

SIG III Newsletter

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Greetings from the Chair

2007 has arrived and with it another year of golden opportunities for SIG III! As you can imagine, I am as excited as many of you are and thrilled to welcome you again to SIG III. It is an honor to serve and I welcome the opportunity with utmost humility.

We have just witnessed one of the most successful ASIST conferences and one more time, thanks to the hard work and unwavering support of the entire membership, SIG III broke the record on many fronts. You are truly the engine of this organization and with your help and support we will have another wonderful year.

Awards this Past Year

- SIG III remained a shining star, winning SIG-of-the-Year again. We salute Nadia for leading us to this victory!
- Nadia Caidi and Caryn Anderson were recognized with the 2006 James M. Cretsos Leadership Award. It is an award they truly deserve and we salute them too.

New and Noteworthy

- SIG III fundraising website is finally a reality. We will use it as a generic site to raise funds for specific functions. Kudos to all who made this happen and especially to our ever-dependable Webmaster, Hong Cui.

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International Information Issues

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

- The Kenya Embassy fundraiser was a blast. We thank the committee that worked on this together with the Potomac Valley Chapter. We also thank Factiva for their \$500 donation as well as all the individuals who selflessly donated their items and gave their time to make it happen.
- We welcome Merlyna Lim heartily to the Mentorship Program. This is a brand new program and it is a forum where we intend to effectively nurture new members and support them fully as they integrate into ASIST.
- The Infoshare Program is maturing fast. After raising \$510 at the silent auction and raffle ticket sale at the 2002 international reception, last year we raised \$677 and boy didn't we break the record this year again, cashing in a whooping \$1225.05! Kudos to Vika Kravchyna for her ideas that enabled us to set this new record and thanks to all those who relentlessly sold tickets and generously sent items for the silent auction. As a program that will receive its members from the International Paper Contest as well as from the Mentorship Program among a host of other carefully thought but competitive sources, we are excited!
- The International Paper Contest has seen many leaps and bounds. In its seventh year, we have received 270 papers from 323 authors. This year, we had four of the winners travel to the annual meeting, three of them at their own cost. We are proud of our ever expanding network of digital scholars.
- We now have a brand new blog, thanks to the hard work by Aaron Brown. It is a great marketing tool we have at our disposal and which we plan to use fully to popularize our future programs. Thank you Aaron!

Slate of Officers for 2006-2007

Our slate of officers for the next year has been approved. It is a remarkable team composed of a mix of highly experienced members who will bring along their past successes and experience in addition to new faces we are counting on for new energies, ideas and undoubtedly useful perspectives. I am truly indebted to the previous and current leadership for their valuable advice and input throughout the selection process.

Priorities for Next Year

SIG III has a reputation for providing long-term sustainable ideas. We will build on this fine premise

and strong foundation even as we explore to expand our reach and quality of services. In the coming year, we will focus on:

a) Programs for the 2007 Annual Meeting. Our Program Chair, Kate Johnson worked remarkably hard on the program last year. Kate has kindly agreed to take the lead on the program organization for next year. It is thanks to her excellent work that we have presented 12 program proposals this year. We also hope that Merlyna Lim will be able to put together a separate proposal for an international paper contest panel. Merlyna is a talented previous paper contest winner who has also served in various capacities within SIG III. We are lucky to have her. *Please note that the deadline for submission of proposals to ASIS&T's Program Selection Committee is Jan 21 2007.*

b) The International Paper Contest. In the able hands of Chair Julian Warner, a SIG III veteran who is also one of ASIST's Directors-at-Large, assisted by the very dependable Judy Jeng as Co-Chair, we look forward to a successful 2007 paper contest. The two will be assisted by a team of core jury members. Our new deadlines enacted last year remain the same - sending out Call for Papers (CFP) by December 31 2006 and requiring receipt of all entries by March 31 2007. In addition to the usual mailing & distribution lists, press releases will also be sent to targeted national library associations in addition to posting it to the SIG III blog. We will also use the World Bank network of depository libraries to get the word out. We encourage all members to help with the dissemination after the CFP is announced. Subject to availability of funds, we hope to sponsor two top winners this year to come to the ASIST 2007 Milwaukee conference.

c) The Infoshare program. This remains the plank on which we will continue supporting one-year memberships for selected proven developing country professionals with a possibility of renewal. Beginning this year, with an incredible plan put forward by Caryn and Vika, memberships will be offered to both Masters and PhD students in addition to our professional base that we have always supported. Vika has already set up a website towards next year's nominations. Thank you Vika.

d) Expansion of SIG III membership. Recruitment and retention of members will be a top priority next year. We owe our existence to our membership and our past achievements can only be attributed to an active agile membership. We will expand participation and recruitment through the International Paper Contest, the Infoshare Program, and the New Member Brunch among a host of other strategies. We hope to reach out more aggressively to the Latin American as well as to the African and Eastern European regions. *Urge you to join me in establishing valuable contacts in these three regions.*

e) Fundraising. Our programs have been growing thanks to successful fundraising efforts. We have raised funds through donations from Chapters, other SIGs and corporate donors. We have also organized different fundraising functions. In the coming year, we will not only build on these methods but we will also aggressively pursue new methods, new leads and new donors. Stay tuned!

f) International Reception. Our hardworking Cabinet Representative, Toni Carbo informs us that Elsevier is happy to continue supporting the international reception as it has done in the past. The international reception is a long established ASIST tradition where SIG III takes the lead in recognizing our international members. Participants get a chance to meet the winners of the International Paper Competition and past winners if they are present, contribute to the silent auction and purchase raffle tickets to support Infoshare memberships. This will be a key activity in next year's Annual Meeting. Suggested for inclusion beginning this year are specific country themes to be alternated each year. Let us continue to make it a truly international event through the usual international menu, national dresses and diverse participation. Other ideas are welcome!!! Please let me know.

g) Database of International Experts. We will update our database of international digital scholars to accurately reflect who they are, where they are and what they are currently doing. We will also encourage them to participate more aggressively in our programs.

h) SIG III Blog. The blog is one of our newest communication tools and we look forward to marketing it among our members and using it to reach out to all our target groups.

