JOB#16457  
Arizona State University  
School of Life Sciences  
Biodiversity Knowledge Integration Center (BioKIC)

Postdoctoral Research Scholar

The Biodiversity Knowledge Integration Center (BioKIC) at Arizona State University (ASU) invites applications for a full-time, fiscal-year appointment as a postdoctoral research scholar position in biodiversity informatics. The position is part of the Biodiversity Data Science Initiative launched at ASU and led by Beckett Sterner and Nico Franz. The initiative will develop a next-generation, AI-enabled solution to overcome the performance limits of taxonomic names for integrating data about living things into scientifically meaningful units. This postdoctoral research scholar position will focus on developing a web-based taxonomic intelligence platform and innovating better solutions for knowledge representation and reasoning, including AI approaches where suited, at scale. Taxonomic intelligence provides the mapping between names and concepts necessary to resolve names accurately into meanings despite changing relationships across time and expert sources. The initiative will focus on building an innovative web platform that leverages theoretical advancements, computational logic, and prototype software for taxonomic concept alignment, with the goal to establish a robust, scalable taxonomic intelligence service that will carry value for scientific audiences, science publishers, government agencies, and environmental consulting firms. The platform will accelerate the growth of high-quality, reproducible biological data by driving the adoption of taxonomic intelligence metadata in scientific datasets and publications.

Minimum qualifications

- The successful candidate must have a Ph.D. in computer science, biology, or related field by time of appointment.
- Candidates must be within five years from receipt of their doctoral degree.

Desired qualifications

- The successful candidate will also have a strong record of achievement in one or more of the following areas in computer science or bioinformatics: machine reasoning (e.g., Answer Set Programming, SMT, AI), knowledge graphs and representation (e.g. RDF), linked data, and data/graph visualization.
- The ability to select technologies, and rapidly iterate on the implementation of a high-quality, functional and scalable system is preferred.
- Knowledge of biological systematics is highly beneficial.
- Mentoring of students and co-/authorship of peer-reviewed publications, presentations, and of research proposals, will be strongly encouraged.
Working environment

We are committed to open science and an inclusive, equitable, and team-oriented work environment that promotes the candidate’s career and personal advancement. The Biodiversity Data Science Initiative is located within the School of Life Sciences and Biocollections at Arizona State University. This setting offers a supportive and stimulating environment, with a diverse collection of faculty with expertise across the life and computational sciences, as well as access to excellent academic and computing resources. The postdoctoral researcher will be able to take advantage of multiple seminar series and a large community of faculty, postdocs, and students. Arizona State University offers a rich environment for early-career researchers and a wide range of support programs for postdocs. Accommodations for remote work may be possible.

About Arizona State University

Arizona State University is a comprehensive public research university named #1 in the United States for innovation for the second consecutive year, followed by #2 Stanford and #3 MIT. We measure our success not by whom we exclude, but rather by whom we include and how they succeed; advancing research and discovery of public value; and assuming fundamental responsibility for the economic, social, cultural and overall health of the communities we serve. ASU’s School of Life Sciences is home to innovative teachers who are guided by educational access, student success, applied learning, and interdisciplinary inquiry. We understand there are many paths to achieving a university education, and we build undergraduate and graduate degree programs and pathways that are flexible and relevant for a rapidly changing world.

How to apply

Exploratory e-mail inquiries are strongly encouraged. Interested applicants please submit the following pdf(s) through Interfolio at http://apply.interfolio.com/78177:

1. a one-page research statement clearly indicating their qualifications and motivation to join the project,
2. Curriculum Vitae, and
3. contact information for three references

The review of applications will begin September 15, 2020; if not filled, applications will be reviewed every week thereafter until the search is closed. The start date is flexible, yet with a strong preference for January, 2021.

Salary is commensurate with experience, with a range of $65,000 to 70,000 annually, plus ASU benefits. The top end of the salary range will be for exceptionally well-qualified applicants. Reasonable relocation funds are available.

The College values our cultural and intellectual diversity, and continually strives to foster a welcoming and inclusive environment. We are especially interested in applicants who can strengthen the diversity of the academic community.

A background check is required for employment.
For more information about hiring standards at Arizona State, please visit: https://www.asu.edu/titleIX/

Arizona State University is a VEVRAA Federal Contractor and an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Employer. All qualified applicants will be considered without regard to race, color, sex, religion, national origin, disability, protected veteran status, or any other basis protected by law. ASU's full nondiscrimination statement (ACD 401) is located on the ASU website at https://www.asu.edu/aad/manuals/acd/acd401.html and https://www.asu.edu/titleIX/

In compliance with federal law, ASU prepares an annual report on campus security and fire safety programs and resources. ASU’s Annual Security and Fire Safety Report is available online at https://www.asu.edu/police/PDFs/ASU-Clery-Report.pdf. You may request a hard copy of the report by contacting the ASU Police Department at 480-965-3456.

Approved 8/19/2020 (jk)