

SIG III Newsletter

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Greetings from 2004-2005 Chair

Dear SIG III Members and Friends,

Season's greetings! It is time to celebrate our achievements, thank our hard-working members and friends, and look forward to a productive new year!

Achievements

- Our ASIST SIG III International Paper Contest has successfully marked its fifth anniversary under the leadership of Nathalie Leroy, Sue O'Neill Johnson, and Yufei Du, and with the hard work of the judges, Suzie Allard, Nadia Caidi, Nathalie Leroy, and Duncan Omole. Thanks the \$3000 donation by Elsevier Publishers and the fundraising efforts by Linda Bringan, ASIST Los Angeles and Potomac Valley Chapters, and many individuals that made this year's contest financially possible. We were able to send this year's first place winner, Ms. Shivanthi C. Weerasinghe, to this year's annual conference to present her winning paper. Thanks to Toni Carbo, the editor of the International Information and Library Review (IILR), for selecting and publishing some contest papers.
- Our SIG III silent auction and raffle ticket sale at the International Reception remained strong this year. Thanks to members and friends who donated items, helped sell the raffle tickets, arranged the silent auction, and bought auction items and raffle

tickets. We raised \$345.50, and we are in a great position to award at least two InfoShare Awards for two-year ASIST membership this year!

- With the remarkable work by Duncan Omole, the Annual Meeting Program Chair, and session leaders, SIG III sponsored or co-sponsored five sessions at this year's annual meeting. We are very grateful that Duncan is taking this role again for the next year's annual meeting. Please remember that January 21 2005 is the deadline for submissions of the sessions to the ASIST planning committee. If you would like to propose additional sessions and help identify speakers for those already proposed, please do so as soon as possible.
- This year, we also celebrated the third anniversary of the Global Information Village Plaza, an innovative and highly-applauded program that was originally proposed and later run by Nadia Caidi and Michel Menou. It has provided ASIST members and many information professionals an opportunity to express their views about the challenges and opportunities of the information society.

These achievements are truly the result of the dedication of our officers and members who have been working really hard to make SIG III benefit so many people. Now we are fortunate to have the 2004-2005 officers and advisers who have stepped forward to serve. Many of them are our past officers: Sue O'Neill Johnson, Bahaa El-Hadidy, Toni Carbo, Norman Horrocks and Michel J. Menou. We also have brand new officers, Faizur Rahman and Abebe Rorissa, who join the board to serve as Communication Officers.

Plans for Next Year

- SIG III will have an active InfoShare program under the leadership of Sue O'Neill Johnson. Work is already under way -- we are currently working with member chapters for nominations!
- We will have a group of new leaders for the International Paper Contest: Liwen Vaughan, Duncan Omole, and Linda Bringan, who have contributed to the paper contest in various ways. Liwen has served as a judge for the paper contest in the past several years, Duncan is a previous paper contest winner, and Linda has successfully

contributed to the fundraising efforts in the past year. We are confident that their leadership will continue the success in building and maintaining our international network of digital scholars and experts on digital libraries and information technology in developing countries.

- Recruiting and expanding our member base is always one of our top priorities. SIG III plans to launch a new mentoring program initiative. Our Immediate Past Chair, Nathalie Leroy, will lead the effort in creating this mentoring program. Stay tuned!
- As part of the recruiting effort, SIG III will work with ASIST's International Liaisons to the Board, Julian Warner and Michel Menou, to bring forward international issues to the board. One of their tasks is to continue the discussion on setting up a membership category that will provide ASIST memberships at a reduced rate for information professionals from developing countries.
- We will try new, more effective ways to run the International Reception. Many great ideas were proposed at our business meeting (see the minutes in this Newsletter). Your suggestions are always welcome!
- Fundraising is very critical to support a range of SIG III activities and programs. We will have an aggressive fundraising campaign this year. Linda Bringan and I will reach out to all potential donors to ensure that our programs will benefit as many people as possible. In addition, we are grateful that Yufei Du has volunteered to continue working on the fundraising website for a more effective campaign.
- We are in the process of creating a knowledge base of how to run SIG III's various programs and activities, which contains well-documented procedures, sample documents, and contact networks so that future officers can run the programs more effectively. For example, for the international paper contest, where and how should it be publicized? We need to have a list of listservs, publications, and a global network of individuals to reach as many potential participants as possible.
- We also plan to create a database of the International Paper Contest winners, travel grants awardees, and InfoShare Awards winners. Such a database will help us build, maintain, and expand our international network of digital scholars and

experts on digital libraries and information technology in developing countries. This database is also critical to our recruiting efforts.

