

**Gerald Benoit, Ph. D.**

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**Education**

Ph. D., 1998      University of California, Los Angeles,  
Graduate School of Education and Information Studies.  
Dissertation Title: *Information Seeking as Communicative Action.*

M. S., 1984      Columbia University, New York, NY.

B. A., 1983      Univ. of California, Davis. Double majors: French and Russian.

*Additional education:*

2005      Discrete Mathematics, Harvard University, Div. of Continuing Education.

Graphic Design, 1986      The Art Center, Los Angeles, course work.

Certificate, Russian      US Navy, Defense Language Institute, Monterey, CA. Honorably discharged veteran.

**Experience**

**Simmons College**, 300 The Fenway, Boston, MA 02115 USA.

2006 - Present      **Associate Professor**, Director Information Science & Technology concentration  
Computer Science and School of Library & Information Science.

2012-present      3+1 BS/MS program director (Computer Science/GSLIS).

2008      Visiting Professor, University of Washington.

2006-present      Harvard University, House Associate, Adams House Faculty Tutor.

2006-present      Occasional consultant on information systems design, use, and work flow analyses for local organizations and international businesses in the Boston area.

2003-2006      **Assistant Professor**

**Teaching** - *doctoral, masters, and undergraduate levels; 6-7 different classes per academic year.*

Course links, research, and other activities are available at <http://web.simmons.edu/~benoit/index.html>

1. Systems Analysis & Design [LIS486/CS343/CS545]
2. Information Visualization [LIS593d]
3. Statistics [LIS621]
4. Information Retrieval [LIS466]
5. Technical Foundations of Information Science [LIS489]
6. Tech for Information Professionals [LIS488]
7. Data Interoperability and Web-Centric Programming [LIS531z]
8. Extensible Markup Language [LIS469]
9. Relational Database Management [LIS458]
10. Visual Communication (taught in Boston; Paris and Rome summer programs) [LIS470]
11. Web Development/Information Architecture [LIS460]
12. History, Concepts, and Research Opportunities [Doctoral Seminar] [LIS620]
13. Human-Computer Interaction [no longer offered]

14. Evaluation Research [LIS407]

**University of Kentucky**, College of Communications & Information Studies, Lexington, KY USA.

1998 - 2003 **Assistant Professor**

**Teaching** - *doctoral and masters levels; 4-5 classes per academic year.*

1. Systems Analysis & Design
2. Information Technology
3. Information Storage and Retrieval
4. Bioinformatics
5. Introduction to Microcomputing

**Univ of California - Los Angeles**, Graduate School of Education & Information Studies, Dept. of Information Science, Los Angeles, CA USA.

1994-1998 **Research Associate III.**

National Science Foundation Research Associate. Multimedia, graphic & interface design, Java programming and application of extended archival descriptors to research project testing students as creators/consumers of primary scientific materials.

**Univ of California, Davis**, School of Medicine, Davis, CA USA.

1992-1994 **Programmer/Analyst II.**

Systems analysis, database programming, documentation and training for all financial, statistical, administrative computing.

**Univ of California, Berkeley**, College of Chemistry, Berkeley, CA USA.

1988 - 1992 **Programmer/Analyst I.**

- Database programming for financial, statistical, and student registration and grading applications.
- Analysis and design of existing and planned computer-based systems, implementation, project management, and maintenance.
- Prepare user and technical documentation; train users.

**Imada Wong Park + Benoît, Art Director and Partner**

1986-1988 Asian-language marketing firm.

