

March 15 - 21

1. Lessons learned from Chapter 2: Good Style

1. Always use short sentences
2. Always use the words which make the writing easier to understand - simple English
3. Try giving as many examples as possible
4. Always cite your work
5. A reference with more than three authors, all but the first name can be replaced with "et al" but don't use "et al." in the reference list.
6. One should always establish a logical flow to its paper
7. Never assume that a definition, theorem or algorithm is self explanatory, always explain what you want to infer from it.
8. You may include private conversations or information from seminars and talks using a footnote or acknowledgment.
9. Text copied from some source should always be in a double quotes and cited.

2. Lessons learned from Chapter 10: Doing Research, part 1

1. To do research you need a range of specific skills, only with experience can you gain these skills.
2. An idea does not mean it will work. If you know that an idea will work it leaves no scope for the research. A part of initial research is that you get drawn towards the topic without a specific outcome.
3. Two key questions:
 - what is the broad problem to be investigated?
 - what are the specific initial activities to undertake and outcomes to pursue?
4. Productive research is often driven by a strong motivating example.
5. Is the project of right technical level for you?
6. Papers are not text books. There is rarely a need to understand every line.
7. Too many people submit work that did not deserve to be written sometimes it gets published so not all papers are good.
8. Whether it's a good paper or a not so good paper one should always respectfully question the content of the paper.
9. A better approach to the task of scoping a project and setting milestones is to explicitly consider what is needed at the end, then reason backwards.

10. Research Strategy:
- read the literature
 - then design
 - then analyze / implement
 - then test or evaluate
 - then write up

3. Topics of interest

- Adding Semantics to web
- Privacy in Location Based Services

4. Potential Committee Chair

Prof. Xumin Liu, Assistant Professor, Department of Computer Science, Rochester Institute of Technology.