Appreciation

I am grateful to all our sponsors, donors and members for the truly positive difference they continue to make in SIG III. We are lucky to have you and we count on you again this coming year. Without your support, SIG III would not be what it is today! I thank you and I look forward to working with you.

**Duncan Omole,
Chair of SIG III.**

International Reception at ASIST 2006

Once again, the International Reception on Monday night of the Annual Meeting was a huge success. Not only was the room packed and lively, but the Silent Auction was buzzing and raffle tickets were flying! Vika Kravchyna (new InfoShare officer with Caryn Anderson), Duncan Omole, Aaron Bowen, Brittany Lehman, Kate Johnson, Toni Carbo and Nadia Caidi

were selling tickets like mad for the grand prize of a "Texas basket" full of local goodies from Texas, including wine, salsa, cookbooks and other treats.

Guests to the International Reception were greeted by four of International Paper Contest winners: Aditya Nugraha (Indonesia), Chengyu Zhang (China), Pradip Upadhyay (India), and Yashwant Kanade (India). Their posters were displayed at the entrance to the reception and they spent much of the time making new friends and discussing their work. These winners were introduced during the reception and each expressed gratitude for the opportunity to come to the ASIS&T annual meeting and shared a little about their work.

Our first place winner, Aditya Nugraha, pulled the winning raffle ticket and much to everyone's surprise and delight the Texas basket was claimed by former SIG-III chair, Hong Xu! She promptly shared the goodies with all her colleagues and the wines were gone before the end of the reception.

Needless to say, another rousing good time was had by all, and when all the silent auction items were paid up, and the raffle funds counted, together we raised over \$1,200.00 for the InfoShare program – nearly doubling last year's figure! Thank you to everyone who participated and attended and sent silent auction items.

The silent auction included knitted items from SIG-KNIT members (KT Vaughan, Kris Liberman, Cecelia Preston & Sarah Webb), an original painting from ASIS&T Bulletin Editor, Irene Travis, original African garments and carvings from Ify Ngoku (current SIG-III co-chair), and lots of goodies from Trudi Bellardo Hahn, Toni Carbo, Elise Lewis, Beata Panagopolous, Robin Peek, Candy Schwartz, and Julian Warner, as well as anonymous donations from others. It will be hard to top this year's reception, but we look forward to another fantastic celebration in Milwaukee in 2007 (local specialties are beer and cheese – what could be better?).

Caryn Anderson, Program Coordinator

Some experiences at ASIST 2006

Four winners of the International Paper Contest who attended ASSIST 2006 sent us accounts of their experiences at the annual meeting. This section presents these accounts.

Aditya Nugraha, 1st Place Winner

It was a great experience for me to be able to attend the 2006 ASIS&T Conference in Austin, TX. I won the

first place in the 2006 ASIS&T SIG/III International Paper Contest, which has allowed me to get financial support from ASIS&T to come to the conference. The experience began when I received an email telling me that I won first place in the contest. That was a bit of surprise for me since I didn't set any target when I joined the contest. In fact, I joined the contest to kind of 'force' myself to write and to disseminate information on my Desa Informasi (Information Village) project. The writing process itself has enriched me professionally. So I think that the International Paper Contest is a great idea, especially since it provides avenues to scholars from developing countries to write about their ideas and projects to a much broader audience. I'm sure it also benefits colleagues from the developed world to learn about developments in library and information science in the developing countries. I was even more excited to learn that my paper would be published in an internationally accredited journal. That was a new experience to me and the editorial process has provided with some insights into the international scholarly publishing.

The experience continued by my traveling to the US to attend the conference on Nov 6-9, 2006. I met with many wonderful people at ASIS&T, especially the SIG/III folks. Nadia Caidi and Sue Johnson were very helpful in helping with all the preparations for my trip to US. Unfortunately, Sue could not make it to the conference due to a family emergency. I wish we could have met in the conference. I was very impressed by the hospitality of people at the conference, something I didn't find in the previous conferences I attended. I especially appreciated the New Member and First Time Attendees Brunch. It helped tremendously in easing the excitement of being new to the conference and the society. It was even more helpful for me as an international attendee. It gave me the feeling that I was being accepted as part of the society. I also found that the people at SIG/III were even more friendly. I could name Nadia Caidi, Caryn Anderson, Duncan Omole, Kate Johnson, and Tony Carbo among others. There was also the International Reception, where international visitors were recognized and appreciated. Some international visitors and I got a chance to introduce ourselves and our works. Then there were the newly created Mentorship Program and various SIG/III meetings, which helped me a lot in accelerating the learning-about-the-society process. It is very effective in helping international attendees to 'settle' in the ASIS&T crowd and to network with other colleagues in ASIS&T. I personally think and feel that SIG/III has contributed so much in creating the international-friendly atmosphere of ASIS&T. Going to new places and meeting new people could sometimes (or always) be intimidating. SIG/III has managed to play a vital

role in eliminating that 'intimidating factor' – or should I say 'fear factor' – for first time, and especially international attendees. Instead of the 'fear factor' I experienced the 'fun factor.' Thanks to ASIS&T's SIG/III folks.

I also think that ASIS&T is a very cool crowd. Besides the very broad subject coverage, I did enjoy the informal atmosphere that balanced the formal sessions. I especially like the SIG/CON very much. It kind of released the child inside each one of us. I enjoyed Candy Schwartz presentation at SIG/CON too. I never knew that LIS subjects can be so much fun for a presentation. A hat-tip to Candy for her great and fun presentation.

