In This Issue

ASIST Annual Meeting ................................................... 1
InfoShare Recipients .................................................. 1
International Reception ................................................. 2
International Paper Contest Results ......................... 2
Published/Accepted International Paper
  Contest papers in IILR .............................................. 3
International Conferences Calendar in 2005 and
  2009 -- a comparison .............................................. 3
Updates to the SIG-III Website and Blog .................... 4
2008-2009 SIG III Officers ........................................ 8
SIG III Listserv and Web Site ..................................... 9

ASIST Annual Meeting

Here is a list of SIG-III meetings and events to which you are invited!

Welcome Reception

Sunday, November 8, 6:30-8:00 pm. Please come to the SIG-III table at this event.

International Reception

Monday, November 9, 8-9:30pm. Please see a separate section on this event below.

SIG III sponsored/co-sponsored sessions:

Monday, November 9, 1:30pm
Free Access to Computers and the Internet at Public Libraries: International Reflections on Outcomes and Methods
Sponsors: SIGs USE, IFP, III, SI
Speakers: Karen Fisher, Chris Coward, Michael Crandall, Ricardo Gomez, Araba Sey and Ragnar Audunson

InfoShare recipients

Contributed by Sarah Emmerson

Each year the ASIS&T International Information Issues Special Interest Group (SIG-III) sponsors a group of deserving information professionals and graduate students from developing countries for complimentary ASIS&T memberships for whom the financial burden would otherwise be prohibitive. Candidates must submit a Curriculum Vitae and a brief description of why they deserve an ASIS&T membership, as well as express a willingness to promote ASIS&T within their networks and build relationships between ASIS&T and the national/regional organizations. This years’ awardees were decided by a vote of the SIG-III officers at the end of 2008. Each membership award is for one year, with the possibility of renewal for a second year if the new member proves to be a strong advocate for ASIS&T in their home country during the course of the year. SIG-III congratulates the seven information professionals and two graduate students awarded the InfoShare Membership Award for 2009.

Wednesday, November 11, 1:30pm
International Partnerships in Developing and Deploying Health Open Educational Resources
Sponsors: SIGs III, ED, MED
Speakers: Airong Luo, Dick Ng’ambi, Gregory Doyle and Ana Cleveland

Wednesday, November 11, 3:30pm
Sponsors: SIGs III, IFP
Speakers: John Agada, John Gathegi, Johannes Britz and Peter Lohr

Wednesday, November 11, 3:30pm
International Implementation of Digital Library Software/Platforms
Sponsors: SIGs III, DL
Speakers: Fatih Oguz, Yasar Tonta, EunKyung Chung, Corrie Marsh and Krystyna Matusiak
The following are the winners of the InfoShare Membership Award for 2009:

**InfoShare Memberships**

**Renewals:**
- Mumtaz Memon (Pakistan)
- Maqsood Shaheen (Pakistan)
- Hanane Boujemi (Morocco)
- Yuanxin Zhong (China)

**Renewal for ASIST, but new for InfoShare:**
- Tara Mani Dahal (Nepal)

**New Members:**
- Abdul Waheed (Pakistan)
- Tibebe Beshah (Ethiopia)

**Student InfoShare Memberships (renewals):**
- Sandra Miguel (Argentina)
- Mae'n Al Assaf (Jordan)

**International Reception**

*Contributed by the SIG-III Officers*

This year’s International Reception will be held on Monday, November 9, 2009, at 8pm. At the reception you will be able to meet and congratulate this year’s International Paper Contest winner (see note below), and mix with colleagues from all over the world.

SIG-III will hold its annual InfoShare Silent Auction at the event. If you have items you would like to donate to the Silent Auction, please contact InfoShare Officers Abebe Rorissa (arorissa@albany.edu) or Sarah Emmerson (saemmerson@yahoo.com), and bring your items to the conference with you.

We will also have our annual Raffle Ticket Sale at the Reception. The prize in the Raffle is a gift basket put together by the local chapter of ASIS&T, with locally produced products and goodies. If you have something small and new that you could contribute for the basket, please contact Abebe or Sarah and bring it to the conference as well.

All proceeds from the Silent Auction and Raffle Ticket Sale will go to the SIG-III InfoShare Fund, which offers ASIS&T memberships to information professionals in developing countries for whom the cost of membership would otherwise be a financial burden.

Thank you for your support! Come and have a fun night at the International Reception! International attire would be highly encouraged!

**International Paper Contest Results**

*Contributed by Hong Xu, Jonathan Levitt, and Aaron Bowen*

SIG-III is pleased to announce two winners for the 2009 International Paper Contest. The first place award goes to Muhammad Rafiq (pictured above), from Pakistan. His paper is titled “[The] LIS community’s perceptions towards open source software adoption in libraries.”

The second place award goes to Muhammad Arif and Saima Kanwal, both from Pakistan as well. Their paper is titled “Acceptance of digital library among female students and effects of limited access of digital library on their performance in research work: a case of International Islamic University.”

