

# RONG TANG

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## EDUCATION

- Ph.D., Information Science**, December 1999. University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, NC
- M.L.S., Information Studies**, August 1995. Wayne State University, Detroit, MI
- M.A., Modern Chinese Literature**, June 1992. Ohio State University, Columbus, OH
- M.A., Classic Chinese Literature**, August 1989. Renmin University of China, Beijing, PRC
- B.A., Chinese Languages and Literature**, August 1986. Renmin University of China, Beijing, PRC

## EMPLOYMENT

- Associate Professor**, Graduate School of Library and Information Science, Simmons College. July 2009  
– Present
- Assistant Professor**, Graduate School of Library and Information Science, Simmons College. July 2006  
– January 2009
- Assistant Professor**, School of Library and Information Science, Catholic University of America.  
September 2003 – May 2006
- Assistant Professor**, School of Information Science and Policy, State University of New York at Albany.  
January 2000 – August 2003

## SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

### I. Refereed Journal Articles and Conference Papers

- Tang, R., & Hillson, S. B. (2009). How do academics use electronic resources for research? A comparative analysis of user trends. Paper accepted to appear in the Proceedings of American Psychological Association Convention 2009.

- Safer, M. A., & Tang, R. (2009). The psychology of referencing in psychology journal articles. *Perspectives on Psychological Science*, 4(1), 51-53.
- Tang, R., & Thelwall, M. (2008). A hyperlink analysis of US public and academic libraries' Web sites. *Library Quarterly*, 78(4), 419-435.
- Tang, R. (2008). Citation characteristics and intellectual acceptance of scholarly monographs. *College & Research Libraries*, 69(3), 356-369.
- Tang, R., & Safer, M.A. (2008). Author-rated importance of cited references in biology and psychology publications. *Journal of Documentation*, 64(2), 246-272.
- Calarco, P., Scofield, J. Tang, R., & Little, J. (2007). User transaction log parsing and analysis in MetaLib QuickSearch 3.13. Ex Libris Users of North America (ELUNA) 2007 Meeting, June 5-8, 2007. Spearfish, SD.
- Tang, R., Hsieh-Yee, I. & Zhang, S. (2007). User perceptions of MetaLib Combined Search: An investigation of how users make sense of Federated Searching. *Internet Reference Service Quarterly*, 12(1), 211-236.
- Hsieh-Yee, I., Tang, R., & Zhang, S. (2006). User perceptions of a federated search system. Joint Conference on Digital Libraries 2006, 338.
- Ng, K. B., Kantor, P., Strzalkowski, T., Wacholder, N., Tang, R., Bai, B., Rittman, R., Song, P., & Sun, Y. (2006). Automated judgment of document qualities. *Journal of the American Society for Information Science and Technology*, 57(9), 1155-1164.
- Tang, R., & Thelwall, M. (2004). Patterns of national and international Web inlinks to US academic departments: An analysis of disciplinary variations. *Scientometrics*, 60(3), 475-485.
- Tang, R. (2004). Evolution of the interdisciplinary characteristics of Information and Library Science. *Proceedings of the American Society for Information Science and Technology*, 41, 54-63.
- Tang, R. (2004). Visualizing interdisciplinary citations to and from Information and Library Science publications. *Proceedings of Eighth International Conference on Information Visualization*, 972-977.
- Tang, R., Ng, K. B., Strzalkowski, T., & Kantor, P. B. (2003). Toward machine understanding of information quality. *Proceedings of 2003 Annual Meeting of American Society for Information Science and Technology*, 40, 213-220.
- Tang, R. & Thelwall, M. (2003). U.S. academic departmental Website interlinking in the United States: Disciplinary differences. *Library & Information Science Research*, 25, 437-458.
- Thelwall, M., & Tang, R. (2003). Disciplinary and linguistic considerations for academic Web linking: An exploratory hyperlink mediated study with Mainland China and Taiwan. *Scientometrics*, 58(1), 155-181.
- Thelwall, M., Tang, R. & Price, E. (2003). Linguistic patterns of academic Web use in Western Europe. *Scientometrics*, 56(3), 417-432.
- Ng, K.B., Tang, R., Small, S., Song, P., Strzalkowski, T., Kantor, P. B., Rittman, R., Sun, Y., & Wacholder, N. (2003). Identification of effective predictive variables for document qualities. *Proceedings of 2003 Annual Meeting of American Society for Information Science and Technology*, 40, 221-229.

