



CECELIA MERKEL

TECHNOLOGY EXPERIENCE

- Web Design – Dreamweaver, Front Page, CSS, Photoshop, W3C standards
- Course Management – ANGEL, Moodle, University of Illinois LEEP system
- Office Productivity – Microsoft Office/Open Office suites
- Data Analysis – Nvivo, Survey Monkey, Access, some SPSS
- Collaboration/Project Management/Creativity – wikis, blogs, outliners, concept mapping

WORK HISTORY

Metadata Specialist, Penn State Outreach, Penn State, University Park, PA (2006- present)

In this project, I am working with WPSU and World Campus to understand the digital assets that each group manages (e.g. materials connected to a production or a lesson), the way this fits with their work practices, and the systems that they use to track and organize this material.

Project Manager, Civic Nexus Project, College of Information Sciences & Technology, Penn State, University Park, PA (2004- Aug. 2006)

In this project, the research team devised learning interventions to help nonprofits more effectively apply IT to their work.

- Assessed nonprofit technology needs and crafted appropriate learning interventions
- Supervised graduate and undergraduate students' data collection efforts
- Co-developed a community-wide technology workshop for nonprofits
- Conference presentations and scholarly writing

Content Developer, Development and Validation of Case Study Project, College of Information Sciences & Technology, Penn State, University Park, PA (2004- Aug. 2006)

This project involved the development and evaluation of case studies in usability engineering courses.

- Developed cases studies used in undergraduate usability engineering courses
- Involved in development of assessment tools and in the evaluation of learning outcomes

Curriculum Coordinator, Prairienet Community Computer Network, Champaign, IL (1998-2003)

This outreach project provided computer/Internet training, Internet access, and refurbished computers to over 750 low-income adults and teens in Champaign-Urbana, IL.

- Identified learning goals and prepared appropriate lesson plans and instructional materials
- Supervised trainers who taught computer/Internet courses
- Conducted “training the trainer” sessions for community organizations

Research Assistant/Teaching Assistant/Visiting Instructor, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, IL (1995-2003); Kent State University, Kent, OH (1992-1995)

COURSES TAUGHT

- Graduate and undergraduate level web design and Library and Information Science courses
- Undergraduate level public speaking courses
- Web design for nonprofits (with Schlow Library and CentreConnect)
- Pennsylvania State Governor's School, taught high school students web design/content management skills through the development of a site to encourage voting
- Computer and Internet basics for members of the general public (Prairienet)

PUBLICATIONS

- Merkel, C. B., Rosson, M.B. & Carroll, J.M. (2006). Using cases to teach usability engineering: Designing the Tapped In case study. *INNOVATIONS 2006: World Innovations in Engineering Education and Research* (INEER Special Volume). International Network for Engineering Education and Research.
- Merkel, C. B., Clitherow, M., Farooq, U., Xiao, L., Ganoe, C. H., Carroll, J. M. & Rosson, M. B. (2005). Sustaining computer use and learning in community contexts: Making technology part of "who they are and what they do". *Journal of Community Informatics*, 1 (2). Available from <http://ci-journal.net/viewarticle.php?id=53&layout=html>
- Merkel, C. B. (2005). Beyond deficit models of technology use: Viewing "have-nots" as active technology users. *Internet Research Annual: Selected papers from the Association of Internet Researchers Conferences (AOIR) 2003*, Volume 2, New York: Peter Lang Publishing Group.
- Merkel, C. B., Xiao, L., Farooq, U., Ganoe, C. H., Lee, R., Carroll, J. M., & Rosson, M. B. (2004). Participatory design in community computing contexts: Tales from the field. In *Proceedings of the eighth conference on participatory design: Artful integration: Interweaving media, materials and practices - Volume 1* (PDC 2004). ACM Press, New York, NY, pp.1-10.
- Mehra, B., Merkel, C. B., & Bishop, A. P. (2004). The internet for empowerment of minority and marginalized users. *New Media & Society*, 6 (6), 781-802.
- Bishop, A., Neumann, L., Star, S., Merkel, C., Ignacio, E., & Sandusky, R. (2000). Digital libraries: Situating use in changing information infrastructure. *Journal of the American Society for Information Science*, 51 (4), 394-413.
- Merkel, C. B. (1999). Folkloristics of educational spaces: Material lore in classrooms with and without walls. *Library Trends* 47 (3), 417-438.

EDUCATION

Ph.D., Library & Information Science, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
Relevant Courses: Instructional Design, Analysis of Advanced Instructional Technologies, Technologies for Learning, Evaluation of Information Technologies, Pragmatic Technology
 MA, Communication Studies, Kent State University
 BA, Communications and Political Science, Canisius College

RELEVANT URLS

Courses Taught With URLs:

Information Organization and Access. Department of Library and Information Science, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign (Fall, 2003). LEEP distance education Master's level course. (<http://leep.lis.uiuc.edu/fall03/LIS380LEC/>)

Web Design and Construction for Organizations. Department of Library and Information Science, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign (Spring, 2003 & Summer, 2003). Master's level course. (<http://leep.lis.uiuc.edu/summer103/LIS450LWA/>)

Web Technologies and Techniques. Department of Library and Information Science, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign (Fall, 2002). Undergraduate level course. (<http://leep.lis.uiuc.edu/fall02/LIS250w1a/>)

Previous Projects:

Civic Nexus, College of Information Sciences and Technology, Penn State

<http://cscl.ist.psu.edu/nexus>

Civic Nexus is a research project that involves working with nonprofits in Centre County to help them better use information technology in their work. I coordinate research and data collection activities for this group.

Community Information Technology Workshop (CITW)

<http://learn.centreconnect.org>

CITW is a technology conference designed to help nonprofits in Centre County learn about, plan for, and use technology more effectively. I am a member of the steering committee that started and currently organizes this workshop.

Usability Case Study Library (UCS), College of Information Sciences and Technology, Penn State

<http://ucs.ist.psu.edu>

The UCS library contains materials that document the design process for various computer applications. The cases are used in undergraduate usability engineering courses. I developed the Tapped In case (a portal for K-12 teachers) and am developing a new case for the library.

Prairienet/Community Networking Initiative (CNI)

<http://www.prairienet.org>

Prairienet is a community computer network that provides Internet access, web hosting services, and training to individuals and nonprofits in East Central Illinois. I organized the curriculum for the CNI project that provided free computer/Internet training, refurbished computer, and Internet access to over 750 low-income residents in Illinois.

Illinois Digital Library Initiative Project (DLI), Social Science Team. Research Assistant, Department of Library and Information Science, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, IL (Fall, 1996 to Summer, 1998). (http://dli.grainger.uiuc.edu/dlisoc/socsci_site/index.html)

The social science team was responsible for studying how scientists and engineers made use of a testbed containing engineering journals and the way that the use of this testbed impacted their work practices.

LEEP Virtual Community Project. Research Assistant, Department of Library and Information Science, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, IL (Fall, 1997 to Fall, 1998). (<http://alexia.lis.uiuc.edu/~ruhleder/LEEP/overview.html>)

The LEEP Virtual Community Project was an NSF funded study that investigated the work and learning practices occurring in a distance education program (LEEP) in the Department of Library and Information Science at the University of Illinois.

"Wired Organization" Project. Research Assistant, Department of Library and Information Science, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, IL (Summer, 1996 to Spring, 1997). (<http://alexia.lis.uiuc.edu/~ruhleder/thc/thc.html>)

This research group performed an ethnographic study of a holding company that made use of remote communication technologies to organize their work. The project morphed into the LEEP Virtual Community Project.