Project Proposal Document

General specifications for your project proposal

- The project proposal must be at most 10 pages, including title, abstract, and bibliography.
- The text must be 1.15-spaced using an 11 pt. font, such as Times New Roman or Calibri
- Please use a one-inch margin and a single-column format
- Use a consistent ACM style for citations (see http://www.cs.ucy.ac.cy/~chryssis/specs/ACM-refguide.pdf or PDF on Blackboard)

Questions that you should consider answering as you write your proposal

1. Which area of Information Retrieval are you focusing on?
2. What problem do you want to solve?
3. Who cares about this problem and why?
4. What have others done to solve this problem and why is this inadequate?
5. What is your proposed solution to this problem?
6. How can you demonstrate that this is a good solution?

Suggested outline

- Abstract: 1 to 2 paragraphs summarizing the proposal
- Introduction: 1 to 2 pages
- Related Work: 1 to 2 pages
- Project Description: 3 to 5 pages
- Validation: 1/2 to 2 pages
- Bibliography: 2 to 5 pages containing references for all work cited

Additional details

Abstract - This section provides a short summary of the proposal.

Introduction - This section provides the reader with enough information to understand and appreciate the proposed problem hypothesis. This includes giving the motivation, defining terms and formulating the problem. You are welcome to include subsections such as "Background" and "Motivation," if needed. This section typically provides answers to the questions "What problem do you want to solve?" and "Who cares about this problem and why?"

Related Work – This section contains an overview of the literature related to your problem and should demonstrate readers that you understand the context of your work. This is a place for you to position your contribution relative to other work and to state how your work builds on other work. This section answers the question "What have others done to solve the problem and why is this inadequate?"

Project Description – This section describes your proposed solution and how you will carry out the work to completing your project. After reading this section, your readers should believe that, if you do what you say you will do here, you will be able to objectively and convincingly defend your proposed approach for solving a problem. This section answers the question "What is your proposed solution to this problem?"

Validation – This section describes the methods you will use to validate your proposed solution. This section answers the question "How can you demonstrate that this is a good solution?"

Bibliography – This section contains references for cited work. References should be complete and written in a uniform style, consistent with your particular sub-area of computer science.

Proposal for Service Learning Project

If you are following the service-learning route for your project, you still need to present a project proposal following the outline suggested above. However, the *motivation* should provide necessary background and highlight the need for addressing such service learning project. In the proposed project description should include details on the software that you will be developing and should describe the expectations for the finished product and explain what will be done to assure the quality of the work. The bibliography should convince the reader that the student is well acquainted with techniques needed to do the work and with techniques others have used to solve similar problems. The contributions should reflect the importance of the work.

Deadline

A hard copy of your project proposal is due by the beginning of class on February 26th