Wilshire Blvd., Los Angeles, CA. Firm continues as Imada Wong <http://www.iwgroupinc.com>



**Publication and Conference Activities**

*Recently Submitted or underway: articles*

- Critical Theory & Con-fusions in Information Studies [being re-submitted]
- Information behaviors of bilingual students in education (with Peishan Tsai Bartley)
- Information discovery innovation: how a successful project failed (with Lisa Hussey) [revisions]
- Expanding, facilitating, and applying ruby to explore user engagement with encoded texts [re-submitted]
- Participatory Computing Project (with digital humanities faculty and Boston Public Library)

*Monographs being developed*

- Information Seeking as Communicative Action
- Habermas and Participatory Computing

### **Software and Web Applications** for research and service projects:

Print Department Integrated Information System: record creation, retrieval, integration, and interoperability project for Boston Public Library - started 2016 and continues. ([development version](#))

To support teaching and research projects, students and I program using Java, PHP, MySQL, jQuery tools for client-, server-side, and mobile apps. On-going information system, retrieval, and visualization project on grant-funded project server for participatory computing.

### **Publishing Activities:**

*Journal Publications (Refereed or peer reviewed): (most available from my homepage)*

- Benoit, G. (2016). The 'beautiful' in information: thoughts about visual literacy and aesthetics. *Journal of Visual Literacy*. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/1051144X.2016.1205831>.
- Benoit, G. (2015, Fall). Visual literacy as an information activity. *Journal of Visual Literacy*, pp. 46-55.
- Benoit, G. (2014). "The Aesthetic Turn". *Preservation, Digital Technology & Culture*.
- Benoit, G. (2014). Meta-contextualist model for information seeking (poster). ISIC
- Benoit, G. (2013). *Critical theory*. In T. D. Wilson & Em. Maceviciute (Eds.) *Theories of Information Behavior Research - an information research reader*. London: Eiconics.
- Benoit, G., & Agarwal, N. (2012). All-visual retrieval: how people search for and respond to an affect-driven visual information retrieval system. *Proceedings, ASIST*.
- Benoit, G. (2012). Measuring relevance theory's effects in an image-driven explorative information system. *iConference '12 Proceedings*. New York: ACM, 438-440.
- Benoit, G. (2012). auroraDL and responding to end-user digital library needs. New York: *ACM Proceedings of the 2012 iConference*, pp. 444-446.
- Benoit, G. (2011-Dec.). Integrating use history as a context for dynamically-updated metadata. *Journal of Library Metadata*, 11 (3-4), 129-154.
- Benoit, G. (2011). *Critical theory in Library & Information Science*. [Review]. *LISR*.
- Benoit, G., & Hussey L. (2011). Repurposing digital objects: Case studies across the publishing industry. *JASIST*, 62 (2), 363-374.
- Benoit, G. (2010). The 'beautiful' in information: philosophy of aesthetics and information visualization. *2nd International Conference on the Theory of Information Retrieval*. Microsoft Research, Cambridge, UK. *Lecture Notes on Computer Science*, Springer Verlag.
- Benoit, G., & Rashid, F. (2009, Nov.). Iraq's Digital Library Dilemma: OpenSource Digital Objects Repository architecture, tools, and interface project. *ASIST*, Vancouver, BC.
- Benoit, G. (2008, Oct.). Interactive 3D Visual Retrieval for Art History Education. *Proceedings ASIST*
- Benoit, G. (2007, Oct.). Critical Theory and the Legitimacy and Information Science. *Information Research*, 12(4). <http://InformationR.net/ir/12-4/colis01.html>
- Chan, L. M. (2007). Contributed section on SGML and XML for Chan's *Cataloging and Classification*. New York: McGraw-Hill.
- Benoit, G. (2007). Theory of Communication Action and LIS. *Epistemological Lifeboat*, B. Hørland, Ed. [www.db.dk/jni/lifeboat/home.htm](http://www.db.dk/jni/lifeboat/home.htm)
- Benoit, G. (2005). Theory of Communicative Action. In K. Fisher, S. Erdelez, & L. McKechnie (Eds.), *Theories of information behavior: a researcher's guide*. Medford, NJ: Information Today.
- Benoit, G. (2005). Application of Markov chains in an interactive information retrieval system. *Information Processing & Management*, 41, 843-857. DOI:10.1016/j.ipm.2004.06.005

