

SIG HFIS Newsletter

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

Message from the Chair

As some of us are preparing our trip to the Annual Meeting in Seattle, it's time for reflection and aspiration. In this newsletter, we include an overview of HFIS panels, papers, and business meetings in the upcoming AM, review of some of our activities in the past year and, not the least, a short story submitted by our member, Amy Wallace.

I would like to welcome our 2014-15 officers and also thank you for your support throughout this year. Don't forget to check 'HFIS' when you renew your membership.

Sincerely,

Lai Ma

Chair, SIG/HFIS, 2013-14

HFIS Sessions and Business Meeting at 2014 Annual Meeting in Seattle

Sunday, Nov 2, 3:30-5:00 p.m.

History and Philosophy of Information (Papers)

- The Materiality of Encyclopedic Information: Remediating a Loved One - Mourning Britannica
- Considerations on the Social Role of the Document According to Paul Otlet
- Metadata and Infrastructure in Internet History: Sockets in the Arpanet Host-Host Protocol

Monday, Nov 3, 3:55-4:55 p.m.

Business meeting (Location: TBD)

Tuesday, Nov 4, 8:30-10:00 a.m.

Pluri-, Multi-, Trans-, Meta- and Interdisciplinary Nature of LIS. Does it Really Matter? (Panel) - Panelists: Fidelia Ibekwe-SanJuan, Sachi Arafat, Michael Buckland, Melanie Feinberg, Ryan Shaw, Julian Warner

Informational and Media Failures and Potential Successes (Panel) - Panelists: John Budd, Lai Ma, Ron Day, Siobhan Stevenson



2014-15 Officers

Chair:

Fidelia Ibekwe-Sanjuan

Chair-elect:

Ken Herold

Immediate Past Chair:

Lai Ma

Secretary:

Yao Zhang

Webmaster:

Sarah Buchanan

Review of 2013-14 Activities

Annual Meeting 2013 in Montreal

Four HFIS-sponsored sessions held at the 2013 Annual Meeting were attended by scholars and researchers in different areas of information science and discussions continued in many venues. Thanks to the presenters of the following panels:

- The Concept Formerly Known as Information
- Preserving and Accessing the History of ASIST and Information Science
- Crossing the Boundaries in Information Science: Perspectives on Interdisciplinarity
- Uncovering Epistemological Assumptions Underlying Research in Information Studies

Oral History Project

HFIS, led by Robert Williams, received a grant from SIG Projects and Reserve Fund for continuing developing the web portal for the ASIS&T Oral History Project. The purpose of the project is to continue the collection, transcription, and preservation of the oral histories of the pioneers and leaders of information science worldwide. The Web portal is temporarily hosted at

<http://129.252.169.17/asi>

[s/](#)

A detailed review of the oral history project will be published in the Bulletin.

Webinar

Jenna Hartel presented a Webinar, "iSquares: A New Approach to Information Research and Education", co-sponsored by SIG/HFIS and SIG/USE.

Publications of HFIS Interests

Theories of Information, Communication and Knowledge: A Multidisciplinary Approach. Eds: F. Ibekwe-SanJuan, T. M. Dousa. Springer, 2014. ISBN 978-94-007-6973-1.

Special issue on Documentality. The Monist 97, no 2 (April 2014). Includes "Documentality beyond documents" by M. Buckland.

Readers of this newsletter should consider submitting their recent research to *Information & Culture: A Journal of History*. Further information on submissions is available from <http://www.infoculturejournal.org/>

A Short Story of Information Science

by Amy Wallace

Back in 1999 I was roped into helping the Los Angeles Chapter of the then American Society for Information Science with their annual workshop by a librarian colleague. I was told that as a new reference and instruction librarian in an academic library that this kind of service would look good in my personnel file. I was then elected to be their program chair. One of my first tasks was to plan the program and dinner for the chapter's 2000 Contributions to Information Science and Technology Award. The recipient that year was Dr. Michael Buckland. As a newly minted librarian, I had no idea who he was or even much about information science. In fact, I had previously spent much of my time avoiding all things science, systems, and technical services while working my way through my library and information science degree. Therefore, I had no idea that this event would introduce me to the exciting interdisciplinary nature of my chosen field and fuel my desire to meet the amazingly diverse information scientists that populate it.

The morning of the program it was announced that no outgoing flights would be allowed to leave San Francisco area Airports. Dr. Buckland had an afternoon flight scheduled from Oakland to Los Angeles, so he could teach his class at Berkeley in the morning. Instead of canceling his commitment to LACASIS, he taught his class, made arrangements to borrow his daughter's car, and drove six hours to Los Angeles. He arrived just minutes prior to the start of the program, and proceeded to give a splendid talk as if nothing had happened. The talk was on the research that he had conducted for an upcoming book on Emanuel Goldberg, a forgotten pioneer of information science. Through discussion, letters, photographs, and video, Dr. Buckland masterfully detailed

Emanuel Goldberg's pursuits and passions. Goldberg's pursuits included the Microfilm Rapid Selector that pre-dated Vannevar Bush's Memex information retrieval machine and a hand-held movie camera. Goldberg was not only passionate about inventing, he was also a teacher and mentor to many at his a precision instruments workshop in Israel. Dr. Buckland's enthusiasm and extensive research transfixed the audience. No one left early, and a lively discussion ensued for well over an hour. The discussion would have probably gone on well into the wee hours of the night if the facility management had not prompted us to leave.

Year after year these award winners have ignited and re-ignited a passion for learning more about the history and future of information science in people who did not necessarily set out to be researchers or information scientists. Imagine special, academic, and public librarians getting to hear from information scientists, such as Michael Buckland, Elaine Svenonius, Tefko Saracevic, Eugene Garfield, Herbert Van De Sompel, Gary Marchionini, Carol Tenopir, Peter Ingwersen, Dagobert Soergel, and Nick Belkin, about their research firsthand. Add to that the opportunity to ask questions and ponder future projects with people who have gone on to be ASIST Award of Merit winners. One day I hope to have the time to listen to all the taped talks located in the Los Angeles Chapter archives, which include Jose-Marie Griffiths, Seymour Lubetzky, Christine Borgman, Barbara Quint, Marcia Bates, Clifford Lynch, Donald Lamberton, William Paisley, Carlos Cuadra, Robert Maron, Harold Borko, and Robert Hayes. Some of the names I recognize and some I do not, but all of which probably have a rich story to tell.

Note: More information on the Los Angeles Chapter archive can be found at www.lacasist.org