

SIG-III Newsletter

Volume 13, Number 1 – March 2013



International Information Issues

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

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Greetings from the Chair

By Abebe Rorissa, Chair, ASIS&T SIG-III

I know it is a cliché, but worth repeating nonetheless: it is an honor and a privilege to serve as the chair of our truly wonderful special interest group, the Special Interest Group for International Information Issues (SIG-III) of the Association for Information Science and Technology (ASIS&T). I could bore you with a long list of reasons, but I won't. Because, if you are an ASIS&T and/or SIG-III member reading this issue of the Newsletter who, despite the threat of Hurricane Sandy, happened to be at last year's ASIS&T Annual Meeting in Baltimore, Maryland, you attended either the panel discussion on the history of SIG-III's 30th anniversary or the International Reception or both and heard them all. Whether it is Michel Menou's great video at the International Reception (<http://www.asis.org/SIG/SIGIII/announcements/wed-2012-10-17-1015/sig-iiis-30th-anniversary-interviews>) or Toni Carbo's and Tefko Saracevic's impassioned presentation and talk about the founding and history of our SIG during the lively panel discussion, they all show why SIG-III is over 30 years old and still going strong. We owe

them, the founding members of SIG-III, as well as others who were at the helm of our SIG for the last 30 years, a great deal of gratitude.

Speaking of those who were at the helm of SIG-III, Daniel and his excellent team of officers, with help from the wider SIG-III membership, did accomplish a great deal last year. Not only did SIG-III play a huge role in the reduction of ASIS&T membership fees for members from developing countries, but we also organized events to mark the SIG's 30th anniversary, put together panels at the 2012 ASIS&T Annual Meeting, started a 30th anniversary commemorative publication that includes videos of the founding members, and totally revamped the SIG-III website using Drupal, just to mention a few.

The 2012 SIG-III Business Meeting was not only well attended with a number of fresh faces in the room, but it was also where some great ideas were generated and received enthusiastically. I would like to thank all the attendees, in general, and those who were nominated as well as elected to the various vacant officers' positions, in particular. Please read the minutes of the Meeting here: http://www.asis.org/SIG/SIGIII/sites/default/files/2012/%3F11/sig-iii_2012_minutes.pdf or in this issue of the Newsletter.

As always, the International Reception at the 2012 Annual Meeting was a smashing success (on par with, if not more than, that of the host city's football team's, the Baltimore Ravens', winning of Super Bowl XLVII the same year), despite a last minute cancellation of the appearance by a live band, once again, due to Hurricane Sandy rather than lack of trying on the part of the SIG-III officers (especially Shimelis Assefa who did everything humanly possible). Our thanks go to, among others: a) ASIS&T members who either donated or bid on items for the silent auction, b) a number of volunteers who organized the room and sold raffle tickets, c) the Drexel University's Student Chapter of ASIS&T for providing a beautiful gift basket, d) Elsevier, and e) the ASIS&T headquarters staff who took care of things with such great professionalism.

Our regular activities such as the InfoShare Program and International Paper Contest continue to attract nominations and submissions from all over the developing world thanks to the dedication and hard work of the officers responsible for the respective programs. Our Social Media Administrators continued their efforts to increase our social media presence via Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn, and the like in order to attract more members and publicize our and ASIS&T's activities. The SIG-III Newsletter, with its rich content, up-to-date news, and important announcements, contributed by the SIG's officers and edited by Sarah Emmerson, who has a keen eye for style and substance,

remains as informative as ever.

For 2013, we have plans to strengthen the regular SIG-III activities and add new ones such as organizing webinars on topics relevant to information professionals in developing countries. In the last month, I shared a list of SIG-III activities with the officers and received some constructive inputs. A number of SIG-III members are also putting together proposals for panels and a pre-conference workshop at the 2013 ASIS&T Annual Meeting in Montreal, Canada. I have also shared with the general SIG-III membership a list of topics sent to me by those who responded to my call for suggestions of possible panel and workshop topics. This year, the deadline for submission of panel and workshop proposals to the Annual Meeting Organizing Committee is April 15, 2013.