Tang, R., & Thelwall, M. (2002). Exploring the pattern of links between Chinese university Web sites. *Proceedings of the 2002 Annual Meeting of the American Society for Information Science and Technology*, 39, 417-424.

Tang, R. (2002). An integrated framework for Web searching research: Learning, problem solving, and search tasks. *Proceedings of the Fourth International Conference on Conceptions of Library and Information Science (CoLIS4)*, 49-67.

Springer, E., & Tang, R. (2002). Query structure on a Web meta-search engine: A communication perspective. *Proceedings of the Fourth International Conference on Conceptions of Library and Information Science (CoLIS4)*, 323-326.

Tang, R., & Solomon, P. (2001). Use of relevance criteria across stages of document evaluation: On the complementarity of experimental and naturalistic studies. *Journal of American Society for Information Science and Technology*, 52(8), 676-685.

Tang, R. (2001). Developing multilingual academic websites: A study of Chinese university web design for the Chinese and the English Versions. *Proceedings of the 2001 Annual Meeting of the American Society for Information Science and Technology*, 458-471.

Tang, R. (2001). University Web site design in Mainland China and Taiwan: A comparative study on the Chinese version and the English version. *Proceedings of National Conference on Asian Pacific American Librarians (NCAPAL)*, June 13-15. San Francisco, CA: Asian/Pacific American Librarians Association and the Chinese American Librarians Association.

Ho, J., & Tang, R. (2001). Towards an optimal resolution to information overload: An infomediary approach. *Proceedings of the ACM 2001 International Conference on Supporting Group Work*, 91-96.

Tang, R., Vevea, J. L., & Shaw, W. M., Jr. (1999). Towards the identification of the optimal number of relevance categories. *Journal of the American Society for Information Science*, 50(3), 254-264.

Tang, R., & Solomon, P. (1998). Towards an understanding of the dynamics of relevance judgment: An analysis of one person's search behavior. *Information Processing and Management*, 34(2/3), 237-256.

## **II. Book Chapter**

Tang, R., Hsieh-Yee, I. & Zhang, S. (2007). User perceptions of MetaLib Combined Search: An investigation of how users make sense of federated searching. In C. N. Cox (Ed.), *Federated search: Solution or setback for online library services* (pp. 211-236). Binghamton, NY: Haworth.

## **III. Book Review**

Tang, R. (2009). Information Technology in Librarianship (Book Review). *Library & Information Science Research*.

Tang, R. (2004). Applied Informatics for Information Retrieval Research (Book Review). *Portal: Libraries and the Academy*, 4(3), 431-432.

## **IV. Dissertation**

Tang, R. (1999). *Use of relevance criteria across stages of document evaluation: A micro level and macro level analysis*. Doctoral Dissertation: University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

## RESEARCH ACTIVITIES

### I. 2009 - Present

**Referee**, *Library & Information Science Research*. May 2010, June 2010.

**Presenter**, "Usability Studies and Harvard Catalyst Website Redesign." Presentation to Boston CHI. May 12, 2010. Cambridge, MA.

**Presenter**, "Usability Evaluation of Catalyst Website: Preliminary Results." Presentation to Harvard Catalyst leadership, program deputy directors, and developers. November 17, 2009; November 19, 2009.

**Presenter**, "Usability Lab as a Collaborative Platform for Applied Research, Experiential Learning, and Community Services." NERCOMP "Usability in Libraries and Beyond" Program, November 9, 2009. University of Massachusetts Amherst.

