Alex Wright

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EDUCATION

PhD, Transition Design - **Carnegie Mellon University**, May 2022
Dissertation: "Regenerative User Experience: Towards a Heuristics of Post-Capitalist Digital Design Practice." Advisor: Jonathan Chapman

M.S., Library and Information Science - Simmons College, March 1995

B.A., English and American Literature - Brown University, June 1988

ACADEMIC HONORS

- Beta Phi Mu Society
- Outstanding College Students of America
- National Merit Finalist

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Instructor - School of Visual Arts, MFA Program in Interaction Design
2009-2019
Conceived, designed and taught courses in Design Futures, History of Design, Research Methods. Thesis seminar and advisor.

Guest Lecturer [various dates]
Institute of Design-Chicago | Stanford University | Columbia Journalism School | UC-Berkeley | New York University | Boston University

OTHER ACADEMIC ACTIVITIES

- External Examiner, Journalism + Design Program, Lang College, The New School, 2023-2024
- Transition Design Seminar, Schumacher College, Summer 2017
- Reviews Editor, *Interactions*, 2008-2011
- Usability Engineering coursework, UC-Berkeley, 1999.
- Associate editor, *Design Times*, 1991-1994
- Book reviewer, *Library Journal*, 1991-1994
- Rare Books coursework, Harvard Extension School, 1994

Google - Head of User Experience, Google News, 2020-present
Built and led a 20-person UX team responsible for News on Search, the Google News App, and new Generative AI tools for journalists.

Meta - Research Director, Instagram, 2018-2020
Managed a team of 28 UX researchers working across Instagram's Search, Discovery, Ads, Creator Tools, and Business product teams

Etsy - **Senior Director of User Experience,** 2013-2018
Led a 40-person research and design team responsible for driving user-centered processes across Etsy's product portfolio.

The New York Times - **Director of User Experience,** 2007-2013
Founded and led the UX Research team; lead designer for the NYTimes iPhone app and a major site-wide redesign.

Rollyo - Co-Founder and Head of Design, 2004-2006
Conceived and built profitable custom search engine tool using the Yahoo! Search API, one of the first successful "Web 2.0" products.

Phoenix Pop - Vice President, User Experience, 1999-2001
Led a 12-person UX team working primarily with start-ups, responsible for $2M+ annual revenue.

IBM - **Senior Manager, User Experience**, 1995-1999
Founded and led the UX team for IBM.com, one of the first in-house UX teams in the industry.

PUBLICATIONS **Books**
- *Informatica* (2023) 2nd ed. Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Press.
- *Cataloging the World: Paul Otlet and the Birth of the Information Age* (2014). New York: Oxford University Press.
- *Glut: Mastering Information Through the Ages* (2007). Washington, D.C.: Joseph Henry Press.

Articles
- "Mapping the Internet of Things," *Communications of the ACM*, January 2017.
- "Algorithmic Authors," *Communications of the ACM*, November 2015.
- "Molecular Moonshots" *Communications of the ACM*, April 2015.

- "The Future of the Web is 100 Years Old," *Nautilus,* February 2015.
- "The Lost Promise of the Internet," *Salon.com*, June 2014.
- "Big Data Meets Big Science," *Communications of the ACM*, July 2014.
- "The Secret History of Hypertext," *The Atlantic,* May 2014
- "Proving Grounds," *Communications of the ACM*, May 2013.
- "Robot and Human Actors Take Bows Together," *The New York Times*, July 5, 2012.
- "The Social Life of Robots," *Communications of the ACM*, February 2012
- "Web Science Meets Network Science," *Communications of the ACM*, May 2011.
- "Managing Scientific Inquiry in a Laboratory the Size of the Web," *The New York Times*, December 27, 2010.
- "Online, It's the Mouse that Runs the Museum," *The New York Times*, January 17, 2010.
- "The Touchy Subject of Haptics," *Communications of the ACM*, January 2011.
- "Linear Logic," *Communications of the ACM*, October 2010.
- "Data Streaming 2.0," *Communications of the ACM*, April 2010.
- "Of Memories and Memorials," with Jake Barlow, *Interactions*, February 2010.
- "Type Theory Comes of Age," *Communications of the ACM*, January 2010.
- "From Interface to Experience," with Marc Rettig, *Interactions*, December 2009.
- "The Battle of the Books," *Wilson Quarterly*, October 2009.
- "Old School, New School: Teaching Interaction Design in Manhattan," *Interactions*, October 2009.
- "Mining the Web for Feelings, not Facts," *The New York Times,* August 24, 2009.
- "Exploring a Deep Web That Google Can't Grasp," *The New York Times*, February 23, 2009.
- "Searching the Deep Web," *Communications of the ACM*, October 2008.
- "The Web Time Forgot," *The New York Times*, June 17, 2008.
- "Primal Interactions," *Interactions*, Jan/Feb 2008.
- "Friending: Ancient or Otherwise," *The New York Times*, Dec. 2, 2007.