Please know that I value your suggestions, opinions, and comments, and you are welcome to share them with me and/or other SIG-III officers at any time via the website (<http://www.asis.org/SIG/SIGIII/officers>) or any other means. Let's keep SIG-III strong!

2012 International Paper Contest Results

By Maqsood Shaheen, International Paper Contest Chair, ASIS&T SIG-III

The Association for Information Science and Technology (ASIS&T) Special Interest Group on International Information Issues (SIG-III) is pleased to announce the following winners of its 13th International Paper Contest:

First Place Winner:

Muhammad Sajid Mirza and Dr. Khalid Mahmood. *Electronic resources and services in Pakistani university libraries: A survey of users' satisfaction.* (Pakistan)

Second Place Winner:

Yahya Ibrahim Harnade. *Authorship patterns in engineering education.* (Nigeria)

Third Place Winner:

Lallaisangzuali Sailo. *Information needs and seeking behaviour of social science post-graduate students and research scholars of Mizoram University: A case study.* (India)

Fourth Place Winner (1):

Ibrahim Usman Alhaji and Yahya Ibrahim Harnade. *Basic literature of diabetes: A bibliometrics analysis of three countries in different world regions.* (Nigeria)

Fourth Place Winner (2):

Irene Onyancha. *Addressing institutional dementia in Africa: The case of the ECA Institutional Repository - A knowledge base on African socio-economic development.* (Ethiopia)

The jurors for the 2012 competition included Maqsood

Shaheen (Chair), Alma Rivera (Member), Fatih Oguz (Member), Xiao Hu (Member), and members of the SIG-III board.

The principal authors of each of all winning papers were awarded a two-year individual membership to ASIS&T. In addition, the first place winner was awarded a minimum of \$2,000 to attend the ASIS&T Annual Meeting in Baltimore, Maryland, October 26-30, 2012.

Those winning papers and other submitted papers for the competition were considered for publication by 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.

2012 International Paper Contest Winners' Biographies

First Place Winner



Muhammad Sajid Mirza
(Pakistan)

Muhammad Sajid Mirza is a Senior Librarian at the International Islamic University, Islamabad, Pakistan, with 15 years of work experience both in the public and private sector's higher educational institutions. Mirza completed his Master's in Library Science from the University of the Punjab in 1997 and is presently a PhD scholar at the Centre for South Asian Studies, University of the Punjab, Lahore, Pakistan, where he submitted his dissertation on "Utility of IT in the University Libraries of Pakistan" for evaluation in August 2010. Mirza's five research papers have been published in journals of repute. He has participated in 23 national and international conferences, workshops, and trainings, as well as conducted many workshops and trainings for researchers, scholars, and librarians to increase their knowledge in the areas of literature research, online databases, referencing of information, avoiding plagiarism, and using document delivery services.

Mirza is also teaching courses leading to a Master's in Library and Information Science degree at Allama Iqbal Open University, Islamabad and Muhau-ud-din Islamic

University's Islamabad campus. His areas of interest are bibliometric studies, information literacy, and use of IT in libraries. He served the Pakistan Library Association (Federal Branch) as an Assistant Secretary during 2007-2011 and the SLA Asian Chapter as a Country Representative during 2009-2010. Mirza is the Country Contact for Infolit Global (an initiative of the International Federation of Library Associations) as well as the Editor of "Akhbar-e-Shariah." His vision is to inculcate information literacy skills among all the youth of Pakistan.

Second Place and Fourth Place (1) Co-author Winner



Yahya Ibrahim Harnade (Nigeria)

Yahya Ibrahim Harnade earned a Bachelor's degree in Library Science from Bayero University, Kano, Nigeria and a Master's degree in Library and Information Science (MLIS) from Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria, Nigeria. Currently, Harnade is pursuing a PhD in Library and Information Science, hoping to graduate in the third quarter of this year. He started his working career with the National Library of Nigeria. Harnade later moved to Abubakar Tafawa Balewa University Library as a Librarian I, and then he transferred his services to Bayero University, Kano, where he presently teaches in the Department of Library and Information Science. His areas of research interest include information use, ICTs and information, e-learning, and information management. He has a number of publications in both local and international journals. In addition, Harnade has presented papers at workshops and conferences at both local and international levels.

