

SIG III Newsletter

Volume 8 Number 1 October 2008



International Information Issues

<http://www.asis.org/SIG/SIGIII/>

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25 Years of SIG-III

This year marks SIG-III's 25th anniversary! The SIG is celebrating this feat by sponsoring a host of panels at this year's ASIS&T Annual Meeting, including one titled *25 Years of SIG-III and the Future of International Information*.

Moderated by Aaron Bowen and taking place Monday, October 27th at 3:30 PM, this panel will look at the past 25 years of international information issues and SIG-III's role in bringing these issues to ASIS&T as a whole for consideration and debate, present a "state of the union" on international information, and evaluate what trends and developments may occur with international information during the next 25 years. The panelists will consider different aspects of what the future of international information may entail, from privacy and security to digital divides and knowledge gaps to censorship and freedom of expression.

(Aaron Bowen)

2008-2009 SIG-III Officers

Chair: Aaron Bowen
Co-chair: Jonathan Levitt
Chair-elect: Kate Johnson
Co-chair elect: OPEN
Immediate Past Chair: Yunfei Du
Communications Officer: OPEN
Treasurer: Bahaa El-Haididy
Program Chair: OPEN
SIG-III Blog Administrator: Aaron Bowen
Cabinet Representative: Toni Carbo
Alternate Cabinet representative: Yunfei Du
Webmaster: OPEN
Mentorship Coordinator: OPEN
International Paper Contest Chair: OPEN
International Paper Contest Co-chair: Jonathan Levitt
InfoShare Officers: Abebe Rorissa, Sarah Emmerson
Global Plaza Coordinator: OPEN

SIG III Events at AM

International Reception

To celebrate SIG-III's 25th anniversary, SIG-III is putting together a special International Reception this year. Plans are still gelling, but from the ideas I have seen so far, this year's reception promises to be truly magnificent. We hope you join us on the evening of the 27th at 8:00 to take part in the celebration!

Sponsorship of AM programs

Monday, October 27, 3:30
25 Years of SIG-III and the Future of International Information (III)

Tuesday, October 28, 8:30
ICT-Mediated Diaspora Studies: New Directions in Immigrant Information Behavior Research (III, USE)

Tuesday, October 28, 10:30
Understanding Visual Search Tools through Users' Reactions (CR, DL, ED, HCI, III, USE, VIS)

Wednesday, October 29, 8:30

Global Perspective on Wikipedia Research (III, SI)

SIG III Business Meetings

SIG III will be holding two Business Meetings at the Annual Meeting:

Monday Oct 27: 5:00-6:30pm: Room B
Third Floor Conference Room

Tuesday Oct 28: 5:00-6:30pm: Room B
Third Floor Conference Room

Anyone interested in these meetings is very welcome to attend.

Silent Auction

Annual International Reception is when InfoShare Program raises funds through silent auction and raffle. InfoShare Program provides memberships to information professionals in countries where the membership dues are financially out of reach. Please bring one or more goodies for silent auction. Also, local ASIS&T will be contacted to donate a basket of goodies (wine, food, knick-knacks, misc, etc made locally and/or by members or representing the area, like regional sports team hat or t-shirt) that is the prize for the raffle.

Book Auction

Also, bring one new or slightly used book on information science or relevant topic. ASIS&T will collect them and donate them to a selected institution. A collection bin will be made available near the registration area.

Some News from the Chair

SIG III Fund-raising

Last year SIG III received \$3,000 from Elsevier, \$2,000 dedicated to International Paper Contest and \$1,000 to international reception. Elsevier have pledged the same amount (\$3,000) to SIG III for 2008 annual conference.

(Yunfei Du)

SIG-III Blog in 2008

2008 proved to be the year in which I felt the Blog truly got going. In particular, Blake Carver at NEASIST and I worked together to give the blog a new themed appearance. Rather

than the basic, straight-out-of-the-box Wordpress theme we had at the beginning of the year, we now have a clearer, more customized interface. I plan to continue to tweak the different features of the SIG-III Blog to further customize it to the individual characteristics of the SIG.

