Call for Presentations and Posters
Undergraduate Research Symposium and Competition
Computers & Writing 2018

Deadline for submissions: Friday, January 19, 2018
Conference host: George Mason University, Dr. Douglas Eyman
Location: Fairfax, VA
Contact email: deyman@gmu.edu

The 34th Computers and Writing Conference will be held at George Mason University May 24 – 27, 2018. This year, the conference is partnering with GMU’s award-winning Office of Scholarship, Creative Activity, and Research (OSCAR), to offer an undergraduate research symposium as part of the C&W conference.

We invite proposals from undergraduate scholars and researchers who work in any area that addresses questions at the intersections of communication and technology. Our theme for the 2018 Computers and Writing conference is Digital Phronesis: Culture/Code/Play. Often described as “practical wisdom,” phronesis represents an enactment of good judgment guided by both learned knowledge and lived experience – thus, we encourage presentations that speak not just to the outcomes of research projects but also the research experience and the lessons learned from it.

We welcome proposals for both presentations and posters, and we are interested in completed projects as well as works-in-progress. We hope to see projects that will be completed this fall, but we are also interested in works-in-progress or being completed during the spring semester (which is why the proposal review process is set for January). Proposals will be peer-reviewed and notification of acceptance will be sent by February 16.

Presentations and Posters will be judged separately, and each delivery medium will be eligible for one of the three awards, each of which focuses on a key component of research: the contribution (asking the right question and providing excellent analysis), the methods, and the dissemination of results. Judges will determine awards for:

- Outstanding Contribution to Research in Technology and Communication,
- Outstanding Contributions to New Research Methods in Technology and Communication, and
- Outstanding Presentation of Technology and Communication Research.
Session Types and Instructions

- Panel Presentation, with 3 to 4 presenters - 150- to 200-word abstract, 600-word proposal
- Individual Presentation, 75- to 100-word abstract, 250-word proposal
- Poster presentation, by individual or collaborative presenters (1 poster per submission) - 150 to 200-word abstract. Note: Posters will be displayed during all three days of the conference, but presenters must be present for potential discussions during one set poster session time.

Panel presentations, individual presentations, and poster presentations will be scheduled during 75-minute concurrent sessions, on May 25, 26, or 27. Each presenter can anticipate having 15 to 20 minutes to present.

Proposal Format and Instructions

Each panel, presentation, or poster proposal should include a coversheet that lists

- the title of the panel, presentation, or poster
- the name(s), school affiliation, and email for each presenter
- A clear indication of whether the proposal is for a panel, individual (or dual) presentation, or poster

The proposal itself should not include identifying information if possible (e.g. the name of your institution or the names of presenters). For presentations and posters, refer to yourself as ‘the speaker’ or ‘the presenter’; for panels, use ‘Speaker 1,’ ‘Speaker 2,’ ‘Speaker 3,’ and so on to refer to the presenters on the panel (on the cover sheet, indicate which person is covered by each speaker designation).

Titles should be descriptive, but not overly long. You need not refer to the conference theme in the title.

The proposal itself should include a clear description of the research question, a brief overview of methods, and a preview of the findings (for completed projects; works-in-progress should speak to expectations of findings). These are fairly short proposals, but a note about previous research or work that you are drawing on/following up on is appropriate. Be sure to provide a works cited section (which does not count toward the word limit) if you make any references in the proposal (use whatever citation style is appropriate for your field). The proposal should also include a statement that helps show the value of the research (why is it needed? Who might it help? What prompted you to ask the question?).

The abstract condenses the proposal and provides key moves: an introduction that explains the context or need for the research, a description of your project and its goals, an overview of methods, a report of outcomes or results, and a statement about the contribution the research offers in light of its results. Each of these moves should take about one sentence.

For the Undergraduate Research Symposium, please email proposals directly to Dr. Eyman at deyman@gmu.edu. Please contact Dr. Eyman, CW 2018 chair with questions.