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EUROPEAN STUDENT CHAPTER OF THE AMERICAN SOCIETY FOR  
INFORMATION SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

## ASIS&T-ESC

The European Student Chapter (ESC) of ASIS&T was established in May 2005. Student members of ASIS&T studying at academic institutions within Europe are automatically members of ESC. Other Student members of ASIS&T can apply to join ESC as associate members. Here are some reasons for joining ESC:

- Network with European students of information science and related disciplines.
- Strengthen connections and network with ASIS&T students throughout the world.
- Form links for student exchange at universities and other institutions in information science.
- Publish student essays in E-LIS open archive (<http://eprints.rclis.org/>)

ASIS&T EC Web site is maintained by Boris Bosancic.

## News

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### **ASIST annual meeting in Charlotte, an ASIST ESC member was there !**

Jonathan has participated to the ASIST annual meeting in Charlotte on November. He wrote few words about this great event :

“I would like to share my experiences of the ASIS&T 2005 meeting in Charlotte that I attended as a representative of the European Student Chapter of ASIS&T (ESC). I was nervous about attending the meeting as I am partially sighted and have never before attended a conference in the USA. However I was soon put at ease by Michel Menou, who was a great help to me throughout the meeting.

Although my focus was on forming preliminary links with people and organisations that may be interested in the ESC, I also attended several talks that relate to my research interests. I found the talks more accessible than I expected, as they usually were self-contained and did not presume much prior knowledge. I also was surprised at the range of social events.

Events of particular interest to ESC members include the Students Party and the International Reception. Other social events included a brunch for new attendees, a Welcome Reception, an Awards Luncheon (to students were given free entry), and a President's Reception. Details of the social events and the list of seminars can be found on the Wiki (<http://www.ils.unc.edu/asist2005/wiki/>). Photos of some of those attending the meeting can be seen on the Blog (<http://asist2005.neasist.org/>).

I met several people interested in the ESC. At the International Reception I met Isto, who is doing a Ph.D. in Finland and has been on this list for some time, and Cristina, from Italy who is doing a Ph.D. in the USA. I met and exchanged business cards with Mei-Mei and Shamg-Ju from Taiwan. I met several people actively involved in Special Interest Group called 'International Information Issues' (SIG III, <http://www.asis.org/SIG/SIGIII/>).

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Of particular interest to me is the commitment of ASIS&T to becoming more international. In his business meeting Michael Leach, the president of ASIS&T, spoke of the rising membership of ASIS&T from people outside the USA and described the setting up an internationalisation task force to facilitate the organisation becoming more international (salient points of his speech are presented in the Blog at <http://asist2005.neasist.org/?p=76>).

After my experience at ASIS&T 2005, I am very keen to attend ASIS&T 2006 (in Austin, Texas). Hopefully I will see some of you there.”

Jonathan

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### ACTIVITIES ON THE LIST

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Here there are some issues discussed on the list last months :

#### 1. Discussion Phd topics on our list :

Second discussion topic was made by Mabrouka : *Multilingual knowledge management and digital libraries*

“I would like to bring up the topic of importance in information sciences field today :

The web is now more multilingual than five years ago, searching information is sometimes deseperating !

The question is : *do you think that solutions can be only translation tools or do you think that a more intelligent information organization including multilingual knowledege management tools will be more fited to information system ? in this case, the question of interlingual equivalence in knowledge field is required but how can we adapt this in an information system ?* This question is pretty linked to Kora's topic on classification and the web when she asked “*Are LIS professionals doing enough with the Web pages? Is our job; being taken over by computer engineers?*”

*The LIS professionals can also ask themselves : how can we bring or adapt our professional knowledge and skills into digital libraries ?”*

Kora :

1) The question is : do you think that solutions can be only translation tools or do you think that a more intelligent information organization including multilingual knowledge management tools will be more fited to information system ?

In this case, the question of interlingual equivalence in knowledge field is required but how can we adapt this in an information system ? I think both are needed, but I would like to use knowledge organization systems as the main means, and have translation tools and related NLP tools as necessary parts of the system. Classification schemes could be neat in multilingual retrieval, since the numbers/classes they use are the same in different languages. But, there are many other factors with this solution, such as up-to-datedness of

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such knowledge organization tools, their flexibility for new topics etc. I think they can serve as basis that could be enriched with more synonyms etc. to enable better results...

