Alexandra Watson

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EDUCATION

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, Gies College of Business   **Champaign, IL**
Master of Science in Business Analytics   08/2023 – 12/2024

Parkland College   **Champaign, IL**
Coursework in Computer science and Healthcare   06/2022 – 07/2023
- Dean's List - Spring 2023

Belarus State Economic University   **Minsk, Belarus**
Bachelor of Science in Economics   09/2011 – 06/2015
- Merit Scholarship

WORK EXPERIENCE

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign Main Library   **Champaign, IL**
Grad Hourly - Acquisition and Cataloging Services   03/2024 – now
Cataloging of Slavic monographs

UIUC – CAT Inc. – Business Practicum   **Champaign, IL**
Master's capstone project – Outbound Freight Forecasting   09/01/2023 – 05/01/2024
- Utilized historical shipment and freight data to drive predictive analysis for Caterpillar's outbound freight cost optimization.
- Conducted extensive research on freight shipping processes, enhancing my understanding of industry challenges.
- Executed exploratory data analysis to address specific business questions.
- Collaborated effectively with the team, ensuring smooth data access and communication for project success.
- Analyzed supply chain dynamics, refining forecasting methods to reduce errors and streamline operations.

Smilovichi wool factory   **Belarus**
Manager   2015- 2017
- Developed precise sales forecasts grounded in current contracts, enabling proactive inventory management and resource allocation.
- Mined and analyzed sales and inventory data, translating insights into compelling weekly, monthly, and quarterly reports presented directly to the executive team, including the CEO.
- Forged robust partnerships with vendors and suppliers, instituting rigorous quality control measures to guarantee the highest material standards and product quality.
- Strategically mapped and executed logistical initiatives, optimizing product delivery processes, and reducing lead times, resulting in heightened operational efficiency.
- Proficiently prepared essential documentation for international sales and shipments, facilitating smooth cross-border transactions.

PROJECTS

Big Data Analytics in Finance: **Cook County Property Assessment and Prediction**
- Predicted property value based on historical data using different ML techniques in R.
- Analyzed a real estate sales dataset, focusing on data preprocessing, imputation of missing values, and management of outliers.
- Improved the accuracy of property assessments, leading to reduced mean squared error and more equitable valuations.

Data Storytelling: Assessment of the contribution of Gies College of Business faculty to ESG (Environmental, Social, and Governance) research using Wolfram Mathematica

- Evaluated 258 journal publications from Gies College faculty in Business Administration, Accountancy, and Finance, focusing on recent works.
- Created descriptive statistical profiles to chart research trends among faculty, across departments, and within key subject areas.
- Applied text analysis to identify prevalent research themes and areas.

CERTIFICATIONS

Coursera: Exploring and Producing Data for Business Decision Making   July 2023
Coursera: Inferential and Predictive Statistics for Business   July 2023
LinkedIn: Project Management Foundations   September 2023

VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE

Champaign Public Library   **Champaign, IL**
Adult Services Computer Volunteer   February 2019 – August 2019

- Assisted library patrons with tasks such as internet searching, e-mail, word processing, printing, and overall computer navigation, and troubleshooting.

SKILLS

Technical: Microsoft Office, Google Workspace, SQL, R, Python, Tableau
Language: English (Fluent), Russian (Fluent), Spanish (Basic)