In summary, coming to ASIS&T Conference was one of the best experiences I've had so far. It was a very fruitful trip and has enriched me, both professionally and personally. I have never found a professional society that does so much in reaching out to the international community, especially to developing countries. It has inspired me to contribute something in return.

Bravo ASIS&T.

And of course ... bravo bravo bravo SIG/III.

Chengyu Zhang, 2nd Place Winner

It was a wonderful experience for me to attend the ASIST annual conference as one of the winners of the paper contest in Austin in Nov 2006. I met so many people who had made great contributions in the information science and technology area. It is delightful for me to have the opportunity to discuss interesting topics with them. I was also pleased to post my paper in the conference, which was a good platform to exhibit my research.

Moreover, from the workshops and lectures about the hot topics in this field, I got lots of information on what the top researchers were doing, and how they did it. During the conference, I took part in some workshops, in which some of the topics attracted me. For example, the topic about long-term preservation and Ontology were also what I have study and to which I paid much attention for a long time. The lecturers proposed many good ideas that impressed me deeply.

In Austin, I also met some good researchers who I respected very much, such as Prof. Lei Zeng and Prof. Jian Qin, who often went to China for teaching and studying. They had great influences in Chinese colleagues in the information science and technology area.

I was very happy to meet Nadia Caidi and Duncan Omole, who I had emailed for a long time before this conference. They gave me so many helps during the period when I tried to arrange the trip to Austin, and in Austin, they were also very helpful. Thanks.

I am grateful to ASIST, who organized the paper contest, provided me the membership of ASIST and waived the register fee for the conference. I also thank Tsinghua University Library, which gave me the chance to attend the conference and sponsored my trip.

In addition, the second author of the winning paper, Dr. Li Li, requested me to express her thanks to the Berkshire Publishing Group for the wonderful books on human-computer interaction.

Pradip Kumar Upadhyay, 4th Place Winner

It was a wonderful experience to meet diverse International Group of scholars and practitioners. Technical sessions were full of presentations and snapshots of information science research and case studies.

Program was the mix of research, practices, interaction, social events and exhibition.

Alumni Reception, international Reception, Awards Luncheon and Annual president's Reception provided great opportunities to come close to and discuss issues with other people and to understand them and their perspectives better.

While in Austin, I had the opportunity to familiarize with cultures of different parts of the world but also in particular to American life. I tried to make most of the opportunities and resources available. It was an enjoyment to learn scholarly advancements.

When I learned during July 2006 that our paper is among winners of SIG III International Contest, Mr. Moni (Co-author) thought of our organization's egranthalaya digital agenda in right direction and spirit and decided to present the paper for awareness and benefit of International community.

I was very much interested to meet once again the faculty and scholars from GSLIS, Champaign. During Alumni reception, it was very happy moment to see after three years Linda Smith, Allen Renear, Oksana Zavalina, Bharat Mehra, Kathryn A La Barre, Boyd, and others from GSLIS, UIUC. My contact, memory and association with them was rejuvenated.

I found comfortable stay at Hilton Hotel situated in downtown. City of Austin is very beautiful full of spring season with pleasant weather and climate.

Today ASIST has become truly global program with International participants and issues discussed each year. Meeting people from various parts of the world including Indonesia, South Korea, China, Japan, Canada, Europe, Africa, etc has deepened the belief in universality of human kind and it being an essentially borderless world.

I have resumed my office work after having returned India with refreshing reminiscences of the ASIST 2006. Nadia Caidi, Duncan Omole, President Michael Leach, Richard Hill, Carline Haynes, and many more present there were wonderful people and it was great meeting them. Assistance from the people at the registration desk was great. I can't forget excellent team work from SIG III especially by Duncan, Nadia, Caryn, Catherine, Vika, Toni, Jonathan, Aaron, student members.

I am thankful to ASIST, my organization National Informatics Centre, NICSI (Delhi), Mr. M.Moni (Director General, NIC) and all the other people who made it possible for me to have these rewarding experiences. It is indeed great to have the two-year membership of ASIST as it provides a valuable opportunity to maintain the link with professional colleagues across the world. As in my meetings Global plaza with ASIST and SIG III, we would be happy to extend support from National Informatics Centre and India to make success the ASIST initiatives. Especially we would be much more interested to be associated in the International Information Issues and eGovernment issues.

Many heartiest thanks to one and all.

Yashwant G Kanade, 5th Place Winner

When I received the message from Dr. Jonathan Levitt, as I am one of the winners in ASIST 2006 SIG III International Paper Contest, it was amazing me and felt whether it is true? It was really a wonderful message as our paper "A discourse on promotion of reading habits in India" was selected and ranked amongst all the entrants.

It was my first experience of attending International conference and visiting out of country. There were several questions in my mind what to do and how to do. Then I started communicating with ASIST members and our officials for visa to financial assistance to reach up to Austin. My trip from Bangalore, Paris, and Atlanta to Austin was strange and interesting.

The ASIST annual meeting and conference was the mix of research, socio-cultural interactions, social events and exhibition. Alumni Reception, international

Reception, Awards Luncheon and Annual President Reception provided great opportunities to come close to and discuss issues with other people and to understand them and their perspectives better.

ASIST has done tremendous job in the areas of Information Science and Technology and has extended its activities in many countries in the world and become globally popular. It has given a chance to interact with information scientists and global level IT experts in one room.

It was wonderful experience to meet several International Group of scholars and information scientists. The presentations were full of technical session, practical experience, case studies and poster presentations. Unfortunately, I had only poster presentation at the International reception.

