

77TH ASIS&T ANNUAL MEETING

Jam-Packed Schedule Awaits ASIS&T in Seattle

Connecting Collections, Cultures and Communities, the upcoming 77th ASIS&T Annual Meeting, is a celebration of the breadth of information science, its historical roots, its user-centeredness and its unique aim of bringing people together around ideas, thoughts and the exchange of information and knowledge. From October 31 to November 5 in Seattle, Washington, ASIS&T will illuminate the theme through keynote presentations, panel discussions, scholarly papers, workshops, social events and governance activities all designed to pull together the disparate people and ideas of information science.

Jens-Erik Mai, conference chair, and his committees of planners and reviewers have sculpted a meeting certain to appeal to all information scientists and practitioners. Beginning with the pre-conference workshops and seminars that offer greater depth into specific topics and continuing through the two-and-a-half day technical program, attendees will find it difficult to narrow the choices of the sessions to experience. But in the hallways and at the social events, everyone will catch up on things they missed and share what they learned.

As always, among the highlights of the

Annual Meeting are the keynote sessions headlined by leaders in the information



field. This year, two great speakers will address plenary crowds. The first, at 1:00 p.m., Sunday, is **Kris Kutchera**, vice president, information

technology and strategy management for Alaska Air Group. She is highly regarded for her leadership at Alaska Airlines in the application of technology to increase efficiency and productivity while improving customer service and convenience.

At 10:30 a.m., Monday, **Alessandro Acquisti**, associate professor of



information systems and public policy at Heinz College, Carnegie Mellon University, is likely to touch upon his research into the behavioral

economics of privacy and privacy in online social networks.

Calling All Students

For the fifth consecutive year, the Student Design Competition provides an opportunity for students to network with colleagues from around the world while developing plans for a creative and innovative design in response to a specific challenge received on site. In order to



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October 31 – November 5, 2014
Sheraton Seattle Hotel, Seattle, WA

participate, students **must** attend the organizing session on Sunday, November 2, 8:00 p.m. At that time, students will form their design teams, review the rules and procedures and receive the design challenge. Just over 48 hours later, the teams will present their proposals to the jury and an audience of conference attendees. Members of the winning team, as selected by the jury, will receive free registration for the 2015 ASIS&T Annual Meeting. **Sanda Erdelez** and **Paul Marty** are the organizers of the design competition.

Path to Leadership

Another excellent networking opportunity for students and professional members is the ASIS&T Leadership Development Program, organized by the ASIS&T Leadership Committee. On Sunday, November 2, beginning at 5:30 p.m., join other members looking to assume leadership roles in the years ahead and learn some of the ways that leadership is developed and recognized in the Association. Four panelists will discuss their own personal paths to ASIS&T leadership. In particular, they will share their motivations and

experiences in pursuing leadership roles in chapters, special interest groups, national programming and Association committees. The Leadership Committee is charged with identifying and recruiting individuals to be future leaders; designing, developing and implementing training and developments activities to enhance skills of current and future leaders; and identifying or developing logical development paths. ASIS&T Leadership Committee chair, **Iris Xie**, organized this year’s program. Panelists are **Samantha Hastings, Sarah A. Buchanan, Fidelia Ibekwe-SanJuan** and

Anne Pepitone. There is no charge to attend, but registration is required.

Registration and Other Meeting Information

The early registration period – with lower rates – has already ended, but registration will continue throughout the meeting. All pre-conference workshops and the Leadership Development Program require advance registration. Please visit the ASIS&T website – www.asist.org – for full details. Then book your flight and hotel room, and we’ll see you in Seattle! ■

Newly Elected Board Members to Take Seats in Seattle

Each year at the ASIS&T Annual Meeting, a new administrative year begins, and the first order of business is the installation of new officers and directors. Following polling during the summer, three new members were elected to the board for three-year terms. Those elected are **Nadia Caidi**, president-elect, and **Jamshid Beheshti** and **Fidelia Ibekwe-SanJuan** as directors-at-large.

President-elect

Nadia Caidi is associate professor at the Faculty of Information, University of Toronto. Trained in linguistics and communication in France, she then went to University of California at Los Angeles for her MLIS and Ph.D. Her research interests focus on information policy and community informatics. In her position statement for the office of president-elect, Nadia said that she will challenge the ASIS&T membership to lend its expertise and sensibilities to the task of (re)positioning ASIS&T as a leading, dynamic and highly relevant organization. Throughout her statement, *collaboration* is a key theme – collaborative information practices; forging alliances and partnerships with educational organizations; keeping members intellectually engaged across boundaries; and seeking global relationships.

Nadia will serve as president-elect for one year before assuming the presidency next year in St. Louis.



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Directors-at-Large

Jamshid Beheshti holds degrees in mining technology, history and library and information science from a variety of Canadian institutions. He currently teaches in the School of Information Studies at McGill University. In his position statement,



Jamshid says his focus will be attempt to expand ASIS&T’s presence and increase membership throughout the United States, Canada and the rest of the world. He would use technology in a number of ways to accomplish this goal: social media forums to solicit opinions and views of international colleagues in industry and academia; free open access publication to augment the existing publication program; and a MOOC on information science to expand the base of ASIS&T among various disciplines.

