Christopher Collins, PhD

Canada Research Chair in Linguistic Information Visualization, and Associate Professor, Faculty of Science at University of Ontario Institute of Technology

Oshawa, ON, CA

Expert in managing linguistic data and understanding its importance to Canada

Description

The average office worker spends 2.6 hours a day reading and sending e-mails. Add in traditional news feeds and social media platforms such as Twitter, Facebook and LinkedIn, and itâ€™s easy to see why so many of us feel â€˜information overloadâ€™. Yet within the daily ebb and flow of information are millions of pieces of economically and culturally significant text-based data. The challenge lies in finding innovative ways to sort, analyze and gain insight on these data. As Canada Research Chair in Linguistic Information Visualization, Christopher Collins, PhD is addressing this challenge.

Dr. Collins and his research team are designing new visualization techniques for working with language data, whether on traditional desktop computers or on natural user interface technologies, such as large touch walls, smart phones, and gesture-based applications. His focus on interactive information graphics combined with automated language analysis tools, including the ability to classify documents by topic or detecting emotion in text, will open up huge possibility for data management.

Imagine a doctor using a gesture-based application to sort through large volumes of medical text with a simple swipe of a hand. Or a marketing professional using a digital whiteboard to determine what customers really think by sorting and exploring tweets based on emotion. Dr. Collinsâ€™ research vision is aimed at making scenarios like this a reality.

Through his research, Dr. Collins and his team are forging important connections with business and academic communities. His work demonstrates that the ability to manage text-based data by getting at peopleâ€™s deeper insights can offer a major competitive advantage.

Industry Expertise

Research, Computer Hardware, Internet, Education/Learning

Topics

Information Visualization, Computer Security, Gesture Interface Design, Touch Interface Design, Information Overload, Detecting Emotion in Text, Interactive Information Graphics, Text Analytics, Visual Analytics, Password Security, Data Science

Affiliations

Association for Computational Linguistics , Association for Computing Machinery (ACM) , ACM Special Interest Group on Computer–Human Interaction , Computer Linguistics Group, University of Toronto, Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE), IEEE Computer Society, IEEE Visualization and Graphics Technical Committee , Innovations in Visualization Laboratory, University of Calgary, Knowledge Media Design Institute, University of Toronto, T. J. Watson Research Center, IBM Research

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Education

University of Toronto
PhD Computer Science, Knowledge Media Design

University of Toronto
MSc Computer Science

Memorial University of Newfoundland
BSc Computer Science and Chemistry

Accomplishments

UOIT Research Excellence Award (Early Career)
UOIT's Research Excellence Awards recognize faculty who have achieved national and/or international success and recognition through their research activities and enhanced UOIT's reputation as a research-focused institution.

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