Submissions for the Sixth International Paper Contest on International Digital Libraries and Information Science & Technology Advances in Developing Countries ended on June 30. Thirty papers by 39 authors from 12 developing countries were received. The contest has also seen its first submission from Latin America.

This year’s paper competition is organized by Dr. Liwen Vaughan and Mr. Duncan Omole with the assistance of Yin Zhang. Winners will be announced in August. Stay tuned! More information about the International Paper Contest is available at: http://www.asis.org/SIG/SIGIII/

SIG III would like to thank the generous donors for their support for the International Paper Contest, who have helped to raise over $8,000 since mid-March. The SIG III fundraising campaign is ongoing and we welcome contributions to keep the program going. Here is a list of donors who have contributed as of July 8, 2005:

<table>
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<th>Donors</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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<tr>
<td>Elsevier</td>
<td>$2,000</td>
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<td>ASIST SIG IFP</td>
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<td>Individual donors:</td>
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<td>Linda Smith, Marianne Affi, Joseph Busch,</td>
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<td>Anthony Debons, Thomas Fowler, Thomas Froehlich,</td>
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<td>Yukiko Sakai, Diane Hopkins, Javed Mostafa, Yin</td>
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<td>Natsuo Onodera, Noriko Kando, Roberta Horowitz,</td>
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This year marks the sixth anniversary for the ASIST SIG III International Paper Contest on International Digital Libraries and Information Science & Technology Advances in Developing Countries. The International Paper Contest is one of the most successful programs SIG III runs each year. The papers submitted represent important developments in information science, and they serve to advance the information profession worldwide. In the past three years (2002-2004), we have attracted over 150 information professionals from 35 developing countries to participate in the International Paper Contest. Many of the papers have been published in library and
information literature, including the *International Information and Library Review* and the *Bulletin of the American Society for Information Science and Technology*. In addition, contest winners often see advances in their professional careers. Their stories are posted on the ASIST SIG III website at [http://www.asis.org/SIG/SIGIII/](http://www.asis.org/SIG/SIGIII/). This valuable opportunity would not be available without the financial support provided by all of our generous donors.

The funds raised will support two-year ASIST memberships for six to eight of the paper contest winners each year and cover expenses of the top winner(s) to travel from his or her home country to the ASIST Annual Meeting. Since the first paper contest in 2000, through this program, SIG III has sponsored 32 two-year ASIST memberships to contest winners from 15 different countries, and has supported 15 winners to attend the ASIST Annual Meeting.

SIG III is currently reaping the benefits of our International Paper Contest fundraising campaign, which is bringing in donations from all over the world. Just last year, SIG III was privileged enough to receive donations from the Los Angeles Chapter and the Potomac Valley Chapter of ASIST. Both of these chapters have contributed greatly to our fundraising effort throughout the past several years; the LA Chapter donates on a regular basis, and the Potomac Valley Chapter has held several sales and fundraisers to raise money for the contest. Elsevier has also been a constant help, donating $3000 last year and $2000 this year for the International Paper Contest alone, as well as contributing money to the International Reception.

We would like to thank all of these donors for their ongoing support, as it means a great deal to us. We are also extremely grateful for the help of these donors. Without their contributions, we would not be able to run the International Paper Contest, which benefits so many scholars and information professionals around the world. Additionally, we would like to thank all the individual donors who have contributed in the past and will contribute again in the future.

Finally, we would like to thank the Executive Director Richard Hill and Director of Finance Janice Hatzakos at ASIS&T headquarters for their help in processing the donations and making them available for our digital scholar funds.

The officers and members of SIG III are always working diligently to make this SIG the best it can be. Between this effort and all the support received this year, it is certain that this year’s International Paper Contest will be just as successful as it has been in the past years. Again, thanks for the continued support.

