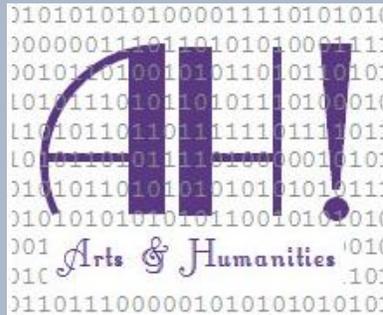


SIG AH Digital Newsletter: Fall 2014 – Summer 2015

Membership May 2015: 147
Membership May 2014: 121
Membership May 2013: 92



2014-2015 Officers

Chair: Jeremy L. McLaughlin, San José State University
Communications: Sveta Stoytcheva, University of Illinois
Webmaster: Sarah Buchanan, University of Texas at Austin
Past Chair: Mary Ann Harlan, San José State University

Message from the Chair

First....welcome to our new members! We hope to publish two SIG AH Newsletters each year including a 2015 Meeting wrap-up this December. This is my first Newsletter as Chair so it serves as a more of a general update for members. Future Newsletters will provide additional unique content and contributions from across the organization.

SIG AH has had a busy and productive start to 2015!



<https://www.flickr.com/photos/nlireland/8511658533/>

We've launched our improved website, engaged with members via new social media outlets, and tried to highlight the varied and important issues related to research and practice in our SIG. Many of our activities and accomplishments are discussed below, including a special archiving project related to the history of SIG AH and the successful Virtual Symposium on Information and Technology in the Arts and Humanities. We also want to make sure you know our plans for the 2015 Annual Meeting!

Please also mark your calendar for a **SIG AH webinar on September 9 at 12pm EDT/10am PST**: A science historian's take on archival research, digital content, and building social media reach by Gabriel Finkelstein, University of Colorado at Denver. Dr. Finkelstein will use anecdotes from his research career to highlight differences between the humanities and sciences as it pertains to technology usage and support and problems associated with social media reach and building researcher visibility.

Are you interested in getting involved? Elections will be held at the Annual Conference in St. Louis. Check the listserv and social media for scheduling updates or email sigah@gmail.com with questions or content suggestions.

I look forward to seeing you in St. Louis!

Jeremy L. McLaughlin, Chair, SIG AH

New social media and updated website

Throughout 2015, SIG AH has focused on creating and sustaining a new social media presence on Facebook and Twitter. As part of this effort, our Communications coordinator, Sveta Stoytcheva, has been posting amazing #publicdomain images from across the web, thoughtful content that #sigahreads, and various job posts, calls for papers, news, etc... As a result, we've begun to extend our social media reach and make new connections, and we hope that the content is of interest to our members. Throughout the Newsletter are examples of the public domain images we've been sharing on Twitter and you'll find examples of the content discussed via #sigahreads on the last page.

Please follow us at http://twitter.com/asist_ah and <http://www.facebook.com/asist.sig.ah>

This spring saw the happy [re-launch of SIG AH's website!](#) With our new WordPress architecture SIG AH is able to easily update our pages and more readily share news and announcements. In retaining our web presence on ASIS.org, our SIG is also able to participate in the ASIST-wide calendar and news feed. Shortly after the new ASIST website launched on April 14, 2015 (following its soft launch at the 2014 AM in Seattle), SIG AH installed our template to our ASIST directory, with the able expertise of ASIST staff. SIG AH Webmaster Sarah Buchanan made several long-awaited updates to our previous content on May 7 including adding featured links to our SIG's Twitter, Facebook, and YouTube social media.

The next major update by Sarah and SIG Chair Jeremy L. McLaughlin will be to [the SIG Resources page](#) which includes links to numerous organizations, journals, conferences, and more in such areas as the humanities, information technology, Digital Humanities, computing, etc...



Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, New York Gift, Andrew Powie Fuller and Geraldine Spreckels Fuller Collection, 1999

In case you missed it:

- NEH funds 212 humanities programs (\$36.6M in grants)
<http://www.neh.gov/news/press-release/2015-07-28>
- The British Library put 1,000,000 images into the public domain
<https://www.flickr.com/photos/britishlibrary>
- SIG AH was featured in the 'Get to Know a Sig' blog on the ASIST website
<http://www.asis.org/SocialMedia/?p=358>
- HathiTrust released a massive data set
<https://www.hathitrust.org/htrc-releases-massive-dataset>

