

SIG ANNUAL ACTIVITIES REPORT – SIG-OF-THE-YEAR CHECKLIST/REPORT

SIG NAME: Arts & Humanities (SIG/AH)

REPORT SUBMITTED BY Ralph Dumain, Chair

ACTIVITY PERIOD: August 1, 1987 to July 31, 1988

CURRENT OFFICERS:

Chair: Ralph Dumain
Chair-Elect: David Bearman
Cabinet Representative: June Andel
Alternate Representative: Ralph Dumain
Secretary-Treasurer: Elizabeth Davis
Newsletter Editor: June Andel

RESPONSES TO QUESTIONS:

(1) Total members as of July 31, 1988: 222

New members since August 1, 1987: I do not have that information, as many members did not renew while new members joined. Last year AH had 136 individual and 118 institutional members.

(2) Did your SIG hold a planning meeting at the last Annual Meeting? YES.

(3) Who represented your SIG at the SIG Cabinet Meeting at the last ASIS Annual Meeting?

Officially: Margaret Jennings, Cabinet Representative.
Also attended: Ralph Dumain, Chair-Elect

ASIS Mid-Year Meeting?

Officially: June Andel, Cabinet Representative.
Also attended: Ralph Dumain, Chair

(4) Who attended the SIG Officers Workshop at the last ASIS Annual Meeting?

Elizabeth Davis, Secretary-Treasurer
June Andel, Cabinet Representative & Newsletter Editor
Ralph Dumain, Chair

(5) Slate of candidates for officers for the coming year:

Chair: David Bearman

Chair-Elect: Ellen Sleeter

Cabinet Representative: June Anandel

Alternate Representative: David Bearman

Secretary-Treasurer: Elizabeth Davis

Newsletter Editor: June Anandel

Other Officers:

Program Development Officer (appointed): Ralph Dumain

Our ballot has been mailed and received by members [see attachment].

(6) How many newsletters did your SIG issue during the activity period?

1 newsletter: spring 1988 which included the *World Brain World Mind Newsletter* [see attachment].

(7) Other publications: some of our speakers had their papers published in the Proceedings of the 1987 Annual Meeting:

H.J.A. Goodman, "The 'World Brain/World Encyclopedia' concept: its historical roots and the contributions of H.J.A. Goodman to the ongoing evolution and implementation of the concept," p. 91-98.

T.R. Girill, "Philosophical aspects of full-text online databases," p. 83-84.

Alastair McKinnon, "Mapping the shape of an argument," p. 170-180.

(8) How many technical sessions did your SIG sponsor or cosponsor at the last ASIS Annual Meeting? 4.

Listing of sessions [see attachments for descriptions]:

(1) "The Philosophy Profession and Information".

Moderator: Ralph Dumain.

Panelists: T.R. Girill, Donald Sievert, Ralph Dumain.

ATTENDANCE: approx. 23

- (2) "Subject Access, Content Analysis, and Philosophical
"Analysis".
Moderator: Ralph Dumain.
Mary Ellen Sievert, "Information Retrieval in Philosophy."
Alastair McKinnon, "Mapping the Shape of an Argument."
ATTENDANCE: approx. 20.

- (3) "Philosophical Perspectives on Information Science".
Moderator: Diana Woodward.
Thomas J. Froehlich, "Social Epistemology and the
Foundations of Information Science."
David Ward, "Metaphysical Issues in Classification
Theory."
T.R. Girill, "Philosophical Issues of Online Full Text
Databases."
ATTENDANCE: approx. 21.

- (4) "Midwifing the World Brain". Cosponsors: SIGs AH & BSS.
Moderator: June Anandel.
Panelists: H.J.A. Goodman, Manfred Kochen, Eugene
Garfield, Glynn Harmon, George Vladutz, Parker Rossman.
ATTENDANCE: approx. 150.

(9) How many technical sessions did your SIG sponsor or cosponsor
at the last ASIS Mid-Year Meeting? 2.

Listing of sessions [see attachments for descriptions]:

- (1) "Inventing and Applying the Language of the Arts:
From Thesauri to Semantic Networks".
Moderator: David Bearman.
Tony Petersen, "Constructing a Language of the Arts:
Knowledge Representation in Thesauri."
Pat Molholt, "Employing a Language of the Arts: Navigating
Semantic Networks and the Representation of Complex
Relationships Beyond Those Captured in Thesauri."
ATTENDANCE: approx. 70.
- (2) "Midwifing the "World Brain": Progress of Labor".
Moderator: June Anandel.
Manfred Kochen, "Extending the Human Record: The Future of
Automation at the Library of Congress."
Glynn Harmon, "The Intelligent World Encyclopedia (CYC)

Project at Microelectronics and Computer Technology Corporation."
George Vladutz, "(Dis)integrating Mechanisms in Current Information Activities."
P.F. Anderson, "Analogy: Formation in Biological and Electronic Neural Nets."
ATTENDANCE: approx. 115.

