Digital Liaisons: Student Perspectives on Curating the Information Life Cycle

SIG Digital Libraries
Various Institutions
http://www.asis.org/SIG/sigdl/

eugeniakim@purdue.edu

ABSTRACT
At national conferences for organizations such as the American Library Association and the Society of American Archivists, master’s students are a visibly recognized population for whom financial and mentoring support is considered essential. Participation is also encouraged through calls for papers and posters to be featured in student-only sessions. The SIG Digital Libraries proposes a panel exclusively featuring posters and presentations by master’s and undergraduate students on topics pertaining to the digital curation of user information. This event is intended to serve the purpose of attracting more master’s and undergraduate students to the 2011 ASIS&T annual meeting as well as highlighting their research accomplishments.

Keywords
Students, master’s students, undergraduate students, student research.

INTRODUCTION
At the 2010 ASIS&T Annual Meeting, the first Student Design Competition was held to provide a venue for students to actively participate in the conference. Although the student population at the 2010 ASIS&T meeting was small, there were still a larger number of doctoral students than master’s or undergraduate students present. At national conferences for organizations such as the American Library Association and the Society of American Archivists, master’s students are a visibly recognized population for whom financial and mentoring support is considered essential. Participation is also encouraged through calls for papers and posters to be featured in student-only sessions. While it is understandable that developed research is traditionally the domain of PhD candidates, faculty, and professionals, it is important to remember that library and information school programs are still largely for master’s degrees. Undergraduate students are also a valuable audience due to the recent trend to recruit candidates earlier for masters programs and increase in bachelors programs in information science.

This panel would acknowledge the presence of ASIS&T student members by providing a less intimidating environment for master’s and undergraduate students to present independent research on topics related to information and knowledge management. By limiting participation to their peers, master’s and undergraduate students are able to compete within a smaller pool of proposal submissions. In recognition of limited student funding, participants would be allowed to present in absentia. The event would also serve as a social meeting point to facilitate networking between students, faculty, and professionals.

The immediate benefits of holding such an event are to:

- Provide an opportunity for students at the master’s and undergraduate level to present at a national conference as well as have their work published in an informal proceedings to be hosted online by SIG Digital Libraries
- Provide an opportunity for students at the master’s and undergraduate level to present regardless of financial state
- Provide presenters with the opportunity to receive immediate feedback from both peers and veteran ASIS&T members
- Increase the participation of individual student members and student chapters within the annual meeting
- Act as another social outlet for students
- Provide educators with a chance to assess variances in information science curriculums in regards to digital curation topics

TOPIC
For this event, students would be asked to submit poster and lightning talk proposals that address how information professionals can assist users in digitally curating the information that they generate. Proposals can include, but
are not limited to, past research, case studies, and current projects on data curation, digital curation, preservation and management, information and knowledge management, and institutional repositories.

**ORGANIZER, MODERATOR, AND PRESENTERS**

The panel is being jointly organized by the SIG Digital Libraries (DL). The moderator will be Eugenia Kim, the current SIG DL Webmaster. Anne Diekema, SIG DL officer for Membership, will make opening remarks for the event, Jacob Carlson of Purdue University will provide a keynote speech on the topic of data curation, and 2011 SIG DL Chair June Abbas will close the event with a plenary speech.

The student presenters will be selected through an open call for proposals starting on July 25 to avoid conflict with the main call for proposals and continue until September 15 to accommodate the start of the academic school year. The cooperation of LIS program faculty, LIS program administrative offices, and ASIS&T student chapters would be necessary in order to create effective promotion. The SIG will advertise largely through listservs which provide announcements all year long. They will also take advantage of the fact that many programs offer summer classes to students. Up to 10 poster submissions and 10 lightning talk submissions will be selected to present during the panel. Each submission may be a solo or group proposal.

Both posters and lightning talk proposals would be selected based on the following criteria: relevancy of topics to the SIG DL mission, feasibility of presentation within a compressed format, and originality of research. All research would be expected to be purely the student(s)’ work and could include schoolwork, internship reflections, work related experience, and independent interests. Student chapters and teams are encouraged to submit a joint proposal. All abstracts, posters, and PowerPoint presentations would be compiled into a proceedings PDF to be posted on the SIG DL website.

**STRUCTURE AND FORMAT**

“Digital Liaisons: Student Perspectives on Curating the Information Life Cycle” would take place as a single or double panel session featuring up to 10 posters and 10 lightning talks by students on topics relevant to digital libraries and other relevant fields.

**Posters**

The posters would be displayed around the room for the entire session, including during the lightning talks. Students who cannot attend the session would be allowed to send in their poster ahead of time or have someone else put it up for them.

**Lightning Talks**

Lightning talks would consist of 5-minute presentations with no more than 10 PowerPoint/Prezi/etc slides (optional). Presenters could alternatively present a video if they prefer. Students who wish to participate in absentia would be encouraged to submit in video format.

**Timetable**

The session would run according to the following timetable:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Pre-panel</th>
<th>Time</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Poster set up</td>
<td>15 minutes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>During panel</td>
<td>Time</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poster browsing</td>
<td>30 minutes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Opening remarks</td>
<td>5-10 minutes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Keynote/opening speech</td>
<td>10 minutes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lightning talks and videos</td>
<td>90 minutes (includes time for set-up and transitions)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Closing speech</td>
<td>10 minutes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Time for audience to ask presenters questions, socialize, fill out the survey</td>
<td>30 minutes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Post panel</td>
<td>Time</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Take down posters</td>
<td>15 minutes</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Maximum time proposed: 210 minutes (approx. 3.5 hours)

During the event, attendees would be asked to fill out a paper or computerized survey to provide feedback on the event and presentations.

**POTENTIALLY INTERESTED SIGS**

This event would be of immediate relevance to SIG Digital Libraries, SIG Knowledge Management, and SIG Education for Information Science.

Given the universal theme and potential variety offered by student proposals, this panel could be applicable to almost any SIG.