2012 ASIST Annual Conference Panel Session:
In Search of a Unifying Principle:
Archives, Knowledge Management, Library Management, and Records Management

Sponsored by SIG MGT, SIG KM, SIG HFIS, and the ASIST Information Professional Task Force

Moderator: Bill Edgar, Missouri State University, billedgar@missouristate.edu

Track:

Track 2: Interaction

Outcomes

- Better understanding of the relevance to ASIST members of the relationships among archives, knowledge management, libraries, and records management within organizations
- Proposals for collaborative activity between SIG MGT, SIG KM, and the Information Professional Task Force examining these relationships

Topic:

This session will explore the common and differential responsibilities among the functions of archives, knowledge management, library management, and records management, as represented by their professional organizations. These professions are often perceived to have distinct responsibilities: libraries for published information, records management for proprietary information, archives for “the non-current records of individuals, groups, institutions, and governments that contain information of enduring value” (using an SAA definition), and knowledge management in its tacit and explicit forms.

From this viewpoint, libraries, records management, and archives’ responsibilities are not overlapping, and are instead mutually exclusive. Moreover, it suggests that knowledge management supports these activities and even supplies information support not provided by libraries, records management, or archives. The session will examine how representatives of these information functions define them and how these conceptualizations can be applied, both separately and in collaboration with one another, so as to enhance research and practice.

Discussion Questions for the speakers and session attendees include:

1. How should archives, knowledge management, librarianship, and the management of records be differentially defined?
2. Why does this matter to researchers, to information professionals, or to managers?
3. In light of this, how can SIG MGT, SIG KM, and the Information Professional Task Force coordinate their activities better?
**Description (180 minutes)**

This panel session will be moderated by Dr. Bill Edgar, the current chairperson of SIG MGT.

The speakers will include guests from the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA), the Association of Records Managers and Administrators (ARMA), the Society of American Archivists (SAA), the Special Libraries Association (from a corporate library), as well as a researcher in knowledge management drawn from ASIST SIG KM membership. Their comments will be synthesized Dr. Julian Warner, a member of SIG HFIS. The speakers will address the Discussion Questions from their own viewpoint as well as that of their professional or scholarly society.

Though SIG MGT has been inactive in recent years, it has the potential to be a forum for information professionals and researchers to discuss complex questions spanning multiple information professions and organizational environments. This session has the potential to revive interest in SIG MGT; it also provides an opportunity for ASIST members to advance the agenda of the ASIST Information Professionals Task Force across the information professions.

The session will occur across two blocks, each block lasting 90 minutes, with the two separated by a coffee break. During the first 90 minutes, each speaker will discuss his or her thoughts on the Discussion Questions for approximately 12 minutes, ending with Dr. Warner’s remarks.

The second 90 minutes will be led by Dr. Sandy Hirsh, the current chairperson of the Information Professional Task Force. For the first 60 minutes attendees will split into groups to discuss the speakers’ remarks, with the speakers and Dr. Hirsh rotating around the groups to facilitate discussions. Then Dr. Hirsh will lead a session-wide discussion for the final 30 minutes reviewing and integrating attendees comments.

**Moderator:**

Dr. Bill Edgar, Missouri State University [ASIST, SIG MGT]

**Speakers:**

Mr. Paul M. Wester, Jr., National Archives and Records Administration

Mr. Peter Chiomenti, General Conference of Seventh Day Adventists [ARMA, SAA]

Mr. Chad Doran, Applied Physics Lab, John Hopkins University [ARMA]

Dr. Sandra Hirsh, San Jose State University, [ASIST Information Professional Task Force]

Dr. Julian Warner, Queen’s University Belfast [ASIST SIG HFIS]

Dr. Heather Day Pfeiffer, New Mexico State University [ASIST SIG KM]

Ms. Deanna Hall, President, Corporate Information Resources, Inc.