

Perceived Needs Statement

Summary

- Preliminary examination
 - Three statements approved; method statement left to revise
 - Finish preparation work
 - Take prelims during Spring 2012
- Prospectus and dissertation
 - Begin work in late Spring 2012, continue through Summer and Fall
 - Prospectus defense potentially during Fall 2012
- Publishable paper requirement
 - Working with Dr. Paul Marty on paper on VOSS observations
 - Will work with Dr. Sanghee Oh and Yong Jeong Yi on paper on social Q&A project (from my research collaboration)
- Other needs
 - Additional teaching / TA experience
 - Preparing Future Faculty (PFF) program
 - Conferences and professional organizations
 - Attend ALISE, iConference, ASIST as much as possible
 - Attend at least one other conference
 - JCDL, CSCW, Internet Research, possibly others
 - Remain active in ASIST and SIG SI

Introduction

In the coming year in the doctoral program at the School of Library and Information Studies (SLIS), I will be taking my preliminary exam and—assuming I successfully pass it—working on my prospectus for my dissertation. I also still need to complete the publishable paper requirement and the Preparing Future Faculty (PFF) plan, gain additional teaching and TA experience, and continue to attend conferences and be active in professional organizations.

Preliminary Examination

I have been preparing for my preliminary examination (prelims) since the beginning of the Summer 2011 semester, and have nearly completed prep. Three statements—major area, minor area, and theory—have been approved by my committee. My method statement is currently in the hands of my major professor, who is suggesting revisions which I will need to make before asking for comments and suggestions from my committee. Once they approve my method statement, I can finish my preparation work for my prelims. I expect this to be relatively quick because—as discussed and decided by myself and my chair—my statements are longer and more detailed than most. I plan to take the exam before the end of the Spring 2011 semester. I think this will likely happen around the last half of March, but earlier or later is also possible as my own schedule and commitments and the schedules of my committee and SLIS Director Corinne Jörgensen require. Unfortunately, on this schedule it is unlikely any of my LIS 6909 Prelim Prep credits can be converted to dissertation hours, per Graduate School policies.

Prospectus and Dissertation

Once I have successfully passed prelims, I will be working on my prospectus and dissertation. Writing my prelim statements, along with other research and teaching activities, has given me the opportunity to consider potential facets of social digital libraries, communities, collaboration, and related topics and theories that could serve as the basis for my dissertation study. I have many potential research questions in mind, of which only some may be appropriate for a dissertation. I will need to settle on the research questions I will answer in my dissertation study, balancing the need and desire to complete a deep and detailed study of the many interrelated facets against completing the dissertation in a timely fashion. I hope to have guidance from my chair and committee in this process. Once the research problem, purpose, and questions have been defined, I can revise the literature reviews I have written as part of my prelim statements, design the study appropriately, and complete the other necessary material (introduction, etc.) to be reviewed by my committee. While I am unsure how long this process will take, I am hopeful that I may be able to defend my prospectus sometime during the Fall 2012 semester. This will allow for data collection to begin in early 2013, with a dissertation defense no later than early 2014. I would then be on the faculty job market during 2014. This timeline may change to be earlier or later as my plans for my dissertation become clearer.

Publishable Paper

I have still not completed my publishable paper requirement, but hope to do so by the end of this year. While I already have one article published in *JASIST* where I am fourth author, I would like to publish papers where I am first or second author as well, and have those count for the requirement. Two research projects that I am involved with should allow for this opportunity during the year. First, I am working with Dr. Paul Marty on a paper for *Social Studies of Science* on the observations we completed in the NSF-funded VOSS project. I will be second author on this paper, which should be completed and submitted for publication during the Spring 2012 semester. Second, I will be working with Dr. Sanghee Oh and Yong Jeong Yi on a paper detailing the results of our research on the evaluation of answers in social Q&A. This will probably be submitted later than the VOSS paper, but may be published sooner depending on the journal and peer review process. I hope both can be published this year, but expect at least one will be and can serve as my publishable paper.

Other Needs

There are further needs I perceive—besides successful completion of my prospectus and dissertation—that I will need to complete before I can graduate. I currently have one semester of experience as a TA, for LIS 5916 Information Security and LIS 5472 Digital Libraries. Before going on the faculty job market, I feel I will need to at least TA (a) a core course and (b) an undergraduate course, to ensure I have the full range of experiences. Additional TA experience, and potentially teaching an undergraduate course as the primary instructor, would also be helpful. I will need to balance my experiences as a research assistant against teaching, and hope my committee can continue to guide me appropriately here.

I would also like to complete the last remaining area of my Preparing Future Faculty (PFF) plan that I have not completed. This is the area of Mentoring, for which I need to interview

(through any media) a faculty member from each of two institutions about the development of their careers. I hope to complete at least one of these interviews during this year.

In addition, I need to continue to attend conferences, present my research at those conferences, and be active in professional organizations. I am attending ALISE and the iConference in 2012, and plan to attend ASIST 2012 as well. Continued attendance at as many of these three conferences as I can manage to make is vitally important to my progress as a doctoral student and towards a faculty career. My attendance at ALISE this year is also necessary, given the place it serves in the process of obtaining a faculty position in LIS; attending will allow me to experience it before I am on the faculty job market. I also should attend at least one other, more specialized conference that is aligned with my research interests prior to graduation. Options I am considering—and need to discuss with my chair and committee—include the Joint Conference on Digital Libraries (JCDL) and Computer-Supported Cooperative Work (CSCW) conferences sponsored by ACM, and the Internet Research conference sponsored by the Association of Internet Researchers (AOIR). Other conferences may also be appropriate. Finally, I will need to continue to maintain my existing memberships in ASIST, ALISE, and ALA, and remain active in the ASIST Special Interest Group for Social Informatics (SIG SI). These activities will ensure I am visible in the field and especially within the circle of faculty conducting research similar to mine.