2014 iSchools Doctoral Dissertation Award Competition: Call for Participation

The iSchools Doctoral Dissertation Competition Committee invites nominations for the 2014 iSchools Doctoral Dissertation Award Competition. The Committee will select one winning dissertation and one runner up. The awards will be given out at iConference 2014 in Berlin, Germany.

Eligibility. Each iSchool member school can nominate one applicant for the award. The applicant should have successfully defended the doctoral dissertation and completed the doctoral degree (including all final revisions, if any, and all final paper work) within the academic year from July 1, 2012 to June 30 2013. The dissertation research can be on any topic in the information field, broadly defined, and use any methodology.

Submission. One nomination from each iSchool in the consortium should be submitted by October 15, 2013 to the iConference submission website at https://www.conftool.com/iConference2014/

The submission should consist of a single zipped file, containing: (1) A summary paper of the dissertation research; (2) A letter from the dissertation chair or the Doctoral Program Director of the degree granting institution; and (3) The complete dissertation. All three documents should be formatted as PDFs, packed into one zipped file, and named with the ischool's name and the applicant's name. For example, Syracuse-Jackson.zip is for the applicant Jackson from Syracuse University. The candidate's dissertation chair or the Doctoral Program director should submit the nomination. An iSchool can submit only one nomination.

Award. The winning nomination will receive a cash prize of $2,500.00 US; the runner up will receive a cash prize of $1,000 US.

Submission Materials for each Nomination.

All materials must be in English. The author holds the copyright of the summary paper and the dissertation. The three documents that comprise the submission are as follows:

1. A summary paper of the dissertation research. The summary paper should be up to 20 double-spaced pages with 12 point Times New Roman font and at least one-inch margins (excluding the title page and the references), and should consist of three sections: Title Page, Body, and References. The Title Page should contain the title of the dissertation, author name, email,

phone number, address, current institution, advisor name and contact information, degree granting institution, and dissertation completion date. The Body of the summary paper should provide a comprehensive summary of the dissertation, introducing, for instance, the topic, the research context and questions, the theoretical or contextual framework, the methodology and methods, and the findings. The summary paper should be written for blind review; hence, all identifying information should be removed from the body of the paper and, as necessary, the references. The first page of the Body should include title, an abstract for up to 200 words, and a list of keywords. Tables and figures can be embedded in the text or attached at the end; they count toward the 20-page limit. The References section should include a list of references formatted in any appropriate style.

2. A letter from the dissertation chair or the Doctoral Program Director of the degree granting institution. The letter attests that, (a) the summary paper is authored by the applicant only and is based on the applicant's dissertation; (b) the applicant is eligible for the award (see Eligibility); and (c) the dissertation is regarded by the dissertation committee and the degree granting institution as being representative of the best level of their doctoral work.

3. A PDF version of the complete dissertation.

The above three documents should be combined into a single zipped file and submitted: https://www.conftool.com/iConference2014/

Criteria for Evaluation.

The following criteria will be used to judge all doctoral dissertation award nominations:

1. Significance of the research problem to today's challenges and opportunities

2. Scholarly contribution to the literature in any information related disciplines

3. Application and rigor of the appropriate research methods

4. Clarity and organization of the presentation.

The Coordinating Committee for 2014 competition.

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Questions and more information.

Questions should be directed to the committee members listed above. Additional information can be found on the iConference 2014 website: http://ischools.org/the-iconference/