

# SIG-III Newsletter

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International Information Issues

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

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## Greetings from the Chair

By Daniel Alemneh, Chair, ASIS&T SIG-III

Dear SIG-III Members and Friends,

The Special Interest Group for International Information Issues (SIG-III) of ASIS&T reaches its 30th anniversary this year. We would like to celebrate this important milestone with you all at the 2012 ASIS&T Annual Meeting in Baltimore, Maryland.

ASIS&T was established in 1937 with the goal of stimulating communications and interactions within the information community. The special interest groups (SIGs) of ASIS&T provide a focal point for members with common interests to interact, share information, develop

and sponsor programs, promote matters of concern, and represent the organization. Since its inception in 1982, SIG-III has been playing its part. The purposes of SIG-III, as outlined in its mission statement, are:

- to promote better awareness among ASIS&T members and information professionals on the importance of international cooperation
- to facilitate and enhance better communication and interaction among ASIS&T members and their foreign colleagues on information issues
- to develop an international network of digital scholars and experts on digital libraries and information technology in developing countries
- to provide a forum for exploring and discussing international information issues and problems

Despite the evolving topic areas, this original mission statement remains highly relevant and even more pressing in today's globalized world. ASIS&T is a truly international organization, with members from over fifty countries from around the world. Additionally, SIG-III membership includes most non-U.S. ASIS&T members and a true cross-section of U.S. ASIS&T members. The international nature of ASIS&T has allowed a cross-continental network of information scholars and professionals to develop, which in turn has allowed for exchanges on international information issues, challenges, and opportunities to take place.

In light of the 75th ASIS&T Anniversary Celebration and the 30th Anniversary Celebration of SIG-III, I would like to update you on the major accomplishments of this year and activities planned for the coming months.

- **SIG-III's Proposal Regarding Discounted Membership Fees for Developing Countries Approved:** In October 2011, we had a discussion with Diane Sonnenwald, the current ASIS&T President, concerning a reduced membership fee for ASIS&T members from developing countries. Accordingly, we prepared a proposal recommending reduced membership fees (\$40 per year) for individuals residing in countries categorized annually by the United Nations as "medium" or "low" with respect to human development. The ASIS&T Board considered the proposal and adopted it unanimously. See details in [Inside ASIS&T](#), (Page 7 of February/March 2012 – Volume 38, Number 3 – issue of ASIS&T Bulletin.)
- **International Reception:** Our SIG-III silent auction and raffle ticket sale at the International Reception remained strong. I would like to thank

the ASIS&T members for supporting our fund-raising efforts at the annual International Reception. As usual, SIG-III will hold its annual InfoShare Silent Auction at the 75th ASIS&T Annual Meeting (2012) in Baltimore, Maryland. If you have items you would like to donate to the Silent Auction, please bring your items to the conference with you. All proceeds will go to the SIG-III InfoShare Fund, which offers ASIS&T memberships to information professionals in developing countries.

- **InfoShare Recipients:** Thanks to the successful fund-raising during ASIS&T Annual Meetings, this year we [awarded twelve memberships](#) (9 professional and 3 student) for one year. The 2012 InfoShare recipients are from seven different countries, and five qualify for the special new \$40 ASIS&T Developing Nations membership category. Last year we awarded ten memberships (6 professional and 4 student) as well. With the new \$40 membership fee for developing countries, we will be able to support even more colleagues for whom the cost of membership would otherwise be a financial burden.
- **International Paper Contest:** For the past 12 years, SIG-III has been organizing the very successful International Paper Contest, and more than 360 authors from more than 50 countries have participated so far. We received 14 papers in this anniversary year. The paper contest jury members will evaluate each paper per the criteria, and we will announce the results by mid-June so that winners can make travel arrangements in time for participation in the 2012 ASIS&T Annual Meeting. We also hope that one or two of the papers will meet the standards and scope of the *International Information and Library Review* (IILR) for publication in the September 2012 issue, in time to have copies of the issue to present to the author at the International Reception at the annual conference.
- **SIG-III sponsored or co-sponsored sessions:** This year SIG-III is sponsoring two panel presentations entitled: “*The Origins of SIG-III and its 30 Years’ Journey: Visions and Reflections,*” and “*Content Divide: Africa and the Global Knowledge Footprint.*” We hope many of you will be able to attend these two strong SIG-III sponsored panels that promise to focus on topics of great relevance to ASIS&T members.
- **30th SIG-III Anniversary Related Activities:** We are planning to make the 2012 International Reception the best ever. In addition, the following activities will also be considered as part of the celebration of the 30th anniversary of SIG-III:
  - **A special anniversary publication:** In

addition to our newsletter, we will produce a special publication commemorating the SIG-III’s 30th Anniversary. All officers will contribute articles discussing their respective areas.

- **Redesign of the SIG-III Homepage:** Our SIG-III website content will be migrated to Drupal: <http://www.asis.org/SIG/SIGIII/drupal>
- **Various Contests and Recognitions:** Video contest, drawings for Twitter participants, other on-site drawings, recognition of members and countries, etc.
- **Other revitalization activities:** In light of the rapidly evolving internal and external landscape, the need to proactively review our bylaws and the need to revitalize our outreach and online presence have been emphasized.
  - Accordingly, a new bylaws revision taskforce has been formed. Considering the complexity of this undertaking, the taskforce activities will be extended for two years. To ensure continuity and success, the taskforce is headed by the Chair-Elect, Abebe Rorissa.
  - To enhance our outreach activities, our Social Media and Mentorship officers Anatoliy Gruzd, Anindita Paul, and Sarah Emmerson, will be extending our communication, promotion, and outreach strategies further through active online and social media presence. In this regard, a new Twitter account will be launched on June 1, and we encourage you all to follow us @sig3i.

Finally, these notes are just a handful of the many events and notable highlights that have occurred this year. These achievements are truly the result of the dedication of our current and past officers, members, and friends who have been working hard to fulfill the missions of SIG-III. Indeed, without your input we would not be the success that SIG-III is today! I look forward to celebrating more achievements in the future!

