

## Research Assistant Position

(Fall 2022; 50% appointment; on-campus)

Project Title: Promoting Computational Thinking Skills for Blind and Visually Impaired [BVI] Population through Accessible Makerspaces

Supervising faculty (Principal Investigators [PIs]): Drs. JooYoung Seo and Kyungwon Koh, iSchool

We are looking for a PhD (or, experienced MSLIS/CAS) student who will assist the PIs with the project that aims to create more inclusive and accessible makerspaces for blind and visually impaired (BVI) learners. The selected RA for Fall 2022 will engage in Phase 1 of the multi-year research project. Working with Disability Resources & Educational Services (DRES) and the Information Accessibility Design & Policy Program (IADP), Phase 1 focuses on the case study of the Champaign-Urbana Community Fab Lab (i.e., makerspace accessibility assessment) and professional development workshops on accessibility.

Specific activities include the following:

- IRB obtained (August – Sep 2022) – PIs & RA
- Workshop prep (Aug- Nov 2022) – PIs, RA, DRES & IADP
- Workshops (Sep, Oct, & Nov. 2022) - PIs, RA, DRES & IADP, Fab Lab staff, iSchool independent study students
- CUC Fab Lab accessibility status assessment (Aug- Oct 2022) - PIs, RA, DRES & IADP, Fab Lab staff, iSchool independent study students
- Writing an accessibility report with recommendations (Oct 2022 - Jan 2023) - PIs, RA (reviewed and discussed by Fab Lab staff)
- Making workshop training materials available on the web; dissemination (blog, mailing list, etc.) (Dec 2022 & Jan 2023) – PIs & RA
- PI & Co-PI offer Independent Study for iSchool students (Aug 2022- Dec 2023) - PIs, RA, iSchool independent study students
- advisory board virtual meeting (Dec 2022 or Jan 2023) – PIs, RA, advisory board members

PhD students who are interested in accessibility and makerspaces with strong communication skills are encouraged to apply. This position might be extended through the next phases of the project, which focus on the development and implementation of accessible computational thinking tools and curriculum for BVI learners in library makerspaces in Illinois, depending on the expertise and interest of the candidate. The project proposal was submitted to the IMLS National Leadership Grant. The funding for the RA position for Fall 2022 is guaranteed, regardless of the IMLS grant decision.

Feel free to contact the supervising faculty members with any questions: Drs. JooYoung Seo ([jseo1005@illinois.edu](mailto:jseo1005@illinois.edu)) and Kyungwon Koh ([kkoh@illinois.edu](mailto:kkoh@illinois.edu)). If interested, please send both Drs. Seo and Koh a CV and cover letter by 7/8/22.

