CHRIS HOLSTROM

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CURRENT EMPLOYMENT

Assistant Teaching Professor, Department of English. University of Washington: 2023-present

EDUCATION

Ph.D., University of Washington (Information Science): 2023
M.S., University of Washington (Information Science): 2020
M.S., University of Washington (Technical Communication): 2002
B.A., Gustavus Adolphus College (English, Physics): 2000

TEACHING AND RESEARCH INTERESTS

Technical and Professional Communication · Rhetorical Theory · Writing Pedagogy · Software Documentation · Interdisciplinary Writing · Science Writing · Procedural Discourse · Markup Languages and Docs As Code · Social Justice and Technology · Knowledge Organization · Subject Indexing and Subject Tagging · Classification · Critical Cataloging · Databases and Data Modeling · Data Science · Digital Humanities · Information Architecture · Information Design

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

University of Washington, Seattle. Assistant Teaching Professor, 2023-present.

ENGL 396: Software Documentation: Spring 2025

LIS 531: Catalogs, Cataloging, and Classification: Spring 2025

ENGL 392: Technical and Professional Editing: Winter 2025

ENGL 288: Introduction to Professional and Technical Writing: Autumn 2023, Winter 2024, Spring 2024, Spring 2024, Summer 2024 (online), Autumn 2024, Autumn 2024, Winter 2025, Summer 2025

ENGL 388: Professional and Technical Writing: Autumn 2023

University of Washington, Seattle. Graduate Student Instructor, 2019-2023.

LIS 531: Catalogs, Cataloging, and Classification: Spring 2023

INFO 498: Special Topics in Informatics – Tagging as a Social and Technical Information System: Winter 2023

INFO 330: Databases and Data Modeling: Autumn 2022

LIS 530: Organization of Information and Resources: Spring 2021 (online)

ENGL 299: Interdisciplinary Writing/Natural Science (Physiology): Winter 2021 (online)

ENGL 288: Introduction to Professional and Technical Writing: Autumn 2020 (online)

ENGL 299: Technical and Professional Writing: Spring 2020 (online)

ENGL 199: Interdisciplinary Writing/Natural Science (Astronomy): Autumn 2019

INFO 201: Technical Foundations in Informatics: Summer 2019

University of Washington, Seattle. Adjunct Faculty, 2008-2009.

TC 426: Introduction to Computer Software User Assistance: Spring 2008, Spring 2009

University of Washington, Seattle. Graduate Student Instructor, 2000-2001.

TC 231: Introduction to Technical Writing - University of Washington: Autumn 2000, Winter 2001, Spring 2001

DISSERTATION AND THESIS

Holstrom, C. (2023). *Controlled, In Control, and Out of Control: The Effects of Different Forms of Vocabulary Control on the Subject Indexing and Subject Tagging Processes*. Dissertation. 2023. University of Washington. Advisor: Dr. Joseph T. Tennis.

Holstrom, C. (2002). *Storytelling as Collaboration and Community: Designing an Interactive Multi-Author Environment for Hypertext Fiction*. Thesis. 2002. University of Washington. Advisor: Dr. Beth Kolko.

PEER REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS

Holstrom, C. (2025). Large Language Models (LLMs) and Cataloging: Exploring How ChatGPT and Copilot Assign Subject Headings and Call Numbers. (Awarded best paper at *NASKO 2025*, publication forthcoming).

Holstrom, C. (2024). Critical Control: How Different Forms of Vocabulary Control Aid and Hinder Novice Indexers Aiming to Support Racial and Social Justice. *Knowledge Organization*. 51 (7), 521-542.

Holstrom, C. (2022). Analyzing the Structure and Dynamics of Control Relationships in the Case of "Illegal Aliens" in the Library of Congress Subject Headings. In *Knowledge Organization across Disciplines, Domains, Services and Technologies* (pp. 133-146). Ergon-Verlag.

Holstrom, C. (2021). The Sears List of Subject Headings: Social and Cultural Dimensions in Historical, Theoretical, and Design Contexts. *NASKO* 8 no. 1, 1-11.

Holstrom, C., & Tennis, J. T. (2021). Studying Subject Ontogeny at Scale in a Polyhierarchical Indexing Language. In *Diversity, Divergence, Dialogue: 16th International Conference, iConference 2021, Beijing, China, March 17–31, 2021, Proceedings, Part II* 16 (pp. 404-412). Springer International Publishing.