For more information about the International Paper Contest, please visit the SIG III website at: [http://www.asis.org/SIG/SIGIII/](http://www.asis.org/SIG/SIGIII/)

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We would greatly appreciate more donations to keep this paper competition running. If this is possible, please send a check, made payable to ASIST for the “Digital Scholars Fund,” to

Richard Hill
Executive Director, ASIST
1320 Fenwick Lane, Suite 510
Silver Spring, MD 20910, USA

We thank you for your generosity in contributing to this International Paper Contest that has benefited so many people.

### Accepted Sessions for ASIST 2005 Annual Meeting

Thanks to the excellent work of our Annual Meeting Program Chair, Duncan Omole, and many session organizers and contributors, SIG III will sponsor or co-sponsor four technical programs at this year’s annual meeting in Charlotte, North Carolina, October 28-November 2, 2005.

**Cross-Cultural Analysis of Virtual Reference**
Organizer: Pnina Shachaf and Noriko Hara
Moderator: David Lankes
Speakers:
Lokman Meho, Nahyun Kwon, Bin Li, Pnina Shachaf, Noriko Hara, Yukiko Sakai
Sponsor: SIGs III and TIS

**Neutrality of Technology**
Organizer: Kalpana Shankar and Nadia Caidi
Moderator: Martha Smith
Speakers: Marija Dulbello, Kalpana Shankar, Nadia Caidi, Thomas Froehlich
Sponsor: SIGs III, IFP, HFIS

**Cross-cultural User Interface Design**
Organizer and Moderator: Dania Bilal
Speakers: Dania Bilal, Bharat Mehra, Anita Komlodi, and Nadia Caidi
Sponsor: SIGs III, USE, HCI

**Multilingual Digital Libraries: Research and Practice**
Organizer and Moderator: Yin Zhang
Speakers: Douglas Oard, Lynne Howarth, and Ian H. Witten
Sponsor: SIGs III, DL

**Global Plaza Featured in ASIST Bulletin**

The April/May issue of the Bulletin of the ASIST features articles on the Global Information Village Plaza program that Nadia Caidi and Michel J. Menou had put together and hosted at the past three annual ASIST conferences. This issue is available online at: http://www.asis.org/Bulletin/Apr-05/index.html

Congratulations Nadia and Michel for your outstanding service and contribution to the information community! For more information about the Global Plaza, including archives and photos, please check the SIG III website at www.asis.org/SIG/SIGIII/.

**New InfoShare Awardees**

InfoShare is a program sponsored by SIG III. The program awards one- or two-year ASIST memberships to information professionals in developing countries for whom the cost of membership would be a financial burden.

Sue O'Neill Johnson serves as our InfoShare Program Officer this year, succeeding Suzanne Stemler, who had served in this post for many years and helped shape the direction of this program. Sue has been working really hard with other SIGs and Chapters in identifying candidates.

This year, we have selected two InfoShare Awardees:

Ozy Orji won a two-year ASIST membership for 2005-2007. She can be reached at ozyorji@hotmail.com

Ozy Orji is an established Nigerian librarian and a previous winner of the InfoShare Award. Some of Ozy's recent accomplishments include:

- Winning the SLA Global 2000 Fellowship.
- Being elected as a councilor in the Nigeria Library Association in June, 2004. This is a Board member position which is the highest decision making body of the National Association. At the age of 39, she is the youngest ever elected to such a position in the history of the Nigerian Library Association.

In December 2004, at the invitation of the ASIST Los Angeles Chapter Chair Rachel Clemens and with the help of Sue O'Neill Johnson, Ozy Orji visited California State University in early December to meet with ASIST librarians and others.

