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ASIST SIGDL Barreau Memorial Award Winner Announced

August 7, 2013 --The Digital Libraries Special Interest Group (SIGDL) of the Association for Information Science and Technology (ASIS&T) is pleased to honor Christopher Eaker as the inaugural recipient of the Dr. Deborah Barreau Memorial Award.

With exceptional service, research and professional development activities, Christopher has made significant contributions to SIGDL. Specifically, Christopher has served in an editorial capacity for the Research Data Access and Preservation column for the Bulletin, the ASIST monthly newsletter, assisting with identifying columnists, vetting topics and reviewing copy.

A 2012 participant in the “Digital Liaisons” student research session, Christopher has now become the lead for organizing and managing the SIGDL Annual Meeting 2014 session entitled [“Digital Liaisons: Engaging with Digital Curation Theory and Practice.”](#) This is a professional development opportunity geared towards undergraduate and master’s degree students to enable them to more actively contribute to the scholarly discourse during the ASIS&T Annual Conference.

Finally, Christopher has demonstrated tremendous potential in contributions to information science research, particularly in his area of expertise. Christopher recently presented the award-winning poster and a lightning round talk on conducting a data management audit of a scientific research group, both which were presented at the 2012 ASIST Annual Meeting.

“Chris Eaker has set the standard for excellence in contributions to the Digital Libraries Special Interest Group,” said Marisa Ramirez, SIG-DL Chair. “This award serves as a testament to the determination and exceptional commitment to members of ASIS&T and the Digital Libraries Special Interest Group.”

“I’m honored to receive this award and look forward to making future contributions to ASIS&T and SIGDL,” said Christopher Eaker.

The Dr. Deborah Barreau Memorial Award honors ASIS&T SIG-DL members who have made significant contributions to the Digital Libraries Special Interest Group through service, projects, research or professional development initiatives that enrich the SIG-DL community. The award is intended to encourage active engagement of SIG-DL members, recognizing outstanding service to the SIG. The Dr. Deborah Barreau Memorial Award for outstanding contributions to SIG-DL was established in memory of Dr. Deborah Barreau, a leader in ASIS&T for many years and served as an advocate for SIG-DL and emerging leaders within the ASIS&T Community.

Christopher Eaker will be honored during a ceremony that will be held during the SIG-DL business meeting at the ASIS&T Annual Conference on November 4, 2013 in Quebec, Canada.

About Christopher Eaker

Christopher Eaker is Assistant Professor and Data Curation Librarian at the University of Tennessee. He comes to the field of library and information science after a long and successful career as a civil engineer, having earned a bachelor of science degree in civil and environmental engineering from Georgia Institute of Technology in 2000. As a registered professional engineer in Tennessee and Georgia, he practiced as an engineer for almost ten years designing drinking water and wastewater pipelines and treatment systems throughout the southeast.

He entered the field of library and information science to embark on a new career where his technical background could be useful. He brings to the field expertise gained in dealing with scientific and engineering data, problem solving, and project management along with his practical engineering knowledge and experience. He was chosen to be one of three students to be awarded a fellowship at the University of Tennessee in the Data Curation Education in Research Centers (DCERC) project, a grant funded by the Institute of Museum and Library Services to train students from diverse scientific backgrounds in data curation and data management best practices. The DCERC program provides Christopher with the specialized knowledge for the future of scientific research and data curation. As a student, Christopher has engaged widely with the profession through presenting posters and lightning talks at conferences in the USA and Europe, participating in panels, and contributing to online resources for librarians. He has been a regular author on the *Hack Library School* blog, as well as the *e-Science Communities* blog. Moreover, he has published reviews of the book *Managing Research Data for Issues in Science and Technology Librarianship* and the *DMPTool for Public Services Quarterly*.

[About SIGDL](#)

The Digital Libraries Special Interest Group (SIGDL) of the Association for Information, Science and Technology (ASIS&T) provides a forum for discussion about research, development and use of digital libraries in corporate, academic and public contexts. It is concerned with all aspects of digital library design and implementation including, but not limited to: copyright issues, networked infrastructures, interoperability of distributed databases, database management, policies and standards in relation to the digitization of material, metadata, preservation, providing electronic access, authentication, software, hardware, peopleware, and project management. SIG-DL also works to facilitate increased international, interdisciplinary and inter-societal collaboration focusing on digital libraries and related issues.

[About ASIS&T](#)

Since 1937, the Association for Information Science and Technology (ASIS&T) has been the association for information professionals leading the search for new and better theories, techniques, and technologies to improve access to information. ASIS&T counts among its membership some 4,000 information specialists from such fields as computer science, linguistics, management, librarianship, engineering, law, medicine, chemistry, and education;

individuals who share a common interest in improving the ways society stores, retrieves, analyzes, manages, archives and disseminates information, coming together for mutual benefit.

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