

# CURRICULUM VITAE

ANDREW J. KURTZ

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## CONTACT

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## EDUCATION

- Ph.D. Information Science (Human–Computer Interaction)  
School of Library and Information Science.  
Indiana University, Bloomington, Indiana. Expected September 2008.
- M.S. Computer Science.  
Michigan State University, East Lansing, Michigan. August 1996.
- B.S. Computer Science.  
Purdue University, Fort Wayne, Indiana. May 1991.
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## DISSERTATION RESEARCH

The philosophical study of aesthetics has been around for centuries, but within human–computer interaction, aesthetics has been largely ignored until recently. Interface design has traditionally been interested in improving the functionality, efficiency, and effectiveness of applications. “Form follows function” was the mantra for many years, especially before personal computers and graphical interfaces. Today’s user has more choices and expects an interface to be pleasing as well as functional.

It is important to adopt new design methods and goals based on the needs of the customer, but is it at the expense of performance. Some research has argued that improving the aesthetics of interfaces improves the customer experience and performance. But is that the case?

Current and past research in this area, centers around aesthetics’ influence on perceptions and how those perceptions change before and after use. Research shows that the aesthetics of an interface can influence pre–use perceptions and in many cases influences perceptions during or after use. Some research has shown that this influence can overshadow usability problems that exist in products and can cause the user to perceive the product as better than it really is. It is clear that designers should improve the aesthetics of their interfaces to achieve these gains in user perception. But what about experienced usability?

There has been little or no research into the influence aesthetics has on actual use. This is an important question, especially with the increased prominence aesthetics has in design considerations. There has been no work in the area of aesthetics and learnability, memorability, and errors, which are important aspects of usability. The components of efficiency and effectiveness have not had sufficient study and they have not been studied in conjunction with other usability attributes. My work extends the work done in the area of aesthetics and usability by going beyond perceptions to the previously unexplored area of aesthetics and experienced usability.

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## OTHER RESEARCH

LillyPad	Involved the design, development, and evaluation of a handheld computer application used in a group setting for data collection, communication, and education.
VisualDTA	Involved the design and development of an interactive visualization tool to support the analysis of computer mediated conversations using dynamic topic analysis.
NewsSifter	Involved the design, development, and evaluation of an intelligent news filtering and user interest modeling application.

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## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Department of Natural, Information, and Mathematical Sciences.  
Indiana University Kokomo.

INFO I308	<b>Information Representation</b> The basic structure of information representation in digital information systems. Begins with low-level computer representations. Introduces formal design and query languages through Entity Relationship Modeling, the Relational Model, and XML. Taught Spring 2008.
INFO I300	<b>Human-Computer Interaction</b> The analysis of human factors and the design of computer application interfaces. A survey of current HCI designs with an eye toward what future technologies will allow. The course emphasizes learning HCI based on implementation and testing interfaces. Taught Spring 2008.
INFO I211	<b>Information Infrastructure II</b> The second programming course for undergraduate Informatics students. Provides an introduction to object oriented programming and distributed application design. Taught using the Java programming language. Taught Spring 2007, Spring 2008.
INFO I210	<b>Information Infrastructure I</b> An undergraduate course in computer programming that provided an introduction to programming techniques, application development, and database integration. Taught using the Visual Basic programming language. Taught in Fall 2006, Fall 2007.
INFO I202	<b>Social Informatics</b> Introduction to key social research perspectives and literatures on the use of information and communication technologies. Discusses current topics such as information ethics, relevant legal frameworks, popular and controversial uses of technology. Taught Fall 2007.
INFO I101	<b>Introduction to Informatics</b> The first Informatics course for majors. Provides an introduction to the area of Informatics and covers general computer literacy topics. Taught Spring 2007, Fall 2007.
DPIS D285	<b>Webpage Design</b> Introductory course in web site design. Students will learn to create web sites using current technology (XHTML, CSS, and JavaScript) along with guidelines and principles for good web site design. Taught Spring 2007.
CSCI C106	<b>Introduction to Computers and Their Use</b> An undergraduate course in computer literacy. Taught in Fall 2006.

