

SIG III Newsletter

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International Information Issues

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1. International Paper Contest Update

The deadline for paper submission to enter this year's International Paper Contest has passed and the judges are busy evaluating submitted papers and winners will be announced soon!

This year's judges include:

Suzie Allard, University of Tennessee;
Nadia Caidi, University of Toronto;
Nathalie Leroy, United Nations;
Duncan Omole, The World Bank;
Liwen Vaughan, University of Western Ontario;
and Hong Xu, University of Pittsburgh.

The contest chairs are Yunfei Du, Wayne State University; Nathalie Leroy, United Nations; and Sue O'Neill Johnson, SIG-III Immediate Past Chair.

We thank Yunfei Du for accepting all papers, and creating a web site to facilitate the paper review process. Thanks also to the judges and chairs for their effort to maintain this international network of digital scholars and experts on digital libraries and information technology in developing countries. This year marks the 5th anniversary for this international paper competition.

2. SIG III Fundraising Effort

Elsevier and ASIST SIG III Collaboration

SIG III receives \$3,000 donation from **Elsevier** to support its fifth International Paper Contest. Elsevier's donation will make it possible to proceed with plans for the contest and cover the winners' expenses for ASIST membership, travel, and accommodations. SIG III would like to express our sincere thanks for Elsevier's continued support. Mr. Pringle from Elsevier plans to attend this year's ASIST Annual Meeting in Providence, Rhode Island.

SIG III International Paper Contest provides an opportunity for information science professionals in developing countries to share their experiences and scholarships with their colleagues world wide. The paper contest also facilitates and enhances better communication and interaction among ASIST members and their international colleagues on information issues.

Since its inception in 2000, the contest has attracted increasing numbers of quality papers from many countries. In 2003, 51 papers from 23 countries were submitted. Many papers have been published in the Elsevier's International Information and Library Review. More information is available from the Paper Contest page at <http://www.asis.org/SIG/SIGIII/>.

Linda Bringan, who leads the fundraising effort for SIG III this year, will be working to secure funds to continue the International Paper Contest. Contributions to the International Paper Contest and other SIG III events can be forwarded to ASIST Financial Manager, Ms. Jan Hatzakos for transfer to the Digital Scholar's Fund.

More information about the InfoShare program and photos of the event are available at the SIG III website.

3. 2004 Annual Meeting

2004 Annual Meeting is coming! SIG III will sponsor or co-sponsor the following sessions at the Annual Meeting:

- Third Global Information Village (SIG III). Coordinators: Nadia Caidi, Michel Menou
- Important Technical Issues for Digital Libraries with Multiple Collections, Different Languages, and Diverse Audiences (SIGs III, DL). Coordinator: Yin Zhang, Kent State University
- National Security Policies: Implications for Information Flow and Scholarly Exchange (SIG III, IFP). Coordinator: Nadia Caidi, University of Toronto
- Building Digital Libraries Through Collaboration Within and Between Nations (SIGs DL, III). Coordinator: Suzie Allard, University of Tennessee
- The State of Libraries and Information Services in Developing Countries (SIG III). Coordinator: Nathalie Leroy, United Nations Office at Geneva

Thanks to Duncan Omole for coordinating the submission of sessions for SIG III, which can often be a complicated process.

We will post business meeting times and locations for business meetings as soon as they are confirmed to the sigiii listserv. Hope to see many of you in Providence, Rhode Island this November!

4. The Third Global Information Village Plaza

Call for Participation

The 3rd Global Information Village Plaza - The Power of 'What Ifs'

Nadia Caidi

Faculty of Information Studies, University of Toronto, Canada

Michel J. Menou

CIDEGI, France

For the past two years, the Global Information Village Plaza has tried to get people from all walks of life to share their opinions about what it means to them to live in a so-called "Information Society." Rather than having always the same cliches about the Information Society by self-described experts, we wanted to have a broad dialogue from the North, the South, the East and the West.