#### SIG-III Twitter Contest

*By Anatoliy Gruzd and Anindita Paul, Social Media Administrators, ASIS&T SIG-III*

To encourage and facilitate international informational exchanges via Twitter among ASIS&T members, SIG-III has launched a new Twitter account: @sig3i

The account is managed by a dynamic team of volunteers who will work to highlight and promote research done by SIG members and colleagues. The account will also feature news from ASIS&T scholars around the globe as well as job and funding opportunities.

To celebrate the launch of our new account, we are also announcing a random drawing on Twitter with a chance to win a \$50 gift certificate from Amazon.com.

For a chance to win:

- 1) Start following us on Twitter \*and\*
- 2) Tell us what you want us to tweet about this year by posting a tweet with the #sig3i hashtag.

But hurry, only tweets posted before July 15, 2012 will be entered into the drawing! A winner will be announced following July 15, 2012 on Twitter and the SIG-III website.

### 2011 SIG-III Business Meeting Minutes

*By Abebe Rorissa, Chair-Elect and InfoShare Officer, ASIS&T SIG-III*

1. Introductions
  - a. The Chair-Elect Daniel Alemneh called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. followed by introductions.
2. Election of officers
  - a. Toni Carbo briefed the meeting about SIG-III bylaws regarding the election of officers and the need to review as well as and consider amending our bylaws. We have not been conforming to the requirements to elect officers in advance of the Annual Meeting. Victoria Kravchyna noted the need for creating descriptions for each officer/position.
  - b. The meeting agreed to put together a taskforce to work on the descriptions for the officer positions as well as the SIG-III bylaws. Daniel Alemneh will survey the SIG-III membership for possible members of the taskforce and communicate the list of the taskforce members to SIG-III membership.
  - c. The Marketing and Outreach Officer position was eliminated.
  - d. The following were approved as officers for 2011-2012:
    - **Chair:** Daniel Alemneh
    - **Co-Chair:** Shimelis Assefa
    - **Chair-Elect:** Abebe Rorissa
    - **Co-Chair-Elect:** Kendra Albright
    - **Immediate Past Chair:** Victoria Kravchyna
    - **Treasurer:** Bahaa El-Hadidy
    - **Cabinet Representative:** Toni Carbo
    - **Alternate Cabinet Representative:** Chair and/or Chair-Elect
    - **Newsletter Editor:** Sarah Emmerson
    - **Communications Officer:** Diane Grevalsky-Angiletta
    - **International Paper Contest Chair:** Maqsood Shaheen
    - **International Paper Contest Jury Members:** Alma Rivera and Fatih Oguz

- **Mentorship Coordinator:** Sarah Emmerson
- **Infoshare Officers:** Abebe Rorissa, Fatih Oguz, and Devendra Potnis
- **Webmasters:** Fatih Oguz and Borchuluun Yadamsuren
- **Social Media Administrators:** Anatoliy Gruzd and Anindita Paul
- **SIG-III Advisory Board Members:** Toni Carbo, Nadia Caidi, and Julian Warner

### SIG-III 30th Anniversary Program

**Committee: All officers + 2011 SIG-III**

**Business Meeting attendees:**

- Will Senn
  - Xiao Hu
  - Luz Quiroga
  - Nasser Saleh
  - Vivienne Houghton
  - Eugenia Kim
  - Angela U. Ramnarine-Rieks
  - Thanos Giannakopoulos
  - MD. Hassan Zamir
  - Yao Zhang
  - Ana Dubnjakovic
  - Selenay Aytac
3. Approval of Minutes of the 2010 SIG-III Business Meeting
    - a. Abebe Rorissa offered a motion to approve the minutes as presented and Daniel Alemneh seconded it. The minutes were approved unanimously.
  4. Treasurer's report
    - a. As of October 9, 2011, the three funds SIG-III controls include:
      - i. SIG-III General Fund has a total of \$13, 863 for SIG-III projects. (This includes the \$5,000 Elsevier Fund that will be used mainly for 30th Anniversary related activities.)
      - ii. SIG-III InfoShare Fund has an end-of-year balance of \$1,849. (This doesn't include the \$1,500 that we raised during the 2011 International Reception.)
      - iii. SIG-III Digital Scholars Fund has a total of \$9,780.
  5. SIG Cabinet Meeting report
    - a. Our SIG Cabinet representative, Toni Carbo, attended the meeting and offered the following summary:
      - i. Bylaw changes include having the SIG Cabinet Director terms changed so that there will be 3 year terms, with the Director-Elect serving one year, the Director for one, and Past-Director for one, to provide continuity, were proposed for ASIS&T (national level) and after changes are made, it will come up for a vote. Membership was encouraged to

- vote and support this change.
    - ii. Every SIG must get its financial report in by December 1. Otherwise, it loses money in account.
    - iii. ASIS&T encourages SIGs to conduct more Webinars.
    - iv. For ASIS&T's 75th anniversary next year, we should plan to:
      - a. Have special sessions/programs at the Annual Meeting
      - b. Have special events at different locations in regions outside North America
      - c. Put together videos about leaders (SIG-III)
      - d. Make the International Reception the best ever and everyone should be strongly encouraged to bring items for the silent auction. Ideas of music, wearing traditional attire from one's country or country of origin of earlier generations, and entertainment will be explored.
- 6. Chair's report (Vika Kravchyna)
  - a. Our officers did a very good job and we accomplished a lot during the last year (2010-2011). However, we could have done more if it wasn't for some officers either moving or dedicating more time to their work and preparations for tenure reviews.
  - b. The highlight of our past year was having our May 2011 Newsletter win the ASIS&T SIG Publication of the Year Award (Newsletter Editor: Sarah Emmerson).
  - c. We have money left in our bank account, which we need to spend before the end of the fiscal year, October 31, 2011.