The first place winner and the principal author of the second place paper will each be awarded a two-year individual membership in ASIS&T. In addition, the first place winner will receive funding to attend the 2009 ASIS&T Annual Meeting, November 6-11, in Vancouver, British Columbia. These winning papers and other submitted papers for the competition are considered for publication by Elsevier’s *International Information and Library Review*, which is edited by Toni Carbo. Toni has selected three papers from this year’s Paper Contest for inclusion in *IILR* – see note below.
Congratulations to the winners and to the Contest Committee for their hard work in selecting the winning papers. This year’s Paper Contest was organized by Hong Xu (Chair) and Jonathan Levitt (Co-chair). This year’s judges were:

- Hong Xu, The University of Pittsburgh
- Marcia Zeng, Kent State University, Kent, Ohio
- Aaron Bowen, California State University, Chico, California
- Don Wicks, Kent State University, Kent, Ohio
- Yunfei Du, The University of North Texas, Denton, Texas
- Daqing He, The University of Pittsburgh
- Don Wicks, Kent State University, Kent, Ohio

Generous donations from Elsevier, SIGs, Chapters, LIS Schools, and many other organizations and individuals, have all gone to support the International Paper Contest. More information about the paper competition is available from the SIG III website:

http://www.asis.org/SIG/SIGIII/

Click on “Paper Contest” in the left navigation bar.

Published/Accepted International Paper Contest papers in IILR

Contributed by Toni Carbo

Toni Carbo writes that she has selected three papers from this year’s International Paper Contest for publication in the September issue of the International Information & Library Review (IILR), which will be available online in September. She further notes that we will have copies of this issue at the International Reception.

The Papers from 2009 Paper Contest to be Published are:

Muhammad Arif and Saima Kanwal. Acceptance of digital library among female students and effects of limited access of digital library on their performance in research work.

Preeti Mahajan. Use of social networking in a linguistically and culturally rich India.

Muhammad Rafiq. Community’s perceptions towards open source software adoption in libraries.

International Conferences Calendar in 2005 and 2009 – a comparison

Contributed by Caryn Anderson and Aaron Bowen

In the October, 2005 issue of the SIG-III Newsletter, Caryn Anderson writes

“The New England and European Chapters together with SIG/III endeavoured to establish the International Calendar of Information Science Conferences, which was launched on July 23 and has been so far quite successful. Editing and moderation are secured by Caryn Anderson and Michel Menou [and a] few volunteers in the US and abroad.

“Since 23 July 2005, the calendar has been visited by researchers and practitioners in over 65 countries. At the time of writing this report there were over 190 events in the calendar. The web site is now receiving an average of approximately 200 sessions per day (a total of over 12,500 in the past two months).”

These are impressive numbers. What is truly impressive, however, is the rate of growth the Calendar has experienced during the past four years. In his 2007 SIG-III Annual Report, Duncan Omole noted that the Calendar listed 400 events in FY07, and averaged 300 hits per day in FY06 and 450 hits per day in FY07. And as Caryn wrote in her biography for this year’s ASIS&T elections,

“The Calendar today lists over 500 events annually in over 75 countries and receives 17,000 visits monthly from over 90 countries.” The 17,000 monthly visits works out to roughly 550 hits per day.”

The Calendar had an impressive debut with regard to these different metrics, and has just continued to grow since then!

International Calendar of Information Science Conferences (ICISC)
http://icisc.neasist.org/
Contact: icisc@neasist.org
One project I wanted to pursue this year was (and still is) updating the SIG-III Website. Coming into this year, the site had multiple pages that presented out of date information, as well as design elements that I felt needed to be reworked. For example, there was no introduction to the site to provide an overview of the SIG or its mission and goals. I’m pleased to report that I have since added such an overview to the front page of the site, as well as information about what a person will find in the different sections of the website. This introduction should assist any netizen who surfs onto our page in understanding who we are and what we do, and also help him/her navigate the site. Here are a pair of screenshots that highlight this change:

Front page of the SIG-III Website on April 12, 2009
I’m made similar changes to other pages as well, such as the Global Information Village Plaza page. After archiving the older Plaza material on a separate page (which is linked at the bottom of the current page), I wrote a fuller description of the Plaza than was previously there, and listed the topics of our past Plazas. The following two screenshots illustrate the changes I made:

Front page of the SIG-III Website on July 1, 2009

Global Information Village Plaza

What is Global Information Village Plaza?

The Global Information Village Plaza was born out of the idea of going beyond the hype, rhetoric and “expert” analysis by the happy few involved in the preparation of policies and programs supposed to support the transition into the “information society” or “digital economy.” Instead, it sought to give ASIS&T members and information professionals at large an opportunity to express their views about the challenges and opportunities that the so-called “information society” represents in their personal and professional lives.

