

Zahra Ashktorab
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EDUCATION

University of Maryland, College Park

PhD. in Information Science 4.0/4.0

University of Maryland, College Park

May 2013

M.S. in Human Computer Interaction 4.0/4.0

University of Maryland, College Park

May 2011

B.S. in Computer Science,

B.A. in Individual Studies; Middle East Studies, minor in Arabic

Cumulative GPA: 3.4/4.0

National Institute of Mental Health (held at Howard University)

June-August 2006

- Participant in the Career Opportunities in Research Training and Education Honors program
- Team research project: *Are We There Yet? The Effects of Gender, Race, and Attire on Helping Behavior*

WORK EXPERIENCE

Data Science for Social Good Fellowship, Computation Institute

June-August 2013

Eric and Wendy Schmidt Fellowship

- Classified tweets as pertaining to disaster or not (using Machine Learning techniques)
- Extracted Relevant information from tweets during disasters for Red Cross and UN Disaster relief workers
- Presented work at “Data Slam”

National Institutes of Health, Bethesda, Maryland

May-August 2012

Postbaccalaureate Intramural Research Training Award

- Created software in image processing that reproduced 3D Tumor and Organ Segmentation
- Presented abstract on NIH Poster presentation day

Research Assistant, University of Maryland

September 2011 - Present

Graduate Research Assistant

- Research on election outcome and social media
- Designing and testing “Tweetbeats”, a music recommender system

Latin American Studies Center, University of Maryland

September 2010 - Present

Webmaster

- Update and maintain website
- Create forms for online grant applications

National Museum of the American Indian, Smithsonian Institution

June 2011-August 2011

Summer Intern

- Created a website that showcased sustainability initiatives in the East Zone Mall of the Smithsonian
- Collected data, pictures, conducted interviews to build a sustainability website

College of Arts and Humanities, University of Maryland, College Park

September 2010 –present

Technology Assistant

- Aid professors who need technology help in classrooms
- Convert videos to DVDs

- Convert slides into JPEG photos

The National Center for Biotechnology Information, NIH June-August 2010
Summer Intern

- Parsed files to find duplicates in Amish Genealogy Database 4
- Used Ruby to update information in Amish Genealogy Database 5

The Undergraduate Technology Apprenticeship Program, UMD January-May 2010
Technology Assistant

Aided in creating technological tools to help the College of Arts and Humanities

- Created Power Point Presentations for course “Islam in Europe”
- Edited videos for course “Islam in Europe”
- Created representative maps for course “Islam in Europe”

Department of Clinical Research Informatics, NIH June-August 2009
Summer Intern

- Created “Star Glyph application”: a software application in language Processing that graphically represent medical data
- Presented at NIH Biomedical Computing Interest Group (BCIG): “Bench to Bedside Computing”
- Presented Poster “A General Purpose 2-D Graphics Package for Plotting Biomedical Data”

Institute for Advanced Computer Studies, UMD June- August 2008
Research Assistant

- Assisted research in Machine Language Translation
- Ran scripts in Perl to translate Arabic Texts

National Archives, College Park, Maryland January 2008
Research Assistant

- Assisted Yale University PhD students on research regarding the Korean War
- Photographed documents
- Scanned documents

Noble and Crowe, Public Attorneys, Rockville, Maryland January – June 2007
Administrative Assistant

- Edited legal documents
- Managed outgoing communication
- Answered phone calls

Howard University Hospital Cancer Center, Washington DC July- August 2004
Hospital Intern

- Organized the files of breast cancer patients
- Helped create “Project Early Awareness” (a fundraising video for breast cancer awareness)

VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE

LAMLINK Workshop, College Park, Maryland September 2013
Student Volunteer

- participant in the Lamlink workshop, a workshop seeking to bring together scholars in the humanities, information professionals and computer scientist to discuss the role of open linked data in the digital humanities
- Recorded conversations regarding the role of open linked data in the digital humanities

Community Center, Potomac, Maryland September 2009-May 2013
Volunteer Instructor

- Created syllabus for third level Arabic course to improve Arabic proficiency
- Teach children Arabic reading and writing

Private Tutor in Arabic	January 2010-present
Ramadan for Kids Program, Community Center, Potomac, Maryland	2003, 2005, 2006
Summer Reading Program, Chevy Chase Library, Maryland	June 2004

LEADERSHIP ACTIVITY

Individual Studies Program	January-May 2010
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Member, Student Advisory Board

- Organized spring social event
- Attended board meetings
- Planned community building activities

First Model United Nations Conference in the Sultanate of Oman	February 2005
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Participant

Model United Nations Club

Delegate; Honorable Mention; Outstanding Delegation Award	2004-2007
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ABSTRACTS

Reproducing 3D Tumor and Organ Segmentation from Commercial Workstations, 2012, Clinical Image Processing Service Lab, Radiology National Institutes of Health

A General Purpose 2-D Graphics Package for Plotting Biomedical Data, 2009, Biomedical Computing Interest Group, National Institutes of Health

Allan Fong, Zahra Ashktorab, Jon Froehlich: Bear-with-me: an embodied prototype to explore tangible two-way exchanges of emotional language. CHI Extended Abstracts 2013: 1011-1016

Zahra Ashktorab, Christopher Brown, Manojit Nandi, Aron Culotta: Twitter-Informed Disaster Relief, KDD for Social Good 2013

PUBLICATIONS

Living the good life? Mortality and hospital utilization patterns in the old order amish. PLoS One. 2012;7(12):e51560. doi: 10.1371/journal.pone.0051560. Epub 2012 Dec 19.

COMPUTER SKILLS

Languages: Python, Java, C, Processing, Ruby, Ocaml, Scheme, PHP, MySQL, Javascript

Software: Excel, Word, Windows Movie Maker, Power Point, Photoshop, HTML, Spotfire, Tableau

LANGUAGE SKILLS

English and Farsi (fluent); Arabic (advanced)