### International Reception at 2011 Annual Meeting

By Shimelis Assefa, Co-Chair, ASIS&T SIG-III

The international reception at the 2011 ASIS&T Annual Meeting attracted a large crowd and it was a great success. The activities for the night included:

- recognizing winners of the International Paper Contest
- fundraising events (silent auction and selling raffle tickets)
- good food, drink, and conversation

The 2011 winners of the international papers contest were:

1. Eustache Mègnigbèto. "Structure of the Reachability Social Network of Beninese Library and Information Professionals." (Republic of Benin)
2. Muzammil Tahira. "What Next? New Databases, Metrics, Services or New Epistemology for Research Evaluation." (Pakistan)
3. Swati Bhattacharyya. "Exploring the Notion of

Contextual Use: A Case Study of the Use of Electronic Resources in an Indian Research Organization." (India)

Although the first place winner of the 2011 SIG-III International Paper Contest, Eustache Mègnigbèto (from Republic of Benin, Africa), was unable to attend the 2011 ASIS&T Annual Meeting in New Orleans, his poster was presented by his colleague and fellow countryman, Ulrich Houzanme. Mègnigbèto's paper entitled: "Structure of the Reachability Social Network of Beninese Library and Information Professionals" was published in the December 2011 issue of *International Information and Library Review* (IILR). Hopefully Mègnigbèto will be able to join us in Baltimore this year along with our 2012 International Paper Contest winners.



**Ulrich Houzanme (left), ASIS&T Member and countryman of Eustache Mègnigbèto, represented Eustache Mègnigbèto's poster at the 2011 ASIS&T Annual Meeting and was accompanied by Daniel Alemneh (right), Chair, ASIS&T SIG-III**

Names of the International Paper Contest winners as well as their paper submissions were read by the Chair of SIG-III, Daniel Alemneh. Only the representative for the first place winner, Eustache Mègnigbèto, was present to be recognized and receive the award from the hands of the Chair. After the award ceremony, the Chair made a remark on the tradition of SIG-III's commitment to serve as a platform for international information issues and support information professionals outside the U.S. that bring unique academic and cultural understanding to the larger ASIS&T community. The winners of the International Paper Contest were awarded a two-year individual membership to ASIS&T with the first place winner given \$1,000 toward travel, conference registration, and accommodations while attending the ASIS&T Annual Meeting.

The fundraising event, as in previous years, was a great success. From the silent auction and raffle ticket sale, a total of \$1,636 was raised. The proceedings from the fundraising event will go towards the InfoShare Fund to be used for next year's International Paper Contest awardees. Items for the silent auction were largely donated by individual SIG-III officers and friends of SIG-III that truly

represented a diverse international culture. Three prizes were awarded to the winners of the raffle drawing.

In addition to the silent auction and raffle, attendees enjoyed good food and lively conversation with colleagues and friends. Representatives from LIS/i-Schools hosted their own tables.

### **SIG-III Receives 2011 ASIS&T SIG Publication of the Year Award**

*By Sarah Emmerson, Newsletter Editor and Mentorship Coordinator, ASIS&T SIG-III*

SIG-III received the 2011 ASIS&T SIG Publication of the Year Award for its May 2011 – Volume 11, Number 1 – issue of its Newsletter. See details in [Inside ASIS&T](#) (Page 17 of December/January 2012 – Volume 38, Number 2 – issue of ASIS&T Bulletin). Among the newsletter’s features, KT Vaughan (ASIS&T SIG Cabinet Director, 2009-2011) noted that SIG-III’s May 2011 Newsletter was impressive due to “the amount of information packed into your newsletter, particularly the contact information about officers, program reports and planning, and information about the InfoShare winners.”

As 2010-2011 Newsletter Editor, I thank all officers who contributed articles to the SIG-III May 2011 Newsletter. It was an honor for SIG-III to be recognized for our newsletter, and we hope to continue publishing future issues of our newsletter with the same high standards.

### **2012 ASIS&T SIG-III International Paper Contest**

*By Maqsood Shaheen, International Paper Contest Chair, ASIS&T SIG-III*

The Special Interest Group on International Information Issues (SIG-III) of the American Society for Information Science & Technology (ASIS&T) is pleased to announce its twelfth competition for papers to be submitted for the 2012 Annual Meeting, which will take place in Baltimore, Maryland, October 26-31, 2012.

Building on the overall conference theme, the theme for this year’s paper contest is: "Information, Interaction, Innovation: Celebrating the Past, Constructing the Present, and Creating the Future." Papers could discuss issues, policies, and case studies on specific aspects of the theme from a global and/or international perspective. Topics include, but are not limited to, the following core areas:

- Intercultural Information Ethics: Critical reflection on the ethical challenges related to the global and cross-cultural production, storage, and distribution of information, as well as the ethical dimensions of the global development and implementation of information systems, infrastructures, and policies.

- Information Behavior: Information needs, information seeking, information gaps, and sensemaking in various contexts including work, interests, or every-day life activities by individuals or groups.
- Knowledge Organization: Indexing, index construction, indexing languages, thesaurus construction, terminology, classification of information in any form, tagging (expert, userbased, automatic), filtering, metadata, standards for metadata, information architecture.
- Information Systems, Interactivity and Design: How people use and communicate with information systems; the design, use, and evaluation of interactive information technologies and systems, including interfaces and algorithms; search and retrieval, browsing, visualization, personalization.
- Information and Knowledge Management: Information and knowledge creation, transfer, and use at the personal, group, organizational, and societal levels. The management of the processes and systems that create, acquire, organize, store, distribute, and use information and/or knowledge. Selected papers will be published in the *International Journal of Information Management*.
- Information Use: How people re-purpose existing knowledge from a variety of sources (scientific, humanities, news, family, friends, colleagues), forms (articles, books, video, audio, tweets), locations (work, home, in transit) and mediums (cell-phones, PDAs, digital libraries) to advance knowledge, solve problems, improve information literacy, and learn.
- Information and Society – Economic, Political, Social Issues: Copyright issues, policies, and laws; national and international information policies; privacy and security; economics of information, personal rights vs. freedom of information; surveillance; globalization and the flows of information; computerization movements; social informatics.

#### Selection Criteria

There will be up to three winners who will be selected by a panel of judges including: Maqsood Shaheen (IRC, US Embassy Islamabad), Alma Rivera (Universidad Iberoamericana Ciudad de México), and Fatih Oguz (University of North Carolina at Greensboro).

The judging criteria will be based on:

- Originality of paper in the developing world and global information ecosystem (originality of the project described, etc.)



