Information Policy: Introduction
by Brandi Loveday-Chesley, guest editor of special section

EDITOR’S SUMMARY
The ASIS&T Special Interest Group/Information Policy (SIG/IFP) analyzes local, national and global developments affecting multiple aspects of information access and use. This issue of the Bulletin explores trust, security and privacy, SIG/IFP’s focus for the Association’s 2014 Annual Meeting. The controversial and timely topic of net neutrality is examined from a historical perspective. Federal efforts in the area of cybersecurity and the practical implications of its failures are detailed. The importance of digital reader privacy is raised, comparing legal privacy assurances and gaps for brick and mortar libraries with security of readers’ personal data in the cloud. A look at eHealth literacy reveals how the digital divide negatively affects health for various populations.

KEYWORDS
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In this issue’s special section is brought to you by SIG/IFP, the ASIS&T special interest group dedicated to sharing developments in information policy on the state, federal and global fronts.

In one piece SIG/IFP’s current chair, Dr. Kristene Unsworth, showcases a pre-conference workshop to be held in Seattle before the ASIS&T Annual Meeting later this month. That session will address the issues of trust, security and privacy in the age of big (and little) data and posit some very important questions for researchers and practitioners alike to consider in the future regarding information policy. The section also includes a piece on digital reader privacy originally written as a research piece for a New York State assembly member in an intern’s effort to influence and encourage change in New York’s protection of readers now that technology has so heavily impacted security and privacy. The author of the digital reader piece, Brandi Loveday-Chesley, gives a brief overview of the issues and the protections afforded brick and mortar libraries with how the law does not extend to e-readers such as Kindle and Nook, to name only two such devices.

Karl-Rainer Blumental, an MSLIS candidate from Drexel University, shares his research on net neutrality and the FCC. This topic is almost constantly in the news on technical and computer information websites such as ArsTechnica and is very much in the forefront for lawyers and policy analysts at the Electronic Frontier Foundation as net neutrality affects every aspect of our society and our ability to share information without censorship. Christine Lino is also a graduate student at Drexel University. Christine’s contribution examines and details various failures in the infrastructure of the United States federal government regarding cybersecurity and the government’s inability to implement even the most basic of security measures,
which puts every citizen at risk. Last but not least, we include an article by Grace Begany, an information science Ph.D. student in the College of Computing & Information, University at Albany - State University of New York, on the issue of eHealth literacy and the digital divide. Grace explores how the digital divide influences access to information on health issues via the Internet for various populations and explores what can be done to remedy this deficiency in our society.

We hope you enjoy this special section and feel comfortable enough to reach out to SIG/IFP in the future for opportunities to co-sponsor panels, workshops and webinars on information policy and technology policy topics.