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| **David BLACK** |  |  |
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MOTIVATION

This position, as a Data Scientist using Computer Vision & Natural Language Processing at Ancestry, is a confluence of my passions & interests. I have always envisioned being a scientist at the frontier of research. Also from an early age, I've accompanied my father in his effort to source and verify our family history. In this role, I can combine these two interests & talents with three more – data extraction from older documents, linguistics, & coding. At a previous job, I supported work on automated information extraction from manuscript & machine-created text. In my most-recent job, I was able to expand my skills in NLP as I worked on the Speech Science & Machine Learning team. I would love to use my initiative & creativity in CV/NLP tasks for family history, and especially to continue with the use of Neural Networks for data extraction.

HIGHLIGHTS

» Over 5 years' experience in cutting-edge machine-learning research for automated

handwriting & speech recognition

» 11+ years' experience in computation research & software design

» At least 6 months' experience in each of the following roles

» Simulation of physical processes to compare with particle-collision data (27 publications)

» Programming the underlying shape-detection algorithms for Asian handwriting recognition & participating in Neural Network model creation & coding; work mostly done in Keras / TensorFlow but also learned from PyTorch implementations

» Volunteer work with Dr. Ryan Farrell (BYU) in computer vision

SKILLS

» Finding, reading, & understanding scientific papers as well as applying their principles to set

up experiments & to create practical implementations

» Helping patrons to successfully locate, analyze, & apply learning from historical records so as to lead to the discovery of additional records & information sources

» Initiative & excitement in finding new problems & solutions

» Data compilation, creation, curation, annotation, assimilation, appreciation, utilization,

interpretation, & dissemination

» Handling the flow of large data-collection efforts in academic & industry-related research

» Kindness, likeability, social aptitude, & the sincere desire to listen to & help others

» Implementing shell-script solutions – usually bash shell, but other major shells – into Python to increase portability &, for some projects, expand into an object-oriented framework

» Communication with business executives & legal counsel to show the financial implications

and ethical concerns, respectively, accompanying research projects

» Paleography - i.e. the knowledge, understanding, & transcription of handwriting in multiple languages from varied language families and various time periods

» Coding in many programming languages & using various software packages, APIs, etc.; ability to quickly learn & use new tools

RELEVANT WORK EXPERIENCE

**AI Labs) Team Member** *(May 2018 – Mar 2023) CaptionCall / Sorenson Communications (Salt Lake City, UT)*

» As part of the original Speech Science & Machine Learning team, helped set priorities, determine direction & tools, & collaborated closely with the other original team members.

» Initially conducted substantial literature review & decided implementation of findings ||

Python, scikit-learn, NumPy, SciPy, matplotlib, PIL, Pandas, NIST's sclite, kaldi

» Taught other team members to use Linux® & Linux-type implementations; debugged & adapting package builds & software for our needs || bash, C, C++, make, CMake, Perl

» Automated scoring || wrote Python wrapper for NIST's sclite executable

» Normalization of different human & machine transcribers' output so as to have only

words as pronounced || extensive use of regexes & customized algorithms

» Designed, developed, distributed, & maintained normalization tool as a Python package

» Used a Microsoft- version based control system at the start but used git the last 3 years

» Participated in a transition to an Agile-based system accompanied by a move to Jira

» Broad project to use the best of annotation from humans & machines to increase accuracy

» Created customized datasets leveraging call-recording software on which I worked through managing a freelancer || Python, Twilio, Amazon Elastic Beanstalk, AWS NoSQL

» Silence detection & removal to allow more words per unit time in data collection, implemented Hidden Markov & Support Vector Machine models || pyAudioAnalysis

» Iterative break testing for changes in software; used my knowledge of the intricacies of language & its representation along with coding experience to create robust testing material

» Solved the majority of file encoding & decoding issues for text & audio files

» Participated in a recent broadening of ML tools based on speech; attended informational

and demo meetings, particularly concerning end-to-end, real-time ASR & concerning conversation summarization along with question answering using transformers

**Document Specialist** *(Aug 2017 – April 2018) Church History Dept. – Granite Mountain Vault (Salt Lake City, UT)*

» Digitized microfilm of family-history-related documents using proprietary software

» Viewed a wide variety of documents & kept notes of interesting documents; Having just finished my work with automated image classification, zoning, and textual continuity - all for automated extraction for individual and relationship information with the research team - I focused on possibly-useful document types that I hope to use in furthering such extraction

**Data Analyst, Contractor** *(July 2016 – July 2017) FamilySearch (Salt Lake City, UT)*

» Provided material for the Advanced Technology Research team as part of a group that provided a bridge between it & the Records Division

» Found, prepared, analyzed & helped facilitate annotation of records. Discussed algorithms & analyzed data patterns with the research team

» Data curation, especially for the 2-to-20 effort. Family Search catalog use, efficient data storage & retrieval || bash tools, Python, Perl, Unicode, & utf-8

» Software design for data annotation. Worked closely with volunteers using the software; Wrote object-oriented, Java software which software included resources for image classification, image segmentation, segment classification, & transcription. Facilitated major acceleration of the zoning & classification || Java, Windows CMD Scripting

» Software design for evaluating Asian language OCR software || Java, JNI (Java Native Interface), C++, NIST's sclite

**Undergraduate and Graduate Research Assistant** *(2008 – 2013)*

*Brigham Young University (Provo, UT)* *(2008 – 2010)*

*University of California at Riverside (Riverside, CA)* *(2010 – 2013)*

» Data flow management & real-time data quality assurance at the Relativistic Heavy Ion

Collider || Postgre SQL, csh/tcsh, ksh, zsh, bash, Perl, PHP, HTML || UCR

» Simulation of physical processes for comparison between theory & experiment || C++, large & custom C++ libraries & wrappers, Monte Carlo methods || UCR

» Computation of electromagnetic fields & intensities || MATLAB® || BYU

EDUCATION

» **Master of Science, Physics**, University of California at Riverside, 2012

» **Bachelor of Science, Physics**, Brigham Young University, 2010 || Minors: **French, Mathematics**