# Donald Metzler

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## Summary

Highly accomplished researcher with extensive experience leading teams and driving impactful research and engineering initiatives. World-class expertise in machine learning, natural language processing, and information retrieval.

## Employment

- **Google (2012 - Present),** *Senior Staff Research Scientist*
    - **Google DeepMind/Research** (2019 - Present) - Tech Lead and Manager of a group of ~40 in the GenAI Unit, focused on generative AI foundations, safety, factuality, and retrieval/ranking. Contributed to major launches across Gemini, Bard, Search, Cloud, and Chrome.
    - **G Suite / Google Apps** (2014 - 2019) - Led a team of ~40 to improve search and finding across G Suite. Led over 100 launches, significantly improving Gmail and Drive search quality.
    - **Display Ads** (2012 - 2014) - Tech Lead for Rephil, a large-scale topic modeling system. Developed methods for incremental model updates, yielding quality and revenue gains.
- **Chomp (2011 - 2012),** *Technology Advisor*
- **University of Southern California (2010 - 2012),** *Computer Scientist*
- **Yahoo! (2007 - 2010),** *Senior Research Scientist*
- **Microsoft (2006),** *Research Intern*

## Education

- **Ph.D., Computer Science**, September 2007, University of Massachusetts, Amherst, MA
- **M.S., Computer Science**, May 2005, University of Massachusetts, Amherst, MA
- **B.S., Computer Science and Mathematics**, May 2002, Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology, Terre Haute, IN

## Awards and Honors

- **Member, SIGIR Academy,** 2025
- **Distinguished Member, ACM**, 2021
- **Test of Time Awards:** SIGIR 2023, CIKM 2021, ECIR 2017
- **Best Paper Awards and Honorable Mentions:** WSDM 2021, WSDM 2017, SIGIR 2017, SIGIR 2011, WSDM 2012, CIKM 2010, SIGIR 2005

## Publications and Patents

- **Books:** Co-authored *"Search Engines: Information Retrieval in Practice"* and authored *"A Feature-Centric View of Information Retrieval"*
- **Journal Articles:** Published in TMLR, ACM Computing Surveys, SIGIR Forum, Foundations and Trends in Information Retrieval, and more.
- **Conference Papers:** Extensive publications in top-tier conferences like NAACL, EMNLP, ACL, ICML, SIGIR, NeurIPS, ICLR, WSDM, and others.
- **Workshop Papers, Technical Reports, and Research Grants:** Contributed to various workshops, authored technical reports, and secured research grants.
- 11 issued US patents in areas such as efficient decoding, search result ranking, match-making systems, query patterns, and query expansion.
- See my Scholar profile for full details.

## Professional Activities

- Organized workshops and tutorials at SIGIR, WSDM, and other conferences.
- Served on journal editorial boards (TOIS, TWEB, Information Retrieval Journal).
- Held leadership roles in conference program committees (WSDM, ICTIR) and served as area chair/senior PC member for numerous top-tier conferences (NeurIPS, ICLR, ICML, EMNLP, SIGIR, etc.).
- Actively participated in various conference program committees and workshop program committees.
- Contributed as a journal reviewer and served on NSF panels and other review committees.