

ABIR SAHA

User Researcher with 5 Years of Expertise in User-Centered Design & Accessibility

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WORK EXPERIENCE

Lead Researcher | Northwestern University

Sep 2018 – Present

- Spearheaded end-to-end execution – encompassing study design, recruitment, hands-on data collection, and analysis – of 4 primary research studies on addressing accessibility needs of blind content creators.
- Identified accessibility issues in audio production software through contextual inquiry and field studies with 20+ blind content creators.
- Uncovered onboarding challenges faced by blind users of audio production tools through online content analysis and in-depth interviews.
- Translated research findings to generate actionable design decisions and led the design and usability testing of an application to improve accessibility of learning audio production tools.
- Supervised an undergraduate student in award-winning accessibility research.
- Disseminated findings to academics and industry experts through 5+ publications and 3+ presentations at top Human-Computer Interaction venues such as CHI and ASSETS.

Teaching Assistant | Northwestern University

Jan 2022 – Mar 2022

- Mentored a class of 50+ undergraduate students on fundamentals of UX Research.
- Guided students in prototyping and usability testing.

Research Assistant | Indiana Univ. – Purdue Univ. Indianapolis (IUPUI)

Aug 2016 – Jun 2018

- Led the design of industry-standard, patented equipment to test safety features of self-driving cars.
- Collaborated with 15+ engineers and researchers from Toyota, IUPUI, and Ohio State University.
- Communicated research findings to academics, industry partners, and media outlets through quarterly presentations and reports, academic publications, and news media interviews.

Freelance Researcher

Apr 2017 – Jan 2018

- Led an online survey (N=93) and translated findings into design goals for tailoring user experience of social media to support mothers facing postpartum depression.
- Generated actionable guidelines for designing Autism support smart technologies.

SKILLS

Methods: In-depth interviews, field observation, contextual inquiry, usability testing, ethnography, online content analysis, thematic analysis, survey design, experiment design, statistical analysis, prototyping.

Tools: Survey (Qualtrics, Google Forms), qualitative analysis (Atlas.ti, NVivo), wireframing (Figma), assistive technology (screen readers).

Programming: Python, R.

EDUCATION

PhD in Technology & Social Behavior (CS + Communication) | Northwestern University (Expected Dec 2023)

MS in Technology & Social Behavior (CS + Communication) | Northwestern University (Jun 2023)