- Relevance to the paper contest theme
- Quality of argument, presentation, and organization
- Eligibility & 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 2008-2011 contests are not eligible. The papers should be original, unpublished, and submitted 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.

#### Award

The award for each winner is a two-year individual membership to ASIS&T. In the case of multiple authors, the principal author will be awarded the ASIS&T 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 ASIS&T Annual Meeting in Baltimore, Maryland, October 26-31, 2012.

#### 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://www.elsevier.com/wps/find/journaldescription.cws\\_home/622845/authorinstructions](http://www.elsevier.com/wps/find/journaldescription.cws_home/622845/authorinstructions)

#### 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.

#### ASIS&T Copyright Policy

ASIS&T will have the non-exclusive right to publish any of the papers submitted on its website 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 5,000 words, by May 31, 2012, to Maqsood Shaheen at [ShaheenMA@gmail.com](mailto:ShaheenMA@gmail.com), preferably as Microsoft Word or PDF attachments.

### **SIG-III Sponsored Panels at 2012 Annual Meeting**

*By Daniel Alemneh, Chair, ASIS&T SIG-III*

#### Panel 1

**Title:** The origins of SIG-III and its 30 Years' Journey: Visions and Reflections

**Authors/Speakers:** Daniel Alemneh, Toni Carbo, Nadia Caidi, Anatoliy Gruzd, and Abebe Rorissa

**Brief Summary:** This panel will discuss the origins of the Special Interest Group for International Information Issues (SIG-III) of the American Society for Information Science & Technology (ASIS&T) and its early years. In addition to the reflections of the last 30 years, this panel will also look forward and discuss the future of SIG-III including strategies to facilitate collaborations and information exchanges globally.

#### Panel 2

**Title:** Content Divide: Africa and the Global Knowledge Footprint

**Authors/Speakers:** Shimelis Assefa, Abebe Rorissa, Daniel Alemneh, and Kendra Albright

**Brief Summary:** In line with issues in international information, panel members will discuss the global knowledge footprint from a unique and distinct perspective. Framed here as 'content divide,' the focus is to present an international comparative analysis of knowledge production using scientific/technical research and patent outputs of individual countries and regions across the world. Without restating the obvious that rich countries produce more and poor countries less, and hence the divide, panelists will place emphasis on variables that help bridge the divide. The approach places emphasis on the connection between gross expenditure on R&D (GERD) and research performance mainly by higher education institutions; innovation activities using patent registration as one key indicator, and the role of national education and research network (NREN) as key enablers to foster research productivity.

### **SIG-III, European Chapter of ASIS&T, and SIG-MET Co-Sponsored Event**

*By Sarah Emmerson, Newsletter Editor and Mentorship Coordinator, ASIS&T SIG-III*

Embracing its goal of participating in cooperative ventures on an international level with other ASIS&T SIGs and Regional Chapters, SIG-III joined the European Chapter of ASIS&T and ASIS&T SIG-MET in co-sponsoring a [Doctoral Forum](#), held on April 12-13, 2012 in England at the University of Wolverhampton, specializing in quantitative research in Information Science. Beginning with short introductory presentations by Dr. Jonathan Levitt (ASIS&T SIG-III Officer, 2005-2009) and Professor Mike Thelwall on the application of quantitative methods to Information Science, the main emphasis of the Doctoral Forum was on the students presenting and receiving feedback on their research as well as meeting other doctoral students.

## SIG-III Redesigns its Website

By Daniel Alemneh, Chair, ASIS&T SIG-III

SIG-III will redesign its website to improve its function and look. Among other changes, the new website will be more accessible for mobile devices and more easily incorporate social media and related tools. In light of the ever-growing Drupal development community (both within ASIS&T and globally) as well as the large number of available add-on modules, a compelling case may be made to migrate our old SIG-III website (<http://www.asis.org/SIG/SIGIII/>) to Drupal. We hope that all of our SIG-III website content will be migrated to Drupal by early Fall 2012: <http://www.asis.org/SIG/SIGIII/drupal>.

## InfoShare Award Recipients

By Devendra Potnis, InfoShare Officer, ASIS&T SIG-III

One of the programs that ASIS&T SIG-III runs is the InfoShare program. The InfoShare program, through funds generated mainly at ASIS&T Annual Meetings and one of its highlights, the International Reception, recruits and sponsors professional and student members from a number of developing countries. In December 2011, two rounds of calls for nominations for InfoShare memberships were disseminated. Out of a total of 16 nominations, SIG-III officers voted to award nine (9) professional and three (3) student full memberships. All nine nominees for professional membership and three nominees for student membership accepted the offer to become InfoShare members. The twelve InfoShare members are from seven different countries and have a range of professional and educational backgrounds. SIG-III is happy to congratulate and welcome the following InfoShare program awardees to ASIS&T and SIG-III.

Professional members:

- Amjid Khan (Pakistan)
- Ana María Talavera Ibarra (Peru)
- Ayman S. El-Dakroury (Egypt)
- Dinesh Chandra (India)
- E. Ramesh (India)
- Kamani Perera (Sri Lanka)
- Maqsood Shaheen (Pakistan)
- Muhammad Sajid Mirza (Pakistan)
- Najia Abdallaoui Maan (Morocco)

Student members:

- Claudia Bucceroni Guerra (Brazil)
- Muhammad Shafiq (Pakistan)
- Shafiq Ur Rehman (Pakistan)

## InfoShare Award Recipient Biographies

### Professionals

Ayman S. El-Dakroury



Ayman El-Dakroury, with a MA from Cairo University, Egypt, is interested in multilingual information retrieval systems, Web content, digital libraries, and bibliometrics. El-Dakroury started his career at the Mubarak Public Library, which now is Misr Library, one of the most popular libraries in Egypt. He worked as a junior librarian in 2003 and later joined the BiblioIslam Digital Library, which is one of the largest academic Arabic repositories on the Web. El-Dakroury worked as an information specialist and e-marketer from 2006-2010. In 2010 he served at the Supreme Council for Egyptian Universities as a senior librarian, and in 2011 he joined the British University in Egypt.

