

SIG Activities Report Form

Special Interest Group (SIG): History & Foundations of Information Science (HFIS)

Submitted by: Sarah Buchanan

SIG Office Title: Chair

E-Mail: sarahab@utexas.edu

Phone #: 215-868-0060

Fiscal Year (e.g., Oct. 2013 - Sept. 2014): *Oct. 2012 - Sept. 2013*

CURRENT OFFICERS

Current Chair: Sarah Buchanan (Chair / Treasurer)

Other officers: Lai Ma (Chair-Elect / Cabinet Representative), Elliott Hauser (Webmaster / Listserve Manager), Emma Zhang (Secretary), Kathryn La Barre (Past Chair). The 2013 History Fund Advisory Board comprised Sarah Buchanan, Lai Ma, Michael Buckland, Trudi Bellardo Hahn, and Samantha Hastings. The 2013 HFIS Advisory Board comprised these five members plus Toni Carbo, Jonathan Furner, Thomas Haigh, Birger Hjørland, Kathryn La Barre, Julian Warner, and Robert Williams.

Do you wish to be considered for the SIG-of-the-Year Award? **Yes** No

1. Did your SIG hold a planning meeting at the last annual meeting? **Yes** No

2. Who represented your SIG at the SIG Cabinet meeting at the last ASIS&T annual meeting?
Name: Lai Ma

3. Who attended the All SIGs Planning Lunch at the last ASIS&T annual meeting?
Name: Lai Ma and Trudi Bellardo Hahn

4. Please list the names of the new leaders in your SIG who may be interested in getting involved in other areas of ASIS&T:
Names: Elliott Hauser, Emma Zhang, and all HFIS members are recommended to serve.

5. *Describe any efforts your SIG made especially designed to recruit new members or retain members (e.g., welcome letters, calls or visits, etc.).*

This year SIG HFIS recruited new members at the 75th Anniversary History Pre-Conference and Welcome Reception / SIG Rush events at the Baltimore conference, as well as through our History Fund Awards publicity, active listserv, and website. Prior to the AM, then-Chair Kathryn La Barre distributed a call for officer nominations via sighthfis-l on July 18. Voting occurred online from August 20-31 with results announced Sept. 6. At our SIG HFIS business meeting on Mon., October 29, 2012, noon-1pm, at Calloway B, Hilton Baltimore, Chair-Elect Lai Ma recorded 13 attendees and several others joined virtually due to the impact of Superstorm Sandy. Several HFIS members and officers participated as organizers, reviewers, moderators, and presenters at the History Pre-Conference on Sat., October 27, which was co-chaired by Toni Carbo and Robert Williams. The History Pre-Conference attracted nearly 100 attendees, as reported in the Dec./Jan. ASIST *Bulletin* "Inside." Through both the Pre-Conference and the well-attended ASIST Webinar presented by Dr. Williams and Dr. La Barre on March 7, 2012

(200+ registrants), several ASIST members volunteered to participate in the ASIST Oral History Project, directed by Robert Williams.

6. *What programs, including those presented at the ASIS&T Annual Meeting, did your SIG sponsor or cosponsor during the fiscal year? (e.g., continuing education programs, regional meetings, webinars, promotional activities for your SIG or ASIS&T, career guidance, ongoing services, etc.). Please list the name of the program, speakers involved, date and location, estimated attendance, revenue and expenses, a brief description of each program, and other participating organization or ASIS&T units, if applicable.*

SIG HFIS participated in many events at the Baltimore AM. 1. The daylong History Pre-Conference featured more than a dozen moderated paper presentations from authors around the globe and was the culminating event of the ASIST 75th Anniversary Task Force, whose membership was comprised of ten active HFIS members (co-chairs: Toni Carbo and Robert Williams, date: 10/27/12, location: Hilton Baltimore, est. attendance: 100, revenue and expenses: fees ranged from \$200 - \$340). The Pre-Conference papers collectively investigated the history of ASIST and of information science and technology worldwide. 2. We prepared and presented a PowerPoint slide on SIG HFIS at the New Members and First Conference Brunch (speaker: Lai Ma, date: 10/28/12, location: Hilton Baltimore, host ASIST unit: Rong Tang of Membership Committee). 3. We spoke with attendees at the Welcome Reception / SIG Rush (estimated attendance: the Dec/Jan Bulletin "Inside" stated that overall AM attendance was about 581 people, so about this number). 4. Lai Ma represented SIG HFIS at the SIG Cabinet meeting 2012. At this meeting two members were elected to the SIG Cabinet: Kathryn La Barre as SIG Cabinet Deputy and Sarah Buchanan as SIG Cabinet Advisor. 5. At the 2012 AM, three HFIS-sponsored sessions included "Humanistic Information Science" (panel with Jack Andersen, Melanie Feinberg, Jonathan Furner, Jens-Erik Mai, and Joseph Tennis), "The Other as a Research Agenda for Information Science" (panel with Kathryn La Barre, Michael Buckland, Lai Ma, Charles van den Heuvel), and "Homage to Helen Brownson: Information Science Pioneer" (poster by Tina Jayroe). 6. HFIS members submitted and will be presenting history-related sessions at the 2013 AM in Montreal.