Subbiah Arunachalam (Arun) won one-year ASIST membership for 2005-2006. He can be reached at arun@mssrf.res.in

Professor Subbiah Arunachalam is an information scientist and scientometricist. Before joining the M S Swaminathan Research Foundation as a volunteer in April 1996, he was with the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research for about three decades, first as a laboratory scientist and then as an editor of scientific journals and teacher of information science. In between, he did research at the Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore, served as editor of journals and the secretary of the Indian Academy of Sciences, Bangalore. He was a visiting professor at the Indian Institute of Technology, Madras, for two years, 1996-1998. His research interests include ICT for development, science on the periphery, improving access to information, mapping scientific research, and science communication. He has delivered more than twenty-five invited talks at international conferences in North America and Europe. He is on the editorial boards of half a dozen international journals including Scientometrics, Current Science and Journal of Information Science, and an advisor to the Information in Practice Science Writers Associations. He has published over 50 research papers and more than a hundred popular science articles. His work has been quoted both in scholarly journals and in the mass media. He is the only Indian to have been elected Honorary Fellow of the Institute of Information Scientists (UK), which was rechristened CILIP upon merging with the Library Association. He is also a life member of IASLIC.

For more information about the InfoShare program, please visit the SIG III website at: http://www.asis.org/SIG/SIGIII/
As the winner of the 2004 International Paper Contest of SIG III, I was invited to the ASIST Annual Conference from 13th to 17th November 2004. The conference was held in Providence in Rhode Island, USA, and it was a very well organized and highly professional conference which was immensely useful to me as an information professional. After registration and the grand New Members’ session at the Westin Hotel, I set off to attend other sessions that encouraged forward thinking and working proactively for the development of the profession of Information Science/Management. Even though I couldn’t attend all the sessions I wished to, I was able to attend a good mix of sessions.

Besides the formal presentations and interesting Plenary sessions, there were lighter events that I was able to enjoy and make the most of.

The New Members’ Conference Brunch, as it was called, was great, mainly because it was informal and took away all the inhibitions of a first timer. I was able to meet and listen to ASIST Officers. The concern was group/team work. There was a grand Welcome Reception hosted by the President of ASIST, Samantha K. Hastings. Ms. Hastings announced and introduced the international participants. The SIG/CON evening was very satirical, and took away all the stresses of the day. Once again another evening dedicated to the International community, the International Reception was very entertaining with the announcements of the raffle winners and meeting and mingling with participants at leisure. I was introduced as the Winner of the International Paper Contest, and I stood proudly and talked a little about myself, attired in a truly Sri Lankan Saree. Nathalie Leroy and Michael Menou, the dynamic duo, were responsible for that.

Indeed that was not the only chance the winner got to brand her way through. The program, “State of Libraries and Information Services in Developing Countries” of SIG III, paved the way to present the winning paper. Other interesting papers by Duncan Omole and Michael Menou were also presented at this session at the country level that gave an insight into the information field in Kenya and Brazil. Nathalie was the ever enthusiastic moderator.

I was thrilled when I was invited to attend the SIG Business Meeting on the last day of the conference. My experiences included participation in the “Global Information Village Plaza” of SIG III, where lively and constructive debates sprang from questions of ‘what if’. This first timer was also given a chance to be involved in it. Nadia Caidi and Michael Menou spearheaded the debates.

The Awards Luncheon was another event that made way for learning and motivating the professionals to always go forward. The SIG Rush was also beneficial in an informal way to plan the conference and definitely to get connected.

I am indeed very pleased that I was awarded this invitation to upgrade my professional knowledge and outlook, a chance to visit America, and meeting and interacting with professionals and other participants, working in an environment of team spirit.

I take this opportunity to express my appreciation to the ASIST and SIG III for the invitation. I also wish to thank Elsevier, who helped SIG III in their fundraising project to make the International Paper Contest a success, to sponsor me to travel to the conference, and to support me and other winners to become members of ASIST. My heartfelt thanks goes to Yin Zhang, who looked after me from the time I landed in America. She was the live wire between SIG III and me (I’m sure the other winners too) who promptly communicated the details of the conference as soon as possible. Yunfei Du informed me about the winning paper. Yin made me feel quite at home although I am a first timer to the ASIST annual meeting and to this country. Sue Johnson was also ever ready to communicate information regarding my visit to the USA, which I appreciate very much. I also wish to thank the many team players of ASIST and SIGs for the advice and guidance given to me during the conference, especially Nathalie, Michael, Duncan, Nadia and Dr. Toni Carbo.