Third Place Winner



Lallaisangzuali Sailo (India)

Lallaisangzuali Sailo, who is currently working as an Assistant Librarian at Central Library, Mizoram University, Aizawl, Mizoram, India, has more than 10 years of experience in the library profession. She is currently pursuing a PhD in Library and Information Science from Mizoram University and has contributed 5 papers to seminars and conferences at the regional, national, and international levels. Sailo is a life member of the Indian Library Association and the IASLIC as well as one of the editors of the *Indian Journal of Information Science* (INDIANJIS).

Fourth Place Winner (1)



Ibrahim Usman Alhaji (Nigeria)

A graduate of Library and Information Science from the University of Maiduguri and a holder of a Master's in Library and Information Science from Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria, Ibrahim Usman Alhaji has had training in library and information software in various countries around the world. In 2003 he was a research fellow of IFLA/ALP Bart-Nwafor Fellowship in Kenya, where he took many courses on Information Communication Technology (ICT). He was also one of 15 selected African librarians trained on Greenstone Digital Library Software by the United Nations Education and Scientific Cultural Organization (UNESCO) in Dakar, Senegal. As well as visiting the United States to present a paper at the American Library Association, Alhaji also presented at the Islamic Manuscript Association Annual Conference, Queens College, University of Cambridge, United Kingdom; the IADIS International Conference e-Society in Portugal; and the African Digital Scholarship and Curation Conference in South Africa. He was a member of the team that wrote a feasibility study of the Nigerian Virtual Library of Higher Institutions in Nigeria, organized and sponsored by UNESCO and the Japanese government. Alhaji has written and presented many papers at local and international workshops, seminars, and conferences, including the Nigerian Library Association National Conference.

Previously, Alhaji has served as President of the National Association of Library and Information Science Students (NALISS); Speaker of the Students' Representative Assembly, University of Maiduguri Students Union Government; Secretary of the Nigerian Library Association FCT; and, presently, Coordinator of the National Center of

Expertise on Digital Collections, Kashim Ibrahim Library, Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria, Nigeria.

Alhaji is a cool-headed, dynamic, hardworking, and honest young man committed to the promotion and development of youth and the library profession.

Fourth Place Winner (2)



Irene Onyancha (Ethiopia)

Irene Onyancha is an Information Management Specialist with over 17 years of experience in the information management and library sciences field. She holds a degree in biological sciences from the University of Nairobi, Kenya and a Master's in Information Management from the University of Sheffield, UK.

Having worked in established national and international research organizations as well as in the United Nations, Onyancha has excellent knowledge and experience in information management principles and practices for both print and electronic information resources. Her work includes the development of the AgMES Namespace and the AGRIS Application Profile (AGRIS AP), a Dublin Core metadata standard extension for exchange of agricultural information resources. She also has extensive experience in the development of institutional repositories as well as open access practices and capacity building activities in the area of information management in support of institutional libraries and documentation centers across the African continent.

As Chief of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) Library, Onyancha is responsible for the development of the ECA Institutional Repository and is currently working on other projects geared towards strengthening knowledge availability, discovery, and access from the African continent through the Access to Scientific/Socio-Economic Knowledge in Africa (ASKIA) initiative.

2012 International Paper Contest Winning Papers Selected for Publication in *IILR*

By Toni Carbo, SIG Cabinet Representative and Advisory Board Member, ASIS&T SIG-III

All papers submitted to the 2012 International Paper Contest of SIG-III were considered for publication in the *International Information and Library Review (IILR)*. In the Foreword of the September 2012 issue of *IILR*, I noted: "This year is the 30th anniversary of the founding of SIG-III by Dr. Michel Menou, an outstanding colleague and leader in our field, as well as the 75th Anniversary of the founding of ASIS&T. At its conference in Baltimore, Maryland, USA in October 2012, the Society celebrated its history with a special pre-Conference Seminar on History of ASIS&T and Information Science and Technology Worldwide -- a fitting theme for an international society that is so highly respected around the world."

