed structure bearing lettering or symbols, used to identify or advertise a place of business: a motel with a flashing neon sign outside.
5. A posted notice bearing a designation, direction, or command: an EXIT sign above a door; a traffic sign.
6. A conventional figure or device that stands for a word, phrase, or operation; a symbol, as in mathematics or musical notation.
7. A portentous incident or event; a message: took the eclipse as a sign from God.
8. A body manifestation that serves to indicate the presence of malfunction or disease.
9. One of the 12 divisions of the zodiac, each named for a constellation and represented by a symbol.
Applying Nielsen’s Heuristics

- **Visibility** of system
- **Match** between system and the real world
- User control and freedom
- **Consistency and standards**
- Error prevention
- **Recognition** rather than recall
- Flexibility and efficiency of use
- **Aesthetic and minimalist** design
- Help users recognize, diagnose, and recover from errors
- Help and documentation

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**Letter**

*letter*(lɛr) n.

1. A written symbol or character representing a speech sound and being a component of an alphabet.
   a. A written symbol or character used in the phonemic representation of a word, such as the /h/ in *themes*. See Note at *themes*.
2. A written or printed communication directed to a person or organization.
3. A certificate document granting rights to its bearer. Often used in the plural.
4. Literal meaning, that is; adheres to the letter of the law.
5. letters (used with a sing. verb)
   a. Literary culture; belles-lettres.
   b. Learning or knowledge, especially of literature.
   c. Literature or writing as a profession.
6. Printing
   a. A piece of type that prints a single character.
   b. A specific style of type.
   c. The characters in one style of type.
7. An emblem in the shape of the initial of a school awarded for outstanding performance, especially in varsity athletics.
Relation to the aleph numbers

Assuming the axiom of choice, infinite cardinals are linearly ordered; no two cardinals can fail to be comparable, and so, since by definition we define cardinality as between $\aleph_0$ and $\aleph_1$, it follows that
\[ \aleph_0 \leq \aleph_1. \]

Repeating this argument (see transfinite induction) yields $\aleph_0 \leq \aleph_n$ for all ordinals $n$.

The continuum hypothesis is equivalent to $\aleph_1 = \aleph_0$.

The generalized continuum hypothesis says the sequence of cardinals thus defined is the same as the sequence of aleph numbers, i.e., $\aleph_{n+1} = \aleph_n$ for all ordinals $n$.

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Beth_number
Solomon's Temple
Second book of Chronicles is a Pi 3.14 Squaring Machine

The square of the circle is here.

Three references to Pi can be found in Solomon's Temple:
1. In the Great Circle of 20 diameter's.
2. In the volume of the 10 diameter circle.
3. In the square of the Great Circle with a length and width of 17.74.

نو: 3.14 × 10 = 31.4 6.667 and Pi is a rare figure in architecture.

The square of the circle is here.

π = 13.33 · 0.28 = 11.76 and this is a rare figure in architecture.

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MTV pushing out “cynical” Generation X

Tidbit from the HFT6 newsletter: lunchtime ever in showbiz.
Century City: MTV Networks president, Van Toffler, reiterated
the network’s devotion to millenniums (a.k.a. Generation Y),
but also made it clear that Generation X wouldn’t let
the door hit them on the way out.

“We’re pushing Generation X out,” Toffler said. “We’re
slaves to our different audiences. For
MTV, that’s millennials, who are
very different than Generation X; they’re definitely less
cynical...they’re more civic-minded”.

As evidence of this fine taste of
this benevolent new
generational breed, Toffler cited
... “Jersey Shore.”

The network’s president said,
“Millennials are really about
authentic reality and family” and
that MTV “played up the
comradeship and family
elements in Jersey Shore” to
appeal to them.

Hear that Gen X? You’re too
cynical to appreciate the civic-minded wholesomeness of “Jersey Shore.”

See also
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cross
See also
http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/Swastika
and
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Swastika

Signs and Symbols

Carl G. Jung, ed. Man and His Symbols, Ch 1.
Arguments w.r.t. Visualization

• Difference between Signs and Symbols — and the affect of context
• Individual and Collective Symbols
• Instinctual Symbols
• Psychological Energy (Impact) of Symbols

The Shape of Songs

The purpose of this visualization is to allow people to see the patterns within songs by visualizing the repetition of certain notes in the song.

Pros
- Abstraction gradient: The arch shows whether or not the note is representing a high or low note.
- Consistency: All the visualizations for different songs are the same.
- Terseness: Very simple notation to show the patterns.

Cons
- Hard mental operations: Does not really show time.
- Consistency Mapping: The color of the arches could have looked like actual music notes instead of what it looks like as rain.
- Hidden dependencies: Why are songs being checked instead?

Pros
- Precise commitment: You do not need to see the visualizations in order.
- Progressive evaluation: There are good feedbacks with the status of loading the visualizations.

Cons
- Error-proneness: Browser problem? Sometimes the sidebar does not load without any error messages.
- Role-expressiveness: What the different tracks within one song?
The data set for the visualization is a single set: 1.14 million brown paper supermarket bags are used in the U.S. every hour.

By itself, a set does not have much psychological impact, but the artist tries to make more of an impact by invoking a (mostly) universal signal. He simply depicted 1.14 million brown paper bags, folded flat and stacked in columns, and our minds cannot help but see the trunks of firs.
Imagery

imagery  [ɪˈmeɪdʒəri]  
pl. imageries
1. A set of mental pictures or images.
2. The use of vivid or figurative language to represent objects, actions, or ideas.
3. A group or body of related images, as in a painting or poem.
4. Representative images, particularly statues or icons.
5. The art of making such images.
6. Psychology A technique in behavior therapy in which the patient uses pleasant fantasies to relax and counteract anxiety.

Google “ethanol facts”
Google images, other hot topics

“divorce statistics”
“murder statistics”
Symbolic Language

From
http://gerdarntz.org/content/gerd-arntz#statistics

Gerd Arntz draws the lasttype symbol for 'Unemployed'.
Collection: Peter Arntz