

Alexander C. Nwala

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Website: <https://alexandernwala.com/>

Github: <https://github.com/anwala>

Updated 2023-02-01 (Self)

Research interests

Social Media/Computational Social Science, Web/Data Science
Web Archiving, (Local)News, NLP

Education

- 2020 – 2022 **Postdoctoral**, *Observatory on Social Media, Indiana University, Bloomington, Indiana, USA*
Advisor: Filippo Menczer
- 2014 – 2020 **Ph.D. Computer Science**, *Old Dominion University (ODU), Norfolk, Virginia, USA*
[Thesis: Bootstrapping Web Archive Collections From Micro-Collections In Social Media](#),
Summa Cum Laude, Advisor: Michael Nelson
- 2012 – 2014 **M.S. Computer Science**, *Old Dominion University, Norfolk, Virginia, USA*
[Thesis: Generating Combinatorial Objects - A New Perspective](#),
Summa Cum Laude, Advisor: Stephan Olariu
- 2008 – 2011 **B.S. Computer Science (Minor: Aviation Science)**, *Elizabeth City State University, Elizabeth City, North Carolina, USA*
Summa Cum Laude

Appointments

- 08/2022 – Present **Assistant Professor**, *William & Mary, Williamsburg Virginia*
- 08/2020 – 07/2022 **Postdoctoral Researcher**, *Observatory on Social Media, Indiana University*
- 05/2014 – 08/2020 **Research Assistant**, *WS-DL group, ODU*
- 06 – 08/2016 **Summer Fellow**, *Harvard Law School Library Innovation Lab*
- 06 – 08/2017 **Intern**, *The Berkman Klein Center, Harvard University*
- 05/2012 – 05/2014 **Research Assistant**, *Old Dominion University*
- 2009 – 2011 **Summer Intern**, *North Carolina Department of Transportation*

Teaching

[William & Mary](#)

DATA 340-02 **Network Science - Spring 2023**

DATA 440-03 **Web Science - Fall 2022**

[Old Dominion University](#)

CS 432/532 **Web Science - Spring 2018/2019**

CS 150 **Introduction to Programming with C++ - July - November 2018**

Volunteer C++ Instructor for Middle/High School Students (ages 11 - 16)

CS 333/CS 250 **Programming and Problem Solving in C++ - Fall 2014, Spring/Fall 2015**

Teaching Assistant/Lab Instructor

[Elizabeth City State University](#)

College Algebra, Linear Algebra, Calculus I/II, C++, JAVA, Data Structures/Algorithms, Computer Architecture, etc. - Spring 2009 - Fall 2011

Tutor, Department of General Education

Software/Services

- Implemented: [Sumgram](#) (Text collection summarization with most frequent conjoined ngrams)
- Implemented: [StoryGraph](#) (Real-time news Story Link Detection), [Twitter Bot](#), [Github](#)
- Implemented: [Local Memory Project](#) (Local news collection generator), [Github](#)
- Implemented: [#icanhazmemento](#) (URL archiving Twitter-bot), [Github](#)
- Implemented: <http://whatdiditlooklike.mementoweb.org/> (Twitter-bot/Visualize website yearly), [Github](#)
- Refactored: [Carbon Date v2.0](#) (Estimates the creation date of website), [Github](#)

Computer skills

Languages Python, C++, C#, Java, Assembly Language, PHP, JavaScript, HTML, MySQL, etc.
Technologies/APIs Twitter API, Tumblr API, D3.js, Microsoft Kinect SDK, Weka, etc.

Scholarship/Awards

- 2017 **Graduate**
Outstanding Ph.D research award
- 2010 - 2011 **Undergraduate**
- Graduating student with the highest GPA, Academic Achievement in Computer Science Award
 - Spelman College Computer Science Olympiad 2010 - 1st Place - Programming
 - Advancing Robotics Technology for Societal Impact (ARTSI) 2010 Robotics competition - 2nd Place
 - Rivers State Government Undergraduate Scholarship

Google Scholar

Citations: 94, h-index: 6 (at 2021-10-19): <https://scholar.google.com/citations?user=LqrUey4AAAAJ&hl=en>

Publications - Journals

- [1] Eoin C Whelan, Alexander C Nwala, Christopher Osgood, and Stephan Olariu. Selective mutation accumulation: a computational model of the paternal age effect. *Bioinformatics*, 32(24):3790–3797, 2016.
- [2] Wu He, Ashish Kshirsagar, Alexander Nwala, and Yaohang Li. Teaching information security with workflow technology—a case study approach. *Journal of Information Systems Education*, 25(3), 2014.

