

I am currently a [PhD student](#) studying Information science at the [University of Michigan - Ann Arbor](#). My area of interest is in Information Retrieval (IR), with a particular focus on education systems.

## EDUCATION



- PhD Information (*In-Progress*) CGPA: 3.78/4.00 2014 - Present  
School of Information  
University of Michigan, Ann Arbor
- BSc Engineering 2010 - 2014  
School of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science (SEECS)  
National University of Sciences and Technology (NUST), Islamabad

## WORKSHOPS & ONLINE COURSES

- Attended Search as Learning (SAL) Workshop at SIGIR 2016 2016
- Conducted IEEE Flash Workshop for Engineering Students at NUST 2011
- Participated in IEEE Android Development Workshop 2011
- Machine Learning Online Course - Stanford University 2011
- Introduction to Databases Online Course - Stanford University 2011

## WORK EXPERIENCE & ASSISTANTSHIP



- Teaching Assistant at University of Michigan Sept 2016 - Dec 2016  
SI 301 (F16) - Models of Social Information Processing
- Research Assistant at University of Michigan 2014 - Present
- Teaching Assistant for course on Engineering Economics at NUST 2012
- Summer Internship at NUST - Android Development 2012
- Paid Research Internship - Android-Based Home Automation 2012  
Project sponsored by National Radio and Telecom Corporation (NRTC)
- Research Internship - iTeach, uLearn 2013  
Project sponsored by National Foundation for Resource Development (NFRD)

## RESEARCH PAPERS

- Syed, R. and Collins-Thompson, K. (To appear.) Optimizing Search Results for Human Learning Goals. *Information Retrieval Journal* (Special Issue on Searching as Learning), 2017. 2017
- Syed, R. and Collins-Thompson, K. (To appear.) Retrieval models optimized for human learning. In *Proceedings of SIGIR 2017*, Tokyo, Japan. 2017
- Syed, R. and Collins-Thompson, K. (2016). Optimizing search results for educational goals: Incorporating keyword density as a retrieval objective. In *Second International Workshop on Search as Learning (SaL 2016)*. ACM. ([paper](#)) ([slides](#)) 2016
- Collins-Thompson, K., Rieh, S. Y., Haynes, C. C., & Syed, R. (2016, March). Assessing Learning Outcomes in Web Search: A Comparison of Tasks and Query Strategies. In *Proceedings of the 2016 ACM on Conference on Human Information Interaction and Retrieval* (pp. 163-172). ACM. ([paper](#)) 2016

## RESEARCH/SEMESTER PROJECTS

● Optimizing Search Ranking for Educational Goals ( <i>In Progress</i> )	2015 - Present
● Real-time Intrinsically Diverse Search engine	2014 - 2015
● Autonomous Landmine Detection & Mapping System	2014
● Accelerometer-based Virtual Archery	2013
● Android Home Automation System	2012
● Online Crime Reporting System	2012
● Fast Food Order and Delivery System	2007

## COMPUTER SKILLS </>

- General Purpose Programming  
C, C++, Java, Python, Visual Basic 6.0
- Data Processing Programming  
R, Matlab, Octave
- Web Development (Client-side)  
HTML5, CSS3, Javascript, JQuery, Flash
- Web Development (Server-side)  
PHP, MySQL, SQLite
- Mobile Development  
Android
- Hardware Development  
Assembly Code, Embedded C, Raspberry Pi