



Education

University of Michigan School of Information, Ann Arbor, Michigan
Master of Science in Information
Specializations in Human Computer Interaction and Social Computing
Honors: Half-tuition merit scholarship

May 2009
G.P.A. 3.92/4.0

Iowa State University, Ames, Iowa
Bachelor of Science in Computer Science, Math
Minors in Psychology and Philosophy
Honors: Full tuition scholarship – National Merit Scholar

May 2007
G.P.A. 3.81/4.0

Skills and Strengths

- Web design and development: Adobe Photoshop, Adobe Illustrator, Drupal, Wordpress
- User-centered design: personas, scenarios, interviews and usability testing, creating interactive prototypes using OmniGraffle Professional, designing for social interactions such as recommender systems
- Programming: Java, C++, Perl, HTML, CSS, PHP, SQL, JavaScript

Experience

Usability Specialist, DrProject – Season of Usability Summer 2008

- Redesigned the web-based administration and other interfaces for usability in collaboration with a developer
- Conducted exploratory usability testing with existing and prototype interfaces designed in OmniGraffle
- Identified accessibility and information architecture improvements

Cognitive Modeler, ClearSighted – Ames, Iowa Fall 2006 – Summer 2008

- Created cognitive models for software Intelligent Tutors built on top of existing applications
- Practiced user-centered design to create innovative tutoring technology
- Thoroughly tested and resolved issues with development tools, target application, tutor engine, and cognitive models to ensure high quality end product

IBM Intern, Index Automation Speed Team Summer 2006

IBM Co-op, WebSphere Functional Verification Test January – August 2005

Recent Academic Projects

2008-2009

Wheelable – a map-based website for user-generated wheelchair accessibility information in Ann Arbor
Methods: interviews, background research, interface conception and design, development of a Drupal website

TabViz – a Firefox extension that visualizes open browser tabs to make refinding tabs easier
Methods: interviews, interface conception and design, gathering user feedback, development of a Firefox extension
Awards: Mozilla Labs Summer 2009 Design Challenge, Best in Class: Innovation

WantKnot – a waste marketplace and social network for businesses to achieve more sustainable waste practices
Methods: interviews, affinity diagram, personas, scenarios, interactive prototyping with OmniGraffle, usability testing
Awards: CHI 2009 Student Design Competition semifinalist, 2nd place for best social computing poster at ExpoSlition

SI Showcase – a website for groups at the School of Information to show off publications and projects to the world
Methods: personas, scenarios, information architecture analysis, development of a Drupal website

Rock Band analysis – a study of learning and collaboration in the video game Rock Band
Methods: interviews, personas and scenarios, heuristic analysis, observation study

Usability analysis of Engage – evaluation of a website that connects volunteers with medical clinical trials
Methods: personas, scenarios, heuristic analysis, usability testing, documenting results for clients

Please see www.lizblankenship.com for additional information about projects and graphic design samples.

Publications

Gilbert, S. B., Blessing, S. B., Blankenship, L. The Accidental Tutor: Overlaying an Intelligent Tutor on an Existing User Interface.
CHI 2009 Extended Abstracts on Human Factors in Computing Systems.

For additional publications, see my online resume at <http://www.lizblankenship.com/resume.html>.

Involvement

- Social Computing Student Organization (UM School of Information), Founding Board Member 2008-2009
 - Developed relationship with Mozilla; planned Design Jams events
- Adler Planetarium, Alternative Spring Break Intern February 2009
 - Surveys and usability testing of future exhibits with visitors
- Volunteering: Websites for Iowa Native Plant Society, Loess Hills Prairie Seminar