El-Dakroury also participated in many projects to digitize and process materials. In addition, he became a consultant at the Counseling and Technology Development Center in Egypt. El-Dakroury also became the editorial secretary for the *Arabic Studies in Librarianship and Information Science Journal*, one of the deep-rooted Arabic journals (2007 to present), and he has contributed many research articles and scientific reviews on Arabic literature in venerable journals.

Presently, El-Dakroury works as a senior assistant librarian at the American University in Cairo. During his 11 years working in librarianship and information science, he has developed extensive knowledge and experience in dealing with circulation service, administrating databases, digital libraries, and Arabic language processing in the Arab World through seminars, workshops, lectures, and training.

Dinesh Chandra



Dinesh Chandra is a 1994 Graduate in Science from Delhi University, India and has completed a Master's degree in Library and Information Science specializing in Total Quality Management (TQM).

Chandra is an international author/speaker at conferences focusing on digital libraries and museums/cultural heritage. He has published over 40 international papers/posters and traveled to Romania, Turkey, Finland, and the United Kingdom for information sharing activities.

Chandra is currently working as Section Officer, Ministry of Defence, New Delhi and is presently working as officer-in-charge for the section that is responsible for providing support in proper functioning of Chief of the Naval Staff. Earlier he was also looking after the Quality Management System under ISO 9001:2000 in the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI).

Chandra is an Associate Network Member of the Digital Curation Centre, United Kingdom and Affiliate Member of the International Committee on Archaeological Heritage Management (ICAHM).

E. Ramesh



E. Ramesh is a Librarian at Malla Reddy College of Engineering and Technology in Secunderabad, India. Previously, he was an Assistant Librarian at Hi-Tech College of Engineering and Technology in Hyderabad, an Assistant Librarian at JNTU College of Engineering in Kakinada, an Assistant Librarian at CJITS Jangaon in Warangal, and a Librarian at Adarsha Law College in Warangal. E. Ramesh has a Master of Philosophy in

Library and Information Science as well as a Post Graduate Diploma in Library Automation and Networking. He is the Organizing Secretary of the "National Level Workshop on Competency Skills for Library Professionals" and is currently pursuing his PhD degree in Library and Information Science.

Kamani Perera



Kamani Perera is currently working as the Librarian of the Regional Centre for Strategic Studies, Colombo, Sri Lanka. She has 27 years of professional experience, working in major research institutes in Sri Lanka. Perera is an international speaker at digital library and museums/cultural heritage conferences as well as a paper reviewer/editor/author in international library journals. She has widely published over 50 international papers/posters and traveled extensively to India, Thailand, Portugal, Romania, Greece, Turkey, Finland, and the United States for information sharing activities.

Perera has undergone training on new information technologies at the Asian Institute of Technology, Bangkok, Thailand and obtained Military Library training at the National Defense University, Washington, DC, USA.

In addition, Perera is an Associate Member of the Sri Lanka Library Association; Associate Network Member of the Digital Curation Centre, United Kingdom; Professional Development Fund member of the International Institute for Conservation (IIC), United Kingdom; and Affiliate Member of the International Committee on Archaeological Heritage Management (ICAHM).

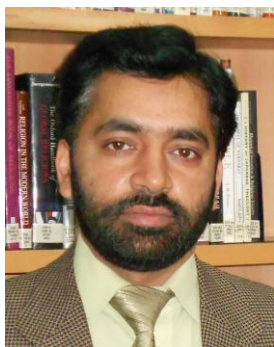
Maqsood Shaheen





Maqsood Shaheen has more than 15 years of experience conducting reference and research on a variety of topics for government officials, academia, journalists, researchers, and non-governmental organizations. Currently, he is working as Reference Specialist in the Information, Research, and Communication (IRC) Unit of the U.S. Embassy, Islamabad. Shaheen is also a Salzburg Seminar fellow as well as an active member of the Pakistan Library Association. He was the first place winner of the SIG-III International Paper Contest in 2008. Since then, he has served SIG-III as InfoShare Officer and, presently, is the Chair of the International Paper Contest Committee. Shaheen has served as the Past President of the Asian Chapter of the Special Libraries Association, and he has published many research papers on emerging issues in the library and information science field.

#### Muhammad Sajid Mirza



Muhammad Sajid Mirza is a Senior Librarian at the International Islamic University, Islamabad, with 15 years of experience in the higher education sector. He earned a MLS from Punjab University (PU), Lahore, Pakistan in 1997. Presently he is a PhD scholar at PU, having submitted his dissertation titled “Utility of IT in the University Libraries of Pakistan” in August 2010. He has published four papers.

Mirza has participated in 22 conferences/trainings, and he has conducted many trainings for researchers/librarians in the areas of literature research, online databases, referencing of information, avoiding plagiarism, and using DD services. He is currently teaching courses leading to a MLIS degree at AIOU, Islamabad and MIU Islamabad campuses. Mirza’s areas of interest are bibliometric studies as well as IL and IT applications in libraries. He has served PLA (Federal-Branch) as Assistant-Secretary from 2007-2011 and SLA (Asian-Chapter) as Country-Representative from 2009-2010. In addition, Mirza is also Country-Contact for Infolit-Global, where his vision is to inculcate IL skills among the youth of Pakistan.

#### Najia Abdallaoui Maan



Najia Abdallaoui Maan has been working at Ecole des Sciences de l’Information ( ESI), Rabat, Morocco since 1980, first as an assistant professor then as a professor of Higher Education (since 1998), with a brief stint as Deputy Director between December 2009 and April 2011. She has a MA in Theoretical Linguistics from the University of Essex (UK) and a Doctorat d’Etat (PhD) in Education Sciences from the Institute of Education, University of London and the Faculty of Education, University Mohamed V, Rabat. She was awarded the first prize for the best Doctoral Thesis at the University Mohamed V in 1998.

In 2005, Maan became a member of the editorial board of ESI’s “Revue de la Science de l’Information” of which she later served as the Editor- in-Chief until 2011. She has participated in several national and international conferences. Maan was among the founding members of the Moroccan Association of Teachers of English (MATE), and she is now an active member of IFLA’s Education and Training Section (SET).