While many fine papers were submitted, some fell outside the scope of *IILR*. Two were selected: 1) the first-place winner by Muhammad Sajid Mirza and Khalid Mahmood, *Electronic resources and services in Pakistani university libraries: A survey of users' satisfaction*; and 2) *Addressing institutional potential loss of records and knowledge in Africa: The case of the ECA Institutional Repository -- A knowledge base on African socio-economic development* by Irene Onyancha, Ahmed Al-Awah, and Florie Cole, which tied for 4th place in the Contest.

In the introduction I also extended thanks to ASIS&T SIG-III and, in particular, to the members of the Contest's jury: Maqsood Shaheen (Chair), Reference Specialist, US Embassy, Islamabad, Pakistan; Alma Rivera (Co-Chair), Universidad Iberoamericana, Ciudad de México; and Fatih Oguz (Co-Chair), University of North Carolina at Greensboro - UNCG, for their work on the Contest.

Because I have stepped down as editor of *IILR* after 22 years as co-editor or editor, this collaboration between SIG-III and *IILR* comes to an end. I hope that the new editor, Karen I. MacDonald, a librarian at Kent State University, will be encouraged to continue this partnership in the future. I would like to personally thank SIG-III for the opportunity and pleasure of working with all of you to encourage research and publication by individuals around the world through taking the time to provide thoughtful reviews and constructive comments, numerous revisions, and encouragement. We have been able to expand the number and quality of publications and to benefit from the knowledge and perspectives of our colleagues in our global village.

2012 SIG-III Business Meeting Minutes

By Shimelis Assefa, Past-Co-Chair, ASIS&T SIG-III

1. Introductions
 - a. Daniel Gelaw Alemneh, Chair of SIG-III, welcomed all attendees. He asked members to introduce themselves and, accordingly, all those who were present took turns to introduce themselves.
2. Election of officers
 - a. Incoming chair-elect and co-chair-elect for the

