Documentation of design decisions

- It is important to document all design decisions, and how the design process stepwise is performed according to the iterative model used.
- The documentation should cover:
  - What design decisions are taken and based on what? Also rejected solutions should be documented.
  - What do the different generations of interface prototypes look like? This should be collected in a portfolio.
  - How are evaluations and tests performed? What was the result? Which new requirements were specified?
- In practice not all design decisions are documented, but it is important to find a practical level of ambition.

Objectives for documentation

- There are several reasons for documentation:
  - As a documentation of design decisions
  - To be able to motivate the design
  - To be able to reuse earlier discussions and considerations.
  - As a basis for the evaluation steps.
- There are several different methods available, see Preece chapter 26.
- One important method: Design Space Analysis (DSA) and the QOC-method.
The QOC method

- QOC stands for Question, Options, Criteria.
- Q is the actual design question
- There are alternative options (O) which are mapped.
- Criteria (C) for good and bad solutions are listed. All criteria should have a positive formulation.
- The evaluation of the design decision is based on if the different options support the criteria or not.

One example

- **Design question**: Which metaphor to choose?
- **Options**: Desktop, Room
- **Criteria**: Easy to learn, Follows standards, Simple to implement, Minimizes cognitive load, Efficient for user, Always a positive formulation

Analysis: The desktop alternative supports tree of the criteria, and so does the rooms alternative. How important are the criteria? If efficiency and ease are given priority the rooms metaphor is selected, otherwise the desktop alternative.