(10) Other programs sponsored:

SIG/AH assumed responsibility for Manfred Kochen's tables at the Pioneers' Lunch at the 1987 Annual Meeting, October 6.

(11) Other noteworthy activities?

(12) Did your SIG utilize the Project and Reserve Fund during the activity period? NO.

(13) Describe any efforts by your SIG to recruit new members or retain members.

June Andel talked to participants at both the Annual and Mid-Year Meetings in an effort to recruit them.

David Bearman recruited for ASIS and SIG/AH at conferences of the Museum Computer Network and the Society of American Archivists.

(14) Did your SIG submit your budget and activities plan on time?
YES.

Other communications from Headquarters: Received a letter of commendation for our spring 1988 newsletter from Linda Resnik, May 5, 1988 [see attachment].

(15) Other comments about SIG activities:

Liaisons with related organizations: As of 1987, AH has a liaison with the World Brain / World Mind Group. For the past few years I have maintained liaisons with the Association for Computers and the Humanities, the Society for Conceptual and Content Analysis by Computer, and the Philosophers' Computer Network. Elizabeth Davis maintains a liaison with the Northeast Association for Computing in the Humanities. Member T.R. Girill was appointed to the nascent APA Committee on Computer Use in Philosophy. Because of my work on behalf of SIG/AH and ASIS, I was invited to speak at the conference of the American Philosophical Association (APA) in Washington in December 1988. At various times we have engaged in newsletter exchanges, e.g. with "Research in Word Processing News" and "Ontario Humanities Computing Newsletter".

These are typical of our outreach efforts of the past four years to break down artificial organizational and invisible college boundaries and to bring outsiders into our conference

programs and hopefully into ASIS itself.

We will intensify efforts to publicize our activities through related organizations and their newsletters.

Planning for 1988 Annual Meeting programs: We have three sessions planned for Atlanta: (1) Electronic Archives, (2) Issues in Art Information: Image-Text Integration, (3) What Philosophers Say Intelligent Systems Cannot Do (cosponsored with SIG/FIS) [see attachments].

Planning for 1989 conference programs: I am working on a program for the 1989 Annual Meeting on linguistic and intercultural barriers to the flow of information. If time permits, I would also like to pursue an idea I first proposed to SIG/CR in 1986: a session on "Subject Access to Fiction, Poetry, and Drama." Some libraries have constructed experimental computerized databases which provide in-depth thematic indexing of fiction, transcending traditional subject access to fiction.

Assuming that our proposed Chair-Elect Ellen Sleeter is approved, I am sure that she will have her own program ideas as well.

My general policy since I largely assumed responsibility for SIG/AH in October 1983 has been to put together imaginative and innovative programs and to promote research areas that have not been coherently pursued. Examples of my programs are Bibliometrics in the Humanities and Social Sciences (October 1984), 'Content Analysis' in the Humanities (October 1985), Personal Databases, the Online Organization of Text, and the Future of Scholarly Work (which utilized the hypertext concept before it became a household word) (October 1985), three sessions on philosophy and information science (October 1987). Other SIG/AH members organized programs on microcomputer applications in the humanities (May 1984), 'Artificial Reality' (Plenary Session and panel discussion, October 1984), Music as a Manipulative Medium (October 1986), videodisc technology (October 1986), the 'World Brain' idea (October 1987 and May 1988), and thesauri and semantic networks in art information (May 1988). These are the programs that I can recall offhand. We shall continue to think imaginatively and dream up exciting ideas.

Newsletters: Our next newsletter should be completed early in September and should include descriptions of humanities-related sessions at the Mid-Year Meeting, pertinent bibliographical references, and a continuing listing of humanities and information related organizations, at the very least. In the future, we will include book and software reviews as we did in 1984.

Recruiting: We plan to contact members who have dropped out since 1983 and encourage them to rejoin SIG/AH.

Mission description: Our revised mission description will soon be submitted to appropriate ASIS officials [see attachment].

Publications: We are looking into helping H.J.A. Goodman complete and publish his book on the history of the 'World Brain' concept.

Expert assistance: We have on occasion provided information and advice to persons interested in recent developments in a given area. For example, we received a call within the past few weeks from a music librarian at the Library of Congress wishing to know about recent developments in multisensory (graphics/text/sound) online systems. David Bearman has reported offering expert advice on numerous occasions.

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SUBMITTED BY RALPH DUMAIN

LIST OF ATTACHMENTS:

latest financial statement

1988-1989 ballot

SIG/AH Mission Statement

letter from Linda Resnik, May 5, 1988

ASIS 1987 Proceedings, p. 253-256

'Midwifing the World Brain' summary

ASIS Mid-Year 1988 abstracts, p. 18, 28, 29

ASIS 1988, 2 session descriptions

page from preliminary program, ASIS 1988

SIG/AH Newsletter, spring 1988

[reformatted from original computer file of 8/16/1988]