Maan’s previous research includes topics such as: Discourse Analysis of the English and the Moroccan Press (Arabic and French), Arabization and the Moroccan Schooling System, Students Needs Analysis, and Language Teaching and Reading Research. This research has led to the publication of several articles as well as the publication of two books:

- Reading Strategies of Learners of English as a Foreign Language. Rabat: Ecole des Sciences de l’Information, 2001.
- Reading Course for Moroccan Learners of English in Tertiary Education, Rabat: 2007.

Mann’s research is currently focused on issues related to the connection between education, critical reading, information literacy, and the new technologies of communication.

## Students

### Claudia Bucceroni Guerra



Claudia Bucceroni Guerra was born in Salvador, Bahia, Brazil, moving at an early age to Rio de Janeiro. She majored and earned her first Master's degree in history at Federal University of Rio de Janeiro (UFRJ), after which, for 10 years, she worked in the archives of one of the largest newspapers in the country where she realized the importance of Information Science. Guerra then decided to return to school, this time devoted to Information Science. Currently, Guerra is developing doctoral research at the most important Information Science research center in Brazil: Brazilian Institute of Information Science and Technology (IBICT). Here she is developing epistemological research on photography. Guerra is also an elementary school teacher and a photographer.

### Muhammad Shafiq



With excellent experience in modern librarianship, 39 year old Muhammad Shafiq is one of the dynamic, energetic, and talented library and information professionals in Pakistan. He has served Punjab University Library & Information Science Alumni Association (PULISAA) as President (2010-2011) as well as a Council Member for the Pakistan Library Association (Federal Branch). Shafiq has received awards from national and international organizations, including HRDN, SLA, and ASIS&T. He is an Alumnus of the U.S. International Visitor Leadership Program of 2007 and a member of many local and foreign associations and networks, organizing many trainings, seminars, workshops, and conferences. Shafiq holds dual

Master's degrees in Library & Information Science and Economics from the University of Punjab, Lahore. Shafiq is married, has four children, and is fond of traveling.

### Shafiq Ur Rehman



Shafiq Ur Rehman is presently working as an Assistant Professor in the Department of Library & Information Science at the University of the Punjab, Lahore, Pakistan. He is the first library professional from Pakistan to complete a PhD degree from the University of Lille3, France (Title of dissertation: Service Quality Assessment in University Libraries of Pakistan) with the highest distinction (very honorable with the unanimous felicitation of the six member jury). Additionally, Rehman has also published 14 scientific publications in peer reviewed journals and presented his research at 7 international conferences.

Rehman has more than 14 years of professional and teaching experience in the universities and academic institutions of Pakistan. In addition, he has lectured as a resource person in various training programs in Pakistan and abroad, where knowing four languages (English, French, Urdu, and Punjabi) is a great advantage.

### **2009-2010 SIG-III Chair's Visit to Bhutan**

*By Kate Johnson, 2009-2010 Chair, ASIS&T SIG-III*

Perhaps to most of you Bhutan is just a place in your imagination – a 21st Century Shangri-La noted mainly for the concept of Gross National Happiness. In fact, this mountainous kingdom, spreading south from the Himalayan range to the northern border of India, has only recently opened up to outsiders and is attempting to enter the information age. The country is ruled by an Oxford-educated, 32 year old king (the 5th King) who is gradually introducing democratic institutions to Bhutan such as an elected assembly and an independent press. At the same time great care is taken to reduce the negative impact of modern society and protect Bhutanese culture and way of life. This April I was lucky to be able to visit Bhutan. Because I was accompanying my partner, a rural development consultant with the European Union who was evaluating agricultural projects there, I did not have to pay the \$250 to \$290 fee per day that is normally charged to

tourists. Western visitors are still relatively rare in Bhutan with approximately 40,000 tourists visiting each year. I was there for three weeks staying mainly in the capital city of Thimphu and travelling for nine days to areas in the south of the country that are normally not accessible to tourists.

While there I visited libraries and talked with people involved in the library community. Libraries are rare in Bhutan. This may be because up until a couple of decades ago, most of the population was illiterate. Even now only 48% of the Bhutanese population is literate. However, with the spread of free, universal education, literacy is increasing among young people, 82% of whom are literate. English is taught in most schools and almost everyone I met seemed comfortable conversing in English. Even young school children we passed on the street seemed happy to shout “good morning ma’am or sir” as we passed by.

The capital city of Thimphu has three libraries: the Royal University of Bhutan libraries, the National Library of Bhutan, and the public library. There are only 10 qualified librarians in the whole of the country. All were educated abroad and there are few opportunities for people already working in libraries to gain the skills to carry out their jobs effectively. Currently a library technicians’ diploma course is being designed by a library consultant from Australia to train library clerks (Ransom, 2010/2011, p. 166). Although it is intended as a distance course, because of poor Internet access it will operate mostly as a correspondence course. The course is targeted mainly at library workers in the various libraries of the Rural University of Bhutan.

The National Library was established in 1967 to preserve and promote the “rich literacy, cultural and religious heritage of our country”. The NLB holds one of the largest treasuries of Mahayana Buddhist literature in the world. Several years ago, the National Library partnered with the Royal Library of Denmark to produce an online public access catalog, which is hosted in Denmark. The library is considered a sacred institution because of its collection of Buddhist holy books. There are four floors of the library that represent different Buddhist authors and traditions. The cloth covered sutras are neatly placed on shelves behind glass doors. When I visited the only other visitors seemed to be tourists like myself. It was not obvious whether one could access these books on one’s own or whether a staff member needed to help. However, not all the shelf doors were locked so it was possible, but maybe not permitted, to handle these ancient books.

