As an Assistant Professor in Electrical Engineering, Vijay spends about 25% of his time teaching and the rest doing research. He is a relatively new faculty member, has a lot of ideas he is proud of and wants to share them with his colleagues. His recent proposal for a new undergraduate class in Sustainable Semiconductor Systems (SSS) was approved and the department actually wants him to also offer a graduate course on the same topic. Vijay is happy to step up to the challenge on top of an already rather packed fall schedule.

Vijay did some graduate work in SSS, but needs to develop new teaching resources. He aims to get all his preparatory work done during the summer before the fall semester so he can then focus on research and simply conducting the course.

To build resources for his courses, Vijay starts with the approved curricular goals and his two different audiences in mind: mid-level undergraduates and graduate students. The graduate course will discuss journal articles weekly while the undergraduate course will have a textbook, problem sets and one or two journal articles to discuss. Vijay really wants this material to come alive for his students and plans to take a first stab at integrating current news and media such as videos and images into his courses.

To find the textbook for the undergrads, Vijay turns to the little library he has started in his office. He worked with pioneers in this area and has their textbooks. He knows SSS is an emerging, changing field and wants the undergrads to get a solid foundation that is relatively easy to understand instead of delving into details.

To find journal articles, Vijay turns to some of his favorite scholarly databases including IEEE Xplore and ISI Web of Science. He spends a number of hours at a time planning topics to cover in the course and searching for journal articles that fit the topics. He wants to quickly bring his grad students into SSS and then analyze some very interesting, albeit complex, applications that they may apply to their current and future work.

Though he is a rather advanced researcher, he uses simple keyword or author searches when looking for papers. He looks for seminal works as well as those that are more recent. When he finds an interesting article, he browses the abstract and skims the full-text PDF for strong diagrams and charts. He gets frustrated when full-text PDFs are not available because they are so easy to save and share. He gets even more frustrated when he has to click through a number of irrelevant screens to discover that there is no full-text available. He saves PDFs he will use in a folder on his desktop to later upload to Sakai.

As the fall semester starts, Vijay finds himself working on the weekends to put together lecture slides and include current news and multimedia. He is also traveling to a number of conferences throughout the semester. He likes to connect with colleagues and often hears great ideas and sees great visuals that he incorporates into class. He is new to searching YouTube, Wikipedia, Wikimeda and Google Images and it can take him a very long time to find something that will only be used for seconds in class. Although he is well versed in searching scholarly databases in his field, he has difficulty navigating the library’s website to find more popular content, like a licensed article from Time Magazine. Vijay does not hesitate, however, to ask for help and delegate resource-finding missions to his departmental librarian.

Vijay Ramakrishnan
31 years old
Assistant Professor in Electrical Engineering
4 years teaching

“I want my colleagues to respect my work and my students to get excited about my field.”

Goals
Innovate in my field. Vijay is a young, bright and active scholar with a lot of new ideas for his field.

Incite a passion for my field in my students. Vijay is very excited about his field and wants to share that passion with his students.

Advance my career. Vijay conscientiously prioritizes his research, engaging with the scholarly community through conferences and publishing and securing grants.

Personas Library & Sakai 3 Integration Project