Amelia Short

Product Designer - CHI 2025 Best Paper Award Winner

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As a product designer, I believe powerful technologies should feel human. My unique background includes designing for MongoDB's Atlas Search and documentation teams, where my design work deepened my understanding of complex systems and developer mindsets. This practical experience is complemented by award-winning research (CHI 2025 Best Paper) focused on uncovering the lived experiences and self-determined needs of older adults with memory concerns.

I bring a research-grounded approach to my work, strong empathy for diverse users (from developers to vulnerable populations), and a knack for making complex technical products accessible and usable. I specialize in understanding diverse user journeys, translating technical capabilities into user value, and collaborating to build intuitive, accessible products. Passionate about growing my impact at the intersection of technology and human need.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

MongoDB — Product Designer (JULY 2022 - PRESENT)
- Designed a dynamic code playground interface tailored for developers to seamlessly test and refine MongoDB Atlas Search queries, prioritizing user experience and functionality to enhance productivity and query refinement
- Directed the redesign of components to improve structure and clarity, optimizing content for large language model ingestion and retrieval accuracy
- Conducted contextual inquiries, interviews, and led a workshop at an industry conference as part of a multi-phase research initiative on a single user problem, aligning cross-functional teams around key initiatives

MongoDB — Product Design Intern (JUNE 2021 - AUGUST 2021)
- Led design for allowing users to log into their MongoDB Cloud account with GitHub credentials and ensuring parity with existing SSO providers
- Engaged in cross-team collaboration to create account authentication for CLI users

Solers-Peraton — Software Engineer (JANUARY 2019 - DECEMBER 2019)
- Developed system components for a large federal defense contract in Java and JavaScript
- Built a system to retrieve, store, and display data in an interactive dashboard

EDUCATION

University of Maryland, College Park MSc — Human-Computer Interaction (2020-2022)

University of Maryland, College Park BS — Information Science, Data Science Concentration (2014-2018)

PUBLICATIONS

Short, Amelia, et al. "Tracking and its potential for older adults with memory concerns." *Proceedings of the 2025 CHI Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems*, 25 Apr. 2025, pp. 1–15, https://doi.org/10.1145/3706598.3714093. (Best Paper Award)