Kate Thacker

Contact

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- 847-899-7678

Skills

Library systems

Data analysis
Data curation
Database design
Database management
Python
Statistical analysis
SQL
Tableau

Design

Content architecture
Design systems
Prototypes
Storyboards
UI/UX design
User flows
UX copy
Wireframes

Research

Affinity mapping
Card sorting
Competitive analysis
Diary studies
Usability testing
User interviews
Surveys

Education

Indiana University Indianapolis
Master of Library and Information Science (MLIS)　　　Jan. 2024 – Present

- Relevant coursework: Data Curation and Management, Database Design, Python for Information Professionals, Library Systems, and Information Instruction.
- Projected graduation date of May 2026.

Indiana University Bloomington
Bachelor of Arts (BA) in Journalism　　　Aug. 2010 – May 2014

- Class of 2014 Ernie Pyle Scholar, IU's competitive journalism honors program.
- Completed a double major in journalism and international studies with concentrations in public relations, India studies, and global development.

Academic library experience

Purdue University Research Repository
Research Data Systems Intern　　　May 2025 – Aug. 2025

- Created an annual Tableau report integrating data from research repository usage, research data management support services, DMPs from awarded research grants, ORCID adoption, and Purdue's Open Science Framework.
- Learned to develop a data management plan, including methods of data collection, storage, and preservation of datasets from research projects.
- Participated in team operations including weekly meetings, strategic planning sessions, hiring a new data curator, and an annual research symposium.

Product design & UX research experience

Advance Local
Lead Product Designer　　　May 2023 – Present

- Designed, validated, and launched a new true crime database and content management system that created a new revenue stream for local journalism.
- Partnered with stakeholders from product, marketing, and editorial teams to define, design, test, and release new features and functionality for 10 news sites.
- Matured team design processes, including the creation of a new design system, documenting usability testing results, and preparing design files for development.

USA Today Co.
Principal Product Designer　　　Feb. 2022 – May 2023

- Managed complex design projects in a fast-paced environment with numerous organizational priorities.
- Mentored and coached junior designers, consulting on research plans, test analysis, user flows, UX copy, and design direction.
- Documented team usability testing practices to help onboard new hires and co-created a team insights database and process.

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Senior Product Designer
Aug. 2020 – Feb. 2022

- Led foundational user research to identify the direction and scope of new design initiatives.
- Advocated for friendly, consistent UX copy, working with fellow team members to copy edit designs for clarity and conciseness.
- Collaborated with product managers and development teams to determine MVP requirements, championing user insights and feedback along the way.

UX Design and Research
Sep. 2018 – Aug. 2020

- Planned, executed, and analyzed hundreds of usability tests.
- Translated project requirements into design solutions, incorporating existing design systems and complex back-end constraints.
- Created user flows, wireframes, and high-fidelity prototypes to win stakeholder approval on end-to-end user experiences.

Yoga Alliance

UX Lead
Jan. 2017 – Sep. 2018

- Collaborated with member services team to identify and solve UX pain points for more than 90,000 members.
- Translated business requirements for new projects into creative design solutions through wireframes and prototypes.
- Conducted user interviews and iterated designs based on new knowledge gained.
- Oversaw front end development cycle and explained new system functionality to facilitate staff training before large deployments.

UX/UI Designer
Jan. 2016 – Jan. 2017

- Designed interfaces for large organizational projects with front end manager.
- Created prototypes for workflow testing and pre-deploy training for staff.

Continuing education

Leading Complex Projects, **IDEO U**
Feb. 2022

Foundations in Design Thinking, **IDEO U**
Jul. 2019