

# SIG-III Newsletter

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## Message from the Chair

By Hassan Zamir, Chair, ASIS&T SIG-III

Greetings Everyone! As the Chair of SIGIII in the year 2017-18, I am delighted to introduce you to the latest issue of SIGIII Newsletter. It has been an exciting year for me to work with an excellent group of people and the wonderful SIGIII community. I am grateful to the previous committees and officers who have diligently led SIGIII over the years.



This year, we have continued their journey and tried to keep the SIG successful. To make an effort, we welcomed supports and suggestions from the SIGIII and ASIS&T community. This year we continued our signature programs with the aim of bringing in more diverse representations from around the world to the ASIS&T community. International Paper Contest, InfoShare program attracted new scholars across the globe.

We had a few challenges with budget and availability of officers for right positions. We have undertaken those challenges within our limits. This has exposed a unique opportunity to learn more about running a SIG or a professional group.

Our International Paper Contest (IPC) team worked hard throughout the year to find promising LIS scholars around the world. After diligent assessment and reviews, they found scholars from Pakistan and Zimbabwe with outstanding research challenges. We are awarding the first position holder attendance of ASIS&T annual meeting 2018 and associated facilities. Visa challenge has been an issue for international scholars. Our officers have been working hard with the ASIS&T HQ to make sure the IPC winner has all kinds of supports they need to attend the annual meeting in Vancouver in November, 2018.

The InfoShare team also worked passionately and conducted a worldwide search. After assessing a number of nominations, the team selected deserving scholars from Bangladesh, Ethiopia, Kenya, Kyrgyzstan, and Pakistan. The candidates were mostly professionals and a few representations of doctoral students. Traditionally, the winners receive yearly ASIS&T membership benefits. We believe this selection will help ASIS&T reach wider geographical locations.

We had a challenging year with limited budget and the absence of treasurer position. Initially, we started this year with fewer officers holding declared positions. At the annual meeting in 2017, many volunteered for various positions. We had two brand new ASIS&T members for treasurer position with no clear chair-elect. Due to the SIG technical formation, we selected one treasurer to take chair-elect position at our officers meeting, leaving only one officer in the treasurer position. Because of a lack of experience and schedule conflicts, the remaining treasurer had difficult times throughout the year. As chair, I had to jump in and manage our finances. With direct communications to HQ, SIGIII could save the annual allocation for spending it next year. We also had the challenge of organizing webinars as many of the proposed speakers were facing schedule issues.

We are hosting our International Reception at the annual meeting with silent auction. Just like previous years, the IPC winner will present at this event. SIGIII is supporting ASIS&T New Leaders to take part in various collaborations throughout the year.

In closing, I would like to thank the whole SIGIII team and its community, including the advisers, ASIS&T HQ staffs and the SIG Cabinet, for supporting our journey this year. We have our new team up and running. I wish them very

best of luck for the upcoming year. I invite you to read more about the SIGIII activities on our website (<https://www.asist.org/SIG/SIGIII/>), and make conversation on our Facebook group (<https://www.facebook.com/groups/asist.sig.iii/>) and Twitter (<https://twitter.com/sig3i>).

Thank you!

**ASIS&T 2017 International Conference**

*By Hassan Zamir, Chair, ASIS&T SIG-III*

The 2017 ASIS&T conference was held in Washington DC, USA from October 27 to November 1. It was the historical 80th annual meeting for ASIS&T. The meeting



welcomed 528 people from different parts of the world.

SIGIII hosted its signature events, conducted business meeting, and sponsored various events in association with other SIGs. The SIG is very happy to acknowledge the support from the local chapter and student associations for helping with the preparation of the gift basket for the Silent Auction winner.

The outgoing chair and co-chair, unfortunately, could not attend the conference. So, the chair-elect, Hassan Zamir, and the past-chair, Xiao Hu, managed the SIGIII events at the conference. Many scholars and professionals attended



the business meeting and expressed their interests to be part of the SIG. Two of the advisors, Toni Carbo and Abebe Rorissa, attended the meeting and suggested many options. The meeting recognized the

International Paper Contest winners. The present advisers, Hassan Zamir along with the Executive Director of ASIS&T, Lydia Middleton, presented the awards to the winners.

Historically, SIGIII organizes the International Paper Contest. At this conference, three of the authors attended and presented their posters at the International Reception.

Professors Saira Sroya, Kanwal Ameen and Nosheen Fatima, who were all from Pakistan,



attended the meeting.