- current year were first approved.
- b. In addition to Michel Menou, Edie Rasmussen was recommended by Toni Carbo to serve on the advisory board.
 - c. Communications officers – another open position was filled. The charges for the communications officers included maintaining the International Calendar of Information Science Conferences: <http://www.asist.org/Conferences/calendar/>.
 - d. A SIG Liaison Officer was added. Yao Zhang volunteered to serve as liaison officer interfacing with other SIGs (especially SIG-ED). She will also serve as one of the Communication Officers.
 - e. The following were approved as officers for 2012-13.
 - **Chair:** Abebe Rorissa
 - **Co-Chair:** Kendra Albright
 - **Chair-Elect:** Anatoliy Gruzd
 - **Co-Chair-Elect:** Krystyna Matusiak
 - **Immediate Past Chair:** Daniel Gelaw Alemneh
 - **Immediate Past Co-Chair:** Shimelis Assefa
 - **Treasurer:** Bahaa El-Hadidy
 - **Cabinet Representative:** Toni Carbo
 - **Alternate Cabinet Representative:** Chair and/or Chair-Elect
 - **Newsletter Editor:** Sarah Emmerson
 - **Communications Officers:** Muhammad Sajid Mirza and Yao Zhang
 - **SIG Liaison Officer:** Yao Zhang
 - **International Paper Contest Chair:** Maqsood Shaheen
 - **International Paper Contest Jury Members:** Alma Rivera and Fatih Oguz
 - **Mentorship Coordinator:** Sarah Emmerson
 - **InfoShare Officers:** Selenay Aytac and Devendra Potnis
 - **Webmasters:** Fatih Oguz and Borchuluun Yadamsuren
 - **Social Media Administrators:** Anatoliy Gruzd and Anindita Paul
 - **SIG-III Advisory Board Members:** Toni Carbo, Nadia Caidi, and Edie Rasmussen
3. Approval of Minutes from 2011 SIG-III Business Meeting
 - a. The chair offered a motion to approve the minutes as published in the May 2012 issue of the SIG-III Newsletter and asked members for their approval. It was approved unanimously.
 4. Treasurer report
 - a. The treasurer was absent. The chair announced the details will be posted later. The accounting system has now changed and will be reported at a later date.
 5. SIG Cabinet meeting report
 - a. Toni Carbo, SIG-III Cabinet Representative, gave a detailed briefing on the cabinet meeting. The fiscal year runs from 10/1 to 9/30. Coffee and snacks can be charged for the previous year but has to be budgeted in the current year to be applied for the coming year.
 - b. Toni noted that we get about 5.50 US Dollars for each SIG member – we need to report before 9/30 how we plan to spend the money – refreshments, or speakers (even if they are not a member). If we don't use the money, the funds will go into a pool that will be used by all the SIGs – many SIGs don't use their allotted budget/money. The Elsevier Foundation donated \$5,000 to SIG-III on behalf of Toni Carbo. Roughly, we have about an \$8,000 balance in the budget.
 - c. If we want more – we can apply for SIG funds. For next year's conference – a proposal for money requests has to be submitted before December 1st.
 - d. If we make or raise money – we can carry it over.
 - e. The SIG Cabinet was not involved in the organization of this year's Annual Meeting, nor were the SIGs involved in the call for proposals and announcements.
 - f. Members of SIG-III are encouraged to submit/suggest ideas/criteria for SIG panels for the next Annual Meeting.
 - g. SIG members are on our mailing list and we need to make sure that we get the list from Vanessa Foss.
 - h. The chair of the SIG has to introduce himself/herself online and welcome members and ask others to join. Not only can SIGs suggest panels but they can also suggest keynote speakers.
 - i. So many ideas were floated – compiling history was one of them.
 6. Chair report (Daniel Gelaw Alemneh).
 The chair presented, planned, and completed potential ideas and activities. He mentioned there were 14 major activities listed for the year and most of them were successfully completed. The highlights of the year's activities include:
 - a. Reduced membership fees approved for developing countries:
 - i. We submitted a proposal recommending reduced membership fees for individuals residing in countries categorized annually by the United Nations as “medium” or “low” with respect to human development. The ASIS&T Board considered the SIG-III proposal and adopted it unanimously in early 2012. (See details in Inside ASIS&T: http://www.asis.org/Bulletin/February/FebMar12_Inside.html).
 - b. 30th Anniversary Publication: <http://www.asis.org/SIG/SIGIII/30th-anniversary-publication>

- i. Interviewing Toni Carbo and Michel Menou.
 - ii. Assessing and evaluating the contribution of various current and past SIG-III activities and initiatives, including the International Paper Contest, the InfoShare Program (Abebe Rorissa and his group are working on InfoShare impacts), the SIG-III Social Media Squad (Anatoliy and his group are working on SIG-III's social media activities).
 - c. Bylaws – a taskforce was put together last year and will continue their activities this year.
 - d. Mentorship Program – was not active as such and we need ideas to revitalize it.
 - e. Newsletter – the May 2012 Newsletter has been published and the latest edition will come out soon.
 - f. Social media – our social media presence has been revitalized and changed due to Anatoliy Gruzd's group's hard work. While we already had a Facebook group, the launch of our new Twitter account (@sig3i) further contributes to engaging the ASIS&T community.
 - g. Finances – Bahaa El-Hadidy will post the financial report.
 - h. Award and sponsors – The SIG-III founders will be honored at the 2012 International Reception event.
 - i. Photos and videos of SIG-III activities – Facebook site has been used to compile and collect SIG-III related photos and videos. Members are encouraged and requested to contribute their old photos and videos.
 - j. New and enhanced Drupal-based SIG-III website: <http://www.asis.org/SIG/SIGIII/>.
 - k. Other activities include:
 - i. SIG-III contributed to ASIST's Webinars Taskforce: <http://www.asis.org/Conferences/webinars/TaskForceOnWebinars.pdf>.
 - ii. We sent our comments and suggestions regarding amendments of ASIST's ProQuest Doctoral Scholarship requirements (to include dissertations written in languages other than English).
 - iii. We sponsored the 75th Anniversary keynote speaker (for the pre-conference event): <http://asis.org/asist2012/historyofASIST.html>.
 - iv. We sponsored two panels at the 2012 Annual Meeting:
 - *The Origins of SIG-III and Its 30 Years' Journey: Visions & Reflections*
 - *Content Divide: Africa and the Global Knowledge Footprint*
7. International Reception
- a. Shimelis Assefa (Co-Chair) summarized the report he prepared profiling the International Reception event over the course of the last twelve years. He also noted the preparations that took

place to arrange for a live Ethiopian musical band to celebrate the 30th SIG-III anniversary at the 2012 International Reception. However, the program was canceled because of Hurricane Sandy.