- "The Theater of Memory," *The Believer*, Nov. 2006.
- Op-Ed, *The Christian Science Monitor*, December 2005
- "From Ivory Tower to Academic Sweatshop," *Salon.com,* January 2005
- "In Search of the Deep Web," *Salon.com,* March 2004.
- "Designing for the Bottom Line," *WebTechniques*, December 2001
- "Crossing Wires: Designing Beyond the Browser," *New Architect*, April 2001

Reviews
- Nicholas Carr, "The Shallows," *Interactions*, September/October 2010.
- Marty Neumeier, "The Designful Company," *Interactions,* March/April 2009.
- Robert Brunner and Stewart Emery, "Do You Matter?" *Interactions,* March/April 2009.
- Adaptive Path, "Subject to Change," *Interactions*, March/April 2009.
- Tom Kelley, "The Art of Innovation," *New Architect*, April 2002

Other writing
- "Eudaimonia," *Medium*, May 28, 2023.
- "Regenerative UX," *Medium,* May 6, 2023.
- "Moving Fast, Thinking Slow," *Medium*, January 22, 2022.
- "Sprinting Towards the Long Term: Teaching Design Futures at SVA," *Medium*, August 19, 2019.
- "In the Shadow of Schumacher," *Medium*, July 12, 2018.
- "Practical Futuring," *Medium*, December 16, 2017.
- "Samurai, Ninjas, and Disabling Design, *Medium*, June 2, 2017.
- "Purposeful Work," *Medium*, March 19, 2017.
- "Post-Capitalist Design," *Medium*, December 30, 2016.
- "Posture and Mindset," *Medium,* November 14, 2016.

SPEAKING
- "Coordinating Transitions toward a More Equitable UX Design," with Matthew Wizinsky and Dimeji Onafuwa, *DRS 2024*, Design Research Society, Boston MA, June 2024 [proposal submitted]
- Keynote, *Gateways 2023*, Science Gateways Community Institute, Pittsburgh PA, October 2023.
- "Regenerative User Experience: Reimagining Design for a Post-Capitalist World," *Interactions 2023*, Zurich.

- "Reimagining Design Education," *IxDA Education Summit*, Lyon, France, September 2018.
- "The Secret History of Hypertext," *Google SPAN conference*, Pittsburgh PA, September 2017.
- "Humanizing Data," *UX Strat*, Athens GA, September 2015.
- "The Secret History of Hypertext," *SxSW*, Austin TX, March 2015.
- "Cities of the Mind: Paul Otlet, Hendrik Christian Andersen and the World City" [Invited lecture], *Boston University,* June 2016.
- Lecture, *New York Public Library*, June 2015.
- Keynote, *Defrag*, November 2010.
- Invited presentation, U.S. Department of Education, February 2010
- Keynote, Instituto Chileno-Americano, November 2009
- Keynote, *UX Australia,* August 2010
- Invited presentation, American Association for Computers in Education, June 2008
- "Glut: Mastering Information Through the Ages," Institute of General Semantics, November 2008
- Keynote, Indiana State Library Association, Indianapolis, IN, November 2008.
- "The Relationship Between Technology and Social Change," Foreign Policy Research Institute, Kansas City, MO, October 2008.
- "In Search of the Next Web," Ticer Institute, Tilburg University, The Netherlands, August 2008.
- "Glut: Mastering Information Through the Ages," New York State Higher Education CIOs Summit, Rochester, New York, July 2008.
- Keynote, *Topic Maps 2008*, Oslo, Norway, April 2008.
- "The Web That Wasn't," Gartner Group Conference, Baltimore, Maryland, March 2008.
- "The Web That Wasn't," *SxSW*, Austin, TX, March 2008.
- Keynote, Rhode Island State Library Association, Warwick, RI, January 2008.
- Keynote, International Privacy Institute, San Francisco, September 2007.
- "Glut: Mastering Information Through the Ages," The Long Now Foundation, San Francisco, August 2007.
- "The Web That Wasn't," *ASIS&T Information Architecture Summit*, Las Vegas, NV, March 2007.
- "The Sociobiology of Information Architecture," *ASIS&T Information Architecture Summit*, Portland, OR, 2003.

AWARDS AND HONORS	- Google.org Fellow 2024 - National Design Award, 2015 - New York Times Publisher's Award, 2008 and 2011 - Webby award, 2004 and 2008 - IBM Chairman's Letter, 1998 - American Graphic Design Award, 1996 - PRSA Silver Anvil, 1996

RESEARCH GRANTS

84000: Translating the Words of the Buddha - Khyentse Foundation, 2009-present. Total grant: $8.5 million. PI: Huang Jing Rui.
Worked as a design consultant to develop the web presence for an international project funding over 100 translators working to translate the entire Tibetan Buddhist canon into English.

Documenting the American West - Hewlett Foundation and U.S. Department of Education, 2004-2007. PI: Bill Landis.
Provided user research services and consulting support for a three-year project to create a digital collection of primary source material about the history of the American West.

The Rosetta Project - The Long Now Foundation, National Science Foundation, 2001-2004. Total grant: $865,000. PI: Jim Mason.
Working with an international team of linguists under the auspices of The Long Now Foundation, developed the information architecture for the Rosetta Project, a repository of language lists for the world's languages.

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

Member, AIGA - NYC Chapter
Member, ACM - SIGCHI
Past member, IxDA
Past member, BayCHI
Past member, Information Architecture Institute