User Experience Research at Google…and how did I get there?

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ABSTRACT
How and why does someone with a BA in Computer Science from a liberal arts college end up doing User Experience Research for Google? What is User Experience and how does it apply at Google? In this talk, I will first describe the relatively new discipline of User Experience (a.k.a. human-computer interaction), why it’s important to (and sometimes part of) Computer Science, and where you can go to learn more about it. In the second part of the talk, I’ll explain how we put User Experience Research to work at Google. I’ll include examples of research from several stages of product development based on my own work at Google over the past year.

Bio:
Hilary Hutchinson is a User Experience Researcher at Google in Mountain View, CA. Hilary earned a BA in Computer Science and Mathematics from Williams College in 1997 and a Ph.D. in Computer Science from the University of Maryland in 2005. Her Ph.D. work focused on the design and usability of search interfaces for children as part of the International Children’s Digital Library project. At Google, she works on search-related projects and does everything from focus groups and field interviews to learn about new products at an early stage to log analysis and formal experiments to understand existing products after they launch.

Thursday, April 5th, at 4:15 p.m.

Computer Science Department

Edmunds Building, Room 101

Pomona College

Refreshments will be available starting at 4:00 pm