

2016 iSchools Doctoral Dissertation Award Competition: Call for Participation

Website: <http://ischools.org/the-iconference/program/dissertation-award/>

Deadline: 12 October 2015, 23:59 GMT

The iSchools Doctoral Dissertation Award promotes outstanding work in the information field, recognizing the best dissertation to have been completed at a member-iSchool in the preceding academic year. Competition Co-Chairs Michael Seadle and Shigeo Sugimoto invite iSchool member institutions to submit their nominations for the 2016 competition.

Nominations will be judged by a selection committee drawn from leading international schools. One winner and one runner-up will be named, with the winner receiving \$2,500 US and the runner up \$1,000 US. Both will also receive funding to help offset the cost of travel to iConference 2016 in Philadelphia, USA, where they will receive their awards.

New this year, complete dissertations may be submitted in their original language. This is being done to help promote broader participation. Accompanying documents must be in English, as described below and on our website at <http://ischools.org/the-iconference/program/dissertation-award/>.

Eligibility

Each iSchool can nominate only one applicant for the award. The applicant should have successfully defended their dissertation and completed their doctoral degree (including all final revisions, if any, and all final paper work) within the preceding academic year (July 1, 2014 to June 30, 2015). The dissertation research can be on any topic in the information field, broadly defined, and use any methodology.

Submission Materials for each Nomination

Submissions must be made by the school's dissertation chair or doctoral program director or equivalent. Individuals cannot self-nominate. All nominations must be received by 12 October 2015, 23:59 GMT.

The following three items should be submitted. Item #1 (summary paper) and Item #2 (letter) must be submitted in English. Item #3 (complete dissertation) may be submitted in its original language, with the understanding that an English translation may be requested later, as explained under Review Process.

Item #1: A summary paper of the dissertation research. The summary paper

should be up to 10 double-spaced pages with 12 point Times New Roman font and at least one-inch margins (excluding the title page and the references), and should consist of three sections: Title Page, Body, and References. The Title Page should contain the title of the dissertation, author name, email, phone number, address, current institution, advisor name and contact information, degree granting institution, and dissertation completion date. The Body of the summary paper should provide a comprehensive summary of the dissertation, introducing, for instance, the topic, the research context and questions, the theoretical or contextual framework, the methodology and methods, and the findings. The summary paper should be written for blind review; hence, all identifying information should be removed from the body of the paper and, as necessary, the references. The first page of the Body should include title, an abstract for up to 200 words, and a list of keywords. Tables and figures can be embedded in the text or attached at the end; they count toward the 10-page limit. The References section should include a list of references formatted in any appropriate style.

Item #2: A letter from the dissertation chair or the doctoral program director of the degree-granting institution. The letter attests that, (a) the summary paper is authored by the applicant only and is based on the applicant's dissertation; (b) the applicant is eligible for the award (see Eligibility); (c) the dissertation is regarded by the dissertation committee and the degree granting institution as being representative of the best level of their doctoral work; and (d) the name and contact information of an individual at the school who will assist in the review of Awards submissions. This can be the doctoral program director, or any faculty member that the degree-granting institution warrants is qualified to serve on the jury.

Item #3: A PDF version of the complete dissertation.

The above three documents should be combined into a single zipped file and submitted to our secure submission website in time for the 12 October deadline: <https://www.conftool.com/iConference2016/>

Review Process

Awards submissions go through a rigorous two-phase review procedure. In the first phase, which is anonymous, each dissertation summary is reviewed and discussed by a team of three reviewers and one of the dissertation award co-chairs. Five dissertations are then chosen for closer scrutiny. In the second phase, a smaller committee reads and discusses the five shortlisted dissertations in great detail in order to make the final decision. Depending on finalists and the makeup of the jury, an English translation of complete dissertations may be requested from submitting schools at this time; the submitting school is responsible for the cost of translation, if necessary.

The evaluation criteria are as follows:

Criteria for all dissertations:

1. Is the research question well designed? (10 points)
2. Is the research method appropriate to answer the research question? (10 points)
3. Does the literature review put the research question into context? (10 points)
4. Does the literature review put the research method into context? (10 points)

Additional criteria for empirical dissertations:

5. Are the data able to answer the research question? (12 points)
6. Are the data appropriate to the research method? (12 points)
7. Are special problems with data collection convincingly explained? (12 points)
8. Are the data analyzed correctly? (12 points)
9. Are the conclusions valid? (12 points)

Additional criteria for technology / computing dissertations:

5. Is the system design appropriate to the task? (12 points)
6. Is the structure of the solution efficient and reliable? (12 points)
7. Was the system tested fully under appropriate conditions? (12 points)
8. Is there a danger of brittleness (complete failure) or fragility? (12 points)
9. To what degree is the system generalizable? (12 points)

Valuation scale:

10 points out of 10 / 12 out of 12 means a perfect job.
8 points out of 10 / 10 out of 12 means only trivial problems
6 points out of 10 / 7 out of 12 means that the criterion was partly met
4 points out of 10 / 4 out of 12 means that the criterion had flaws
2 points out of 10 / 2 out of 12 means that the criterion was minimally acceptable
0 points out of 10 / 0 out of 12 means that the criterion was missing or seriously flawed.

Dissertation Award Co-Chairs

Michael Seadle, Berlin School of Library and Information Science, Humboldt Universität zu Berlin (seadle@hu-berlin.de)

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More

Additional information can be found on the Doctoral Dissertation Award page on the iConference 2016 website: <http://ischools.org/the-icongress/program/dissertation-award/>