

Still, M.L. & Morris, A.L. (2006, November). The role of competition in repetition blindness. Poster presented at the Annual Meeting of the Psychonomic Society, Houston, TX.

Abstract

Repetition blindness (RB) is the failure to report two identical items displayed within a short time. A new account of RB, the competition hypothesis, states that items in brief displays compete for access to conscious awareness based on neural activity; repeated items are associated with less activity and are often out-competed by nonrepeated items. Two experiments investigated RB using simultaneous displays of 3-4 letters. In Experiment 1, participants were instructed to report all letters. RB was found when two letters were identical, but there was no corresponding increase in report of other letters. In Experiment 2, priority of report was manipulated by displaying two letters in color. When one repeated letter was colored and one was not, RB was found and report of the nonrepeated colored letter increased. Results are explained by assuming that spatial attention and repetition status affect an item's ability to compete for access to awareness.