The only public library in Bhutan is the Jigme Dorji Wangchuk Public Library (named after the 3rd King) that was established in 1980. It is located in a traditional Bhutanese house on the main street of Thimphu. It has an unprepossessing appearance and is very easy to pass by without noticing. It is cramped for space with no room to expand for the approximately 25,000 items on its shelves. Most of the collection appears to be in English with a focus on children’s materials. I met with the Chief Librarian, Tsewang Zam, and her assistant one afternoon. She

received her degree in India and has been in charge of the library since it was first established. It is mostly owing to her dedication and spirit that the library has survived this long. Hopefully, when she retires in the Fall of 2012 there will be someone with the same determination and drive who will take over. Since most of the collection comes through donations (there is very little support from the City), I asked her what kinds of books the library needs. She said there was a great need for children’s board and picture books and she also was looking for ideas for the Summer and Winter reading programs.



**Tsewang Lam (Chief Librarian) and Tshering Phuntso of Thimphu Public Library**

While there are few libraries in the country there does seem to be some efforts being made to provide information services. In the southern district of Sarpang, for instance, I met members of a farm cooperative who claimed that the people in their community had requested that a library be built. Also, the government has mandated the establishment of Community Centers that are intended as “one stop shops” for government and other services. According to the Ministry of Information Communication and Media, the shops will contain computer equipment, Internet access, printers, scanners and photocopiers. In addition, Learning Centers intended for children that will provide access to computers and the Internet will be established in conjunction with many of these centers. An innovative program to build libraries in Bhutan has recently been launched by READ Bhutan, an International NGO that originated in Nepal (see its website <http://www.readglobal.org/>). Three centers have been established in Bhutan since its arrival in 2008. The innovative idea behind this NGO is that the impetus for the establishment of the center must come from the community itself and that the center must be self-sustaining. In order to improve sustainability the center often establishes a money-making enterprise that provides funds to the library. Generally the NGO will ask the community what it needs most to improve its living conditions and then attempt to provide that service for a fee. In Bhutan the center established a tractor rental business that not only helps the local farmers increase their farm yield but also provides the funds to support the library and community center.



As Bhutan cautiously enters the information age it provides an opportunity for us as LIS educators and professionals to provide the advice and help that in our own small way will enable the country to build an information infrastructure. A few areas in which we could help range from simply providing children's books to the public library in Thimphu, to advice on establishing small public libraries or community information centers in rural areas, or even creating educational opportunities to train future librarians. Perhaps our SIG could start by connecting with librarians in Bhutan and asking them how we could help. As with most library workers in developing countries they are very eager to establish contact with their counterparts in other parts of the world. If interested, I have email addresses of a few librarians who would love to hear from us!

Address of the Thimphu Public Library:  
 Jigme Dorji Wangchuck Public Library  
 Post Box 295  
 Norzin Lam  
 Thimphu, BHUTAN

Library Assistant's (Tshering Phuntsho) e-mail address:  
 charmboytp@gmail.com

Email addresses of 2 (female) National Library librarians:  
 Sonam Yudon - sonam.yudon@gmail.com  
 Sonam Yangdon - sonahm@gmail.com

Reference:  
 Ransom, Sylvia (2010/2011). Bhutan's first library qualification, background and development. *Education for Information* 28, pp. 165-173.

**Examining International Informational Exchanges  
 Among ASIS&T Members on Twitter.com**

*By Anatoliy Gruzd (Social Media Administrator, ASIS&T SIG-III) and Amanda Wilk, Dalhousie University, Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada*

In today's globalized world, the ability to form connections with other scholars from around the world is one of the most important skills an academic can possess. The formation of an international network of colleagues allows for academics to stay on top of current global trends, internationally disseminate information, and form cross-border and cross-cultural research teams. However, maintaining international relations can become time consuming and costly for all parties involved. Social media tools such as Academia.edu and Twitter.com can help with these problems, as they allow scholars to discover potential collaborators, find relevant publications, and easily communicate with colleagues from around the globe. This paper explores how members of the American Society for Information Science and Technology (ASIS&T) are using Twitter for international information exchanges. For the purpose of this piece, we selected a sample of 141 Twitter users, followed by the asist2011 Twitter account. The analysis was done using AcademiaMap.com, an online geo-based visualization tool, developed by the Social Media

Lab at Dalhousie University. AcademiaMap follows public Twitter conversations among scholars and visualizes Twitter connections in real-time.

ASIS&T was established in 1937 with the goal of stimulating communications and interactions within the information community (<http://www.asis.org/about.html>). Although it began as an American based organization, and continues to foster a large American contingent of scholars, ASIS&T is a truly international organization, with members from over fifty countries from around the world (<http://www.asis.org/infosheets>). The international nature of ASIS&T has allowed for a cross-continental network of information scholars to develop, which has allowed for international information exchanges to take place.

Conferences, workshops, and symposiums are key events during which ASIS&T members from around the world are able to come together to network and disseminate information. Twitter is a tool that is frequently used during such events, and as a result is able to act as a catalyst in networking and informational exchange endeavours. Often, conference facilitators develop conference based hashtags that allow all conference related tweets to be consolidated under one searchable term. For example, for ASIS&T's 2011 Annual Meeting, the hashtag #asist2011 was used. Figure 1 displays Twitter users who posted about #asist2011. Examining the map it is clear that this hashtag was used by scholars from around the world, signifying that an international audience was present or followed this event online.



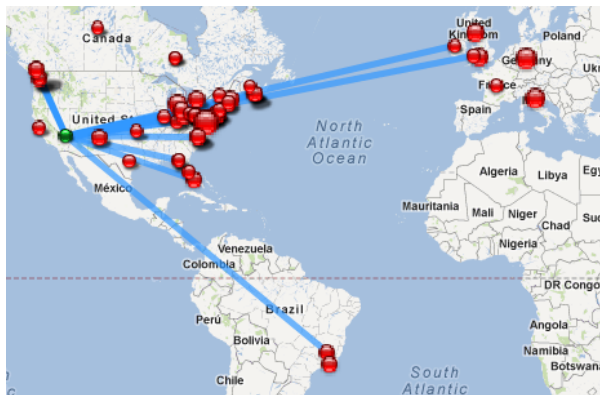
**Figure 1: Twitter users who tweeted about #asist2011 are shown in green color**

Although conferences offer networking opportunities during a select number of occasions throughout the year, social media tools like Twitter allow for the connections made at conferences and similar events to be maintained year round. Turning to AcademiaMap, we can see further evidence of international informational exchanges over Twitter. Figure 2 displays that over the month of January in 2012 ASIS&T members from twelve countries (and five continents) sent out Twitter messages. Therefore, it is clear that a number of international ASIS&T members are actively using Twitter to disseminate information outside of designated conference events. In fact, one Twitter handle @KMeducation, the account for The Knowledge Management Education Hub—a German based organization that offers knowledge management and training programs—has consistently been one of the most active Twitter users in this network.