We will keep our members informed and connected using electronic newsletters, the SIG III website, and the listserv. We are counting on **YOU** to fulfill the SIG III missions and looking for more to join us in the activities and for new initiatives this year! Please do not hesitate to send me an e-mail at yinzhang@slis.kent.edu anytime if you want to become more involved.

Let's work together for a productive year for SIG III!

Yin Zhang

Annual International Reception



This year's International Reception was held on Monday, November 15th, 2004, at 8 pm. The reception again attracted a large number of attendees this time! Elsevier Publishers generously offered to contribute \$400 to this year's International Reception, and Mr. Chris Pringle of Elsevier attended the reception.

The Silent Auction at the International Reception also went really well. Thanks to all those who participated. Many SIG III members helped the auction by contributing items for sale, setting up and managing the sale, and buying the items.

A raffle to benefit the SIG III InfoShare Program was also held at the reception. The program sponsors ASIST memberships for information practitioners from developing countries, residing outside the U.S., to help them benefit their information communities and the developments in their countries. The Silent Auction and the Raffle Ticket Sale together raised \$345.50.

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

The Global Information Village Plaza



The third edition of the Global Information Village Plaza differed substantially from the previous ones. The new format featured a request for questions rather than answers. Questions were purposefully formulated in a “What If?” format intended to elicit provocative debates and open dialogue among participants. Over fifty (50) questions were submitted by email from various parts of the world. These were clustered by the moderators, Nadia Caidi and Michel Menou, around eleven themes: infrastructures in times of crisis, language issues, power and control, humans vs. machines, quality of relationships, cost, access and sustainability, inclusion and digital divide, information literacy, education and training, alternative publishing models & open source, and scholarly research.

Participants at the annual meeting selected a few questions that provided the basis for a far-reaching discussion. Among the most voted for questions were such questions as: What if information resources created with public funds were part of the public sphere? (13 votes); What if humans were to favor social well-being over technological progress? (13 votes); or What if 10% of the IT industries advertising budget were to be invested in developing effective automatic translation software? (8 votes).

The audience consisted of about two-dozen individuals. At the core of the discussion was the **role and responsibilities** that information professionals and ASIST had in ensuring the values raised by the various questions: access, open source, public interest, equity, interoperability, education, awareness, and diversity (linguistic and cultural). A discussion took place as to

whether ASIST could or should have more languages being represented on its website and in the program at the annual conferences.

There seemed to be a consensus during the discussions about the importance of a **community-based approach** and community-based needs. The role of ASIST in **educating and raising awareness** about the potential and challenges of ICTs was also emphasized strongly by many attendees. Another role for ASIST was to highlight **best practices**: what works in terms of projects and initiatives and how to share that knowledge? **Cost and affordability** (of databases and e-resources) were of course major issues that were raised when discussions about access took place. Participants asked whether ASIST could help and advocate for libraries and other information institutions. In particular, ASIST was viewed as having a significant role to play in raising awareness and educating various stakeholders about the importance of **preserving public domain knowledge** and passing it on.

The participants present also seemed to agree on the role played by sessions such as the Global Information Village Plaza, which was portrayed as a means to give an equal voice to participants from all parts of the world. This seemed to highlight the importance of diversity of perspectives and information exchange. By the end of the Global Plaza session, there were many ideas for panels to be organized at the next ASIST annual meeting that were suggested (e.g., is technology neutral? Role of information professionals and ASIST in education and awareness; International information policy in a global context, etc.).

Contributed by Nadia Caidi and Michel Menou

More information about the Global Information Village can be found at the SIG III website (<http://www.asis.org/SIG/SIGIII/>) under “Global Plaza.”

SIG III 2004 Business Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, November 16, 2004
Westin Hotel, Providence, RI

The meeting was called to order at 3:15 p.m. by Chair Nathalie Leroy. Those present were:

NAME	AFFILIATION	E-MAIL
Nathalie Leroy	United Nations	leroy@un.org
Yin Zhang	Kent State School of Library & Information Science	yinzhang@slis.kent.edu