Holstrom, C. (2020). The Effects of Suggested Tags and Autocomplete Features on Social Tagging Behaviors. Proceedings of the *Association for Information Science and Technology* 57, no. 1 (2020): e263.

Holstrom, C., & Tennis, J. T. (2020). Visibility, Identity, and Personal Expression: Qualitative Case Studies of Social Tagging on MetaFilter. In *Knowledge Organization at the Interface* (pp. 207-216). Ergon-Verlag.

Holstrom, C. (2019). Moving Towards an Actor-Based Model for Subject Indexing. *NASKO* 7, no. 1: 120-128.

Holstrom, C. (2019). "Is This a Chapter Book?": Parent-Involved Categorization in a Kindergarten Classroom Book Collection. *Cataloging & Classification Quarterly*, 57(2).

Holstrom, C. (2018). Local Authorial Voice and Global Authorial Voice in Community-Authored Knowledge Organization Systems. *Advances in Classification Research Online* 29, no. 1 (2018): 6-8.

Holstrom, C. (2018). Prototype User Interface for Studying the Effect of Suggested Tags and Autocomplete on Tagging Behavior. Proceedings of *ICKM 2018*. Vancouver, B.C.

Holstrom, C. (2018). Social Tagging: Organic and Retroactive Folksonomies. In *Proceedings of the 18th ACM/IEEE Joint Conference on Digital Libraries* (pp. 179-182).

Mellema, S. & Holstrom, C. (2000). Low-coherence optical reflectometer. Proceedings of the *American Physical Society March Meeting*. Minneapolis, MN.

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

Holstrom, C. Large Language Models (LLMs) and Cataloging: Exploring How ChatGPT and Copilot Assign Subject Headings and Call Numbers. *North American Symposium on Knowledge Organization (NASKO) 2025*. Online. June 19-20, 2025.

Holstrom, C. (2024). Promoting Classroom Presence, Community, and Social Equity Through In-Class Activities in Technical Writing Courses. *Association of Teachers of Technical Writing (ATTW) 2024*. Online. June 10-12, 2024.

Holstrom, C. (2022). Analyzing the Structure and Dynamics of Control Relationships in the Case of "Illegal Aliens" in the Library of Congress Subject Headings. *17th International Society of Knowledge Organization Conference*. Aalborg, Denmark. July 6-8, 2022.

Holstrom, C. (2021). The Sears List of Subject Headings: Social and Cultural Dimensions in Historical, Theoretical, and Design Contexts. *8th North American Symposium on Knowledge Organization.* Seattle, WA. July 9-11, 2021.

Holstrom, C., & Tennis, J. T. (2021). Studying Subject Ontogeny at Scale in a Polyhierarchical Indexing Language. *16th International Conference.* Beijing, China. March 17–31, 2021.

Holstrom, C. (2020). The Effects of Suggested Tags and Autocomplete Features on Social Tagging Behaviors. *83rd Annual Meeting of the Association for Information Science and Technology.* Online. October 22- November 1, 2020.

Holstrom, C. (2019). Moving Towards an Actor-Based Model for Subject Indexing. *7th North American Symposium on Knowledge Organization.* Philadelphia, PA. June 13-14, 2019.

Holstrom, C. (2018). Local Authorial Voice and Global Authorial Voice in Community-Authored Knowledge Organization Systems. *ASIS&T Special Interest Group/Classification Research (SIG/CR) Workshop on Culture, Community, and Voice in Knowledge Organization Systems*. Vancouver, B.C. November 10-14, 2018.

Holstrom, C. (2018). Prototype User Interface for Studying the Effect of Suggested Tags and Autocomplete on Tagging Behavior. Proceedings of *14th International Conference on Knowledge Management*. Vancouver, B.C. November 9-10, 2018.

Holstrom, C. (2018). Social Tagging: Organic and Retroactive Folksonomies. *18th ACM/IEEE Joint Conference on Digital Libraries.* Fort Worth, TX. June 3-6, 2018.

Holstrom, C. (2000). James Baldwin and the Gimmick: Religion and Art to Lift Him Out. *Time in Transition: African American Voices in Mid-Century American Literature*. Mankato, MN. May 2000.

