Selective Disruption of Rapid Resumption

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1)  local distractor layout
2)  target orientation
3)  only task relevant items

Interrupted visual search provides a unique window into the online memory of visual search.

**What's in a Search Hypothesis?**

**Spatial Extent:** Does it include single items, entire displays, or subsets of items?

**Feature Detail:** Does it contain coarse spatial information, or fine feature details?

**Attentional Set:** Is it formed selectively over task relevant stimuli?

If changing an aspect of the display interferes with rapid resumption, that aspect is part of the search hypothesis.

**Exp. 1: Spatial Extent**

Almost no rapid responses on first presentation...

... but frequent rapid (<500ms) responses on subsequent presentations.

Must be retaining information -- a search hypothesis -- across interruption of the display.

Exp. 2a & 2b: Feature Detail

Changing the orientation of distractors does not interfere, regardless of the distance from the target.

However, changing the orientation of the target does interfere with rapid responses.

Exp. 3: Attentional Set

Only changing the location of task relevant distractors -- those the same color as the target -- interfered with rapid resumption.

Discussion

Interrupted search provides a unique window into the online memory of visual search.

Search hypotheses contain:
1) local distractor layout
2) target orientation
3) only task relevant items