7. *Describe the publications your SIG produced during the activity period (e.g., newsletters, technical publications, pathfinders, joint publications, etc.). Briefly describe those publications here, indicate the publication frequency and intended audience, and enclose a copy of each publication (or provide the URL) with this report.*

1. In October 2012, Editors Toni Carbo and Trudi Bellardo Hahn published *International Perspectives on the History of Information Science and Technology: Proceedings of the ASIS&T 2012 Pre-Conference on the History of ASIS&T and Information Science and Technology*. This one publication comprises 18 individual peer-reviewed scholarly chapters, plus keynote slides available from the History Website: <http://asist.org/asist2012/historyofASIST.html>. All attendees (approx. 100) of the History Pre-Conference received a paper copy of the *Proceedings*, and it is currently available in print and ebook editions at <http://books.infotoday.com/asist/International-Perspectives.shtml>. All readers with an interest in the development of the foundational ideas and theories of information science and its earlier name, documentation, as well as the historical

contexts of major technological innovations and the impacts they have had on societies, organizations, governments, or individuals worldwide, will find this publication of interest. 2. Kathryn La Barre published "Spelunking in the Archives: Or how I learned to love the art of the unexpected," *ASIST Bulletin* 39.1, doi:10.1002/bult.2012.1720390111. 3. Robert Williams published "The changed and changing ADI/ASIS/ASIST after 75 years," *ASIST Bulletin* 38.5, doi:10.1002/bult.2012.1720380511. 4. Karen Miller published a review of the History Pre-Conference: "ASIST annual meeting pre-conference activities: The history of ASIST and information science and technology," *ASIST Bulletin* 39.3, doi:10.1002/bult.2013.1720390310. 5. Elliott Hauser, with Jan Hatzakos, began redesigning the HFIS website on a WordPress architecture; we also updated the front page with current officers: <http://www.asist.org/SIG/SIGHFIS/index.htm>. 6. On Dec. 1, 2012, Chair Sarah Buchanan submitted a budget to SIG Cabinet for HFIS's FY13 funds of \$501. Towards one of our budgeted activities - preparing and conducting oral histories of IS Leaders/Pioneers for posting to the 75th Anniversary Website - Lai Ma conducted an oral history with Stephen Robertson on July 29, 2013. Activities included acquiring digital tapes for the video recording, editing, and transcribing. Towards another of our budgeted activities - building the ASIST Online Photo Archives - Trudi Bellardo Hahn continued scanning and tagging photographs at ASIST HQ to a database; a project begun by Katy Lawley's UMD iSchool students. With help from Kathryn La Barre, Trudi was able to obtain additional photographs at the ASIST Archives at the University of Michigan and is scanning and uploading these as well. The database will shortly be opened to a wider audience to complete additional tagging via crowdsourcing.

8. Describe your SIG's participation in other noteworthy activities during the period (e.g., participation in a public effort, such as, legislative hearing, standards committee, representation at meetings of other organizations, etc.).

1. Following the 75th Anniversary of ASIST in 2012, HFIS members continued to update the historical documents posted on the History Website: <http://asist.org/asist2012/historyofASIST.html>. These include "ASIST SIG and Chapter Histories" written by Sarah Buchanan and Toni Carbo, and three compiled by Robert Williams: "ASIS&T/ IST Historical Documents and Archival Records that are available on the Web," "Existing/Known Oral History Interviews of Leaders/Pioneers in Information Science and Technology (US and International)," and "Tentative List of ASIST/Information Science Leaders/Pioneers Needing Oral History Interviews (4th ed., updated Feb. 2013)." 2. In May 2013, Robert Williams received a grant from SIG Cabinet, SIG Projects and Reserve Fund, to develop a Portal for Oral Histories in Information Science and Technology (POHIST ?). This Portal will make accessible the oral histories completed in the course of the 75th Anniversary Task Force's work including 10 completed interviews, 15 interviews to be conducted when interviewers can be arranged for no cost, and 30 interviews located in various repositories. 3. On July 11, HFIS member Robert Williams posted on his website a new edition (No. 8) of the Bibliography of the History of Information Science and Technology, 1900-2012: <http://faculty.libsci.sc.edu/bob/Isbiblio8.pdf>. 4. SIG HFIS members served as reviewers for the Annual Meeting, in response to SIG leaders' call for names and their areas of expertise, which were shared with the 2013 Program Chairs. 5. HFIS members served on the History Fund Advisory Board - a separate body that is supported by donations to ASIST's History Fund. In

2013 the Board members, led by Lai Ma, issued a call for proposals in January, reviewed proposals, and announced the two results on July 8: the History Fund Research Grant to Kalpana Shankar and Kristin Eschenfelder's project "Social Science Data Archives: A Historical View of Sustainability, Access and Use," and the History Fund Research Paper Award to Xiaohua Zhu's paper "Who had access to JURIS?: A failed case of open access." For further details please see: http://www.asist.org/awards/history_fund_awards.html.

9. Please include any other comments you would like to make about your SIG's activities during the period.

Thank you for your continuing support of SIG HFIS. We are pleased our membership has increased from 95 to 97 from May 2012 to May 2013, and we look forward to continuing our historical activities within ASIST.