The International Reception was a success at ASIS&T 2017 conference. Hassan Zamir hosted this event. Past chair Xiao Hu, Adviser Toni Carbo and Abebe Rorissa, and Communication and Cabinet Representative Catherine Dumas also gave a helping hand to this event. They organized the silent auction items and sold raffle tickets. A total of over \$900 was collected by selling silent auction items and raffle tickets. The money was spent on the fund of travel and cash award of the International Paper Contest winner.



**Memory from the Winner of ASIS&T 2017 International Paper Contest**

*By Saira Hanif Soroya, Winner of ASIS&T 2017 International Paper Contest*

On a fresh morning of 15 August 2017, I received an email from Prof. Afuh Awasom

“Congratulations on winning the international paper contest courtesy of the SIG III of the Association of Information Science and Technology ASSIS&T”. It was a great news indeed, which I quickly shared with my co-author Prof. Dr. Kanwal Ameen.



I hereby acknowledge that ASIS&T and SIG III officers i.e. Emma, Toni, Abebe, Ashraf, Carline and Lydia helped me a lot regarding my travel arrangements. I reached Washington D. C. on 26 October 2017 to attend ASIS&T 80th Annual meeting. This platform gave me an opportunity for social networking and meeting incredibly renowned LIS professionals and authors in person. On the very first day of ASIS&T annual meeting I met Toni Carbo, and being so kind, she held my hand and introduced me to other SIG III officers. I am unable to express my feelings when Mr. Zamir, Chair SIG III announced me and my co-author as first place winners during SIG-III international reception. The sound of applause is still fresh in my memory.

The conference was a complete package with different flavors i.e. paper & poster presentations, panels’ discussions, workshops, special interest groups meetings and social meetups during receptions. It was a great feeling to meet Ms. Connaway, author of the book “Basic Research Methods for Librarians”. It was equally pleasant to meet Ms. Sanda Erdeleze and Mr. Naresh Agarwal.

I would request ASIS&T 2018 conference attendees to

support SIG III silent auction, which is a funding source for IPC award. I am also pleased to share that this platform gave me an opportunity to serve SIG III as IPC Jury member and InfoShare member (2018). I will continue working as InfoShare Chair and Newsletter Officer for the year 2018/2019.

Many thanks to SIG III and ASIS&T!

Dr. Saira Hanif Soroya  
Assistant Professor,  
Department of Information Management,  
University of the Punjab, Lahore, Pakistan

### 2017 SIG Cabinet Meeting

*By Catherine Dumas, SIG-III Cabinet Representative*

The meeting started with the introduction of the new SIG Steering Committee officers, including Brandi Loveday (Cabinet Director), Sarah Buchanan (Deputy Director), Heather Pfeiffer, Catherine Dumas and Tim Gorichanaz.

Several awards were given this year, namely the SIG Member of the Year, the SIG of the Year and the SIG Publication of the Year.

This meeting has also highlighted a few updates reporting on the progress of SIG Cabinets. Officer Manual 2017 has been updated and become now available. Regarding “Living SIG Manual”, Darin Freeburg created a survey with his group to inquire about our SIGs and leadership in ASSIST. Our members generally viewed leadership as a prestigious group while they showed concerns over what SIGs did as it might not be very clear. It has been suggested that the efficiency of communications of the SIG should be enhanced. There was also a discussion about what it would take to be a leader in a SIG. Following the meeting, officers had to take each of our content areas and create a video.

Reported by Lydia Middleton, the headquarter has currently been in the process of implementing the system – higher logic (<https://www.higherlogic.com/home>) so SIGs can use to store content and communicate. It will be a community platform that is internal to ASIS&T. Each SIG will have a thread there. There will also be a library for the registered members of SIGs. We, however, understand that it takes time to build the system. In addition, application for new SIG – Social Media – has been approved with a unanimous vote by the Cabinet.

### 2018 InfoShare News

*By Nosheen Warraich, InfoShare Officers, ASIS&T SIG-III*

The key aim of InfoShare membership award is to sponsor complimentary ASIS&T memberships (the financial burden of which would otherwise be prohibitive) to

deserving information professionals from developing countries, especially from countries that have never been ASIS&T members or have limited ASIS&T membership. Women, minority, and candidates from underrepresented groups are encouraged to apply.

At the 80th ASIS&T Annual Meeting in Washington DC, two new members expressed interest to be part of the 2018 InfoShare Award. SIG-III nominated Dr. Warraich (new leader 2017-18) and Dr. Soroya for InfoShare Officer. They finalized the call for InfoShare award with the help of SIG-III members in January 2018.