School of Library and Information Science.  
Indiana University, Bloomington.

- SLIS L542      Introduction to Human–Computer Interaction  
A graduate course in human–computer interaction that provided a broad introduction to HCI theory, usability evaluation techniques, and design guidelines. Taught six semesters from Fall 2002 through Fall 2004.
- SLIS L546      User–centered Database Design  
A graduate course in database design that covered basic database theories and principles as well as practical design and implementation skills. Taught two semesters in Spring 2005 and Spring 2006.
- SLIS L597      Information Security and Privacy in Digital Libraries  
A graduate seminar course covering security and privacy issues in digital libraries. Included both discussions of concepts, and exercising technical skills using tools that manage privacy and security. Taught in Summer 2004.

Department of Telecommunications.  
Michigan State University.

- CAS 492      Web Design  
An undergraduate course in Web site design and development. Taught four semesters from Spring 1998 through Spring 2001.

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## PUBLISHED PAPERS

Yvonne Rogers, Kay Connelly, Lenore Tedesco, William Hazlewood, Andrew J. Kurtz, Robert E. Hall, Josh Hursey, and Tammy Toscos. Why Its Worth the Hassle: The Value of In-Situ Studies When Designing Ubicomp. In Proceedings of the 9th International Conference on Ubiquitous Computing, pages 336–353. Springer-Verlag Berlin Heidelberg, 2007 (Nominated for the Best Paper Award)

Susan C. Herring and Andrew J. Kurtz. Visualizing Dynamic Topic Analysis. In Proceedings of the Social Visualization: Exploring Text, Audio, and Video Interactions Workshop. CHI, 2006.

Andrew J. Kurtz and Javed Mostafa. Topic detection and interest tracking in a dynamic online news source. In Proceedings of the 3rd ACM/IEEE–CS joint conference on Digital libraries, pages 122–124. IEEE Computer Society, 2003.

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## PRESENTATIONS

On Aesthetics and Usability: Is there a Connection? Poster presentation at the ALISE Doctoral Students' Research Poster Session. San Antonio, TX. January 17, 2006.

Does Aesthetics' Effect on Usability Extend Beyond Perceptions? Presented at the 2005 SLIS Doctoral Student Research Forum. Bloomington, Indiana. September 24, 2005.

Tangible Interface Gaming Unit. Poster presentation at Let's Get Physical: When Design Meets Pervasive Computing. March 4, 2005. Indiana University. Joseph A. Cottam, Andrew J. Kurtz, Daniel Kutz, Tiffanie Shakespeare.

User Interest Tracking and User Interaction within Intelligent Online News Filtering Tools. Poster presentation at the ALISE Doctoral Students' Research Poster Session. Boston, MA. January 12, 2005.

Dynamic Topic Analysis using VisualDTA. Presented at the 2004 SLIS Doctoral Student Research Forum. Bloomington, Indiana. September 18, 2004.

Using a Multilevel Interest Profile for Personalizing Dynamic Online News. Presented at the 2003 SLIS Doctoral Student Research Forum. Bloomington, Indiana. September 13, 2003.

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## UNPUBLISHED PAPERS

Andrew J. Kurtz and Javed Mostafa. User-Centric Analysis of Topic and Interest Adaptation in News Filtering. January 2005

Andrew J. Kurtz and Javed Mostafa. Examining Different Profile Adaption Methods for Personalizing Online News. February 2004.

Andrew J. Kurtz and Javed Mostafa. Evolving Multilevel Interest Profiles Using Dynamic Topic Detection to Personalize Online News. August 2003.

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## PROFESSIONAL EMPLOYMENT

Department of Natural, Information, and Mathematical Sciences  
Indiana University Kokomo  
Acting Assistant Professor of Informatics — Fall 2006 to the Present.

