

Divya Smriti

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I am a UX Researcher passionate about advocating for user needs with over 6+ years of experience conducting qualitative and mixed-methods user research. I thrive in collaborative and cross-functional environments and am proficient in leading end-to-end UX research projects. My experiences so far have helped me cultivate empathy for users during all stages of the research process. I am also a Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) advocate.

EMPLOYMENT

Vanguard, Philadelphia, PA | *User Experience Research (UXR) Intern* Sep 2023 - Mar 2024

- **Led an end-to-end mixed-methods discovery study focusing on underserved clients' financial needs, motivations, and challenges to reduce client attrition.**
 - Scoped out research questions through secondary research, **12** stakeholder interviews, and **1** focus group.
 - Collaborated cross-functionally with Design, Data Analytics, Product, and Research teams.
 - Conducted a Qualtrics survey with **200** responses and moderated **8** in-depth interviews to gain client perspectives.
 - Presented strategic recommendations to reduce attrition of **45%** managed client assets across **3** product teams.
- **Evaluated and compared product designs on UserTesting for comprehension and learning.**
 - Conducted **12** unmoderated remote usability tests on UserTesting in an agile environment.
 - Managed conflicting stakeholder expectations to gain stakeholder buy-in and alignment on the research plan.
 - Presented recommendations to improve user experience and inform product roadmap.

Amazon, Seattle, WA | *User Experience Research (UXR) Intern* June 2022 - Sep 2022

- **Led a Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion qualitative study for inclusion and product adoption.**
 - Determined the best research method and conducted a contextual inquiry study with **16** underserved prospects.
 - Collaborated cross-functionally with Research, Design, DEI, Legal, and PR teams.
 - Presented findings and recommendations to drive strategy for product adoption among underserved prospects.

Drexel University, Philadelphia, PA | *HCI Doctoral Researcher* Sep 2019 - Present

- **Designed AI framework for subjective caregiving work, collaborating with designers and researchers.**
 - End-to-end experience with all aspects of user research (study design, recruiting, moderation, analysis, reporting).
 - Conducted **44** user tests of a conversational AI prototype to gather perceptions around offloading caregiving work.
 - Moderated **12** in-depth interviews to understand the potential use of AI for subjective caregiving work.
 - Conducted heuristic evaluation of **48** commercially available voice-based mobile applications for dementia use.
 - Contributed to academia by publishing **4** full papers, **4** posters, and **5** workshop papers at top-tier HCI venues.
 - Mentored **2** undergraduate and **3** graduate students, fostering their growth in user-centered research.

University of Maryland, College Park, MD | *HCI Researcher* Oct 2017 - May 2019

- **Facilitated 30 sessions with 12 children to co-design technologies that support children's learning.**
 - Managed a community of children who served as equal partners in the design research process.
 - Conducted each co-design session with a different stakeholder, setting and meeting expectations.
 - Adapted approaches based on varied stakeholder needs, optimizing collaborative outcomes.

Spoonshot, India | *User Experience Designer (UXD)* May 2016 - Sep 2016

- **Led initial user tests of a mobile-based application for matching restaurants to users' food preferences.**
 - Redesigned the app based on recommendations and launched a beta version for benchmarking.

EDUCATION

Ph.D. in Information Science Drexel University, Philadelphia, PA	2019 - June 2024 (expected) GPA: 3.96/4.00
M.S. in Human-Computer Interaction (HCI) University of Maryland, College Park, MD	2017 - 2019 GPA: 4.00/4.00
B.Des in Design Indian Institute of Technology Guwahati, India	2011 - 2015 GPA: 7.73/10.00

SKILLS

Research: UX Research, Qualitative Research, Mixed-Methods Research, Interview, Usability Test, Survey, Contextual Inquiry, Participatory Design, Heuristic Evaluation, Competitive Analysis, Secondary Research, Qualitative Data Analysis, Thematic Analysis, Descriptive Statistics.

Design: User-centered Design, User Journeys, Empathy Map, Affinity Map, Rapid Prototyping.

Software: NVivo, Qualtrics, MIRO, Mural, SPSS, UserTesting, Figma, Adobe Creative Suite, MS Office, JIRA.

Interpersonal: Stakeholder Management, Teamwork, Cross-functional Collaboration, Mentorship, Adaptability.