GUEST SPEAKING, PANELS, AND PRESENTATIONS

Moderator, English Alumni Panel on Alt-Ac Careers - Department of English, University of Washington: 2025

Invited Guest Lecturer, Lecture and Discussion Series on Technical and Professional Communication for Software Engineers - Applied Physics Lab, University of Washington: 2025

Invited Guest Lecturer, Four-Lecture Series and Workshops on Metadata, RDF/XML, and AI in Knowledge Organization - Master of Library and Information Science Program, University of Washington: 2025

Invited Guest Speaker, CSE Freshman Direct-Admit Seminar - Paul G. Allen School of Computer Science and Engineering, University of Washington: 2024

Co-Instructor, Technical and Professional Communication Pedagogy for New Instructors - Department of English, University of Washington: 2024

Presenter, "Peer Reviews in Writing Classes" - Department of English Teaching Cafe, University of Washington: 2024

Invited Guest Lecturer, Incoming Instructor Orientation for the Program for Writing Across Campus - Department of English, University of Washington: 2024

Presenter, "Engaging with Course Evaluations" - Department of English Teaching Cafe, University of Washington: 2024

Presenter, "Résumé and Cover Letter Assignment Sequence" - Department of English Teaching Cafe, University of Washington: 2023

Panelist, Incoming Instructor Orientation for the Program for Writing Across Campus - Department of English, University of Washington: 2023

Invited Guest Speaker, Incoming Instructor Orientation for the Program for Writing Across Campus - Department of English, University of Washington: 2021

Panelist and Presenter, Teaching Assistant Orientation - The Information School, University of Washington: 2021

Invited Guest Speaker, Qualitative Methods in Information Science - The Information School, University of Washington: 2019

SERVICE TO ACADEMIA

Member, Professional Preparation Committee - Department of English, University of Washington: 2023-present

Member, Program for Writing Across Campus Committee - Department of English, University of Washington: 2023-present

Member, Language and Rhetoric Ph.D. Application Review Committee - Department of English, University of Washington: 2025

Submission Reviewer - *Journal of Technical Communication*: 2025

Submission Reviewer - *Informatio: Journal of Library and Information Science*: 2025

Planner and Participant, Technical and Professional Communication Curriculum Development and Minor Proposal - Department of English, University of Washington: Whiteley Center at Friday Harbor Labs, 2024

Submission Reviewer - *Archival Science*: 2024

Submission Reviewer - iConference: 2018-2022, 2024

Ph.D. Applicant Mentor, iSchool Diversity Ambassadors - The Information School, University of Washington: 2022

Submission Reviewer and Program Committee Member - The International Society of Knowledge Organization Conference: 2022

Mentor, Undergraduate Research and Independent Study - A Data Science Approach to Analyzing Subject Ontogeny in Wikipedia Categories: 2021

Social Media Officer and Webmaster, Special Interest Group on Classification Research - Association for Information Science and Technology: 2018-2019

GRANTS, AWARDS, AND FELLOWSHIPS

Best Paper - North American Symposium on Knowledge Organization (NASKO): 2025

Collaboration Grant - Classroom Cultures and Attendance - Department of English, University of Washington: 2025

Best Student Paper - Association for Information Science and Technology Annual Meeting: 2020

Fellow, LIS Education and Data Science for the National Digital Platform (LEADS-4-NDP) - Drexel University Metadata Research Center, IMLS grant #RE-70-17-0094-17: 2018

Gershenfeld Ph.D. Scholarship - University of Washington: 2018

Top Scholar Award, Durward and Susan Huckabay Endowed Fellowship - University of Washington: 2017

INDUSTRY EMPLOYMENT

Contract Technical Writer and Editor, Google Cloud - Google: 2019-2021

Head of Technical Documentation, Google Cloud Platform - Google: 2015-2017

Head of Technical Documentation, Software Infrastructure - Google: 2010-2015

Technical Program Manager, Documentation and Findability Tools - Google: 2009-2010

Senior Technical Writer and Editor, Software Infrastructure - Google: 2005-2009

Staff Technical Writer, DB2 for z/OS - IBM: 2002-2005

SERVICE TO THE TECHNICAL COMMUNICATION PROFESSION

Chair, Technical Writer Promotion Committee - Google, 2013-2016

Chair, Technical Writer Hiring Committee - Google: 2012-2017

Lead Author, Technical Writer Career Ladder - Google, 2011

Member, Technical Writer Promotion Committee - Google, 2008-2016

Member, Technical Writer Hiring Committee - Google: 2008-2017

Facilitator, Team Building and Diversity Workshops - Google: 2008-2010

Instructor, Technical Writing for Google Engineers - Google: 2006-2017

Instructor, Navigating Engineering Documentation - Google: 2006-2008

Founder, Early Career Mentoring Program for Technical Writers - Google: 2006-2007

Mentor, New Hire Mentoring Program - Google: 2006-2010