Meghana Marathe

School of Information

University of Michigan

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Education

University of Michigan — Fall 2015—present

Doctor of Philosophy, Information
Advisor: Kentaro Toyama
GPA: 4.0/4.0

University of Toronto — 2007—2009

Master of Science, Computer Science
Thesis: Lexical Chains using Distributional Measures of Semantic Distance
Advisor: Graeme Hirst
CGPA: 3.92/4.0

University of Mumbai — 2002—2005

Bachelor of Engineering, Computer Engineering

Professional Experience

Microsoft Research India, Technologies for Emerging Markets Group

Research Fellow — Jun. 2014—Jul. 2015

Worked with Bill Thies and Jacki O'Neill on characterizing the impact of CGNet Swara, a voice-based citizen journalism portal in rural India. We are currently working on a paper that critically examines how differences in the design of two eGovernance initiatives in central India (one that is citizen-led and small scale, and another that is state-run and large scale) affect the process of grievance redressal from the point of view of citizens. We build on our analysis to make recommendations for future eGovernance initiatives.

Aurality Technologies

Senior Software Engineer & Technical Lead — May 2012—May 2014

Led the technical effort for Giftery, a social gifting platform that aims to take the pain out of gifting. Users can send gift cards for curated local experiences to their friends, and invite other friends to chip in. Giftery was acquired in June. I led the design and development of the backend using ASP.NET MVC3 with Entity Framework and Ninject; and a basic retailer-facing Python module that validates coupon codes.

Germinait Solutions

Software Engineer — Jul. 2010—May 2012

Redesigned several Text Analysis modules, resulting in significantly higher throughput and efficiency. Worked on a Named Entity Recognizer that recognizes and classifies named entities into places, organizations, persons or neither; and tries to identify which specific place or organization is meant. Redesigned the module consuming Twitter's Streaming API. This greatly improved performance and reliability, allowing us to handle massive amounts of data. Responsible for the R&D of the Author Influence module, which assigns influence scores to authors on Facebook or Twitter.

Oracle Financial Services Software Ltd.

Associate Consultant   Oct. 2009—Jun. 2010

Worked on the next generation release of the retail banking product FLEXCUBE. Designed and developed the central knowledge base for all price- or rate-related information for other modules (such as Loans). Designed the module used to create and suggest campaigns/promotions proposed by the bank to attract new customers. Partly designed the Current and Savings Account module.

Research in Motion

Software Developer Intern   Summer 2008

Added spell-check and predictive input support for non-standard languages on full- and reduced-keyboard Blackberry devices. Verifying correctness was tricky because in written Arabic, for instance, the symbol used to represent a character changes according to neighbouring characters. Developed a corpus-based tool in Java to test the precision and recall of the existing spell-check system.

REFEREED CONFERENCE PUBLICATIONS

1. **Meghana Marathe**, Jacki O'Neill, Paromita Pain, and William Thies. ICT-Enabled Grievance Redressal in Central India: A Comparative Analysis. In *International Conference on Information and Communication Technologies and Development (ICTD)*, 2016.

2. **Meghana Marathe**, Jacki O'Neill, Paromita Pain, and William Thies. Revisiting CGNet Swara and its Impact in Rural India. In *International Conference on Information and Communication Technologies and Development (ICTD)*, 2015.

3. **Meghana Marathe**, and Graeme Hirst. Lexical Chains using Distributional Measures of Concept Distance. In *Computational Linguistics and Intelligent Text Processing*, 2010.

REFEREED POSTERS AND SHORT PUBLICATIONS

4. **Meghana Marathe**, Priyank Chandra, Vaishnav Kameswaran, Tsuyoshi Kano, and Syed Ishtiaque Ahmed. In Search of Missing Pieces: Re-examining Trends in ICTD Research. In *Notes Session*, International Conference on Information and Communication Technologies and Development (ICTD), 2016.

5. Vaishnav Kameswaran, **Meghana Marathe**, Tawanna Dillahunt, Joyojeet Pal, Katharina Reinecke, and Kentaro Toyama. Project Boost: Addressing the "Socio" in a Socio-Technical System to Improve Income-Earning Opportunities in Urban America. In *Development Consortium: HCI4D Across Borders*, a workshop at the ACM CHI conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems (CHI), 2016.

6. Jacki O'Neill, **Meghana Marathe**, and Syed Ishtiaque Ahmed. Reframing ICTD: A more realistic and reflexive approach to research. In *Researching for Change in a Globalising Asymmetric World*, a workshop at the Critical Alternatives Conference in Aarhus, 2015.

7. Syed Ishtiaque Ahmed, **Meghana Marathe**, and Jacki O'Neill. Reframing ICTD: The Political Aspects of Technology and Development. In *Researching for Change in a Globalising Asymmetric World*, a workshop at the Critical Alternatives Conference in Aarhus, 2015.

8. Krittika D'Silva, **Meghana Marathe**, Aditya Vashistha, Gaetano Borriello, and William Thies. A Mobile Application for Interactive Voice Forums: Design and Pilot Deployment in Rural India. In *Poster Session, Annual Symposium on Computing for Development* (ACM DEV), 2014.

9. **Meghana Marathe**, and Graeme Hirst. Incorporating Semantic Information into Text Segmentation. In *Poster Session, Grace Hopper Celebration of Women in Computing*, 2008.

OTHER PUBLICATIONS

10. **Meghana Marathe**. Lexical Chains using Distributional Measures of Concept Distance. Master's Research Paper, University of Toronto, 2009.

INVITED TALKS

1. Revisiting CGNet Swara and its Impact in Rural India
   Microsoft Research India   May 2015
   ICTD   May 2015

2. Voice-Based Citizen Journalism in the Developing World
   United Nations Democracy Fund (UNDEF), New York   Dec 2014

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Introduction to Databases
Teaching Assistant, University of Toronto   Winter 2008, Fall 2008, Winter 2009

Mathematical Expression and Reasoning for Computer Science
Teaching Assistant, University of Toronto   Fall 2007

AWARDS

Silver medal in Computer Engineering at the University of Mumbai.   2009
ACM CRA-W Grad Cohort 2016 travel award.   2016

PROGRAMMING LANGUAGES & TECHNOLOGIES

C#, Java, Python
ASP.NET MVC3, Entity Framework, Hadoop, Hibernate, Spring
MySQL, MongoDB, Microsoft SQL Server, SQLite

EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Elected to serve on the Doctoral Executive Committee at the University of Michigan School of Information.

"Très bien" (the highest grade) in the Diplôme de Langue exam in French from the Alliance Française de Paris, equivalent to the Niveau B2 of the Council of Europe. The exam evaluates the skills of reading & listening comprehension, writing and speaking in French.

Captained the Mumbai under-19 girls' state-level cricket team in 1999. Also represented Mumbai thrice (1997—1999) at the under-19 girls' state-level cricket tournament.