Fidelia Ibekwe-SanJuan, professor of information and communication sciences at the Jean Moulin University in Lyon, France, earned degrees in French literature before



switching her academic interests to information science. With a Ph.D. from Stendhal University in France, Fidelia’s research interests currently center on history and foundations of information and communication sciences; on epistemology and the history of sciences; and comparison of anglophone and francophone conceptions of information and

communication studies. In her position statement, Fidelia notes the vibrancy and inclusiveness of ASIS&T and pledges to strengthen its current international course by linking with more global practitioners, motivating young scholars and ensuring that ASIS&T remains at the forefront of societal challenges wrought by our info-centric world.

Rotating Off the Board

As new members join the ASIS&T Board of Directors and the president-elect assumes the presidency, members whose terms are complete rotate off or into new positions. At the conclusion of the Annual Meeting in Seattle, **Harry Bruce**, who has served as president this year, will shift into the role of immediate past president. **Sandra Hirsh**, president-elect, will move into the presidency, and **Andrew Dillon**, immediate past president, will leave the Board.

With the election of two new directors-at-large, **Jens-Erik Mai** and **Diane Rasmussen Pennington** will have completed their three-year terms and will leave the Board. ■

The International Calendar of Information Science Conferences (ICISC) is available through ASIS&T (Association for Information Science & Technology). Available in multiple languages.
<https://www.asis.org/Conferences/calendar/>

News About ASIS&T Members

Dania Bilal, professor in the iSchool of Information Sciences at University of Tennessee, and **Jacek Gwizdka**, assistant professor in the School of Information and co-director of the Information eXperience Lab at University of Texas at Austin, have received a \$41,363 Google Research Award. Their project, titled *Child-friendly Search Engine Results Pages (SERPs): Towards Better Understanding of Google Search Results Readability by Children*, will investigate how children read and assess the reading levels of Google’s search results pages (SERPs). One of the goals of this project is to modify Google’s Reading Level metric. Google Research Awards are unrestricted gifts to support the work of faculty at universities around the world.

Blaise Cronin, currently the James H. Rudy professor emeritus of information science at Indiana University and an honorary professor at City University, London, is one of two 2014 winners of the Jason Farradane Award given by the UK eInformation Group to an individual or group of people in recognition of outstanding work in the information profession. Blaise, editor-in-chief of the *Journal of the Association for Information Science and Technology (JASIST)*, was cited for his 30 years of innovative research and teaching, coupled with his demonstrated leadership in the fields of information science and information management. ■

European Chapter and European Student Chapter Support for the ASIS&T 2016 Meeting

by Emil Levine and Jonathan Levitt

Emil Levine is a founder and a past chair of the European Chapter. He can be reached at emil.levine@chello.at. Jonathan Levitt is the 2014 chair of the European Chapter. He can be reached at jlevittuk@yahoo.co.uk.

The European Chapter of ASIS&T and ASIS&T SIG/MET (Special Interest Group/Metrics) jointly endorsed the Libraries in the Digital Age conference, *Assessing Libraries and Library Users and Use*, June 16-20, 2014, in Zadar, Croatia. Associated with the chapter endorsement, the current chair of the European Chapter, Jonathan Levitt, introduced the presenters at the doctoral forum.

Several prominent members of ASIS&T contributed to the conference. **Gary Marchionini**, past president, was the guest of honor, and **Blaise Cronin**, editor of *JASIST*, was the program chair of the altmetrics part of the conference. **Tefko Saracevic** was the external co-director, and **Donald Case** was a keynote speaker. Both are also past presidents of ASIS&T. The conference proceedings are available at <http://ozk.unizd.hr/proceedings/index.php/lida>.

Ten chapter members attended a joint meeting of the European chapter and the European student chapter at LIDA. At this meeting the following recommendations were made in support of the ASIS&T Annual Meeting that will be held in Europe in 2016:

1. Offer translation services both before and during the conference.
2. Recommend European journals and organizational websites on which to advertise and promote the conference. Provide translations services (as above) for this promotion, as required.
3. Submit a panel proposal on IS organizations in Europe. Invite representatives of these organizations to participate and explain their structure, membership and purpose.
4. Submit a panel proposal on the EU equivalent of the National Science Foundation related to funding for LIS science research in Europe.
5. Apply for funding for workshop(s) to be determined.
6. Appoint a committee/working group to provide this assistance and other as required.

Regarding the last point, in spring 2014 Jonathan Levitt appointed an ASIS&T 2016 group. ⁿ

New ASIS&T Blog Online

The official blog of the Association for Information Science and Technology is now online at www.asis.org/SocialMedia/?p=66. Readers of all orientations – practitioners, scholars, students or anyone else – are encouraged to contribute posts on anything related to information science to the ASIS&T blog. If you are interested in writing a post, please contact **Diane Rasmussen Pennington**, ASIS&T’s social media manager, at diane@asis.org. In the meantime, visit the blog today for posts on *Defining Musical Similarity; How Do You Solve a Problem Like Solutionism?*; and interesting news about the ASIS&T web redesign process currently underway. ⁿ