ABIR SAHA

User Researcher with Expertise in HCI, Accessibility, & User-Centered Design

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LinkedIn • Personal Website
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WORK EXPERIENCE

PhD Researcher | Northwestern University   Sep 2018 – Present
- Led all aspects of 4 research studies on understanding the needs of blind content creators.
- Performed foundational and secondary research, translated findings into design decisions, and led the development and evaluation of an accessible app for learning audio content creation.
- Conducted 30+ in-depth interviews, contextual inquiries, observations, and usability testing sessions.
- Performed independent and collaborative research in a team of 11+ researchers across two universities.
- Mentored an undergraduate student in award-winning accessibility research.
- Communicated findings to academics and industry professionals through 5+ publications and 3+ presentations at top Human-Computer Interaction venues such as CHI and ASSETS.

Teaching Assistant | Northwestern University   Jan 2022 – Mar 2022
- Mentored a class of 50+ undergraduate students on fundamentals of user research.
- Guided students in prototyping and usability testing.

Research Assistant | Indiana Univ. – Purdue Univ. Indianapolis (IUPUI)   Aug 2016 – Jun 2018
- Led the design of industry-standard, patented equipment to test safety features of self-driving cars.
- Collaborated with a cross-functional team of 15+ engineers and researchers from Toyota, IUPUI, and Ohio State University.
- Communicated findings to academics, industry partners, and media outlets through quarterly meetings and reports, academic publications, and news media interviews.

Freelance Researcher   Apr 2017 – Jan 2018
- Led an online survey (N=93) and translated findings into design goals for tailoring user experience of social media to support mothers facing postpartum depression.
- Conducted a systematic literature review to generate actionable guidelines for designing Autism support smart technologies.

SKILLS

Methods: In-depth interviews, field observation, contextual inquiry, usability testing, ethnography, online content analysis, thematic analysis, survey design, experiment design, statistical analysis, prototyping.

Tools: Survey (Qualtrics, Google Forms), qualitative analysis (Atlas.ti, NVivo), wireframing (Figma), assistive technology (screen readers).

Programming: Python, R.

EDUCATION

PhD in Technology & Social Behavior (CS + Communication) | Northwestern University (Dec 2023)
MS in Electrical & Computer Engineering | Indiana Univ. – Purdue Univ. Indianapolis (Aug 2018)
BS in Electrical & Electronic Engineering | Bangladesh Univ. of Engineering and Technology (Sep 2015)