**Figure 2: Sample of ASIS&T Twitter users who tweeted during January 2012**

Another active user of Twitter, Sara Mooney (based in the United States), has also highlighted the international nature of ASIS&T Twitter messages through her management of the ASIS&T Daily. The ASIS&T Daily is a Paper.li newspaper, which consolidates key ASIS&T tweets in the form of a digitally viewable newspaper. From her Twitter handle @Sara\_Mooney, she sends messages to Twitter users that have been highlighted in Paper.li publications. Looking to Figure 3, we can see that many international ASIS&T members have been mentioned in her Paper.li publication in January alone.



**Figure 3: Sara Mooney's Paper.li Twitter Mentions between in January, 2012**

In sum, this case study has shown that Twitter is being actively used for international informational exchanges by ASIS&T members. Tweets ranged from friendly remarks, to discussions over grant proposals, to conversations on conference proceedings, to the sharing of articles and blog posts pertaining to Library and Information Science research.

To further encourage and facilitate international informational exchanges via Twitter among ASIS&T members, SIG-III will be launching a Twitter account @sig3i on June 1, 2012 to highlight research done by and news from ASIS&T scholars around the globe as well as job and funding opportunities. So, stay connected and join in the conversation on Twitter by following our new account - @sig3i.

**SIG-III Officers Collaborate with Colleagues from Addis Ababa University, Ethiopia**

*By Kendra Albright, Co-Chair-Elect, and Abebe Rorissa, Chair-Elect, ASIS&T SIG-III*

Over the past few years, a number of ASIS&T members, most of whom are/were SIG-III members, have been involved in establishing collaborative research and teaching programs. As part of our continuing efforts, in June 2011, Dr. Abebe Rorissa of the University at Albany, State University of New York, hosted a delegation from Addis Ababa University in Ethiopia (consisting of the Vice President for Research and Graduate Studies as well as the Dean of the School of Information Science) that visited the University at Albany. The Addis Ababa University delegation discussed a number of collaborative programs with the University at Albany's Vice President for Research, Vice Provost for International Education, Dean of the College of Computing and Information, and Chair of the Department of Information Studies. As a follow up to these discussions, in the summer of 2011, Dr. Rorissa and Dr. Kendra Albright from the School of Library and Information Sciences, University of South Carolina, facilitated a workshop on curriculum design of an MS in Librarianship program at Addis Ababa University that was widely attended by various stakeholders from academia and government institutions.

The workshop, thanks to the strong leadership of Dr. Rahel Bekele, Dean of the School of Information Science, Addis Ababa University, produced a comprehensive curriculum which was later reviewed by an international group of information professionals and academics who are members of ASIS&T. The curriculum is in the process of being approved by the Addis Ababa University Senate and the President. However, some challenges remain. Chief among these is a shortage of trained staff to implement the curriculum. To assist in the implementation of the curriculum, discussions are ongoing among the various universities involved so far and others to seek funding and support ASIS&T members and others to teach some of the courses. SIG-III and its members such as Dr. Rorissa, Dr. Albright, Dr. Daniel Gelaw Alemneh, and others, are playing leading roles and will continue to do so.

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**SIG-III Listserv, Website, and Social Media Sites**

**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-  
/your\\_email\\_address](http://mail.asis.org/mailman/options/sigiii-<br/>/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-  
/msmith@yahoo.com](http://mail.asis.org/mailman/options/sigiii-<br/>/msmith@yahoo.com)  
Step 2. On the subscription page, type your password to unsubscribe.

**Password assistance:**

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

**Questions:**

Please contact Diane Grevalsky-Angiletta (angis1991@yahoo.com) if you have questions regarding the sigiii-l listserv.

**Website**

The official SIG-III website is located at <http://www.asis.org/SIG/SIGIII/drupal/>.

Please contact Borchuluun Yadamsuren (by888@mail.missouri.edu) or Fatih Oguz (f\_oguz@uncg.edu) with questions regarding the SIG-III website.

**Blog**

The official SIG-III blog is located at <http://sigiii.wordpress.com/>.

Please contact Anindita Paul (aninditapaul@gmail.com) or Anatoliy Gruzd (gruzd@dal.ca) with questions regarding the SIG-III blog.

**Facebook Group**

The official SIG-III Facebook group is located at <http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=101547247614>.

Please contact Anindita Paul (aninditapaul@gmail.com) or Anatoliy Gruzd (gruzd@dal.ca) with questions regarding the SIG-III Facebook group.

**LinkedIn Group**

The official SIG-III LinkedIn group is located at <http://www.linkedin.com/groups?gid=3868177>.

Please contact Anindita Paul (aninditapaul@gmail.com) or Anatoliy Gruzd (gruzd@dal.ca) with questions regarding the SIG-III LinkedIn group.

**Wiki**

The official SIG-III Wiki is located at [http://www.asis.org/wiki/chapters-  
sigs/index.php/International\\_Information\\_Issues\\_%28III%  
29](http://www.asis.org/wiki/chapters-<br/>sigs/index.php/International_Information_Issues_%28III%<br/>29).

Please contact Anindita Paul (aninditapaul@gmail.com) or Anatoliy Gruzd (gruzd@dal.ca) with questions regarding the SIG-III Wiki.

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**Attention ASIS&T Members:  
Donations Needed  
for the  
International Reception  
Silent Auction**

**Remember SIG-III on your summer travels.  
Set aside items from home.**

**Bring donated items to the 2012 Annual Meeting in Baltimore, MD for entry in the International Reception's silent auction, sponsored by SIG-III. If unable to attend, send donated items with a friend or by postal mail.**

**SIG-III will provide a box by the registration table in which ASIS&T members may drop off silent auction donation items prior to the International Reception.**

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