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Informational retrieval systems are designed often without incorporating the human interaction behavior into the design. The current approaches to designing and evaluating information retrieval systems rarely attend to the users of the systems and their behavior. The four traditional approaches to information retrieval designs include system-centered, user-centered, interaction and cognitive. Both the contextual and participatory design unlike the previously mentioned four, include the user as a crucial aspect of the design process.

The contextual and participatory design processes should include the usability of an application. Keshavarz proposes that more informational retrieval systems need to be researched and piloted with the user interface as an important aspect. The majority of the systems that are currently available have not undergone this crucial step of development.