**Presenter**, "How do academics use electronic resources for research? A comparative analysis of user trends." Presentation at APA 2009 Convention. Toronto, Canada: August 8, 2009.

**Project Leader**, Card sorting study, usability testing for Harvard's Catalyst Website. Collaborative research initiative with Harvard Medical School Center for Biomedical Informatics. September 2008 – Present.

**Project Supervisor and Consultant**, *Biomedical Research Intranets: Assessing the Needs of the Partners Healthcare Biomedical Research Community*. October 2008 – Present.

**Co-presenter**, "Harvard Catalyst Website User/Usability Studies." First and Second Annual CBMI Spring Symposium, Harvard Medical School. May 5, 2010; May 6, 2009.

**Principal Investigator**, User-Community Based Question Answering. January 2008 - Present.

### II. 2008

**Invited Speaker**, "Usability Engineering and User Studies: Principles, Methods and Research Examples." Presentation to Harvard Catalyst Central Team and Medical Library staff. Harvard Countway Library. November 21, 2008.

**Presenter**, "User Based Question Answering: An Exploratory Study of Community Generated Information Exchange in Yahoo!Answers." Presentation at the GSLIS Brown Bag Lunch (Co-presenter: Sheila Denn). November 20, 2008.

**Presenter**, "Needs Assessment for PsycINFO Search: Library Instruction and Interface Design Implications." Presentation at the GSLIS Brown Bag Lunch. October 9, 2008.

**Referee**, *Library & Information Science Research*. April 2008.

**Presenter**, "Author-Rated Importance of Cited References in Biology and Psychology Publications." 2008 Annual Meeting of ALISE. Philadelphia, PA: January 9, 2008.

**Moderator**, 2008 Annual Meeting of ALISE Paper Sessions. Philadelphia, PA: January, 2008.

### III. 2007 and Prior to 2007

**Principal Investigator**, Needs Assessment of PsycINFO Search. Spring 2007 – Present.

**Co-Principal Investigator**, Image sorting and tagging by regular users. Spring 2007 – Present.

**Principal Investigator**, User's perception of a federated search system. Spring 2007 – Present.

**Panel Organizer & Presenter**, "Federated Searching: User Perceptions, System Design, and Library Instruction." American Society for Information Science and Technology Annual Meeting 2006.

**Presenter**, "Assessing Citation Values of Scholarly Publications in Biology and Psychology." ALISE Work-in-Progress Poster Session, January 16, 2006.

**Consultant**, American Psychological Association Usability Testing, Summer 2005.

#### Referee,

- *Journal of the American Society for Information Science and Technology*. August 2004, May 2008
- *Journal of Education for Library and Information Science*. July 2000 – May 2003
- *Knowledge and Information Systems (KAIS): An International Journal*. July 2005 – Present
- 2005-2008 Annual Meetings of the American Society for Information Science and Technology, Contributed Papers and Panel sessions
- 2005-2007 International Conferences of Information Visualisation, Contributed Paper Session

**Principal Investigator**, Assessing Citation Values of Scholarly Publications: An Analysis of Citer Motivations and Social Relations. Research Grant from Grant-in-Aid Committee, Catholic University of America, 2005.

**Key Personnel**, HITIQA: High-Quality Interactive Question Answering, sponsored by Advanced Research and Development Activity (ARDA), Department of Defense through AQUAINT (Advanced Question & Answering for Intelligence) program. Grant received: \$1.6 million for two years.

**Invited Speaker**, "Usability Testing and User Studies." Peking University, Department of Information Management, Beijing, PRC: December 20, 2002.

**Moderator**, "Virtual Reference Services: Exploring the Open Source Options," ASIST 2002 Annual Meeting. Philadelphia, PA: November 20, 2002.