Abebe Rorissa	University of North Texas School of Library and Information Science	aar0018@unt.edu
Kendra Albright	University of Tennessee School of Information Science	albright@utk.edu
Shivanthi Weerasinghe	Bank of Ceylon Library (BL)	librarian@boc.lk
Giselle Foss	National Public Radio Broadcast Library	gfoss@npr.org
Pam Osborne	Mercy Corps	posborne@mercycorps.org
Anita Johnson	World Bank	ajohnson1@worldbank.org
Nadia Caidi	University of Toronto	nadia.caidi@utoronto.ca
Mila Rush	University of Minnesota School of Library Science	m-rush@umn.edu
Duncan Omole	World Bank	domole@worldbank.org
Faizur Rahman	University of North Texas	sfr0003@unt.edu
Toni Carbo	University of Pittsburgh	tcarbo@mail.sis.pitt.edu
Julian Warner	Queen's University of Belfast, Northern Ireland	j.warner@qub.ac.uk

Because at least two of the members (Toni and Julian) had to attend the general ASIST Business Meeting, they were asked to speak first. The rest of the meeting was conducted following the regular agenda. Their comments are incorporated into the appropriate sections of the minutes.

1. Introducing the International Contest Winner

This year's International Contest First Place Winner, Shivanthi Weerasinghe from Sri Lanka, was introduced. Attendants were acknowledged.

2. Approval of the Slate of Officers

Nathalie reported she had received some messages from members, all of which were to approve the Slate of Officers. The Slate of Officers as listed in the November 2004 edition of the SIG-III Newsletter was approved. Faizur Rahman and Abebe Rorissa jointly volunteered for the position of Communications Officer. Yin will work with them for a smooth transition.

Therefore, the 2004-2005 SIG III Officers are:

Chair: Yin Zhang

Chair-Elect: Nadia Caidi

Past Chair: Nathalie Leroy

Assistant Chair (Outside the US): Merlyna Lim (Indonesia)

Communications Officer: Faizur Rahman and Abebe Rorissa

Treasurer: Bahaa El Hadidy

InfoShare Officer: Sue O'Neill Johnson

SIG Cabinet Representative: Toni Carbo
Alternate: Sue O'Neill Johnson

Annual Meeting Program Chair: Duncan Omole

Global Plaza:

Mentors: Naida Caidi and Michel Menou

Global Plaza has been trying to seek alternative formats and contents. Members who would like to take responsibility for the event, or to try something else, are most welcome. Nadia and Michel will be happy to mentor as appropriate.

International Paper Contest Committee

- Duncan Omole, Liwen Vaughan, and Linda Bringan
- Mentors: Yunfei Du, Nathalie Leroy, and Sue O'Neill Johnson

3. Treasurer's report

Yin presented the report on behalf of the Treasurer, Bahaa El Hadidy. The FY04 SIG III general fund has a closing balance of \$2,993 as of the end of September. Per treasurer's request, 100% Closing Fund Balance rollover to FY05 was approved. With the SIG III membership revenue, the starting budget for FY05 is \$3,659.

SIG III InfoShare account has a balance of \$875.04 at the end of FY04. At this year's International Reception, we raised another \$345.5 (\$231.5 from Silent Auction; \$114 from Raffle ticket sale – Anne Holohan of University of Trento in Italy won half of \$227 raised from 50/50 raffle ticket sale). Therefore, the current balance is \$1,220.54.

The third account we have is the Digital Scholars Fund. The FY04 closing balance is \$7,163.27. We expect to spend about \$1550 to cover this year's international paper contest first place winner's travel and hotel expenses and another \$1840 for 8 two-year

ASIST memberships to the top winners of the international paper contest. Therefore, the current balance is at \$3,773.27.

4. Report on 2004 activities

Nathalie reported on the activities:

- The 5th International Paper Contest was a success.
- SIG III sponsored or co-sponsored five sessions for this year's Annual Meeting. Duncan was complimented on the way he had handled the conference program planning process.
- No report was available on the planned SLA/ASIST Asian Conference, as no feedback had been received from PK. Jain.
- Fundraising: SIG III raised \$3400 this year from Elsevier for the International Paper Contest and International Reception. SIG-III will need to focus more effort on fundraising, in particular for the international paper contest. Yin mentioned that she is looking into previous donors and exploring potential new ones such as publishers, SIGs, Chapters, and vendors.

5. Global Village Plaza

Julian expressed appreciation of the global plaza program. Nathalie indicated that the Global Village Plaza organizers had asked for volunteers to take over the next year's Plaza, or even for new ideas for a program that could replace the Plaza. Nadia explained that at this stage it may be too early to come up with new ideas. We will accept nominations for new leaders for this effort.

6. Work Programs for 2005

- 6.1 Toni indicated that SIG-III should organize (possibly in cooperation with SIG-IFP) a pre-conference workshop on Global Information policies and ethics.
- 6.2 Toni also indicated that the International Reception should be an ASIST event and that SIG-III should not have to do fundraising to finance the event. SIG-III would continue chairing the event, however. She also indicated that SIG-III should look into what was being served, and replace the usual fare with international food.