I had a great experience during my stay at Hostelling International situated in Lakeshore, Riverside. It gave me ample opportunity to meet different people from different parts of the world and exchange the culture and knowledge.

My sincere thanks to expert and excellent committee involved with Richard Hill, Michael Leach, Nadia Caidi, Duncan Omole, Carline Haynes and many more who provided me an opportunity to make my visit success. Especially teamwork from SIG III by Duncan, Nadia Caidi, Caryn, Catherine, Vika, Toni Carbo, Jonathan, and Aaron, student members made me to participate and share my knowledge in International Information Issues.

I am grateful to the organizer of SIG III International Paper Contest for selecting our paper, providing two year membership and giving an opportunity to participate in ASIST annual meeting and conference at Austin, Texas, USA.

I thank to my parent organization, Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore, India and Prof. R. Sukumar, Chairman, Centre for Ecological Sciences, IISc, Bangalore-12, Dr. Chudamani, K.S. from JRD Tata Library, IISc, Bangalore as a guide and mentor of my research activities, Sir Ratan Tata Trust, Mumbai, Sir Dorabji Tata Trust, Mumbai and Prof. N.H.Ravindranath, CST, IISc for providing travel assistance and all the other people who made it possible for me to have these rewarding experiences.

SIG-III Business Meeting 6th November 2006

Minutes respectfully submitted by Nadia Caidi (caidi@fis.utoronto.ca).

Present:

Duncan Omole - domole@worldbank.org
Kate Johnson - Johnson@sois.uwm.edu
Aaron Bowen - Asb01@myuw.net
Amruth Sherikar - Amrit.sherikar@hotmail.com
Yashwant Kanade - Kanade@ces.iisc.ernet.in
Pradip Kumar Upadhyay - Pku@nic.in
Toni Carbo - tcarbo@mail.sis.pitt.edu
Caryn Anderson - Caryn.anderson@simmons.edu
Yunfei Du - Yunfei@wayne.edu
Aditya Nugraha - anugraha@petra.ac.id
Nadia Caidi - nadia.caidi@utoronto.ca
Julian Warner - j.warner@qub.ac.uk
Hong Cui – hcui7@uwo.ca
Ajit Pyati – akpyati@gmail.com

Introductions

The first of two business meetings was called to order by outgoing Chair, Nadia Caidi. Attendees (see list above) introduced themselves. We introduced our international guests: Aditya Nugraha (Indonesia), and Amruth Sherikar, Yashwant Kanade, and Pradip Kumar Upadhyay (all from India).

2006-2007 Officers Election and Confirmation

The 2006-2007 slate of officers was approved unanimously.

Treasurer's report

Bahaa El Hadidy was not at the meeting, but he sent a written report on the three accounts held by SIG III as of the end of the fiscal year.

General Account: the FY' 05-06 SIG III general fund has a closing balance of \$4,832. Per Treasurer's request, 100% closing balance roll over to FY06 was approved.

InfoShare Account: The InfoShare account has a balance of \$1,143 at the end of FY'05-06. Caryn reported on the number of InfoShare awardees we supported (four).

Digital Scholars Account: This year, we have raised \$11,643.42 for the International Paper Contest (including \$3,673.42 from the October 6, 2006 Kenyan Embassy Fundraiser that Duncan and Sue co-organized). By the end of FY' 05-06, the balance on this account was: \$3,091. Updates on spending from this account will be made in due time.

Chair's report by Nadia Caidi

Thanks to the hard work of our officers and members, we achieved a lot this year, and we were rewarded with the SIG-of-the-Year-Award for our accomplishments. Among these are:

- SIG III changed its constitution to include a Co-Chair and Co-Chair Elect from outside North America. This year, we were fortunate to have Miriam Vieira da Cunha (Brazil) as a Co-Chair, and Ifeanyichukwu (Ify) Njoku (Nigeria) as a Co-Chair Elect. This is a tribute to our commitment to international representation.
- Our International Paper Contest was a huge success: Duncan Omole and Jonathan Levitt did a fabulous job at it, as did the judges who reviewed the papers: Miriam Vieira da Cunha, Yunfei Du, Yin Zhang, Nadia Caidi, Sue Johnson, Liwen Vaughan, Nathalie Leroy, Merlyna Lim and J.K. Vijayakumar. Winners have been announced and awarded a two-year membership. A record number of Contest winners traveled to the annual meeting this year: the first place winner as well as the 2nd, 4th and 5th place winners.
- Our fundraiser was also a huge success, thanks to a combined effort on many fronts. We raised \$11,643.42 for the International Paper Contest (including \$3,673.42 from the October 6, 2006 Kenyan Embassy Fundraiser that Duncan and Sue co-organized). The Eugene Garfield Foundation matched any proceeds we received from publishers (\$2,150) and many others contributed.
- The InfoShare is alive and doing wonderfully thanks to the excellent work of Caryn Anderson and Sue Johnson, soon to be joined by Vika Kravchyna.
- We started a new Mentorship Program this year to build on the network of wonderful scholars and encourage them to remain active in ASIST and SIG III even after the Paper Contest is over.
- Under the able leadership of Duncan Omole and Ify Njoku, and their dynamic team, we look forward to another productive year ahead.

Report about the SIG Cabinet Meeting

Toni Carbo and Nadia Caidi attended the SIG Cabinet Meeting. Toni reported on what was said at the meeting: the discussion about the SIG workshops and whether they should be held before or after the annual meeting; there was a mention about the possibility to hold SIG workshops at the University of Milwaukee (instead of the conference hotel). Only costs would be

of the transportation to/from the campus (\$80-90 round trip). Labs, rooms and other facilities could be made available by the University.