- Benoit, G. (2004). Bioinformatics. In B. Cronin (Ed.), *Annual Review of Information Science and Technology*, vol. 40. Medford, NJ: Information Today for ASIST.
- Benoit, G., Chan, L.-M., Andrews, J. E. (2004). "lois" - locally-organized information system. Information Seeking in Context, Dublin, Ireland, Sept. 2004. *Information Research*.
- Benoit, G. (2004, April). Properties-based retrieval and user decision states: user control and behavior modeling. *Journal of the American Society for Information Science & Technology*, 55(6), 471-487.
- Benoit, G. (2002, Oct.). Towards a critical theoretic perspective in information systems. *Library Quarterly*, 72(4), 444-474.
- Benoit, G. (2002, Sept.). Properties-based tailoring of information seeking contexts. *New Review of Information Seeking Behavior Research*, 3/4, Sept. 2002/2003.
- Benoit, G. (2001). Critical theory as a foundation for pragmatic information systems design. *Information Research*, 6(2). <http://www.shef.ac.uk/~is/publications/infres/6-2/paper98.html>
- Benoit, G. (2002). Data discretization for novel information discovery. *Journal of the American Society for Information Science & Technology*, 53(9), 736-746.
- Benoit, G. (2002). Data mining. In B. Cronin (Ed.), *Annual Review of Information Science and Technology (ARIST)*, vol. 36, pp. 265-310. Medford, NJ: Information Today for ASIST.
- Benoit, G. (2002, May). Interactive visualization for resource co-location, *Special Supplement MLA '02 Abstracts*, Medical Library Assoc., Dallas, TX, p. 36.
- Benoit, G. (2002). Markov-Chain model for evidence-adaptive clinical decision support system. *Proceedings*, American Medical Informatics Association, San Antonio, TX.
- Benoit, G. (2002, Nov.). Weighted Markov chains and interactive graphic state nodes for information retrieval. *Proceedings of the American Society for Information Science Annual Meeting*, pp. 115-123.
- Benoit, G., & Andrews, J. (2000). Data discretization for novel resource discovery in large medical datasets. *Proceedings of the American Medical Informatics Association Symposium*, 61-5. <http://www.amia.org/pubs/symposia/D200636.pdf>
- Stapley B. J., & Benoit, G. (2000). BioBibliometrics: information retrieval and visualization from co-occurrences of gene names in Medline abstracts. *Proceedings of the Pacific Symposium of Biocomputing*, 5, 529-540.

*Conference Presentations, Invited Lecturers, & Posters sessions at conferences (peer-reviewed):*

- Benoit, G. (2015, Dec. 7). Information Visualization Ecosystem: room for all. Univ. of Rhode Island.
- Benoit, G. (2012). auroraDL and responding to end-user digital library needs. iSchool Conference, Toronto, ONT
- Benoit, G., Hussey, L., & Bartley, P. (2012). Digital Object Repurposing. ASIST Annual Conference.
- Benoit, G., & Rashid, F. (2009, Nov.). Iraq's Digital Library Dilemma: OpenSource Digital Objects Repository architecture, tools, and interface project. *ASIST*, Vancouver, BC.
- Benoit, G., Bartley, P. T., & Hussey, L. (2009, Nov.). Repurposing digital objects: seven case studies across the publishing and information industry. *ASIST*, Vancouver, BC
- Benoit, G. Interactive 3D Visualization for Art History Education, ASIST annual conference, Columbus, OH, Oct 25, 2008.
- Benoit, G. Doctoral seminar - 3d visualization, University of Washington, Seattle. January 2008.
- Benoit, G. Critical theory and the legitimacy of information science. CoLIS7, Högskolan i Borås, Sweden, August 16, 2007.