6.3 Silent Auction and Raffle:

- Toni expressed the view that SIG-III should pay more attention to this event and try to collect more items. She suggested setting two or three larger gifts that could replace the money as prizes for the raffle (dinner-for-two vouchers, or bottles of wine...). In this way, more money would remain available for the InfoShare program.
- Toni also suggested that a lectern would be helpful to attract attention for organization purposes during the reception.
- Duncan commented that he had sold raffle tickets two years in a row and recommended providing some incentives to convince buyers to buy more than just one ticket, e.g. "buy-five-pay-for-four" formulas.
- The group also discussed other ways for improvement. For example, explain the raffle ticket sale and silent auction from time to time so that people who come late can catch what is going on, and also so people are kept posted on the progress of the events.

6.4 International Paper Contest:

Sue, Yunfei and Nathalie were thanked for their work on the contest. Liwen, Duncan and Linda volunteered to take over. Liwen will coordinate the selection of judges. Nathalie indicated that she would be willing to continue reviewing papers.

6.5 Mentoring Program

- Nathalie proposed to start a Mentoring Program for developing world librarians to continue the work started with the contest. She will draft a call for mentors and a call for mentees, using the contacts established through the paper contest. Giselle Foss shared the mentoring program offered by the SLA.

6.6 Proposed sessions:

Duncan will continue serving as the ASIST Annual Meeting Program Chair. The proposed program ideas include:

- 1) Pre-conference workshop on policies and ethics (contact: Toni, Nadia, Michel, Yin, and European chapter chair-Professor Tatijana Aparac-Jelušić at taparac@ffos.hr)
- 2) LIS Education awareness (contact: Yunfei)
- 3) Neutrality of technology (contact: Kalpana Shankar & Nadia)
- 4) Life-cycle of information (contact: ?). SIG USE is interested in co-sponsoring; their contact person: Rioux Kevin at ksrioux@uncg.edu.
- 5) International standards development (contact: Gail Thornburg at thornbug@oclc.org). SIG LT is interested in co-sponsoring. Their contact: Cindy at ccampbl@bucknell.edu)

6) Global Plaza (contact: Nadia and Michel)

Please contact Duncan if you would like to propose sessions and help identify speakers for the sessions. The deadline for submissions is **January 21**. Please keep in mind that each proposal needs to be 2-page long and illustrate both research and practice.

7. Other Business

Toni shared ideas about SIG restructuring based on suggestions at the SIG Cabinet Meeting. She volunteered to serve on the committee.

Yin concluded by making a few announcements:

- She thanked Nathalie for her work with SIG-III.
- ASIST Los Angeles Chapter will make a donation to the digital scholars fund this year as they have been doing. Yin will send a thank-you letter to the Chapter Chair. The Los Angeles Chapter's practice should be encouraged so that other chapters and SIGs can help with SIG III's fundraising effort.

The meeting adjourned at 5:10pm.

Nathalie Leroy and Yin Zhang

International Paper Contest Winner at the Annual Meeting



Ms. Shivanthi C. Weerasinghe, the top winner of this year's International Paper Contest, attended this year's annual conference. During the conference, Shivanthi presented her winning paper, titled *The role of financiers as intermediaries in bridging the information gap of micro entrepreneurs of Sri Lanka*. Shivanthi also participated in the discussion at the Third Global Information Village event.

International Exchange Showcase

Contributed by Ozy Orji and Sue O'Neill Johnson

At the invitation of the LA Chapter Chair Rachel Clemens and help of Sue O'Neill Johnson, Ozy Orji, an established Nigerian librarian, visited California State in early December to meet with ASIST librarians and others.

Some of Ozy's recent accomplishments include:

- 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.
- Winning a scholarship grant to attend the Women International Networking Conference in October 7th - 9th, in Geneva, 2004.

During her visit, Ozy had a tour of the entire Library facilitated by Rachel Clemens and was introduced to the entire team of the University Library, including the University Librarian.

She had an opportunity to see the advancement of Library practice empowered by technology. She commented that "The most exciting areas were their Electronic Resources and the Circulation Departments. We are really far behind in my country."

Contest Papers to be Published

News from Toni Carbo, Editor of the International Information & Library Review (IILR) -- Nine of this year's contest papers have been accepted for publication in the journal. Thanks to Toni for her support and for sharing this great news!

More details will be posted as references are available.

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
the SIG III Communication Officer, 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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