• GIVP new leaders will present The 2006 (2nd) Global Information Village Plaza at ASIST 2006 (posted on June 30, 2006)
• Call for new leaders for the Global Village Plaza (posted on January 13, 2005)
• The 2004 (3rd) Global Information Village Plaza Summary (posted on 1/6/2005)
• The 2004 (2nd) Global Plaza: Thematic Contributions (posted on 10/26/2004)
  • Samantha Hastings (ASIS&T President)
  • Ching-chih Chen (Simmsore College)
  • Mary J. Hieva (Access Innovations, Inc.)
  • ASIST International Paper Contest Winners (TBA)
• 2004 (3rd) Global Information Village Plaza: Call for Participation
• Photos from the 2002 (2nd) Global Information Village Plaza
• Themes for the 2002 (1st) Global Information Village Plaza
• Documents about the 2002 (1st) Global Information Village Plaza

Front page of the Global Village Plaza on May 26, 2009

Organizers, Michel Menou and Nadia Gaid, at the first Global Plaza, 2002 ASIST Annual Meeting in Philadelphia
Beyond these changes to the existing site, I have invited discussion among the officers about refreshing the site’s graphical interface with a more contemporary look and feel. This is a project I would like to begin following discussion at this year’s Annual Meeting. I will keep the members of SIG-III posted regarding this discussion and any plans to refresh the website that ensue.

The page of course is available here:

http://www.asis.org/SIG/SIGIII/

In addition to the updates I’ve made to the SIG-III Website, the SIG-III Blog has received a makeover as well. Here’s what it looked like on July 6 of this year:
And here is what it looked like when I finished making changes on July 8:
Primarily this update represents a change in appearance. The new version of the blog has cleaner, less blocky text, and has an overall more contemporary feel. It still maintains its two-column format (though the text column and the categories and archives column have switched places). Beyond that, the “who we are” section is still in plain view above the fold, and the hierarchy of categories is still visible. (In some of the other graphical displays I tried, the hierarchy was lost, and all blog categories were just lumped together. I intentionally avoided displays which did this). Another improvement: the RSS feed and comments feed are now listed in plain view at the top of the categories and archives column.

I’m very pleased with this new look to our blog, and I hope you’ll come by, take a look, and leave a comment. You can find the blog here:

http://www.neasist.org/icisc/blog/

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<th>2008-2009 SIG III Officers</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Chair</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Aaron Bowen</td>
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<tr>
<td>California State University, Chico</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><a href="mailto:asbowen@csuchico.edu">asbowen@csuchico.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Co-Chair (Outside US/Canada)</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Jonathan Levitt</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Open University and University College London, UK</td>
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<tr>
<td><a href="mailto:jonathan@levitt.net">jonathan@levitt.net</a></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Chair-Elect</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Catherine (Kate) Johnson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University of West Ontario</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><a href="mailto:cjohn24@uwo.ca">cjohn24@uwo.ca</a></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Co-Chair-Elect</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Daniel Alemneh</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University of North Texas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><a href="mailto:daniel.alemneh@unt.edu">daniel.alemneh@unt.edu</a></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Immediate Past Chair</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Yunfei Du</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University of North Texas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><a href="mailto:ydu@unt.edu">ydu@unt.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Communications Officer</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Masqood Shaheen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><a href="mailto:shaheenma@gmail.com">shaheenma@gmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Program Chair</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Ajit Pyati</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University of West Ontario</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><a href="mailto:apyati@uwo.ca">apyati@uwo.ca</a></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Treasurer</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Bahaa El-Hadidy</td>
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<tr>
<td>Winner of the SIG-Member-of-the-Year Award for 2000</td>
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<tr>
<td>International Information Consultant, Tampa, FL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><a href="mailto:elhadidy@cas.usf.edu">elhadidy@cas.usf.edu</a></td>
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<td><strong>Webmaster</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Abebe Rorissa</td>
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<tr>
<td>Department of Information Studies</td>
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<td>College of Computing and Information</td>
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<tr>
<td>University at Albany, State University of New York</td>
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<td>San José State University</td>
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<tr>
<td><a href="mailto:saemmerson@yahoo.com">saemmerson@yahoo.com</a></td>
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</table>
Cabinet Representative
Toni Carbo
Drexel University Sacramento Center for Graduate Studies
toni.carbo@ischool.drexel.edu

Alternate Cabinet Representative
Yunfei Du
University of North Texas
ydu@unt.edu

SIG III Advisory Board
Toni Carbo
Drexel University Sacramento Center for Graduate Studies
toni.carbo@ischool.drexel.edu

Nadia Caidi
University of Toronto, Toronto, Canada
nadia.caidi@utoronto.ca

Michel Menou
International Information Consultant
micheljmenou@gmail.com

Duncan Omole
The World Bank Group
Domole@worldbank.org

Shivanti Weerasinghe
Sri Lanka
librarian@boc.lk

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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If you forget your password, click the "Email My Password to Me"
button to have your password emailed to you.

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.

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