- Benoit, G. Cross-language information retrieval. International Federation of Library Associations, Buenos Aires, Argentina, 2004.
- Benoit, G. Weighted Markov chains and graphic state nodes for information retrieval. American Society for Information Science & Technology Annual Meeting, Philadelphia, Nov. 2002.
- Benoit, G. Properties-based tailoring of information seeking contexts. Information Seeking in Context, Lisbon, Portugal, Sept. 2002.
- Benoit, G. Markov-Chain Model for Evidence-Adaptive Clinical Decision Support System. American Medical Informatics Association, San Antonio, TX, 2002.
- Benoit, G. Interactive visualization for resource co-location. Medical Library Assoc., 2002.
- Benoit, G. Applying Communicative Action to Inter-group Computer Mediated Cooperative Work. International Communications Association annual conference, Seoul, S. Korea, June 2002 (co-author, James Andrews).
- Benoit, G. Interactive Visualization for Resource Co-Location, Medical Library Assoc., Dallas, TX, May 2002.
- Benoit, G. Data discretization for novel resource discovery in large medical datasets. Proceedings of the American Medical Informatics Association Symposium, Los Angeles, CA, November 2000.
- Benoit, G. Critical theory as a foundation for pragmatic information systems design, Information Seeking in Context 2000, Gothenburg, Sweden, August 16-18, 2000.
- Benoit, G. PCSB 2000: Pacific Conference on Structural Biology - BioBibliometrics: information retrieval and visualization from co-occurrence of gene names in Medline abstracts.
- Benoit, G. ISMB1999, 7th International Conference on Intelligence Systems for Molecular Biology, Heidelberg, Germany, Aug 6-10, 1999 (co-author Benjamin J. Stapley, Univ. of Sheffield, UK).
- Benoit, G. Logic, language and communication in information systems. Graduate Communications Seminar, University of Kentucky, October 7, 1999.
- Benoit, G. Systems, Theories & Language: the cyclic nature of technological change. Univ. of Rhode Island, Graduate School of Library & Information Science, April 19, 1999.
- Benoit, G. The Use of Information Technology in the Foreign Language Curriculum, Middlebury College, June 9, 1998.

**Grant Projects** (only funded ones listed; submissions are included)

- Benoit, G., & Leonard, D. (2015-). Dole Fund. Properties of Metadata in Information Discovery. \$3,000. [web.simmons.edu/~benoit/midproject/index.html](http://web.simmons.edu/~benoit/midproject/index.html)
- Benoit, G. (2013-). Information Science Experience Lab. President's Fund for Excellence, Simmons College, \$7900.
- Benoit, G., & Agarwal, N. (2012). End-user interface experience project. Hollowell Grant.
- Thomasian, R., Arakelyan, A., & Benoit, G. (2006-2010). Bilezikian Foundation Grant, \$104,620, multilingual digital library project.
- Benoit, G. (2006-7). Phrasal parsing of English and Chinese bilingual corpora. Hollowell Grant.
- Johnson, J. D., N. Harrington, J. Andrews, G. Benoit, et al. CECCR - RO1: "Increasing the Effectiveness of Tailored Health Message" (a multimedia project) National Institutes of Health. \$10,000,000.
- Jeng, L-H., & Benoit, G. (2000). National Leadership Grants, IMLS, LL-90187-99, "Improving electronic information seeking in emerging fields of research: a case of bio-acoustics", \$214,000.
- Benoit, G. (2000). Summer research fellowship. Univ. of Kentucky, \$5,000.

**Language Skills**

English (native)

French (near-native)  
German, Russian, Spanish, Sign Language (conversational)  
Swedish, Italian (basic conversational, but read, write easily)

### **Multimedia and Web App Skills**

<i>Programming and Scripting</i>	Java, C++, SPSS, R JavaScript, PHP, Perl, Unix Standalone applications, Java servlets and applets iPad application development
<i>Visualization</i>	d3.js, jQuery libraries; Tableau
<i>XML</i>	Facility with XML DTD, Schema creation, XML Extensible Style Language (XSLT) XML-Formatting Objects, Programming for XML record processing
<i>Web Servers</i>	Apache Tomcat, Jakarta; Hadoop
<i>RDBMS</i>	MySQL, Oracle
<i>Design Software</i>	Adobe Creative Suite: Illustrator, Photoshop, DreamWeaver, InDesign, Adobe Premiere, Final Cut Express
<i>HTML</i>	HTML4 and HTML5; Cascading Style Sheets (CSS3)