

WRITING A SUCCESSFUL CHI PAPER (WORKSHOP IN THREE PARTS)

or, my perspective on it...

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Summer 2017

OUTLINE

- Part 1: **Workshop: Topic + Contribution**
 - About CHI
 - What makes CHI different
- Part 2: **Workshop: Paper Abstract**
 - Anatomy of a CHI paper
- Part 3: **Workshop: Paper Outline**
 - Lisa's Tips & Tricks
 - ~~CHI Notes vs CHI Papers~~
 - Additional Resources (slides available)
 - CHI submission quirks
 - Other CHI venues to consider

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WRITING A SUCCESSFUL CHI PAPER (PART 3)

07/18/2017

OUTLINE

- Lisa's Tips & Tricks
- ~~CHI Notes vs CHI Papers~~
- Workshop Time: Starting with an Outline
- Additional Resources (for your reference):
 - CHI submission quirks
 - Choosing a subcommittee
 - Keywords
 - Other CHI venues to consider

LISA'S TIPS & TRICKS

ADVICE ON WRITING

- **Start early** – you can write method, draft abstract and introduction, and related work before study is done or analysis is done!
- **Start a writing circle** – have other people read your paper **besides your advisor**.
- Include a **figure on page 1**.
- Use **everyday language** – don't try to sound 'smart'.
 - CHI is a general audience.
- Use online **CHI guides**:
 - <http://chi2015.acm.org/authors/format>
 - <http://chi2015.acm.org/authors/contributions-to-hci>
 - <http://chi2015.acm.org/authors/selecting-a-subcommittee>
 - <http://chi2015.acm.org/authors/chi-anonymization-policy>

PAPER WRITING PLAN

- Start with your **Abstract**.
 - Use my formula from Part #2!
- Expand to your **Introduction**.
 - See Part #2 for how.
- Write the **Method**.
 - You have already done this. It's just the facts. This should be easy to write.
- Don't focus on perfect text the first time. **Iterate iterate iterate**.
 - Some people assign planned lengths for each subsection and don't let themselves go over while writing. I usually write what I think I need and then cut to my planned lengths.

WRITING THE REST OF THE PAPER

- Don't get creative! Using a **standard structure** helps your reader (and reviewers) follow your paper.
- Think of writing the paper as a **user-centered design** problem.
 - Your reader is your user.
 - Make it easy to understand.
 - Make it fit user's mental model (of how a paper is).

TYPICAL OUTLINE FOR **STUDY** PAPER

- Abstract
- Introduction
- Related work
- Methodology / Procedure
 - Participants
- Analysis / Results
- Discussion / Design recommendations / General contributions
- Conclusion

TYPICAL OUTLINE FOR **SYSTEM** PAPER

- Abstract
- Introduction
- Related work
- Design process
- Architecture / Approach / Algorithm
- Validation / Evaluation
 - Maybe a small user study
- Discussion / Design recommendations / General contributions
- Conclusion

MAKE SURE TO GENERALIZE!

- Top 3 pieces of information missing from a rejected CHI paper***:
 - **Contributions**: spell them out in again!
 - **Generalizable knowledge**: how does what we learned in this paper branch out beyond the specific context of this paper, how have you informed the field
 - **Replicability**: include enough detail so someone else could run your study and replicate your results (not that anyone ever will, but that's a topic for another seminar!)

****from my 10 years of experience writing + receiving CHI reviews!*

WORKSHOP: STARTING WITH AN OUTLINE

WORKSHOP TIME:

- In small groups:
 - Create sub-sections for your paper based on one of the following outlines, annotate with what info each will have.

STUDY PAPER:

Abstract
Introduction
Related work
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Discussion / Design recommendations /
General contributions
Conclusion

SYSTEM PAPER:

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• ...

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- Group share-backs.... (projector)

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

CHI SUBMISSION QUIRKS

CHOOSING A SUBCOMMITTEE

- Subcommittee \neq describe your paper
 - Should reflect **core contribution**
 - Also determines type of researcher most qualified to **review** your paper
 - Perfect match is not needed – won't be penalized
- CHI provides: list of subcommittee chairs, committee members, and sample 'best match' papers.
 - Use this information to help you identify a good fit.
- If multiple subcommittees may fit, you can **email the subcommittee chair** prior to submission (probably several weeks in advance!) to ask for guidance.
- More from CHI on this:
<http://chi2015.acm.org/authors/selecting-a-subcommittee>

EXAMPLE SUBCOMMITTEES

- **Specific Application Areas:**
 - special populations or domains
 - Dr. Lok's virtual reality work
 - Dr. Gardner-McCune's work on computer-science education
- **Interaction Using Specific Capabilities or Modalities:**
 - future interface tech – hardware
 - Dr. McMullen's sonification and auditory I/O work
 - Dr. Jain's eye-tracking work
- **Interaction Techniques and Devices:**
 - future interface tech – software
 - Dr. Anthony's touch + gesture interaction work

KEYWORDS

- CHI uses **Precision Conference** to manage process.
- When submitting, you must choose relevant **keywords** for your submission.
 - Directly affects **reviewers** you will receive as well!
- (Note: these do not have to be the same as your in-paper keywords.)

Example keywords (not comprehensive):

Input and Interaction Technologies
Pen and Tactile Input
Children
Empirical Methods, Quantitative
User Studies
Empirical Methods, Mixed Methods

Pen-based UIs
Gestural Interaction
Touch Surfaces and Touch Interaction
Evaluation methods
Design guidelines
Novel interaction techniques

OTHER CHI VENUES

OTHER CHI VENUES TO CONSIDER (1)

- **Work-in-progress:**
 - Presented as poster at conference
 - 6-page Extended Abstracts format (short!)
 - Goes into ACM DL
 - Must be incomplete work – not ok to be ‘iffy’ work
- **Workshops:**
 - 1- or 2-day prior to conference, “mini-conference”
 - Very good networking opportunities, specific community who work on your area, important to see / be seen there
 - Not archival publication typically

OTHER CHI VENUES TO CONSIDER (2)

- **Alt.chi:**

- Only for very edgy material, not useful for most CHI rejects
- Not archival publication (but may appear in ACM DL)
- May be selected to present at CHI – only worth it for this
- Changes often!

CHI and the Future Robot Enslavement of
Humankind; A Retrospective

Humans Are The New Users: An
Examination Of Word Use In CHI
Literature

Texting from the Toilet: Mobile
Computing Use and Acceptance in
Public and Private Restrooms

Ethical Issues and Guidelines when
Conducting HCI Studies with Animals

“Un-Googling” Publications: The Ethics
and Problems of Anonymization

(alt.chi accepted submissions from CHI 2013)

OTHER CHI VENUES TO CONSIDER (3)

- **Demos / interactivity:**
 - Great way to showcase novel tech, especially new to CHI
 - Can accompany a Paper / Note but not required
 - 4-page Extended Abstracts paper, goes into ACM DL
- **Student Design / Research / Game Competitions:**
 - GREAT way to get visibility for UF at CHI!
 - Write a paper responding to challenge, then compete at CHI
 - 6-page Extended Abstracts paper, goes into ACM DL

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