Postdoctoral Fellowship in Interactive Information Retrieval

Position Summary

The postdoctoral fellow will work under the direction of Dr. Orland Hoeber on a project titled “Supporting exploratory information seeking in public digital libraries”. The project will be conducted in collaboration with two University of Regina Librarians (Dale Storie and Veronica Ramshaw), the Regina Public Library, and the Saskatchewan Information and Library Services Consortium. Working with a team of graduate students in the Department of Computer Science, the postdoctoral fellow will conduct research that includes search log analysis from a public library, observational and interview-based studies of public library search behaviour, expert reviews of mobile and desktop/laptop search interfaces, user studies of such search interfaces, and the study of public library search behaviour across sessions, contexts, and devices.

This research is supported by a four-year NSERC Alliance Grant. The initial appointment for the postdoctoral fellow will be one year, with the ability to renew the appointment on a yearly basis based on performance, up to the end of the grant. The postdoctoral fellow will serve as a coordinator for this project, and as a mentor for the graduate students. The postdoctoral fellow will spend 80% of their time on this project, with the remaining 20% (one day per week) dedicated to other research-oriented “passion projects”, following Google’s “20 percent time” philosophy.

In order to assist the postdoctoral fellow with their academic career development, in one semester per year, the fellow will teach a graduate-level course in the area of information science or human-computer interaction. The specific topic and details of the course will be based on the postdoctoral fellow’s expertise and skillset, and will be developed and delivered under the guidance of Dr. Orland Hoeber.

Position Requirements

- Ph.D. in Computer Science, Information Science, or related discipline, and with a specialization in Interactive Information Retrieval
- Excellent interpersonal and leadership skills
- Proven ability to work within a research team as well as independently
- Excellent oral and written communication skills in English
- Experience in conducting human-centred research (e.g., conducting literature reviews, developing research questions and hypotheses, designing user studies, preparing research ethics applications, collecting qualitative or quantitative data, analyzing qualitative or quantitative data, disseminating research results)
- A record of one or more research publications and presentations at CHIIR, SIGIR, or CHI
- Previous knowledge and research experience with digital libraries is an asset
- Previous research that included the design and implementation of search interfaces is an asset
- Previous research using mixed-methods is an asset

**Salary**

$57,000 annually

**Work Hours, Holidays, and other Work Conditions**

As per CUPE Local 5791 (Research Employees) collective agreement (https://5791.cupe.ca/files/2020/04/2020-2023-CUPE-5791-Research-Employees-Collective-Agreement-tvh.pdf)

**Start Date**

The expected start date is July 1, 2021, but this is flexible (+/- one or two months).

**Application Process**

Candidates for this position must provide the following information: a cover letter that addresses the specific items in the position requirements, their CV, the transcripts from their Ph.D. and Master’s degrees, a sample research publication from CHIIR, SIGIR, or CHI in which they are a co-author, and two letters of reference (one must be from their doctoral supervisor or supervisory committee member).

All of this information must be submitted to the University of Regina’s recruitment portal by April 17, 2021: https://urcareers.uregina.ca/postings/4541

Inquiries about this position may be made via email to orland.hoeber@uregina.ca.

**Diversity Statement**

The University of Regina is committed to an inclusive workplace that reflects the richness of the community that we serve. The University welcomes applications from all qualified individuals, including individuals within the University’s employment equity categories of women, persons with disabilities, members of visible minorities, Indigenous persons, individuals of diverse gender and sexual orientation and all groups protected by the Human Rights Code.