This third edition of the Plaza differs substantially from the previous ones in that the new format features a request for questions rather than answers. Questions are purposefully formulated in a "What If?" format intended to elicit provocative debates and open dialogue among participants.

So, this year, we are not asking participants to provide essays or position statements, but rather WE WANT YOUR QUESTIONS. Asking the right questions is often half of the answer. So, we are asking of you that you take a few moments and send us your "What if?" questions. Questions like "what if?" help us think in new and creative ways about our assumptions and goals.

Examples from last year's debates at the Global Information Village Plaza include such "What if" questions as:

- What if we made it a requirement for admission to information studies programs that students spent at least one year in a remote/rural area; low-income community or in a developing nation?
- What if people from various parts of the world did not want software and products in their local languages?
- What if we left the private sector 'take over' the globalization of information products and services?
- What if broadening access to ICTs was simply not enough?
- What if the information science community was the leading voice at the World Summit of Information Society?

These are just examples. We would like your help in coming up with new and important questions to ask.

Please send us your "What If?" questions to the SIG III list at: sigiii-l@asis.org
Messages should clearly indicate "Plaza" in the subject line.

The deadline for submission of questions is **October 15, 2004**.

For more information about the Global Information Village Plaza 3, please check our website. A detailed description of the event is available there:

<http://www.asis.org/SIG/SIGIII/plaza/2004plaza.html>

Thank you and please help us circulate this invitation widely among your colleagues and friends.

Best,
Nadia Caidi and Michel Menou

Note: Anyone can post messages to the sigiii-l list but if you wish to see what others have posted and participate in further discussion, consider subscribing to the list (see Section 6 of this newsletter for details on how to subscribe).

A complete announcement of this event with detailed plan and archives of previous Global Plaza events are available at the SIG III website at: <http://www.asis.org/SIG/SIGIII/>

For more information, please contact **Nadia Caidi** (caidi@fis.utoronto.ca) or **Michel Menou** (Michel.Menou@wanadoo.fr).

5. Upcoming International Conferences

Association of Internet Researchers 2004 Conference: Ubiquity? University of Sussex, Brighton, U.K., September 18-22, <http://www.aoir.org/2004>

Measuring the Information Society: What, How, for Whom and What? Pre-conference workshop of the Association of Internet Researchers Conference, September 18, 2004, Brighton, U.K. <http://www.asis.org/Chapters/europe/announcements/WorkshopMirror.htm>

The web as a mirror of scientific and technical achievements: Issues in access and measurement. Pre-conference workshop of the Association of Internet Researchers Conference, September 19, 2004. Brighton, U.K.

2004 CIRN (Community Informatics Research Network) Conference and Colloquium, September 29 - October 1, 2004, Prato, Tuscany, Italy. <http://www.ciresearch.net/conferences/index.php?cf=4>

The 2004 International Research Conference on Innovations in Information Technology (IIT2004), October 4-6, 2004, Dubai, UAE, <http://www.it-innovations.ae>

International Center for Information Ethics 2004 International Symposium: Localizing the Internet: Ethical Issues in Intercultural Perspective, October 4-6, 2004, Karlsruhe, Germany, <http://icie.zkm.de/meetings>

6. SIG III Listserv

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

To subscribe or view prior postings
Visit the page
<http://mail.asis.org/mailman/listinfo/sigiii-l>

To unsubscribe:
Step 1. Visit your subscription page at:
http://mail.asis.org/mailman/options/sigiii-l/your_email_address

For example, if your list delivery address is msmith@yahoo.com, the URL to access your subscription page should be:
<http://mail.asis.org/mailman/options/sigiii-l/msmith@yahoo.com>

Step 2. On the subscription page, type your password to unsubscribe.

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

Please contact the SIG III Communications Officer, Yin Zhang (yinhang@slis.kent.edu), if you have any questions regarding the sigiii-l listserv.

7. SIG III Website

The official Website of SIG III is located at <http://www.asis.org/SIG/SIGIII/>. Please contact the SIG III Communications Officer, Yin Zhang (yinhang@slis.kent.edu), if you have any questions regarding the SIG III Website.

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