Rajendra M Sonar: Brief CV

Present status

Associate Professor of Information Systems/Technology,
Shailesh J Mehta School of Management,
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Co-founder, WKA Technologies Pvt Ltd, SINE, IIT Bombay

Education

Ph.D. (Computer Science), 1997-2000, University of Pune
Thesis Topic: Hybrid Intelligent Systems and applications to Investment Decision Making.

Master of Computer Science (M.C.S.), 1990-92
First Class, from University of Pune

Bachelor of Computer Science (B.C.S.), 1986-89
First Class, from University of Pune

Research Interest

Knowledge-based Systems, Hybrid Intelligent Systems (especially integrated architectures of neural networks, case-based reasoning, genetic algorithms and rule-based expert systems) and business applications of AI, Role of AI in BI/KM, Business Intelligence for Personalised Experiences.

Experience

Total of **25+** years of mixed experience: teaching, research, consulting, administrative; software leadership, architecting, mentorship and product development.

IIT Bombay: 15+ years
(was on long leave from Jan 2013 till Oct 2015 as Director, iKen Solutions Pvt Ltd)

Associate Professor of IT/IS, SJMSOM, Indian Institute of Technology Bombay (IITB) since July 2008 (**Assistant Professor** from May 2003 to June 2008).

<u>Teaching</u>

IT courses to M.Mgt. (Master of Management): Information Systems, Management Information Systems, Management of Information Technology, Intelligent Systems in Management, System Analysis and Design, etc.

Received *the best teacher in management* award of IIT Bombay twice in 2008 and 2013 *MDP/CEPs*

Taken initiative in starting General Management Programme for Technical Professionals (GMPTP), one of the coordinators for first three, conducted an MDP on Resource Mobilisation for NGO Sector, delivered lectures at various MDPs held.

<u>Administrative</u>

Played role of IT, Placement, MDP and Admissions Coordinators-School of Management, IIT Bombay and part of various committees at school as well as IITB level.

WKA Technologies Pvt Ltd: Nov 2016 as Co-Founder

Co-founded another company WKA Technologies Pvt Ltd in November 2016. We have come out with a DiY (Do it Yourself) Rapid and Configurable Application Development platform to build web-based software, responsive web-apps, mobile apps and chat-bots powered by knowledge-based system approach (https://www.wkastudio.com). This has been outcome of almost one and half decades of work. We have developed full-fledged commercial applications for few clients using this platform. It is one stop shop to develop operational and AI backed systems.

WKA technology value-proposition is quick application development with less efforts (60-70% faster than developing applications using conventional programming languages such as Java). The platform enables to develop working applications in few hours if sample data files are available. Simple data entry DB applications can be literally developed within an hour. We are working with few clients on interesting projects.

iKen Solution Pvt Ltd: 2005-2015 as Promoter, Director and Mentor
(2005-2015)

Co-founded a software product and solution company: iKen Solutions Pvt Ltd (now iKen Personics) at SINE (IIT Bombay's Technology Business Incubator) in 2005. iKen got numerous awards including ET Best telecom software award, NASSCOM innovation award etc. Exited form company in 2016 with entire IPR (software platform *having half millions of lines of code*) back to IRCC, IIT Bombay developed over a decade, the cost of development itself is more than INR 3 crore. At the time of my exit, iKen was powering *INR 200 crores* of business to Airtel and *handling volume of 20 crore individual subscriber profiles* pan India deployed on 32 servers.

NIBM Experience: 7 years

As an **Assistant Professor** in Information Technology Area Group from January 2001 to April, 2003; and, as a **Research Officer** from March 1996 to December 2000 at National Institute of Bank Management (NIBM), Pune.

Consultancy Projects worked (worked with 12 public sector banks)

o Implementing Asset and Liability Management (ALM) solution for Public Sector Banks:
  Central Bank of India, Punjab and Sind Bank, Punjab National Bank, Allahabad Bank, UCO Bank, J&K Bank Ltd, Oriental Bank of Commerce, Bank of Maharashtra
o Reserve Bank of India (Central Bank) Sponsored Consultancy Project (Integrating IT Strategy of the Banks with their Business Strategy) Technology
o IT upgradation plan for State Bank of Saurashtra
o Operationalizing the ALCO Mandate for State Bank of India
o Developing DSS for Investment Decision Making for Indian Overseas Bank
o Investment Analysis aimed at optimization of Yield and Liquidity Management for Punjab and Sind Bank
o Hardware/Software Policy and IT plan for Punjab and Sind Bank

MDPs: Coordinated and taught in several MDPs, some of the topics MDPs Coordinated

o Design and Development of Banking Applications using Client/Server Technology
o Design and Development of Web-Based (Internet/Intranet) Banking Applications
o Design and Development of MIS and DSSs
o Computer Based Information Systems
o Data mining and Data warehousing

Administrative work

o Coordinator, IT Area Group
o Coordinator and Member, IT Committee
o Member, Infrastructure Development Committee
o Development of NIBM's Intranet and Internet

Prior experience (before March 1996): 5 years

o 2 years of software development at Directorate of Water Management Research (now Indian Institute of Water Management: *Indian Council of Agricultural Research*), MPKV Vidyapeeth Campus, Rahuri-413 722. Developed various in-house and scientific and publishing related software.

o 2 years of teaching experience to B.C.S. (Bachelor of Computer Science) courses at various colleges affiliated to Pune University. Taught data structures, programming languages, system analysis and design courses.

- o 1 year of <u>software development</u> experience at Network Associates, Tapinagar, Bhusawal-425 201. Developed various in-house and lift irrigation related software.

Research/Publications

- Ph.D. guidance: 6 Ph.D. Scholars, 2 ongoing.
- Research papers
  - o International Journal Papers: 16 (<u>14 during associate professor tenure</u>).
  - o In international conference proceedings peer reviewed papers: 25
- Other:
  - o 2 articles in Indian Management
  - o 12 articles on information systems/technology in Computer Society of India Communications
  - o Book written: Next Generation Business Intelligence: A knowledge-based approach
  - o IPR creation: created IPR (software product) through IRCC funded project

Visiting/Professional Assignments

Guest/invited speaker/expert/reviewer:

- o Chief Editor, CSI (Computer Society of India) Knowledge Digest, April-2011-2014
- o National Institute of Bank Management (NIBM), Pune
- o Administrative Staff College of India (ASCI), Hyderabad
- o National Institute of Construction Management and Research (NICMAR), Pune
- o Research Review Committee, Symbiosis International University 2017-2018.
- o Various firms like ICICI Bank (Analytics division), Wipro etc.
- o Various National/International Conferences and Seminars
- o Various selection panels of BSRB/SEBI/NICMAR/Symbiosis etc.
- o Journals: IIM-B, NICMAR, SCIT and other national journals.
- o Advisory board member: CEDI: Centre for Entrepreneurship Development and Incubation, NIT, Trichy
- o RRC member, faculty of computer studies, Symbiosis International University
- o Etc.

Software Development Experience

Extensive experience in software design and development on Microsoft plat-forms, programming languages, operating systems, databases, development environments and productivity tools. Web-based application development, database modelling and design, developing expert systems, modelling business problems using neural networks and spread-sheets like Excel, etc. ASP.NET, Oracle, MS-SQL, MySQL, C#, C/C++, Matlab, Prolog, Visio, etc.