Newsletter Archive

SIG AH has made a new resource available on our website. Our [Newsletters Archive page](#) now hosts an archive of digitized newsletters contributed by our former officer, Ralph Dumain (<http://www.autodidactproject.org/>). These materials document the history and activities of SIG AH during much of the 1980s, including our programs for the ASIST 50th Anniversary in 1987. In completing this digitization project over 2013 and 2014, Mr. Dumain not only re-encountered materials from his time as an active officer (1982-1990) but also wrote a memoir of his experiences with the SIG. His effort began in 2011, when then-chair Sarah Buchanan was interested in highlighting information on SIG AH's history as part of the 75th anniversary of ASIST (celebrated in 2012). She corresponded with past chairs, including Ralph Dumain, who was AH's chair in the 1980s and is still active.

In 2013, Mr. Dumain reformatted (from XyWrite in ASCII) several unique documents from his time with the SIG including a 1988 address, 1988 report, and two 1984 newsletters. In February 2014, he completed the scanning (from paper originals) of two complete newsletters from his surviving paper copies, as JPEG images (1983 Fall, 1987 April). By late 2014, Mr. Dumain contributed, among others: the Fall 1984-Summer 1985 newsletter, his 1986 and 1988 yearly reports, and, with a flourish, his SIG memoir.



<https://www.flickr.com/photos/sdasmarchives/16534966634/>

As a result, we now have archived some fascinating documentation related to the activities of SIG AH during a time of new and rapid developments in the field. We'd like to once again thank Ralph Dumain for his efforts. In particular, [his SIG Memoir](#) holds a number of ideas and insights related to the changing intersection of arts, humanities, information and technology. Many of the core topics of interest and questions related to theory and methodology are still a part of the discussion today, and we hope the availability of this content encourages future historical research in the history of ASIST and SIG AH.

If you have any print or digital materials related to the history of SIG AH that can be digitized and included in the archive, please let us know. sigah@gmail.com

Student Research Paper Award and Virtual Symposium

In March 2015, SIG AH and SIG VIS, led respectively by chairs Jeremy L. McLaughlin and Krystyna Matusiak, received funding from the SIG Cabinet Steering Committee, Special Projects and Reserve Fund, of \$2000 from the FY15 stipend. These funds were received to support a co-sponsored student research paper award based on the theme of information and technology in the arts and humanities.

In April we announced the student finalists who were invited to present their work at the ASIS&T SIG Virtual Symposium on Information and Technology in the Arts and Humanities (April 22 and 23). Following their presentations and a second round of judging, two winners were announced: Christian James, University of Maryland, College Park, for "Historical thinking, digital methods: The new history pedagogy", and Melissa Higgins, University of Denver, for "Structure, subjectivity, and power: The

provisional space of libraries within the social tagging movement.” All of the finalists were offered a free ASIST membership and Christian and Melissa each won a \$500 Best Student Research Paper Award and an invitation to present their paper as part of a SIG panel at the Annual Meeting in St. Louis.

The student finalists were joined by a number of other speakers across the two-day event. After an introduction by ASIST President, Dr. Sandy Hirsh, we heard from faculty and professional speakers on topics such as data visualization, altmetrics, collaborative library projects, and funding from the National Endowment for the Humanities. Over 90 people attended and we were excited to have such a successful collaborative event with SIG VIS.

Symposium presentations can be [viewed on YouTube](#) or [from ScholarWorks](#)

Symposium slides can be [downloaded from figshare](#)

#sigahreads

- Humanities data: A necessary contradiction – [Miriam Posner](#)
- Automate the boring stuff with Python – <https://automatetheboringstuff.com/>
- Artbot engineers the discovery of art – [Digital Humanities Now](#)
- Designing a Digital Humanities strategy using data-driven assessment models – [dh+lib](#)

Head's up! What's happening at the 2015 Annual Meeting

In October, SIG AH will distribute a flyer with updated highlights and scheduling of the social activities, workshops, panels, and papers presented by, or of interest to, members.

SIG AH Panel – Breaking traditional barriers: Collaboration, impact, and technology in the humanities

SIG AH Business Meeting (we need 10 members to attend!)

SIG AH Social Event (Sunday evening, location to be determined)

SIG VIS Workshop – Data Visualization

We want to promote our members' involvement at the 2015 Annual Meeting! If you are presenting a paper or poster, talking on a panel or at a workshop, know of an event or session, or have an idea for an event that would be of interest to SIG AH members, please let us know! sigah@gmail.com



<https://www.flickr.com/photos/mopa1/8136404617/>