In addition to the new interface, I have been able to post to it reasonably regularly regarding a wide range of topics relating to international information. For example, two posts that I found particularly strong were "The Libraries of Timbuktu," about preservation and digitization efforts to save ancient and medieval African manuscripts in Timbuktu, and "Best practices for digital education: A case study of ICT in India," which asked how an implementation strategy for classroom information and communication technologies in a village in India would need to change when applied to different parts of the world.

I have a whole list of topics to post about as time allows in the coming months. But I would like to encourage everyone in SIG-III to get involved! If you have anything at all you would like to communicate to the rest of the SIG – even if it's just a sentence or two long – let me know and I will help you get your thoughts on the Blog. Also in the coming year I would like to do more outreach with the blog in order to reach a wider audience. The blog has RSS feeds for both posts and comments, making it easy to keep up with developments. URL: <http://www.neasist.org/icisc/blog/>

(Aaron Bowen)

2008 International Paper Contest

We held our 9th annual International Paper Contest in spring 2008. The jurors for the competition included Judy Jeng (Chair), Jonathan Levitt (Co-Chair), Aaron Bowen, Yunfei Du, Julian Warner, and Yin Zhang.

The winners were:

First Place Winner: Maqsood Ahmad Shaheen. Use of social networks and

information seeking behavior of students during political crises in Pakistan. (Pakistan)

Second Place Winner: Neela J. Deshpande & S K Pathak. Use of electronic journals in astronomy and astrophysics libraries and information centres in India: A users' perspective. (India)

Third Place Winner: Manjunatha K. Technology and customer expectation in academic libraries: A special reference to technical/management libraries in Karnataka. (India)

Fourth Place Winner: S. M. Pujar, R. K. Kamat, S. Y. Bansode, R. R. Kamat, & S. H. Katigennavar. Identifying and exploiting human needs for people centric evolving knowledge society: A case study of Indian ICT emergence. (India)

Fifth Place Winner: Tariq Ashraf. Empowering people through information: A case study of India's right to information act. (India)

Sixth Place Winner: Pramila Dangwal. Information: By the people, for the people, for development. (India)

The first place winner was awarded financial support (plane tickets, hotel, and complementary conference registration) to attend the ASIS&T Annual Conference in Columbus, Ohio, October 24-29, 2008. The principal authors of the six winning papers were awarded a two-year individual membership to ASIS&T. In addition, all winning and other submitted papers are considered for publication in Elsevier's *International Information and Library Review*. We thank the jury members for their hard work and our donors for their compassion which makes it possible to develop and sustain this international network of scholars in developing countries.

(Jonathan Levitt and Judy Jeng)

Biographies of the First Winner



Maqsood Shaheen did his MLS from the University of the Punjab, Lahore – Pakistan and has ten years experience of conducting reference and research on variety of topics for government officials, academia, journalists, researchers and non-governmental organizations. Presently, he is working as "Reference Specialist" at the American Information Resource Center of the U.S. Embassy, Islamabad. He is a Salzburg Seminar fellow and has professional memberships of Pakistan Library Association, ASIS&T and the Special Library Association. He is the President-Elect of the Asian Chapter of the Special Libraries Association (SLA). He is also the recipient of ASIS&T InfoShare Award for 2008.

SIIG III Listserv and Web Sites

To post a message to sigiii-l:
Send your message to sigiii-l@asis.org [All lower case!]. Attachments will NOT be processed.

To subscribe or view prior postings:
Visit the page:
<http://mail.asis.org/mailman/listinfo/sigiii-l>

To unsubscribe:

Step 1. Visit your subscription page at:
http://mail.asis.org/mailman/options/sigiii-l/your_email_address
For example, if your list delivery address is msmith@yahoo.com, the URL to access your subscription page should be:
<http://mail.asis.org/mailman/options/sigiii-l/msmith@yahoo.com>

Step 2. On the subscription page, type your password to unsubscribe.
If you forget your password, click the "Email My Password to Me" button to have your password emailed to

you.

SIG III Web site:

The official Web site of SIG III is located at <http://www.asis.org/SIG/SIGIII/>. Please contact Dangzhi Zhao (dzhao@ualberta.ca) if you have any questions regarding the SIG III Web site and the sigiii-l listserv.

**International Calendar of Information Science
Conferences:** <http://icisc.neasist.org/>

(This issue of newsletter was compiled by
Yunfei Du).