**Panel and Presenter**, "Education and Information Architecture," ASIST 2002 IA Summit. Baltimore, MD: March 17, 2002.

**Presenter**, "Integrated Library Systems in Contemporary Research Libraries," Virginia Commonwealth University Libraries, Richmond, VA: November 9, 2001.

**Presenter**, "University Web Site Design in Mainland China and Taiwan: A Comparative Study on the Chinese Version and the English Version," National Conference on Asian Pacific American Librarians (NCAPAL), San Francisco, CA: June 14, 2001.

**Panel and Presenter**, "Chinese Web Discourse," New York Conference on Asian Studies 2000. The College of St. Rose, Albany, NY: October 20, 2000.

**Presenter**, "HITIOA: High-Quality Task-Oriented Interactive Question-Answering," Office of Advanced Analytic Tools, Central Intelligence Agency, Reston, VA: July 25, 2000.

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

### I. Teaching in Library and Information Science

**Simmons College**, Graduate School of Library and Information Science, September 2006 – Present

- *Library Automation Systems*. Fall 2008, Fall 2009  
(<http://web.simmons.edu/~tang2/courses/LIS531R/fall09>)
- *Conducting Research: Methods and Design*. Spring 2008, Spring 2010.  
(<http://web.simmons.edu/~tang2/courses/LIS621/sp10>)
- *Evaluation of Information Services*. Fall 2006, Spring 2007, Fall 2007, Spring 2008, Fall 2008, Spring 2009, Summer 2009, Fall 2009, Spring 2010.  
(<http://web.simmons.edu/~tang2/courses/LIS403/sp10>)
- *Digital Information Services and Providers*. Fall 2007, Spring 2010  
(<http://web.simmons.edu/~tang2/courses/LIS454/sp10>)
- *Technology for Information Professionals*. Fall 2006.  
(<http://web.simmons.edu/~tang2/courses/LIS488/fall06/>)

**Catholic University of America**, School of Library and Information Science, September 2003 – May 2006

- *Information Systems in Libraries and Information Centers*
- *Online Information Retrieval*
- *Research Methods in Library and Information Science*

**State University of New York at Albany**, School of Information Science & Policy, January 2000 – August 2003

- *Information and Knowledge Organization*
- *Online Database Searching*
- *Information Storage and Retrieval*
- *Library Automation and Information Technology*

**University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill**, School of Information and Library Science, May 1998 – December 1999

- *Introduction to Computing*

### II. Other Teaching Experience

**University Of North Carolina at Chapel Hill**, Department of Asian Studies, January 1997 – May 1998

- *Advanced Chinese & Intermediate Chinese*

**Ohio State University**, East Asia Department, January 1992 – June 1992

- *Advanced Chinese*

## HONORS AND GRANTS

**Harvard University Center for Biomedical Informatics.** Harvard Clinical and Translational Science Community Usability and User Needs Assessment: Phase II Study. Contractual award for over \$16,000. January 2010 – May 2010.

**Faculty Fund for Research.** Simmons College. "Usability Evaluation of Harvard Catalyst Website." Collaborative research with Center for Biomedical Informatics (CBMI), Harvard Medical School. \$2,500 Awarded March 2009.

**Faculty Development Fund.** Simmons College. Travel support to American Psychological Association 2009 Convention.

**Simmons Sloan Fellow. Alfred P. Sloan Fellows Program for Faculty Career Flexibility.** First Cohort of Simmons Sloan Follows. Awarded in August 2008.

**Pottruck Technology Faculty Fellowship.** Simmons College. "Usability Lab for Experiential Learning." (Co-PI: Terry Plum). \$15,000, awarded in May 2008.

**Winner, 2008 Bohdan S. Wynar/ALISE Research Paper Competition.** "Author-Rated Importance of Cited References in Biology and Psychology Publications." (Co-author: Martin A. Safer).

**President's Fund For Faculty Excellence.** Simmons College. "User Based Question Answering: An Exploratory Study of Community Generated Information Exchange in Yahoo!Answers." (Co-PI: Sheila Denn). \$15,000, awarded in 2008.