There were also discussions about the nominations to the SIG-of-the-Year Committee. Toni argued against the rule that being a member and an officer from a SIG would exclude that SIG from winning. There were also calls for ASIST members to check out and use the Wiki, as well as to make use of the D-List. Nadia Caidi was elected for the SIG Representative on the Nominations.

International Reception for the night

The group went over the procedures for the reception, the Raffle, and the Silent Auction. Officers and volunteers were asked to help out with various aspects of the event, which was a real success.

Work Plan for the next year

We ran out of time so Duncan was to pick up from here for the next day's meeting.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 6:20pm.

SIG-III Business Meeting 7th November 2006

Minutes respectfully submitted by Caryn Anderson

Present:

(I am listing in order around the table to help those of us who were there to remember who our new friends and colleagues are:)

Duncan Omole - Domole@worldbank.org
Kate Johnson - Johnson@sois.uwm.edu
Brittany Lehman - Lehman041@gmail.com
Judy Jeng - Jjeng@njcu.edu
Aaron Bowen - Asb01@myuw.net
Amrit Sherikar - amrit.sherikar@hotmail.com
Yashwant Kanade - Kanade@ces.iisc.ernet.in
Pradip Kumar Upadhyay - Pku@nic.in
Toni Carbo - tcarbo@mail.sis.pitt.edu
Caryn Anderson - Caryn.anderson@simmons.edu
Vika Kravchyna - Vika.kravchyna@arius3d.com
Selenay Aytac - Selenay.aytac@aupost.liu.edu
Amanda Wilson - Wilson.1596@gmail.com
Maria Haigh - Mhaigh@wvm.edu
Yunfei Du - Yunfei@wayne.edu
Aditya Nugraha - anugraha@petra.ac.id
Nadia Caidi - nadia.caidi@utoronto.ca
Julian Warner - j.warner@qub.ac.uk

Opening Conversations

Duncan Omole chaired the meeting, starting with introductions from attendees. Selenay Aytac appreciated being invited to attend the SIG III meeting having been a past winner of the paper contest. All our international guests were welcomed, especially the paper contest winners present. Duncan also informed the group that JK Vijayakumar and Merlyna Lim had accepted to serve as Marketing and Fundraising Officer and Mentorship Coordinator respectively.

Finances

Duncan indicated that we were in good shape, although all expenses to date have not been deducted from this approximate figure. Duncan suggested that we should all work to improve our bottom line.

International Paper Contest

Julian Warner indicated that as Chair of the International Paper Contest committee he will work with Judy Jeng and follow patterns set up from the past, including coordinating the call for submissions and the assignment of judges/referees. He noted that he is hoping for web site submissions. Duncan Omole indicated that the web site forms should be worked out in time for the call. The Co-Chair, Judy, will communicate with contestants.

Toni Carbo will help to seek independent referees in necessary areas, as it is often hard for the jurors to effectively serve as referees if the paper topic is outside their area of subject expertise. Toni also noted that the timing of procedures is important to monitor as some submissions will need re-writing. She also indicated that it would be helpful if the instructions to authors could include guidelines to submit in the IILR (International Information and Library Review) style (e.g., APA style) and with not include names at the end of the papers, as these must be removed and will require an additional step in anonymizing the papers for referees. Toni said that the IILR will update its own guidelines and provide links to helpful sites for preparing APA-styled documents. Toni also noted that Elsevier is happy to continue to fund the International Reception and to bring extra print copies of the IILR issue with the winner papers in them.

There was some discussion about how to reach potential candidates who do not have internet access. Ultimately it was decided that the creation of a press release style of announcement should be prepared for sending in the text of an e-mail to national or regional level library and information science associations around the world for inclusion in their newsletters or other means of communicating with their members. Amruth Sherikar noted that print publications in some developing countries frequently experience delays of

many months, which would pose a challenge for the timeline. Nevertheless, Julian still felt, and the committee agreed, that the most effective strategy would be a “viral marketing” approach. As such, all SIG-III members were encouraged to forward the call for papers widely in their networks. As Pradip Kumar Upadhyay noted, each of us can expand the reach exponentially by sending to multiple lists.

It was agreed that the theme for the papers would correspond with the theme for the ASIS&T Annual Meeting (Joining Research and Practice: Social Computing and Information Science – 18-25 October 2007, Hyatt, Milwaukee, Wisconsin). It was suggested that the International Paper Contest focus a little more broadly on just the joining research and practice piece, as many candidates may not be connected enough for social computing to be relevant.

Finally, Julian confirmed with Duncan that fundraising for travel and visa help is not exclusively the responsibility of the Paper Contest Jury Chair and that he can rely on the SIG officers for assistance.

InfoShare

Caryn reported that the raffle and silent auction of the night before was a huge success, generating \$1,225.05 (last year we raised \$670.00). Caryn especially thanked Vika Kravchyna (incoming InfoShare officer), whose idea it was to make the raffle prize a basket of Texas treats and whose idea to start selling raffle tickets during the day around the conference clearly paid off. Also thanked were Duncan Omole, Aaron Bowen, Brittany Lehman, Kate Johnson, Toni Carbo and Nadia Caidi for a fantastic job of selling raffle tickets during the event. We should encourage more SIG III members to contribute to this aspect of the event in the future. We have a few items left over that Caryn has brought home and will bring for the raffle again next year (blue knit vest knit and donated by Cecilia Preston, two Nigerian outfits donated by Ify Njoku, and a variety of jewelry leftover from what Duncan brought).