Each membership award is for one year, with the possibility of renewal for a second year if the new member proves to be a strong advocate for ASIS&T in his home country during the course of the year. Awardees are expected to:

- share ASIS&T publications that they receive (the Bulletin of ASIS&T and JASIS&T) with other colleagues
- promote the SIG-III paper contest among their colleagues
- serve as a contact/coordinator for ASIS&T members traveling to their area who may be able to speak about ASIS&T and information science
- have the ability to strengthen the relationships between ASIS&T and the national/regional organizations, and
- sponsor lectures on information science topics in their area on behalf of ASIS&T

Nominators can mentor the award recipients for the above activities.

This year, seven information professionals from Bangladesh, Ethiopia, Kenya, Kyrgyzstan and Pakistan have been selected for InfoShare award 2018. The details of professionals are as follows:

**Augustine Gitonga**, Campus Librarian, Kenya

**Ahmad Ali Shah**, Campus Librarian, Kyrgyzstan

**Kibrom Tadesse**, Ethiopia

**Sadaf Rafiq**, Librarian, Pakistan

**Ahasan Habib**, Library Officer Micromanaging, Bangladesh

**Ghulam Murtaza Rafique**, Assistant Professor & PhD student, Pakistan

**Abdul Jabbar**, Librarian & PhD student, Pakistan

For 2019 InfoShare award, we plan to add more officers in InfoShare Program to enhance geographical representation of nominees. The call for nomination will be distributed in March 2019 to different library and information science professional groups along with social media platform.

## 2018 International Paper Contest Announcement

*By Devendra Potnis, International Paper Contest Chair, ASIS&T SIG-III*

In 2018, the IPC committee went through the following procedure.

At the 80th ASIS&T Annual Meeting in Washington DC, three members expressed interest to be part of the 2018 IPC committee. To increase the geographical spread of the IPC committee, Dr. Potnis invited several researchers to serve on the IPC, which led to the committee with members working in Iran (Dr. Moradi), Pakistan (Drs. Soroya and Warraich), South Africa (Dr. Fourie), Sri Lanka (Dr. Weerasinghe), and United States (Dr. Potnis).

The Call for Papers (CfP) was finalized with the help of SIG-III members and the IPC committee. The IPC committee distributed the CfP as widely as possible. In January 2018, the CfP was sent out on the ASIS&T listserv and a bunch of other professional listservs across the world. The CfP was also distributed via social media to personal contacts of the IPC in the countries including but not limited to: Brazil, Canada, China, Croatia, Georgia, Kenya, Oman, India, Iran, Israel, Mauritius, Nigeria, Pakistan, Qatar, South Africa, South Korea, Sri Lanka, Taiwan, Turkey, United Kingdom, United States, and Zambia. The CfP was on the SIG-III website since January 2018 at: <https://www.asist.org/SIG/SIGIII/international-paper-contest/> The IPC committee recorded the contact information of people with whom they shared the CfP in a Google Docs that can be used by others in the future.

In April 2018, the IPC committee received seven research papers submitted by scholars and professionals working in India, Iran, Pakistan, South Africa, and Zimbabwe. Based on the rubric developed by Dr. Potnis, the IPC committee evaluated the submissions. In May 2018, the following three winners were selected:

- First Place: “Barriers to healthcare information access, use and exchange in rural settings” by Drs. Salman Bin Naeem and Rubina Bhatti
- Second Place: “The political information behavior of rural dwellers in Pakistan” by Dr. Muhammad Asif Naveed
- Third Place: “Institutions in transition to become blended librarians” by Drs. Israel Mbekezeli Dabengwa, Jaya Raju, and Thomas Matingwina

In June, Dr. Potnis communicated the results to each winner. In July, with the help of Dr. Md. Hasan Zamir, the chair of SIG-III, Dr. Potnis spearheaded the process of arranging all the documents necessary to apply for Canadian visa so that winners can present their work at the 81st Annual Meeting of the Association for Information Science and Technology to be held in Vancouver, Canada. Dr. Md. Hasan Zamir negotiated with ASIS&T organizers to get a spot for the first place winner at the President’s poster session at the annual meeting.

For 2019 IPC, we plan to distribute the CfP more widely and more frequently on different professional listservs and social media outlets related to library and information science researchers and professionals, starting in January 2019.

