

Zahra Ashktorab

AY 2016- 17 All-STAR Fellow

College of Information Studies

Department of Information Studies

Third year doctoral student, RA



My service as a graduate research assistance has enhanced my graduate education experience in several ways. As a graduate research assistant I have had the opportunity to collaborate with my advisors on projects that require multidisciplinary skills. From developing social media applications to leading diverse technology design sessions, I have had the opportunity to grow as a researcher by being involved in interdisciplinary projects during my time as a graduate research assistant.

I feel fortunate to have been advised by Jen Golbeck and Jessica Vitak, advisors from multiple disciplines within the field of Information Studies. I have been able to leverage quantitative and qualitative methods and increase my expertise in various research methods while addressing important research questions. As a graduate research assistant I have picked up on valuable skills that will serve to be useful throughout my career like time management skills and clear communication with diverse team members. I have had the opportunity to work in diverse teams and learned to communicate clearly while working under the pressure of deadlines with researchers who have diverse skill sets and backgrounds.

As a graduate research assistant, I have explored a diverse array of research opportunities. I have been able to pursue my research interest with the help of thoughtful feedback from my advisors. My experience as a graduate research assistant has allowed me to be a better researcher in the field of Information studies and has given me the resources to pursue research areas about which I am passionate.