Caryn confirmed that procedures were put in place last year for a more orderly and structured nomination and decision process, whereby nominees are voted on by all SIG-III officers in early December and memberships start in January. Last year we awarded four memberships for 2006: Ify Njoku of Nigeria (who is co-chair with Duncan), L. Ariunaa of Mongolia (who has translated the new ASIS&T information sheet into Mongolian and Russian), J.K. Vijayakumar of Antigua & India (who is the SIG officer responsible for fundraising and marketing and contributes regularly to the International Calendar of Information Science Conferences), and P.R.Goswami of India (who served

on the International Paper Contest jury). Per the new procedures, candidates are awarded memberships for one year only. At the end of that year they must submit a report that indicates what activities they have engaged in during the past year to support ASIS&T in their country. This report serves as their nomination to receive the award for a second year. No candidates are awarded membership for more than two years.

The issue of student InfoShare memberships was discussed. It was agreed that the decision to also award memberships to students of developing countries had been discussed and approved last year. Caryn had been waiting to try to coordinate with the Student Advisors liaison, but was not able to do so. However, it is intended that a call for student nominations will be sent out along with the call for professional nominations in the next few weeks.

The discussion of supporting students generally grew lively. Brittany suggested that North American student chapters could raise money to sponsor memberships for one or two students. Caryn indicated that the chapter assembly had suggested the idea of North American student chapters establishing “sister” chapters around the world. Toni suggested sponsoring an event for all international students at the annual meeting. While most of the committee was in agreement that all the ideas were great, Duncan noted that altogether it constituted a very large program. It was agreed that we would start small by awarding InfoShare memberships to a few students and providing student mentors for them, as Nadia and Merlyna will be doing for the professional colleagues’ mentoring program. Brittany and Selenay agreed to take the lead on student mentoring.

SIG-III Identification and Annual Meetings

It was suggested that SIG-III have some sort of sticker or pin to identify members at Annual Meetings. Caryn reported that the Membership Committee had decided to implement a plan whereby stickers would be created for all the chapters and SIGs so that members could select whichever stickers were appropriate to “tag” their own name tag. The membership committee will be asking each chapter and SIG to design an icon and submit it to the committee, which will then be responsible for generating the stickers for the conference next year.

Fundraising, Marketing and Grants

Sue Johnson (not present) had suggested the idea of submitting grant proposals to UNESCO and other organizations to raise more money for the International Paper Contest. The idea received immediate support during the e-mail exchange, but Duncan noted at the

meeting, however, that UNESCO's budget has been cut back substantially and it is unlikely that a grant proposal for this purpose is unlikely to be funded.

He also indicated that Sue Johnson's circumstances have changed somewhat from the time of her original suggestion and she is no longer able to chair a grants committee. Nevertheless, Toni has plans to chat with Sue when she is in DC. While nobody felt they could take the lead and chair a committee, Brittany and Aaron agreed to assist in grantwriting efforts in a learning capacity. Nadia also suggested that Yin Zhang (not present) had said she was interested in helping. Perhaps Yin would be willing to Chair.

2007 Program Ideas

[Follow up information on interested SIGs and contact information available in Kate Johnson's 23 November e-mail.]

Translating an International Education into National Environments - Toni discussed a session similar to what was done with doctoral students at Pittsburgh a few years back. International information science doctoral students from around the US created a three-day program entitled, "Translating an International Education into National Environments." It provided insight into challenges and best practices in bringing what is learned in North America or Europe back to the unique environments of home countries. Scarecrow Press published many of the papers, and the students developed a strong cohort of colleagues that they still draw on. Toni indicated that it would be critical that the students themselves plan it, but Toni can help contact the students. Toni could use some help coordinating and developing a proposal, but it is not recorded if anyone stepped forward to help. (SIG-USE was suggested as a possible partner.)

Multi-Lingual Reference Facilitation through International Library Partnerships - Brittany suggested having a practical session about web interfaces and workflows around multi-lingual reference services. In her experience in Germany this past year, the organization where she worked partnered with other libraries in other countries and when her library received reference questions in foreign languages there was a system in place for routing the questions to libraries that could fulfill the requests in the appropriate language. (SIG-USE was suggested as a possible partner. Brittany agreed to coordinate. Nadia suggested that Jeff Pomerantz might be a good person to talk to regarding reference triage.)

Global Information Village Plaza on International Blogging Environments - Aaron Bowen and Amanda

Wilson were commended for their work on the Global Information Village Plaza, with the suggestion that providing snacks and treats next year might provide more of an incentive for more people to attend. As the discussion of a topic began, Caryn indicated that she had been approached by members of SIG-BWP (Blogs, Wikis and Podcasting) to see if SIG-BWP and SIG-III could work together on a session on international blogging. The Berkman Center for Internet and Society sponsors a blog called Global Voices (<http://www.globalvoicesonline.org/>), which provides summaries of blogging from countries around the world. This "über-blog" is the launching pad for this session. The committee agreed that this would be an excellent topic for the Plaza next year. Aaron and Amanda will coordinate with Beatrice Pulliam (SIG-BWP Chair) and KT Vaughan about it. (SIG-BWP would be a partner.)

Ethics of Information Education and Initiatives in Sub-Saharan Africa - Toni suggested that Hannes Britz, Dean of the School of Information Studies at the University of Wisconsin at Milwaukee, has been doing wonderful work around information education and ethics in Africa and that it might be a great way to build on some of the sessions related to Sub-Saharan Africa from the 2006 meeting. Caryn and Kate noted that Kendra Albright is engaged with a group called NAIISA (North American Information Initiatives in Sub-Saharan Africa). The group is focused on coordinating activities and sharing best practices and she wanted to work with SIG-III to do a session in 2007. Caryn will work with Toni and Kendra to coordinate. (SIG-ED was suggested as a possible partner.)

Social Justice - Kate reported that Kendra Albright was also interested in doing a program on social justice in the information professions. Kate will follow up with Kendra.