2) I agree LIS people need to be more active in learning about ideas/solutions arising in other research communities, such as the Semantic Web. And the other way around, of course...

*Jonathan:*

I identify three questions in your posting:

(1) Regarding searching the multilingual Web, you ask "Do you think that solutions can be only translation tools or do you think that a more intelligent information organization including multilingual knowledge management tools will be more fitted to information system?"

My impression is there will be more intelligent information organization of multilingual searching. I suggest that commercial incentives will lead to more intelligent information organization of searching, and that a likely spin off is more effective multilingual searching.

(2) You ask "In this case, the question of inter-lingual equivalence in knowledge field is required but how can we adapt this in an information system?"

Your question lies outside of my areas of knowledge.

(3) You ask "How can we bring or adapt our professional knowledge and skills into digital libraries?"

This is an interesting question. Maybe the solution in part could come with information science deriving its inspiration not only from library science but also from other fields such as computer science.

*Mabrouka's answer:*

The question is not so easy, translation tools are not a real solution to the problem but in some cases, it may be a partial solution. By the way many information systems include this kind of tools to translate documents from a list of results after a request to a search engine.

This means that it is not easy to build a multilingual indexing system maybe the solution is to include a knowledge management tools or organization in our system and provide to it to users. In this case we have to deal with another problem the interlingua equivalence which is not out of solutions even if it is quite difficult! We have to work in a conceptual area to avoid some terminological and lexical problems, the Kora's answer is pretty good when she said that we can use classification system and use some topics to build schema of knowledge. I agree with Jonathan and I think too that the solution is a part from the great experience of LIS professionals and other part from engineers and professionals from computer science to build together a really multilingual information system providing real interactive relations between users and multilingual systems.

Jonathan asked a question about "the impact that a huge number of in web pages written in Chinese might have on multilingual knowledge management". I noticed for two years

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that when you are on the web and look for information you write your request in French or English sometimes you get in the results some documents written in Japanese or even in Chinese language, this is due to the metadata included in web page if the search engine is specified to recognize some tags the information provided in Chinese will also be visible. As we are on the web the impact that can be important due to the huge number of pages written in Chinese is in a way limited by the number of users knowing and using Chinese language.

I recommend if you are interesting by the languages used on the web to read some papers written by :

- Jacques SAVOY, "Multilingual information retrieval with Asian Languages" in proceedings RIAO'2004, RIAO Avignon France, 26-28 april 2004, pp 55-68
- Gregory GREFENSTETTE, " Estimation of English an non English Language use on the WWW" Proceedings of RIAO'2000 Paris April 2000

## 2. Discussion on last topics on our list :

Discussion of the first topic continues on the list ...

There is a brief message sent on the list at the end of November from our LIS student about Kora's topic :

Thanx to Oyvindve and Hamid for their participation!

*Oyvindve wrote:*

Since this is the last day of november and this discussion now comes to a close I would like to pose some questions :

1. What will happen to copyright if Google makes all books in the world available through their system?
2. What happens to the information if Google goes out of business?
3. What implications does it have that information is (for practical purposes) from a single company from a single country? (Politically, culturally, economically)

*Hamid answered:*

1. Google is not digitising all books. the project includes just those books that are not subject to copyright. so there won't be any problems. the idea is great, imagine everybody has access to the old books of Bodleian library without haveing to going Oxford.

2. Nothing will happen, in the current highly competetive world where dog eats dog, having Google out of business means there is a better search engine that could kick the Google out of the business. So why not, if this is the case, let it happen. Googls doesn't store or produce the information. the information is distributed on servers around the world, Google just keeps an index of them.

3. i'm not sure if i get this one. so i jut leave it.

If you want to react to one of these topics and answers don't hesitate, it is not too late !

