

WRITING A SUCCESSFUL CHI PAPER (WORKSHOP IN THREE PARTS)

or, my perspective on it...

Lisa Anthony

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

WRITING A SUCCESSFUL CHI PAPER (PART 1)

06/20/2017

OUTLINE

- About CHI
 - CHI reviewing process
- What makes CHI different
 - Note vs Paper
- Workshop Time: What are my CHI paper's contributions?

ABOUT CHI

CHI CONFERENCE HISTORY

- CHI = “ACM SIGCHI Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems”
 - Cite it in full this way, or “CHI’XXXX”
- Primary **human-computer interaction** conference
 - Arguable about **human-centered computing** since that is broader, but CHI has become broader than HCI
 - I’d say it’s biggest, most important, general HC* conference out there: best place for high-impact work, networking, jobs
- Trivia:
 - First conference was in 1981 in MD
 - Rotates between US/Canada locations and Europe/Asia
 - 900 attendees in 1982; **3,400 in 2013**

Check out Twitter account
[@CHIalreadydidit](https://twitter.com/CHIalreadydidit)

TYPES OF PAPERS

- Submission lengths:
 - **Full Papers**: 10 pages (20 min talk at conference)
 - **Notes**: 4 pages (10 min talk at conference)
- Both in ACM SIGCHI double-column format
- If accepted, submit also:
 - statement of contributions + benefits (30 words)
 - 30-second video preview
 - thumbnail image for ACM DL
- (will talk about other submission types in part 2...)

SUBCOMMITTEES REFLECT TOPICS

- **User Experience and Usability** (e.g., general contributions regardless of domain)
- **Specific Application Areas** (e.g., special populations or domains)
- **Health, Accessibility, and Aging** (e.g., older adults/accessibility)
- **Privacy, Security, and Visualization** (e.g., specific topics here)
- **Interaction Beyond the Individual** (CSCW-ish)
- **Games and Play** (e.g., CHIPLAY-ish)
- **Design** (e.g., methods, research)
- **Interaction Techniques, Devices, or Modalities** (e.g., future interface hardware or software)
- **Understanding People: Theory, Concepts, Methods** (e.g., cognitive psych, psych)
- **Engineering Interactive Systems & Technologies** (e.g., systems, software engineering)
- (sub-committees do change so check every year...)

CHI REVIEWING PROCESS

- Papers due ~September 20th
- Double-blind reviews by 2-3 external reviewers, +1 meta reviewer
 - What does **double-blind review** mean?
- Rebuttal process ~1 week long in mid-November
 - What is a **rebuttal**?
- Final reviews include 2nd meta reviewer and possible discussion at PC
- Final decisions mid-December
- Camera ready papers due mid-January
 - What is a **camera-ready** paper? What kinds of changes can you make?
- Conference in mid-to-late April

WHAT MAKES CHI DIFFERENT?

GENERAL VS NICHE CONFERENCE

- What are some other conferences you all submit to?
- CHI is a **general** conference rather than a **niche** conference, e.g., compare to:
 - Interaction Design and Children
 - Intelligent Virtual Agents
 - Computer-Supported Collaborative Learning
 - Symposium on Applied Perception
- So: contributions are judged more strictly at CHI
 - Must be a **general contribution** that tells the entire field of HCI something
 - Must be work that has **no fatal flaws** and **clearly identifies limitations and scope** of the contributions

TYPES OF HCI CONTRIBUTIONS

- from Wobbrock & Kientz, interactions 2016
- **EMPIRICAL RESEARCH CONTRIBUTIONS**
 - Interview, diary, lab study, crowdsourced, or field study (Qual or Quant)
- **ARTIFACT CONTRIBUTIONS**
 - Input Device, System, Hardware toolkit, Input technique, Envisionment
- **METHODOLOGICAL CONTRIBUTIONS**
 - Method application, innovation, or adaptation, New measures, New instrument
- **THEORETICAL CONTRIBUTIONS**
 - Thought framework, Design space, Conceptual model, Design criteria, Quantitative model
- **DATASET CONTRIBUTIONS**
 - Test corpus, Benchmark tasks, Corpus creation, Repository, Global dataset
- **SURVEY CONTRIBUTIONS**
 - Techniques, Emerging topic, Tools, Domain, Technology
- **OPINION CONTRIBUTIONS**
 - Evaluation, Prioritization, Application, Vision, Definition

IS MY PAPER RIGHT FOR CHI?

- Ask yourself: what is my expected contribution?
 - Can the field of HCI learn something in general about **usability or designing systems for people** from my paper?
 - You will have more success the more **generalizable** you can be.
- A CHI paper should be the “**last word**” on a topic, e.g.:
 - You haven't left open too many remaining questions
 - You have considered all the main variables or design questions
 - You have advanced the potential usability of future systems
- Some limitations in scope are ok – but make sure you are open and clear about them in your paper!
 - Reviewers **love** to point out limitations as grounds for rejection.
 - If you mention them first, you establish the realistic bounds of the contribution and reviewers judge **that** instead.

ACCEPTANCE RATES AT CHI

- CHI is a **highly selective** conference, ~20%
 - 2014: 23%
 - 2013: 20%
 - 2012: 23%
 - 2011: 26%
 - 2010: 22%
 - 2009: 25%
 - 2008: 22%
 - 2007: 25%
- Typically, CHI receives almost 2,000 submissions (about 400 Papers & Notes appear).

NOTES VS PAPERS AT CHI

- Many conferences have both short & long papers.
 - CHI has Papers and Notes.
- It's critical to understand that a Note is **not**:
 - A report on work in progress or not yet complete.
 - A high-level report with little detail on completed work.
 - A shorter version of a longer journal or conference paper.
- The standard of judgment is the same, but a Note is recognized as a “focused and succinct contribution.”
 - But the contribution must still be **significant** and stand on its own to advance the field of HCI.

WORKSHOP: WHAT ARE MY CHI PAPER'S CONTRIBUTIONS?

WORKSHOP TIME:

- In small groups:
 - What is your potential CHI paper topic?
 - What are your contribution(s) and contribution type(s)?
 - Contribution Types:
 - Empirical Research, Artifact, Methodological, Artifact, Theoretical, Dataset, Survey, Opinion
- Group share-backs...

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