People Transforming Information – Information Transforming People is the topic selected to challenge information professionals from throughout the world when they travel to Columbus, Ohio, October 24-29, for the ASIS&T 2008 Annual Meeting.

A great deal of attention has been paid to the rapid growth of the Internet, proliferation of information – especially born-digital content – and the development of technologies in response to these trends. Viewing this changing landscape through a lens of the human and social condition would lead to better understanding of how human needs drive, are served by and change information and technology. We anticipate an exploration of the human condition from the individual to society as a whole.

ASIS&T 2008 will focus on how people transform information as well as how information transforms people. Submissions by researchers and practitioners are solicited on a wide range of human-centered approaches to topics including but not limited to the following:

- Individual identities and how they are transformed by the impact of information technologies
- The societal archive – is it disappearing and/or being marginalized?
- Societal attentions and how emphasis on information technology either allows or hinders these
- Openness, access and privacy issues
- Generational, economic and socio-cultural dimensions of impact of information on people’s lives
- Cognitive and emotional aspects of interactions with information
- Reshaping the boundary between personal and public information space
- The effect of collective information creation on authority and trust
- Information by the people for the people
- The role of information in connecting people and community building
- How well is current technology meeting human needs, and what should future technology research and development involve to better meet our needs?

Conference Committee

A variety of ASIS&T members are working on the program planning for the Annual Meeting. Working with José-Marie Griffiths, chair of the conference committee, are Mike Brown, Rachael Clemens, Brenda Dervin, Devan Donaldson, Carolyn Hank, Samantha Hastings, Margie Hlava, Diane Neal, Andreas Orphanides; Julia Kampov-Polevoi, Soo Young Rieh, Mark Rosso and Deborah Swain.

Updated information about the 2008 ASIS&T Annual Meeting will be available at the ASIS&T website (www.asist.org).
News about ASIS&T Chapters

Information professionals throughout North Carolina and South Carolina have formed a new Carolinas Chapter of the American Society for Information Science and Technology. Founding members come from the University of North Carolina School of Information and Library Science; University of South Carolina School of Library and Information Science; North Carolina Central University School of Library and Information Sciences; Duke University and several information agencies around the Carolinas. Initial officers for the group, which held its first meeting in January, are Hugh Cayless, chair; Russell Koonts, chair-elect; Rachel Clemens, program committee; Diane Neal, records holder; Lori Eakin, treasurer; Cassidy Sugimoto, secretary; and Sarah Carrier, webmaster.

The New England Chapter of ASIS&T (NEASIST) began this program year with a full-day event entitled From Guerilla Innovation to Institutional Transformation: Information Professionals as Change Agents, a look at how organizations cultivate cultures of transformation that will welcome new ideas and solutions to problems of organizing and providing access to information. Speakers scheduled for the session were Jill Stover, Virginia Commonwealth University; John Blyberg, Darien Library, Connecticut; and Jessamyn West, Calef Memorial Library, Washington, Vermont.

The Northern Ohio ASIS&T Chapter (NORASIST) started the year off with Second Life 101, a look at virtual worlds and their potential benefits to libraries.

Laura Solomon, Cleveland Public Library, was scheduled to present the program.

At the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee Student Chapter meeting in November, former ASIS&T president Tefko Saracevic of Rutgers University presented Criteria and Methods in Evaluation of Digital Libraries: Use & Usability, a look at the neglected realm of evaluation in the growing world of digital libraries.

The Los Angeles Chapter of ASIS&T (LACASIS) wrapped up 2007 as it does every year – with its annual joint holiday party with the Southern California chapter of the Special Libraries Association. This year’s fun featured Russ Parsons, Los Angeles Times food columnist and author.

LACASIS followed up the next month with its annual Contributions to Information Science and Technology Award, presented to Carol Tenopir, professor in the School of Information Sciences at the University of Tennessee. Dr. Tenopir received her award at a dinner program at which she spoke on Witnessing Change: Studying Scholarly Article Reading over Time.

For its February meeting, LACASIS planned Tag, You’re It: A Dialog Between Social Tagging and Traditional Classification, a daylong professional development program focused on social tagging and its implications for libraries and museums. Among the scheduled speakers were Murtha Baca, Getty Research Institute; Rich Cherry, Project Steve; Jonathan Furner, UCLA; Gabriel Lundeen, LAPL; Mike Winkler, University of Pennsylvania; and Jezzynne Westcott, Alex Chappell and Candace Labell, Claremont Colleges.

The ASIS&T European Students Chapter (ESC) presented its Best Research Proposal Award for 2008 to Anindita Paul, Information Experience Lab, School of Information Sciences and Learning, University of Missouri, for “Using Web Analytics to Learn the Library User’s Online Behavior.”

The Potomac Valley Chapter of ASIS&T tackled the timely topic of health care with a panel presentation on Improving Patient Care through Health Informatics, featuring presentations by Nichole Kallas, National Cardiovascular Data Registry, and Nkossi Dambita, Johns Hopkins School of Medicine.

News about ASIS&T Members

“Them! Google’s Ambivalence toward Library and Information Science,” an article by Shawne D. Miksa in the October/November 2007 issue of the Bulletin of the American Society for Information Science and Technology was selected as an Editor’s Pick in the November issue of Informed Librarian Online. Each month, the online publication links directly to the latest table of contents of 280 journals and provides links to the full-text of articles it wishes to highlight for its thousands of readers.

Jane Greenberg, professor at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill’s School of Information and Library Science (SILS), and Eva Méndez, a professor at Spain’s Universidad Carlos III of Madrid and former visiting scholar at the SILS Metadata Research Center, have co-edited the recently released book, Knitting the Semantic Web, published by Haworth Press, Inc. The book includes a series of articles by leaders in library and information science, computer science and information intensive domains.