

Proposal for *The iSchool Review* SIE for iConference 2016

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Abstract

The interdisciplinary nature of iSchools lends itself well to outstanding work but the best pieces, specifically by graduate students in professional degree programs, often go unnoticed. At present, there is no platform to showcase the best professional projects coming out of iSchools. This session will focus on the creation of *The iSchool Review*, which will highlight and preserve the most exciting work from the iSchool community.

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1 Purpose and Intended Audience

For our final project at the School of Information at the University of California, Berkeley, we are co-founding *The iSchool Review* (hereafter "Review"). Our goal is to showcase master's level work from professional degree students, all of which will be endorsed by at least one faculty member. Thus, we seek to lead an SIE at the iConference in order to present the Review and determine the most effective way to engage iSchools.

1.1 Purpose

The purpose of this session is to acquire feedback, support, and possible partnerships from members of the iSchool community so that the Review can include a robust selection of excellent works from master's students.

1.2 Intended Audience

The primary intended audience for this session are graduate students from professional degree programs. The secondary intended audience for this session are thought leaders and faculty members from iSchools across the world.

2 Proposed Activities

We will be dividing this session into four sections.

2.1 Presentation - 20 minutes

We will outline our short-term and long-term vision for the Review, especially as it relates to engaging the iSchool community beyond UC Berkeley. Additionally, we will demonstrate the technical structure that has been developed thus far.

2.2 Breakout Session A: Content - 30 minutes

We will facilitate discussion in small groups in order to get feedback from the participants, specifically in regards to what types of content are of interest, what the benchmarks for quality should be, and how to facilitate dialogue around the published works.

2.3 Breakout Session B: Structure and Management - 30 minutes

In the second session, we will discuss long-term sustainability and management, submission processes, partnerships, international reach, and general organizational issues.

2.4 Conclusions & Wrap-Up - 10 minutes

Closing remarks and guidelines for interested parties to submit for the Winter 2016 issue of the Review.

3. Relevance to the Conference

By developing the Review, we seek to fulfill three primary goals:

3.1 Build a platform to showcase the most impressive work from iSchool students in professional degree programs

Most of the best work from graduate students in professional degree programs currently goes unrecognized and unpublished. We are seeking to highlight and preserve this work in an organized and digestible way. The published pieces can serve as models for future students looking to create their own contributions or as inspiration for further research.

3.2 Establish a “digital first” publication, in both form and function.

The traditional design of academic publications has been limited by the affordances of paper. Many of these publications are not fully utilizing the new technologies available for publishing. The Review will be designed to showcase technologically-oriented work on an appropriately modern platform.

3.3 Create an artifact that demonstrably answers the question, “What is an iSchool?”

The interdisciplinary nature of iSchools makes it difficult to produce an all-encompassing definition for what an iSchool is. This is true for students, faculty and, most of all, for those outside the iSchool community. The Review seeks to answer that question by highlighting the best work coming out of iSchools

4. Length of Event

This event will last approximately 90 minutes.