Role of Telecentres in Development: the Indian Experience - Contact: Ajit Pyati (UCLA - akpyati@hotmail.com). Panelists from India. SIG-ED. This panel could possibly join with the next one on ICTs for development.

ICTs for development (or conversely poverty alleviation) - fact or fiction? Relationship between ICTs and development/poverty alleviation - what is it? Possible debate or panel with panelists coming from Africa (perhaps Mchombu Kingo) and someone from the CAP (Community Access Program) in Canada. Sarah Webb (Syracuse University - swebb01@syr.edu). SIG-SI (social informatics) expressed interest in this.

Digitizing Indigenous Knowledge - Kate noted that John Agada is working to pull together a session on digitizing indigenous knowledge. Kate will coordinate with John and also possibly with Toni around the Open Content Alliance to develop a session that covers both issues. (SIG-DL was suggested as a possible partner.)

Internet Governance and I-CANN – Aaron suggested this session.

Ideologies of Information in Transition – Suggested by Maria Haigh to explore changes in information policy in post-Soviet countries after transition.

Economics of Open Access and/or Open Content Alliance - The idea of a session on Open Access was suggested, but there was some concern that the topic has been done quite a lot and if we were to do a session it would be important to come at it from a new perspective. Toni indicated that Don King had done some interesting work on Open Access from the economic perspective. Toni also then mentioned the related, yet distinct, topic of the Open Content Alliance (<http://www.opencontentalliance.org/>), an international movement to develop new content collections for shared and open use. Brewster Kahle has worked on this. Toni noted that it might be a topic that could be combined with John Agada's work on digitizing indigenous knowledge (OCA as the repository, Agada's work as the content). (SIG-USE and/or SIG-DL were suggested as possible partners.)

Doctoral Research in Developing Countries Poster Session – The idea was posed to organize a poster session to highlight doctoral research from developing countries. There was some discussion that this had been tried before but was not successful. The idea remained on the table, but no coordinator was identified.

General Finances

Duncan took a moment to remind us that we have quite a healthy financial balance. This is good, but the point of the money is not to hold onto it, but rather to spend it in support of activities that support the mission of the SIG. He encouraged us to consider ways in which to spend the money effectively.

Toni suggested that we use some of the funds to support the expenses to bring two of the international paper contest winners to the annual meeting (instead of just one). It was agreed.

Caryn suggested that perhaps Bahaa el Hadidy (SIG-III Treasurer) could review our expenses for the past five years and come up with an average annual amount of expected expenses. We could then use that figure, plus

a small percentage, as an amount to hold in reserve each year, with the mandate that we expend the rest of our balance each year. Duncan will discuss this with Bahaa.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:55pm.

Global Information Village Plaza

On Tuesday afternoon, November 7, 2006 the SIG III's Global Information Village Plaza returned to the ASIS&T Annual Conference under the topic "Personal and Professional Trust in Information in the 21st Century." Throughout the session over 30 conference attendees took part in the discussions of trust in information. This year's format of moderated discussion groups, discussing the Plaza's major points to the entire group, and live blogging of discussion topics uniquely combined technology and traditional conference sessions content.

Discussion tables centered around four major themes being discussed in the Blog were setup for attendees. Those topics were (1) which aspects of trust are most significant, (2) e-commerce and data mining, (3) government surveillance, and (4) government censorship. For 40 minutes, three groups engaged in lively discussion on the different and nuanced aspects of trust. This was followed by a large group discussion, in which 5 major themes were addressed. Highlights of each topic are as follows:

How trust is defined: The discussion group identified individual, interpersonal, and environmental factors affecting trust. Individual factors included conflict level, whether or not an individual's responsibility includes ascertaining trustworthiness, and the individual's experience brought to an situation. Interpersonal and environmental factors included the situation itself, technology, social networks, and relationships.

E-commerce and data mining: The discussion group first focused on defining trust, then talked briefly about how technology affects trust. For this group, trust is a willingness to share, a level of comfort, a sense of legitimacy, authority, should be earned, involve honesty, and reciprocal. When the group turned to technology, security affected trust more than privacy of personal information. Technology was perceived as helping to build and destroy trust.

Government surveillance and censorship: The discussion group first answered the question, "Why do governments want to control access to information?" In response governments want to protect themselves

from instability and protect a particular ideology, as well as do not understand what will become available with open access to information. The idea that governments push disinformation and propaganda surfaced later. Other questions mentioned by the group include how does government decide who to monitor? What limits should be set on government surveillance? Openness is a good thing in information; surveillance has implications for privacy? How do we understand different perspectives on privacy vs. security? In considering this last question, the discussion group agreed that the concept of “privacy” changes according to a person’s sociocultural environment, and that different concepts of privacy will affect decisions about who a person will trust with personal information. The discussion examined censorship of online voices in particular. It considered the theoretical balance between a need to protect certain types of information under certain conditions (such as times of war) and a need to ensure a plurality of voices commenting on a given subject. With this balance in mind, the group considered whether current world events maintained this balance or tilted towards one extreme or the other. Given that it can push an official ideology at the expense of critical examination, the group also discussed the idea of disinformation (in this case generally meaning propaganda) as being an alternate form of censorship.

What is the role of information professionals in helping patrons assess trust?: In the general discussion, several roles for information professionals we discussed including educating and giving information about security and privacy problems to patrons; learning more about trust ourselves; trying to understand patrons perspective, cultural and otherwise; warning patrons to be wary of sources — check facts, even of sources you think are trusted; creating information systems; and ensuring information is secure. Further discussion on the nature of the work of librarians – we want to give patrons the most thorough accurate information for any need. Are there times when that natural inclination is too much?