## Treasurer Update 2017-2018

*By Hassan Zamir, Chair, ASIS&T SIG-III*

SIGIII started the year 2017-2018 without appointing a treasurer. The attending officers at the 2017 business meeting selected two new officers for the position. However, due to the lack of an officer for chair-elect position one officer was promoted to that position. However, the remaining officer found the position challenging due to the lack of experience. The incoming chair, Hassan Zamir, took the responsibilities and kept communications with the ASIS&T HQ to monitor the SIG’s finances and budgets. The SIG currently has \$16,864 available in its budget. The annual allocation was \$575. However, the SIG did not have webinars and other programs needing any budget. Therefore, it has been added to the upcoming year’s budget as long as the SIG spends the money in programming costs and not in membership costs.

## Advocating for SIGIII

*By Ashraf Sharif, Co-chair, ASIS&T SIG-III*

Our co-chair Ashraf Sharif liaised with ASIS&T and obtained a sponsorship for the 2nd International Conference on Information Management and Libraries, held on October 10-12, 2018, at the Department of Information Management, University of the Punjab, Lahore, Pakistan. The theme of the conference was “Leading for Transformation: Preparing Reflective Information & Library Professionals”. The sponsorship for the conference helped strengthen connections between ASIS&T and IST professionals around the world, especially those in developing countries. Website of the conference is: <http://pu.edu.pk/icim/>

## SIG-III Project Management Strategy

*By Ekatarina (Eka) Grguric, Secretary, New Leader, ASIS&T SIG-III*

At the last Annual Meeting, we interviewed two long-standing members of SIG-III to get a sense of the activities that SIG-III usually steps through in the course of a year. These interviews and additional follow-up questions to those members and past chairs were used to populate a list of activities for SIG-III in 2017-2018. This list was then put into a spreadsheet and tasks were assigned. In the course of

this year the SIG migrated into the new ASIS&T system. We are still exploring ways to best leverage this system. Recommendations regarding project management strategies will be reported to officers and members at the SIG-III business meeting this year and published on the website.

### SIG-III Website

*By Ekatarina (Eka) Grguric, Secretary, New Leader, ASIS&T SIG-III*

Several years ago, ASIS&T upgraded their website and created new WordPress sites for each SIG. At the time, SIGs were managing their websites using old ASIS&T hosted templates or custom solutions. SIG-III is one of the last SIGs to migrate over to this new WordPress ecosystem. Our chair, Zamir, took the initiative to finalize our migration and align us with ASIS&T best practices. Eka is still migrating some of the remaining content from our old site. This process has been a long time coming and will be completed by the Annual Meeting. One major effect of Zamir's work is that links to the old site have been depreciated so when people search for SIG-III or find references to it on the ASIS&T website, they will be led to the new site. This will be a better public landing page for the SIG in years to come.

**2017 SIG III Annual Business Meeting**  
**Tuesday, October 31, 2017 at 12:30 pm, Roosevelt Room**  
*Meeting Minutes*

*By Hassan Zamir, Chair, ASIS&T SIG-III*

#### 1. SIG Cabinet Meeting Report

Abebe Rorissa represented Catherine Dumas (as she was unable to attend the meeting due to a pre-scheduled event). SIG Cabinet is focusing on organizing information overall for ASIS&T primarily on its website for easier and quick access. SIG Living Manual is the new project that is currently undertaken for better information organization. ASIS&T is planning to promote a Higher Logic platform - <https://community.asist.org/home>, a community online space for sharing, preserving and organizing different resources with the ASIS&T community. Catherine is in the steering committee along with Heather Pfeiffer, and Tim Gorichanaz. Brandi Loveday is the successor of Kris Unsworth as the new Cabinet Director and Sarah Buchanan is the Deputy Director. Xiao Hu, Hassan Zamir, Toni Carbo, and Abebe Rorissa were present at the new members' brunch to promote SIG-III.

#### 2. Clarify the officers' responsibilities (Review the protocol)

Chair-elect position for upcoming year has not been selected. The previous committee asked for nominations twice during early of their tenure but both went unsuccessful. Both Toni and Abebe advised to stick with the SIG III Bylaws available on its website and ask for

officers' nominations continually and update ASIS&T HQ in the event of unsuccessful election. New officer positions/roles can be created. However, in the event of any changes made to the SIG-III Bylaws, ASIS&T HQ must be notified and updated about the changes.

SIG-III normally runs with two chairs, one from US institution and another from an international institution. Ashraf Sharif, past SIG-III co-chair, has volunteered himself to continue as the co-chair for 2017-2018 term, which fulfils the SIG-III chairing objectives. Chair-elect election should be conducted during August/September of a year, which gives potential candidates sample time to volunteer, understand the roles, and provides a smoother transition. Officers (Eka, Devendra, Zamir) proposed to organize SIG-III activity information and have a common information repository. Eka volunteered to develop a knowledge management tool to ensure all of the SIG-III activities are observable as checklists and will create a calendar with dates and schedules of potential SIG-III activities.