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**2. Hello LIS Students of Europe :**

**Message from Nicolae Dragulanescu - Romania**

“I would like to suggest you to publish in the next issue the table below, belonging to one of my papers (Emerging information society and history of information science in Romania )

Best regards,

Nicolae Dragulanescu

ASIST Member

Bucharest, Romania

Nicolae Dragulanescu

*Short Chronology of Romanian History of Information Science<sup>1</sup> [1], [2]*

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<sup>1</sup> - Dragulanescu, Nicolae – *Information Science and Technology. Genesis and Evolution* (in French); AGIR Publishing House, Bucharest, 1999

- Dragulanescu, Dimitrie; Moldoveanu, Corneliu – *History of Documentation in Romania. From Scribe to Computer* (in Romanian), Romanian Academy Publishing House, Bucharest

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14 <sup>th</sup> c.	-First <b>hand-scripted manuscripts</b> (in old Slavic and with Cyrillic alphabet) -First <b>libraries</b> (in old monasteries and churches) -First <b>archives</b> (of Principalities' chancelleries)
1508	-First <b>book</b> printed on Romania's territory (in old Slavic)
1544	-First <b>printed book in Romanian</b> (with Cyrillic alphabet)
1640	-First <b>laic book</b> printed in Romania
1688	-First <b>complete edition of the Bible</b> in Romanian language
1703	-First <b>printed books using Latin alphabet</b>
1789	-First Romanian books <b>translated</b> in English, French, German and Russian
19 <sup>th</sup> c.	-First Romanian <b>dictionary, encyclopedia, bookshop and public library</b> -First <b>nation-wide news-papers</b>
1836	-First <b>bookshop and library catalogues</b>
1846	-First <b>Romanian Library outside Romania</b> (in Paris, France)
1859	-Formal abolition of use of Cyrillic alphabet in Romanian writings
1867	-Foundation of <b>Romanian Academy</b> and of its <b>Library</b>
1879	-First <b>bibliographic journal</b>
1923	-First <b>museums' national policy</b>
1929	-First <b>national general encyclopedia</b>
1930	-First <b>high-school for Archival Science</b>
1938	-First " <b>Documentation Office</b> " -First <b>Romanian abridged edition of "Universal Decimal Classification"</b>
1940	-Foundation of <b>Romanian Documentation Center (CRD)</b> -First issue of its " <b>Bulletin of CRD</b> "
1949	-Foundation of <b>national governmental body for scientific and technical information and documentation</b> (today: " <b>National Information-Documentation Institute</b> ", INID) -First <b>book on Information Transmission Theory</b>
1970	-First <b>researches and papers on Information Science</b> -Establishment of " <b>Information - Documentation National System</b> "
1990	-Establishment of a " <b>Bibliography and Information Science</b> " <b>Section</b> at University of Bucharest -Foundation of " <b>Information Science and Technology</b> " <b>Section</b> of Romanian Academy
1991	-Foundation of <b>first professional associations</b> dedicated to Information Science (INFO-DOC-ROM and AITCR)
1995	-First formal <b>university courses on Information Science</b> -First <b>scientific journal on Information Science</b> (ROMJIST)
1996	-Governmental Decision on " <b>National Computerization Strategy and Information Society Building</b> "
1997	
1998	-First <b>book on Information Science</b> (" <b>Information Science and Technology. Genesis and Evolution</b> ")
1999	

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## Agenda of conferences on information sciences

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An Expedition to European Digital Cultural Heritage Collecting, Connecting - and Conserving?

International Conference on the Digitisation of Cultural Heritage  
21 - 22. June 2006, Residenz zu Salzburg

The conference starts from the practical challenges at \*collecting, connecting and digitally conserving\* cultural treasures and scientific information, and invites for an expedition to the vision of a common European digital cultural heritage space.

The conference thus builds on the efforts of the European Union to make the diversity of the European cultural heritage accessible to all citizens and to preserve it for future generations. It aims at contributing to the implementation of the \*Dynamic Action Plan\* for the EU co-ordination of digitisation activities, and at fostering discussion on the i2010 initiative for a \*European Digital Library\*.

Target groups are experts from cultural heritage institutions, public administrations, EU institutions and the economy. The conference is an event of the Austrian presidency of the European Union, organised by the Austrian Federal Ministry of Education, Science and Culture and co-financed by the European Commission.

<http://dhc2006.salzburgresearch.at/content/view/1/2/lang,en/>

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