Does trust differ with international professionals: For the final general discussion question, international professionals offered their definition of trust and factors affecting trust in their countries. We encourage everyone, especially those unable to make the conference, to read, respond, and post new comments on the topic of trust in the SIGIII Blog, online at <http://www.neasist.org/icisc/blog/> If you have any questions or comments, you can send them to sigiiiblog@gmail.com. Thanks!

Special Thanks to Plaza Moderators:

- Toni Carbo
- Nadia Caidi

- Aditya Nugraha
- Kate Johnson
- Special assistance also from Duncan Omole and Caryn Anderson.

We look forward to another successful program next year, on the theme of “Social Networking in the Web 2.0 Environment,” and how social networking changes between different cultures. Thanks for your support!

Aaron Bowen and Amanda Wilson, Global Plaza Representatives

InfoShare winners for 2007

We are pleased to announce our InfoShare winners for this year. Below are our new (or continuing) colleagues (with the number of votes received):

TOP TEN PROFESSIONALS

- 7 Barber, Elsa (Menou, Argentina)
- 7 Kokallari, Besim (Terry Plum, Kosovo)
- 6 Ala'a Al-Din Jawad Kadhem Al-Radhi (self, Iraq)
- 6 Volokhin, Oleh (Vika, Ukraine)
- 5 Gamage, Premila (Shivanti, Sri Lanka)
- 5 Nkemka, John Achakeng (self, Cameroon)
- 5 Shafiq, Muhammad (Sue, Pakistan)
- 5 Vijay (2006, India/Antigua)
- 4 Dr. PR Goswami (2006, India)
- 4 Njokou, Ify (2006, Nigeria)

STUDENTS

- 7 Mulidnwa, Henry (Student, Wilson, Uganda)
- 5 Kar, Debal Chandra (Student, PK Jain, India)

This is a diverse and exciting group! We will also have two students from South America, courtesy of our sibling information societies there (coordinated by Michel Menou, names expected early in the year). The only disappointment is that last year's winner L. Ariunaa from Mongolia had only three votes and did not make the cut for a second year of funding. If anyone would like to discuss opportunities for assisting her further, please contact me. Thanks and all the best to everyone for the upcoming year.

Caryn Anderson and Vika Kravchyna, Infoshare Officers

International Paper Contest Call

The American Society for Information Science & Technology (ASIS&T), International Information Issues Special Interest Group (SIG-III), is pleased to announce its **eighth** competition for papers to be submitted for the 2007 Annual Meeting, which will take place in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, October 18-25, 2007.

The **theme** of this paper contest is:
"Joining Research and Practice: Social Computing and Information Science"

The theme may be addressed at either the country or regional level issues. Papers could discuss issues, policies and case studies on specific aspects of the theme, such as, but not limited to the following:

- Egovernance in developing countries, Factors, issues, case studies etc pertaining to rural/urban digital divide and the information infrastructure (connectivity, access, hardware, cost implications, emerging trends etc) in developing countries.
- Indigenous Knowledge (IK) and digital libraries – Collecting, preserving and disseminating IK.
- Social, ethical, political, legal, and economic and cultural issues: issues related to the role of information in society, such as information policy, access, security, privacy, and intellectual property, as well as the social uses and abuses of information technologies such as the Internet and World Wide Web in bridging or separating diverse communities.
- Information organization, management, access, and retrieval.
- Information seeking and use: the role of information in professional and daily lives, use of various types of information technology, and social contexts of information seeking.
- Information technology, social equity and development: IT and governance, IT & the new economy, including the future of work and implications of technological hardware and software developments; the role of ICTs in conflict management, etc.

There will be **six** winners who will be selected by a panel of judges including Julian Warner (Chair), Judy

Jeng (Co-Chair), Yunfei Du, Nathalie Leroy, Sue O'Neill Johnson, Yin Zhang, and Liwen Vaughn.

Selection Criteria

Papers will be selected through a peer review process. The judging criteria will be based on:

- Originality of paper in the developing world environment (originality of the project described, etc.)
- Relevance to the Paper contest.
- Presentation and organization.
- Style. The international paper contest committee requires that submissions follow the International Information and Library Review instructions to authors. Detailed information is available under the heading, Guide for Authors at:
<http://authors.elsevier.com/GuideForAuthors.html?PubID=622845&dc=GF>

The prize for each winner is a two-year individual membership in ASIST. In the case of multiple authors, the principal author will be awarded the ASIST membership. In addition, depending on SIG III fundraising for this competition, the first place winner will be rewarded a minimum of \$1,000 toward travel, conference registration, and accommodations while attending the ASIST Annual Conference in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, October 18-25, 2007.

Publishing opportunities

Submitted papers will be considered for inclusion in a special issue of the *International Information and Library Review*, subject to the usual peer refereeing process, for that journal.

Information for authors

Only papers by a principal author who **is a citizen of, and resides in** a developing country are eligible. **Winners in the 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, or 2006 contests are not eligible.** The papers should be original, unpublished, and **ONLY** in English. We encourage submissions from librarians, information and network specialists, and educators involved in the creation, representation, maintenance, exchange, discovery, delivery, and use of digital information.

ASIST Copyright Policy

ASIST will have the non-exclusive right to publish any of the papers submitted on its web site or in print, with ownership and all other rights remaining with the author.

Deadline for submission of full papers

Authors are invited to submit manuscripts, not to exceed 5000 words, by **March 31, 2007**, to j.warner@qub.ac.uk, preferably as Microsoft Word attachments.

Please check the SIG III website (<http://www.asis.org/SIG/SIGIII/index.htm><http://www.asis.org/SIG/SIGIII/>) for more information about the SIG III International Paper Contest, including Frequently Asked Questions, past CFPs, previous winners and winning papers, and stories from previous winners.

Julian Warner
International Paper Contest Chair 2007

SIG III Listserv and Web Site

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