Publications - Refereed Conference Proceedings

- [1] Christopher Torres-Lugo, Manita Pote, Alexander C Nwala, and Filippo Menczer. Manipulating Twitter Through Deletions. Submitted to ICWSM 2022, 2022.
- [2] Alexander C Nwala, Michele C Weigle, and Michael L Nelson. Garbage, Glitter, or Gold: Assigning Multi-dimensional Quality Scores to Social Media Seeds for Web Archive Collections. In *Proceedings of ACM/IEEE Joint Conference on Digital Libraries (JCDL 2021)*, 2021.
- [3] Dhruv Patel, Alexander C Nwala, Michele C Weigle, and Michael L Nelson. What Did It Look Like: A service for creating website timelapses using the Memento framework. In *Proceedings of ACM/IEEE Joint Conference on Digital Libraries (JCDL 2021)*, 2021.
- [4] Alexander C Nwala, Michele C Weigle, and Michael L Nelson. 365 Dots in 2019: Quantifying Attention of News Sources. In *Proceedings of Computation + Journalism Symposium 2020 (CJ 2020)*, 2020.
- [5] Yasith Jayawardana, Alexander C Nwala, Gavindya Jayawardana, Jian Wu, Sampath Jayarathna, Michael L Nelson, and C Lee Giles. Modeling Updates of Scholarly Webpages Using Archived Data. In *Proceedings of IEEE International Conference on Big Data (IEEE BigData 2020)*, 2020.
- [6] Alexander C Nwala, Michele C Weigle, and Michael L Nelson. Using Micro-collections in Social Media to Generate Seeds for Web Archive Collections. In *Proceedings of ACM/IEEE Joint Conference on Digital Libraries (JCDL 2019)*, 2019. (**Best paper nominee**).
- [7] Alexander C. Nwala, Michele C. Weigle, and Michael L. Nelson. Scraping SERPs for Archival Seeds: It Matters When You Start. In *JCDL '18: Proceedings of the 17th ACM/IEEE-CS Joint Conference on Digital Libraries*, pages 263–272, 2018.

- [8] Alexander C. Nwala, Michele C. Weigle, and Michael L. Nelson. Bootstrapping Web Archive Collections from Social Media. In *HT '18: Proceedings of ACM ACM Conference on Hypertext and Social Media*, pages 64–72, 2018.
- [9] Shawn M. Jones, Alexander C. Nwala, Michele C. Weigle, and Michael L. Nelson. The many shapes of Archive-It. In *Proceedings of iPres*, 2018.
- [10] Grant Atkins, Alexander C. Nwala, Michele C. Weigle, and Michael L. Nelson. Measuring News Similarity Across Ten U.S. News Sites. In *Proceedings of iPres*, 2018.
- [11] Alexander C. Nwala, Michele C. Weigle, Michael L. Nelson, Adam B. Ziegler, and Anastasia Aizman. Local Memory Project: Providing tools to build collections of stories for local events from local sources. In *JCDL '17: Proceedings of the 17th ACM/IEEE-CS Joint Conference on Digital Libraries*, pages 219–228, 2017.
- [12] Alexander Nwala and Michael L. Nelson. A supervised learning algorithm for binary domain classification of web queries using SERPs. In *JCDL '16: Proceedings of the 16th ACM/IEEE-CS Joint Conference on Digital Libraries*, pages 237–238, 2016. (**Best Poster Award, 3rd place**).

Service

- 2021 **Tutorial/Workshop Chair, peer reviewer**
 - Tutorial and Workshops Chair, ACM/IEEE Joint Conference on Digital Libraries
 - Reviewer, ACM/IEEE Joint Conference on Digital Libraries
- 2020 **Journal/Conference reviewer**
 - PLoS ONE
 - ACM/IEEE Joint Conference on Digital Libraries
 - ACM Web Science