#### 3. Introduction of the Newly Elected/Re-elected Officers

#### 4. Approval of the 2016 Business Meeting Minutes

2016-17 Business Meeting minutes were approved. Xiao Hu included the business meetings in the newsletter.

#### 5. Chair's Report (Provided by Outgoing Chair through Email)

Chair 2016-2017, Emma Zhang, was unable to attend the annual meeting due to visa issues. She emailed her reports through email. The board present at the meeting wished Catherine to continue her role as SIG Cabinet Representative. Toni Carbo and Catherine Dumas along with Hassan Zamir were present at the SIG Cabinet meeting.

The membership statistics were not available while the board inquired about the status of total number of SIG-III current members and their geographical location. IPC and InfoShare projects were continued last year. As publications, one newsletter was published. International reception and silent auction were part of regular SIG-III activities. It organized one webinar in collaboration with SIGED last year. Xiao mentioned several initiatives taken by the previous committee. These tasks are included in Emma's written report (also was submitted for the SIG of the Year Award).

#### 6. Treasurer's Report

SIG-III treasurer, Naureen Nizam, was absent at the meeting. There was not enough budget information available at the meeting. Zamir retrieved SIG-III financial report from the ASIS&T website - <https://www.asist.org/files/sigs/fy17/III-01-31-17.pdf>, which indicates total fund available for the fiscal year of 2016-17 is \$16,123. Total allocations, carryovers and related explanations of the fund available could not be identified due to the absence of the respective officers.

#### 7. International Reception and Silent Auction

International reception point person for next year is Ashraf Sharif. Eka Grguric will coordinate with the local (Vancouver) student chapter for the gift basket and sponsorships. Silent auction call was conducted early 2017.

#### **8. International Paper Contest (IPC)**

Travel and accommodation supports for the IPC winner has been voted to raise to \$1500 from existing \$1000. It is hard for international travelers / IPC winners to manage their travel and accommodations within \$1000 budget. Also, it was proposed to request ASIS&T HQ to waive conference registration costs for the IPC winners. This motion was undertaken during the meeting and was passed by the attendee votes. Officers should be regularly updated with available budgets by the SIG-III leadership officers.

#### **9. Newsletters for 2017-2018**

Xiao managed the newsletters last year. She will continue working on it. She needs contents sent her by the SIG-III officers about their activities. She encourages everybody to contribute contents to the newsletters. Any kind of officers' activities will be considered for the newsletter contents. Meeting minutes can be published in the newsletters. IPC winners, Nosheen and Saira, present at the meeting expressed concerns on the clearer IPC guidelines. Nosheen mentioned IPC authors should be communicated timely by the IPC jury board. Devendra, the new IPC Chair for 2017-18, ensured to bring clarity to the overall IPC process and tasks.

#### **10. Sponsorships and funding**

In order to increase sponsorship and funding for the SIG-III, Emma Zhang communicated with Taylor and Francis which kindly donated \$3000 to sponsor the IPC. Many thanks to Taylor and Francis for sponsoring us two years in a row! Attendees expressed interest to keep looking for new channels for bringing funding. Zamir will communicate with various international journal publishers such as Libri for donations. Toni suggested to check with ASIS&T HQ for individual donations made towards SIG-III account.

<b>2017-2018 SIG-III Officers</b>
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#### **Chair**

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#### **Co-Chair**

Ashraf Sharif  
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#### **Secretary/New Leader**

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#### **International Paper Contest Chair**

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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](mailto:sigiii-l@asis.org) (all lower case). Attachments will NOT be processed.

To subscribe or view prior postings:

Visit: <http://mail.asis.org/mailman/listinfo/sigiii-l>

To unsubscribe:

Step 1. Visit your subscription page at:

[http://mail.asis.org/mailman/options/sigiii-l/your\\_email\\_address](http://mail.asis.org/mailman/options/sigiii-l/your_email_address)

For example, if your list delivery address is [msmith@yahoo.com](mailto:msmith@yahoo.com), the URL to access your

subscription page should be:

<http://mail.asis.org/mailman/options/sigiii-l/msmith@yahoo.com>

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

Password assistance:

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

**Website**

The official SIG-III website is located at <https://www.asist.org/SIG/SIGIII/>.

**Facebook Group**

The official SIG-III Facebook group is located at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/asis.sig.iii/>.

**LinkedIn Group**

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

**Twitter**

The official Twitter account: <https://twitter.com/sig3i>

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