I appreciate the warm hospitality extended to me during my time in Providence, especially at the Old Court Inn, where I stayed.

Last but not least, I thank all the others who helped me to work interactively and in a spirit of teamwork.

Shivanthi Weerasinghe
Sri Lanka
New ASIST Student Chapters created in Toronto, Canada and Europe

The University of Toronto (UofT) Student Chapter of ASIS&T was established in December 2004. It is housed at the Faculty of Information Studies (FIS), which emphasizes interdisciplinarity (FIS students can choose from three specializations: Library and Information Science, Archival Studies or Information Systems). FIS has bridges and collaborative programs with a wide variety of departments and institutions including the Faculty of Law, the Knowledge Media Design Institute, the McLuhan Program in Culture and Technology, the department of Computer Science, and the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education, etc. FIS also supports a vibrant community of information professionals and academic researchers. The University of Toronto ASIS&T Student Chapter seeks to build on this synergy and reach out to the 60,000 full time students at UofT.

Contact information:
Susan MacDonald, Chair,
email: susan.macdonald@utoronto.ca
Faculty Advisor: Nadia Caidi
Website:
http://www.fis.utoronto.ca/people/affiliated/asist/index.html

Contributed by: Susan MacDonald

The European Student Chapter (ESC) of ASIS&T was established in May 2005. Student members of ASIS&T studying at academic institutions within Europe are automatically members of ESC. Other Student members of ASIS&T can apply to join ESC as associate members. Here are some reasons for joining ESC:
- Network with European students of information science and related disciplines.
- Strengthen connections and network with ASIS&T students throughout the world.
- Form links for student exchange at universities and other institutions in information science.
- Publish student essays.

To find out more, please contact
Kora Golub (Chair, Kora@it.lth.se),
Jonathan Levitt (Vice-Chair, j.levitt@ucl.ac.uk),
Imma Subirats (Treasurer, imma.subirats@gmail.com),
Mabrouka El-Hachani (Secretary, hachani@enssib.fr).
Visit our URL
(http://www.asis.org/Chapters/europe/announcements/EuStuChapter.htm) or join our electronic discussion list
(send a blank email to Euro_Student_ASIST-subscribe@yahoogroups.com).

Contributed by: The officers of the ESC.

SIG III Student Group at the University of Washington

In the University of Washington iSchool, there is an active SIG III student group. The group holds a monthly discussion meeting for students. The group’s co-chair, Deb Raftus, describes how the group decides and organizes activities - “We pick a country/region outside the US, then research, share and discuss articles about information issues in that location.” The group has discussed information issues in Iraq, the effects of the tsunami in SE Asia, and related information issues in Turkey.

The group also holds events devoted to international information issues for the school’s students, faculty and staff. For example, the group had a panel discussion of iSchool students who have worked or interned abroad on an information science related project. The group also co-sponsored a talk by Whiskey Monama, a librarian and community activist in Soweto, South Africa.

The group’s co-chair, Aaron Bowen, writes a column called "Biblioteca," related to international information issues, for the School’s monthly student newsletter. See his articles archived (starting October 2004) at:
http://students.washington.edu/aliss/silverfish/silverfisharchive.shtml

Contributed by Deb Raftus (draftus@u.washington.edu) and Aaron Bowen (asb01@u.washington.edu)
Co-Chairs of the SIG III student group

SIG III Listserv and Web Site

To post a message to sigiii-l:
Send your message to <sigiii-l@asis.org [All lower case!]
Attachments will NOT be processed.

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SIG III Web site:
The official Web site of SIG III is located at
http://www.asis.org/SIG/SIGIII/. Please contact
Yin Zhang (yinzhang@slis.kent.edu) if you have
any questions regarding the SIG III Web site and
the sigiii-l listserv.

This issue of SIG III newsletter is compiled by:
Yin Zhang (yinzhang@slis.kent.edu)
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