Publications - Selected Blog posts

- 2021-05-10 [Chronicling the life-cycle of top new stories with StoryGraphBot](#)
- 2020-01-20 [366 dots in 2020 - top news stories of 2020](#)
- 2020-09-28 [My report card to my mother](#)
- 2020-08-31 [DNC vs RNC pulses - Quantifying news attention for the DNC and RNC with StoryGraph](#)
- 2020-08-10 [StoryGraph, reading the news for three years, a look at the past and the future](#)
- 2020-01-04 [365 dots in 2019 - top news stories of 2019](#)
- 2019-09-09 [Introducing sumgram, a tool for generating the most frequent conjoined ngrams](#)
- 2019-06-05 [Joint Conference on Digital Libraries \(JCDL\) 2019 Trip Report](#)
- 2019-03-05 [365 dots in 2018 - top news stories of 2018](#)
- 2018-08-14 [Revealing Data: Why We Need Humans To Curate Web Collections](#)
- 2018-07-18 [HyperText and Social Media \(HT\) Trip Report](#)
- 2018-06-08 [Joint Conference on Digital Libraries \(JCDL\) 2018 Trip Report](#)
- 2018-05-04 [An exploration of URL diversity measures](#)
- 2018-03-04 [Installing Stanford CoreNLP in a Docker Container](#)
- 2017-08-27 [Media Manipulation research at the Berkman Klein Center at Harvard University Trip Report](#)
- 2017-06-29 [Joint Conference on Digital Libraries \(JCDL\) 2017 Trip Report](#)
- 2017-04-18 [Local Memory Project - going global](#)
- 2017-03-20 [A survey of 5 boilerplate removal methods](#)
- 2017-01-23 [Finding URLs on Twitter - A simple recommendation](#)
- 2016-11-16 [Introducing the Local Memory Project](#)
- 2016-10-26 [A look back at the 2008 and 2012 US General Elections via Web Archives](#)
- 2016-09-09 [Summer Fellowship at the Harvard Library Innovation Lab Trip Report](#)
- 2016-07-18 [Tweet Visibility Dynamics in a Tweet Conversation Graph](#)
- 2016-06-23 [Joint Conference on Digital Libraries \(JCDL\) 2016 Trip Report](#)
- 2016-05-31 [Can I find this story? API: Yes, Google: Maybe, Native Search: No](#)
- 2016-03-07 [Archives Unleashed Web Archive Hackathon Trip Report \(#hackarchives\)](#)

2015-07-22 [I Can Haz Memento](#)
2015-02-05 [What Did It Look Like?](#)
2014-11-14 [Carbon Dating the Web, version 2.0](#)

Selected Invited Presentations

2021-10-13 [StoryGraph: quantifying the attention of news stories through near-real time story link detection](#) , Knight Foundation Tool Demo
2021-09-28 [Leveraging the domain expertise of social media users to generate seeds for web archive collections](#) , CS Colloquium, Old Dominion University (ODU), Norfolk, VA
2021-08-28 [Garbage, Glitter, or Gold: Assigning Multidimensional Quality Scores to Social Media Seeds for Web Archive Collections](#) , ACM/IEEE JCDL 2021
2021-03-25 [OSoMe Tools](#) , Bloomington High School, Bloomington, IN
2021-02-10 [365 Dots in 2018, 2019, and 2020: Quantifying Attention of News Sources](#) , Computational + Journalism Symposium, Northeastern University, Boston, MA
2021-02-02 [My Research Story/Experience](#) , CS 800, ODU
2020-08-05 [My Research Experience](#) , Web Archiving And Digital Libraries Workshop Panel
2020-05-18 [Bootstrapping Web Archive Collections From Micro-collections In Social Media](#) , Virginia Modeling, Analysis & Simulation Center, Suffolk, VA
2020-03-26 [Bootstrapping Web Archive Collections From Micro-collections In Social Media](#) , University of Denver, Denver, CO
2019-08-21 [Masters/PhD program survival guide](#) , ODU
2019-06-04 [Using Micro-collections in Social Media to Generate Seeds for Web Archive Collections](#) , ACM/IEEE JCDL 2019, Urbana-Champaign, IL
2019-04-29 [Bootstrapping Web Archive Collections From Micro-collections In Social Media](#) , PhD Candidacy Proposal, ODU
2018-07-11 [Bootstrapping Web Archive Collections from Social Media](#) , ACM Hypertext and Social Media (HT 2018), Baltimore, MD
2018-06-05 [Scraping SERPs for Archival Seeds: It Matters When You Start](#) , ACM/IEEE JCDL 2018, Fort Worth, TX
2017-08-04 [Primitive analyses for studying media manipulation](#) , Harvard Library Innovation Lab, Cambridge MA
2017-07-27 [Introduction to Programming with Python](#) , Harvard University Skill Share, Cambridge MA
2017-06-21 [Local Memory Project](#) , ACM/IEEE JCDL 2017, Toronto ON, Canada