Abhraneel Sarma

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Education

University of Michigan School of Information

MS in Information | HCI & Data Science Specialization

Ann Arbor, MI 2016 - 2018 (exp.)

Indian Institute of Technology Guwahati

Bachelor of Design | Minor in Mechanical Engineering

Guwahati, India 2012 - 2016

Experience

Research Assistant

University of Michigan School of Information, Ann Arbor

Oct 2016 -

- Designed a survey to study the effects of different visual representations of statistical data on interpretation, and collected data from over 200 respondents.
- Analysed the responses using bayesian linear mixed-effects and item-response theory models to determine effects of the different visual representations.

User Experience Intern

Academic Innovation, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor

May - Aug 2017

- Designed new features for a tool to explore of U-M course data. Conducted 7
 usability tests to evaluate the new designs, and identified several UI changes.
- Developed an interview protocol to explore user attitudes towards the current features, and identify design requirements for future.

Projects

Analysis of the effectiveness of storytelling and interactivity in InfoVis

Master's Thesis Project

Jun 2017 -

- Conducted exploratory research, formulated research questions & methodology to compare effectiveness of different visualization strategies.
- Prototyped 16 visualizations, designed a survey using principles of learning theory to gather data on reader's interpretation, to be launched on MTurk.

Elevate - Ensuring access to food for food-insecure populations

UX Research | Finalist, CHI SDC 2017

Nov 2016 - Jan 2017

- Led and conducted an extensive user study for asssessing the needs, motivation, and problems faced by food-insecure population.
- Based on the qualitative research findings, designed an accessible solution to provide better access to information resources for places which serve free food.

Pheme - Designing an alternate paradigm for news consumption

UX Research, UX Design

Jan - Apr 2017

- Conducted a week long photo diary study with 6 participants to understand daily news consumption behavior of college students.
- Designed a initial mobile-based app based on the findings of the study.
 Evaluated the design through in-person usability studies and online surveys.

About Me

I am a UX researcher with strong qualitative and quantitative skills, and knowledge of statistics. I am passionate about researching how user experiences can be improved using elements of critical design.

Skills

Qualitative

Contextual Inquiry
Survey Design
Affinity Analysis
Photo / Diary Studies
Usability Studies
Heuristic Evaluation
Personas & Scenarios
User Journeys

Quantitative

Python, Pandas R Javascript, D3.js Data Visualization Bayesian Data Analysis Data Manipulation

Achievements

Runners-up, Football, Inter IIT Sports Meet 2014

Semi-Finalist, Annual Intra-University Tennis Tournament (2014, 2016)

Semi-Finalist, Annual Intra-University Football Tournament (2016)