School of Library and Information Science  
Indiana University, Bloomington, Indiana.  
Adjunct Lecturer — Fall 2002 to Spring 2006.

Signing Online, LLC. ([www.SigningOnline.com](http://www.SigningOnline.com))  
Lead Programmer — Summer 2002 to Fall 2005.

Department of Telecommunications (Digital Media Art and Technology)  
Michigan State University, East Lansing, Michigan.  
Visiting Instructor — Spring 1998, Summer 1998, Summer 1999, Spring 2001.

Virtual University  
Michigan State University, East Lansing, Michigan.  
Lead Programmer — November 1996 to August 2001.

Communication Technology Laboratory  
Michigan State University, East Lansing, Michigan.  
Senior Multimedia Programmer — May 1996 to November 1997.  
Multimedia Programmer — January 1996 to May 1996.

Neuroscience Associates and the Department of Anatomy  
Michigan State University, East Lansing, Michigan.  
Lead Multimedia Programmer — May 1995 to January 1997.

OPN: Systems, Incorporated  
Fort Wayne, Indiana.  
Programmer — May 1991 to August 1994.  
Programmer Intern — April 1989 to May 1991.

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## SOFTWARE PUBLICATIONS

### MSU WebTalk

Web-based asynchronous discussion system. Developed from 1997 through 2001 at the Virtual University at Michigan State University.

### Cancer Prevention Park

Multimedia CD-ROM containing “Games for Life”. A fun way to learn about cancer prevention. Developed in 1997 at the Communication Technology Laboratory at Michigan State University.

### The American Identity Explorer: Immigration and Migration

Multimedia CD-ROM supplement for a McGraw-Hill history textbook. Image and text archive that explores mass migration to and within the U.S. from the 1890s to the 1920s. Developed in 1996 at the Communication Technology Laboratory at Michigan State University.

### Brain Library

A CD-ROM collection of images of brains and brain sections stained to show cell bodies and myelin sheaths of axons. Developed from 1995 through 1997 with Neuroscience Associates and the Department of Anatomy at Michigan State University.

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## AWARDS AND HONORS

Chancellors Fellowship, Indiana University, 2001–2005.

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## ACADEMIC SERVICE

Served as a reviewer for Ubicomp 2006.

Served as a student representative to the School of Library and Information Science Doctoral Steering Committee. Fall 2004 through the present.

Served on the committees that organized the 2003 and 2004 SLIS Doctoral Student Research Forum and served as the master of ceremonies for both the 2003 and 2004 forums.

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## PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

Association for Computing Machinery, 2001–present.

American Society for Information Science and Technology, 2001–present.

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## SKILL SUMMARY

Java programming, 5+ years

Perl programming, 4+ years

PHP programming, 3+ years

HTML, 9+ years

CGI and SSI programming, 6+ years

SQL database programming (PostgreSQL, MySQL), 4+ years

C programming, 10+ years

UNIX (Solaris, Linux, FreeBSD), 10+ years

JavaScript programming, 3+ years

Macromedia Director and Lingo programming, 3+ years

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## REFERENCES

Susan Herring, Ph.D. (Dissertation Chair)  
Professor of Information Science  
Adjunct Professor of Linguistics  
School of Library and Information Science  
Indiana University  
320 E. 10th St., LI 037, Bloomington, IN 47405  
herring@indiana.edu

Hamid Ekbia, Ph.D. (Dissertation Committee Member)  
Associate Professor of Information Science  
Adjunct Associate Professor of Informatics  
School of Library and Information Science  
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Erik Stolterman, Ph.D. (Dissertation Committee Member)  
Director, Human-Computer Interaction Design  
Professor of Informatics  
School of Informatics  
Indiana University  
901 East Tenth Street  
Bloomington IN 47408  
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Jeffrey Bardzell, Ph.D. (Dissertation Committee Member)  
Assistant Professor of Informatics  
School of Informatics  
Indiana University  
1900 E. 10th Street, #938  
Bloomington, IN 47406  
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