In the Context of Big Data and Cloud Computing: A Multi-dimensional LIS
A Report from the 12th Conference on Library and Information Science Across the Taiwan Straits
by Yuelin Li and Diane H. Sonnenwald

EDITOR'S SUMMARY
Big data and cloud computing were the focal points of the 12th biennial Library and Information Science (LIS) Across the Taiwan Straits, held in Tianjin, China. The conference was hosted by Nankai University’s Department of Information Resources Management and organized by academic heads of Nankai University and the National Taiwan Normal University. About 270 attendees from universities, libraries and scholarly journal publishing houses from the region participated. ASIS&T funded keynote speaker Diane H. Sonnenwald’s discussion of visioning to explore the impact of future technologies. The Association also sponsored a lunch and presented information on the benefits of membership. Key speakers addressed challenges facing LIS and core competencies of information professionals, the value and management of technical reports and research experiences in the United States in the context of challenges to academia across the Taiwan straits. Conference sessions covered papers, doctoral research and a panel discussion by LIS program deans, chairs and faculty. The 2016 conference is planned for Central China Normal University in Wuhan and will offer further opportunity for interchange and mutual support between straits regions, LIS scholars and ASIS&T.

KEYWORDS
Taiwan
China
meetings
information science
cloud computing
Association for Information Science and Technology

The Library and Information Science (LIS) Conference Across the Taiwan Straits was originally proposed by several of the most famous LIS researchers and educators across the straits. The conference was first held in 1993 at East China Normal University in Shanghai and has been held every other year since then. Every third time the conference is held in Taiwan; otherwise it is held in Mainland China. The conference is now recognized as the most influential LIS academic conference across the Taiwan straits.

2014 Conference Theme and Organization
This year the conference was hosted by the information resources management department in the business school at Nankai University in Tianjin. The theme of the conference was In the Context of Big Data and Cloud Computing: A Multi-dimensional LIS. LIS researchers, practitioners and educators across the straits have experienced the influence of big data and cloud computing technology and incorporated these new concepts and technologies into various dimensions of their research and practice.

Conference organizers were the former chair, Ping Ke, and current chair, Yuelin Li, of the Department of Information Resources Management at Nankai University, and Hao-Ren Ke, president of Chinese Association of Library and Information Science Education and chair of the Graduate Institute of Library and Information Studies.
at National Taiwan Normal University (NTNU). Nankai University is one of top research universities in China. The department of information resources management offers undergraduate, master’s and doctoral degrees in information and library science, and it is ranked as the 7th best LIS program in the latest evaluation conducted by the Ministry of Education of China in 2012. NTNU was the first university to establish LIS education in Taiwan. Today the Graduate Institute of Library and Information Studies (GLIS) at NTNU offers both master’s and Ph.D. degrees. The major research fields at GLIS include knowledge organization, information behavior and information communication.

Approximately 270 LIS faculty members, students and information professionals across the Taiwan straits participated in the conference. This was the highest number of participants in the history of the conference. Participants came from 42 different universities and 17 libraries and agencies across the straits. Universities, libraries, institutes and some leading academic journal publishers represented at the conference included Wuhan University, National Taiwan University, Nanjing University, Renmin University, Peking University, National Taiwan Normal University, National Chengchi University, Shih Hsin University, Sun Yat-sen University, Central China Normal University, Jilin University, Tamkang University, the Institute of Scientific and Technical Information of China, National Science Library at Chinese Academy of Sciences, Tunghai University library, Renmin University library and so on. Figure 1 offers a picture of many of the conference participants.
ASIS&T’s Role

For the first time ASIS&T had a formal role in the conference. Through the Lecture Series Award, ASIS&T provided funding for a keynote presentation at the conference. Throughout its 21-year history, the conference has never before invited a keynote speaker from outside China. ASIS&T made this possible, making history in the development of LIS in China. The keynote presentation was provided by Diane H. Sonnenwald, whose lecture was titled “Visioning Studies: A Socio-Technical Approach to Designing the Future.” The goal of a visioning study is to understand the potential impact of future technologies in complex and dynamic contexts as early as possible in the research and development (R&D) cycle and from this understanding to develop socio-technical recommendations in order to eliminate unintended negative consequences of the technology and facilitate its adoption and use.

ASIS&T also sponsored a lunch at the conference. Benefits of membership in ASIS&T were shared with conference participants via a flyer about ASIS&T published in Mandarin in the conference program, as well as during the introduction of the keynote presentation delivered by Mei-Mei Wu and closing remarks delivered by Yuelin Li.

Conference Sessions

In addition to the ASIS&T Lecture Series keynote presentation, other key speakers included the following:

- Professor Feicheng Ma from Wuhan University who analyzed challenges facing LIS and discussed what makes LIS competitive as a profession and discipline. He described core competences of LIS professionals as well as related theories, rationale, principles, methods, technology and tools that comprise the core content of LIS today.

- Professor Defang He, director of the Institute of Scientific and Technical Information of China, who addressed the importance and characteristics of technical reports as a type of national strategic and basic information resource. He also discussed how to effectively manage these resources.

- Professor Ting-Ming Lai, president of Shih Hsin University, who shared his study experience in the United States and his research experience. He further discussed challenges facing academia across the Taiwan Straits and called for efforts to address these challenges.

The conference also included 18 sessions, three doctoral forums and a panel discussion. During the sessions 84 papers were presented in multiple parallel sessions. These sessions focused on LIS from the IT, resource, user, service, social and management perspectives, as well as LIS education in the digital era. The papers reflected current developments in the LIS area across the Taiwan Straits. In particular, they were concerned with problems and issues in relation to the development of LIS in society and thus identified new frontiers of LIS research. Researchers, practitioners and students shared and discussed their research results and findings.

The three doctoral forums provided an opportunity for doctoral students to present their research and receive feedback on it. Three professors hosted the forums and commented on the presentations, and their feedback helped students to refine the research. Other masters and doctoral students also participated in the discussion and interaction.

The panel discussion was, in fact, a deans/department chairs meeting. The deans, chairs, directors and faculty members (representing their departments) of LIS programs across the straits participated. They shared their ideas about...
future conferences, discussed the lessons and experiences in this conference and voted on the site for the next one.

**Future Conferences**

The next Conference on Library and Information Science Across the Taiwan Straits will be held in 2016 at Central China Normal University in Wuhan. The conference will be an additional opportunity for ASIS&T members and others in the region and beyond to exchange ideas regarding challenges and innovations in our research, education and practice. We would like to thank ASIS&T for supporting the 2014 conference.