

4th Global Information Village Plaza – Personal and Professional Trust in Information in the 21st Century

Moderators:

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Presenters: ASIS&T members, especially SIG/III members, and conference attendees

Building on the success of the 2002-2004 Global Information Village Plazas, this symposium maintains its interactive format, allowing ASIS&T members an opportunity to express their personal views about the challenges and opportunities that the information society represents in their personal and professional lives.

The discussion will focus on the issue of trust in information – specifically on how information professionals and members of a general public judge the authority of the information they receive. The discussion will pay particular attention to the way in which perceptions of trust change in different cultural contexts – for example in societies and cultures that allow their citizens greater individual freedoms in comparison to more rigid or collective societies and cultures.

This topic relates specifically to the theme of this year's conference – Shaping the Digital Future for All – in that information crosses national boundaries on a daily basis. Information shared between cultures can be subject to diverse perceptions of trust, which in turn affects a person's views of the value of an increasingly global information society in their personal and professional lives. The issue of trust in information is also relevant to librarians and information professionals, who must

address questions such as what their role in building trust is, and how they may accomplish this in an era of global digital information, where users may turn to multiple sources of information of varying degrees of authority or subjectivity.

This year's Global Information Village Plaza adds a new information and communication tool in the form of a blog, built and maintained by the same team who maintained the blog for the 2005 ASIS&T conference. This online interactive forum will be reachable by any professional, thereby allowing ASIS&T to expand its circle of interaction and offering the information professional community around the globe who will be unable to attend the 2006 Annual Meeting an opportunity to contribute their thoughts on trust in information.

Introduction

While there exist many expert sources of information on the varied aspects of the "information society," the opportunities for the lay professional public to debate the implications of this society on their personal and professional lives are much less available. The Global Information Village Plaza (now in its fourth year) seeks to fill this gap. It offers an opportunity for all ASIS&T members and information professionals at large to share opinions and consider these implications in an informal setting. It allows the community of information professionals to examine their own views -as opposed to institutional, corporate or other predetermined and politically correct ones.

This session of the Global Information Village Plaza will facilitate candid yet engaging discourse on the issue of trust in information. It will provide an open forum for conference attendees as well as posters to the Global Information Village Plaza blog to discuss the varied aspects of trust in information. These discussions will include such questions as what does trust entail? How should it be measured? What does it mean for a person to decide to trust a piece of information or its source? How is trust informed by one's cultural background? Is it easier to trust some governments than others with respect to investigating personal Internet activity or library circulation records? And how does an official request to monitor Internet search engine traffic affect a person's willingness to trust a search engine with the collection of personal data or information?

The blog will reflect these broad categories of discussion, and will allow blog posters to discuss these issues in the context of librarianship or another

professional information service, and/or in a personal context. Pending moderator approval, blog posters will also be allowed to post their own questions about trust.

The moderators will inquire with other ASIS&T SIGs and Chapters to see if they would be interested in partnering with SIG/III and engaging their members to contribute their views to the Plaza.

Before the Annual Meeting

BLOG:

Working with the team that built and maintained the 2005 conference blog, we will operate a blog specifically for the Global Information Village Plaza. This blog will be accessible via the ASIS&T website and will be up and running in June of 2006. It will be monitored by the two session moderators.

Once the blog is live, the moderators will post an introduction to the Global Information Village Plaza and how the blog fits into the Plaza as a whole. The moderators will also post several short (300 words maximum) discussions of different aspects of trust in information to get blog conversation going. Ideas for these discussions include the questions asked in the introduction as well as perspectives on trust of information from developing vs. developed nations; from practitioners vs. scholars; from students vs. seasoned scholars; or for professional vs. personal uses.

PRE-CONFERENCE DISCUSSION:

A call for participation in the blog discussions will be issued on all ASIS&T listservs and other professional lists around the world, as far as possible. People will be asked to post to the blog a short (300 words maximum) position statement concerning their definitions of and perceptions about trust, or they can respond to an existing post. The statements should articulate what is new and challenging about an aspect of trust; what should be investigated and how; what individuals, information services and professional societies should do in order to deepen the discussion on trust in information and propose research and action agendas.

At the Annual Meeting

During the session at the Annual Meeting posters will be placed on the walls around the room, each listing three to four aspects of trust discussed on the blog. There will be a table in front of each poster. Discussion facilitators will be stationed the tables, facilitating live discussion with session attendees on the topics addressed by the

corresponding poster. Participants will be able to move around the room. They will be able to join informal discussion groups corresponding to the posters. They will also be able to discuss with other participants.

After 20 to 25 minutes, individual discussions will stop. One of the two moderators will ask each discussion facilitator in turn for a summary of the ideas generated by the discussion groups. The other moderator will post the ideas presented by each facilitator to the blog using a laptop with a WiFi connection. This laptop will be hooked up to a projector allowing the whole room to see the new blog posts as they are added.

The floor will be opened for further general discussion. The moderators will post summary points from this discussion to the blog as the discussion progresses.

After the Annual Meeting

The blog will be kept running for two months after the meeting for further commentary. During this time the major ideas that emerged from the blog discussion will be edited and assembled into a paper for publication in a professional journal (such as the Bulletin of the American Society for Information Science and Technology).