**OCLC/ALISE Library & Information Science Research Grant Program.** "User Based Question Answering: An Exploratory Study of Community Generated Information Exchange in Yahoo!Answers." (Co-PI: Sheila Denn). \$15,000, awarded in 2008.

**The Hollowell Research Fund.** Simmons College GSLIS. "User's Perceptions of Image Content and Characteristics: A Study of Image Tagging and Sorting." Collaborative research with Dr. Daniel Joudrey, Simmons College. \$3,850, awarded in 2007.

**APA PsycINFO Research Grant.** Recipient of research contract award funding from American Psychological Association. \$10,000, awarded in 2007.

**Faculty Fund for Research.** Simmons College. "Image Tagging and Sorting." Collaborative research with Dr. Daniel Joudrey, Simmons College. \$1,000, awarded in 2007.

**Faculty Fund for Research.** Simmons College. "User Search Behaviors of Federated Searching Systems." Collaborative research with Pascal V. Calarco, University of Notre Dame. \$1,095, awarded in 2007.

**Faculty Development Fund.** 2006 & 2008. Attending ASIST 2006 and ALISE 2008 Annual Meetings. \$1,500

**Faculty Research Grant-in-Aid.** Recipient of Catholic University of America for the year 2005-2006. User Perceptions of A Federated Searching System. Collaborative research with Dr. Ingrid Hsieh-Yee and Ms. Shanyun Zhang, Catholic University of America. \$800.

**Faculty Research Grant-in-Aid.** Recipient of Catholic University of America for the year 2004-2005. Assessing Citation Value of Scholarly Publications: An Analysis of Citer Motivations and Social Relations. \$5,500

**Faculty Research Grant-in-Aid.** Recipient of Catholic University of America for the year 2003-2004. Mapping interdisciplinary scholarship using citation networks. \$1,500

**ASIST/ISI Citation Analysis Research Grant.** Recipient of international competition of the 2003 research grant sponsored by American Society for Information Science and Technology and Institute for Scientific Information. \$3,000

**Advanced Question & Answering for Intelligence (AQUINT) R & D Program (Phase I).** Grant received from Advanced Research and Development Activity for the year 2001 – 2003, Department of Defense. \$1.6 million

**Faculty Research Award Program.** Recipient from the School of Information Science and Policy of State University of New York at Albany for the year 2000 - 2001. Web Search Behaviors of Public Library Users. \$2,000

**Eugene Garfield Doctoral Dissertation Fellowship.** Recipient of the year 1999-2000. \$3,000

**Beta Phi Mu** (an international library science honor society). Awarded the full membership by Program of Library and Information Science at Wayne State University, 1995.

**Patricia B. Knapp Award.** Awarded for excellent performance by the Program of Library and Information Science at Wayne State University, 1995.

## PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS AND SERVICES

### I. National Organizations, Regional Chapters, and Professional Activities

#### National Organizations:

- American Society for Information Science and Technology (ASIST)
- Association of the Library and Information Science Education (ALISE)
- American Library Association (ALA)
- ALA Library and Information Technology Association (LITA)

**Director**, Simmons GSLIS Usability Lab (<http://gslis.simmons.edu/usability/>). March 2008 – Present

**Primary Reviewer of Research Protocols**, Simmons Institute of Review Board. August 2008 – Present

**Organizer and Moderator.** Successful Grant Proposal Writing Panel Session. Sponsored by the Provost's Office. March 25, 2010. Kotzon Room, Simmons College.

**Organizer and Lead Presenter**, World Usability Day at Simmons. November 12, 2009. Linda Paresky Center, Simmons College.

**Organizer**, LIS531R Class performing retrospective conversion for Smith Leadership Academy Library. September 2009 – Present.

**Translator**, Chinese watercolor paintings and calligraphy collection from Martin Luther King, Jr, Collection, Howard Gottlieb Archival Research Center, Boston University. August – September 2009.

**Consultant**, Research design and IRB process, Harvard Countway Library of Medicine librarian and informatics projects. March 2009

**Contributor and Translator**, AuroraDL Chinese Version (developed by Gerald Benoit, GSLIS Faculty, [http://gslis.simmons.edu:8080/auroraDL/search\\_zh.html](http://gslis.simmons.edu:8080/auroraDL/search_zh.html)). May 2008 – August 2008

**Chair**, ALISE Research Grant Competition Committee, January 2009 – January 2010

**Member**, ALISE Research Grant Competition Committee, January 2008 – December 2008

**Jury member**, ASIST Thomson ISI Dissertation Proposal Award, 2005 – 2008

**PsycNet New Interface Beta Tester**, American Psychological Association. Tested and produced review documents for PsycNet's BROWSE, Easy Search, Advanced Search, Citation Finder, Journals and Author Lookup, and Subject Search Modules. Assisted in new interface modification and redesign. March – May 2007

**Consultant**, American Psychological Association Usability Testing. Provided guidance and specific usability testing feedback on the new interface design. June 2005 – December 2005

**Alternate Representative**, American Society for Information Science and Technology Student Chapters. 2003 – 2006

**Faculty Advisor**,

- American Society for Information Science and Technology Student Chapter, Catholic University of America, September 2003 – May 2006
- American Society for Information Science and Technology Student Chapter, State University of New York at Albany, January 2000 – May 2003

**Reviewer**, 2005 Potomac Valley Chapter of American Society for Information Science and Technology Student Travel Award, October 2005

**Chair**, Institute for Informatics, Logistics, and Security Studies Seminar Series. State University of New York at Albany, January 2002 – May 2003

**Advisory Board**, The Policy Information Network of New York State (PIN-NY). Center for Women in Government & Civil Society, University at Albany, December 2001 – May 2003

**Advisory Board**, E-Government FirstStop. Center for Technology in Government, University at Albany, March 2001 – December 2001

## II. College/University and School Committees

- Simmons College
  - Institute of Review Board Committee, September 2006 – Present
  - Academic Technology Committee, September 2008 – Present
  - Alternate, Simmons College Faculty Senate, September 2008 – May 2010
  - Member, NEASC Self Study, Committee Eleven- Faculty: Scholarship, Research, and Creative Activity

- Graduate School of Library and Information Science, Simmons College
  - Chair, ALA/COA Faculty Committee
  - Committee on Rank, Tenure, & Appointments, September 2009 – Present
  - Curriculum Committee, September 2006 – Present
  - Admissions Committee, September 2007 – August 2009
  - Doctoral Studies Committee, September 2006 – August 2009
  - Technology Advisory Committee, September 2006 – Present
  - Sloan Blended Learning Grant GSLIS Participant, Spring 2009
  - Foundations Course Working Group, Summer 2007
  - Ad Hoc Committee on Core Curriculum Design, Summer 2007
  - Pretest for Course Evaluation Form, Spring 2007
  - GSLIS Usability Lab Planning and Grant Initiation, Fall 2007
  - GSLIS Graduation Faculty Marshall, 2007 – 2008
  
- School of Library and Information Science, Catholic University America
  - Admissions Committee, September 2003 – May 2006
  - Curriculum Committee, September 2003 – May 2006
  - Primary Writer for “Faculty Chapter” of Report to Committee of Accreditation, American Library Association
  - Search Committee, September 2004 – May 2005
  - Leader of the core course “Information Systems in Library and Information Center,” January 2004 – May 2006
  
- State University of New York at Albany
  - Information Science Provost Advisory Committee, January – December 2001
  - Information Technology Committee Downtown Campus, January 2001 – May 2003
  
- School of Information Science and Policy, State University of New York at Albany
  - Head, Information System and Technology Track, January 2000 – May 2002
  - Faculty Development Committee and Search Committee, September 2000 - May 2001; September 2002 – May 2003