8. New website and social media activities report
 - a. The newly redesigned website is ready. It was noted that the design is ready (thanks to the help of William Hicks, from the University of North Texas) – but content needs to be updated – each officer or program area has to take responsibility to maintain his/her content area.
 - b. SIG-III has been active in building up its social media presence and engaging the ASIS&T community via social media. This year, Anatoliy Gruzd and Anindita Paul lead and expanded the SIG-III social media presence into the Twitterverse via the creation of @sig3i (<http://twitter.com/sig3i>).
9. SIG-III Bylaws revision
 - a. Abebe Rorissa mentioned that this is in the works.
10. New business
 - a. The task of maintaining the ICISC Calendar is assigned to the Communication Officers as noted above in agenda #2(c).
11. Any other business
 - a. 2013 ASIS&T Annual Meeting is November 1-6, Sheraton Montreal – together with ICKM and CASE - Toni suggested that we members of SIG-III take the lead – for example by finding speakers in Montreal or from Francophone countries.
 - i. Identify topic areas for possible SIG-III sponsored panels and a preconference workshop.
 - ii. Communication Officers (Muhammad Sajid Mirza and Yao Zhang) will compile information about the city of Montreal – provide interesting info about Montreal to elevate the profile of SIG-III.
 - b. Producing ASIS&T activities in multiple languages was also discussed as well as whether SIG-III can embark on this project.
 - i. Yao Zhang volunteered to work on a SIG-III Facebook page in Chinese.

International Reception at 2012 Annual Meeting

By Shimelis Assefa, Past-Co-Chair, ASIS&T SIG-III

In anticipation of the 2012 ASIS&T Annual Meeting in Baltimore, Maryland, SIG-III's team prepared well in advance to mark the 30th SIG-III and 75th ASIS&T anniversaries in a colorful fashion. Unfortunately, some of the plans were scaled down due to Hurricane Sandy, which battered the east coast, including Baltimore, during the

conference days. Most notably, the planned live band featuring traditional Ethiopian music and dance could not proceed as scheduled. In addition, close friends and regular supporters of SIG-III were not present at the conference due to the weather problem.

However, against all odds the International Reception evening was warm and vibrant, as in previous years. Highlights of the evening included recognizing winners of the 13th International Paper Contest, fundraising for the InfoShare Program via the silent auction and raffle ticket sales, and honoring two distinguished founding members of SIG-III through a lifetime achievement award ceremony. In the International Paper Contest category, the first place winner, Muhammad Sajid Mirza from Pakistan, was present. Mirza presented his winning paper titled *Electronic resources and services in Pakistani university libraries: A survey of users' satisfaction* in a poster format. Moreover, Mirza was presented with a certificate of recognition. In addition, principal authors of the first three winning papers were awarded a two-year individual membership to ASIS&T. The second- and third-place International Paper Contest winners were not present.



The Silent Auction in Action at the 2012 International Reception

The annual InfoShare fundraising activity (as seen in the photo, above) drew a relatively large crowd. A total of \$1,143 was raised through raffle ticket sales and a silent auction, which was quite a success given the subdued atmosphere of the Annual Meeting because of Hurricane Sandy. This year a gift basket was put together by the Drexel University ASIS&T Student Chapter. The gift basket was awarded to the 1st prize winner determined by the draw from the raffle ticket sales at the International Reception. The proceeds from the fundraising events will go towards the InfoShare Fund to be used for next year's

InfoShare Program winners.

Finally, Drs. Toni Carbo and Michel Menou, two distinguished scholars who were instrumental in establishing SIG-III some 30 years ago were honored with lifetime achievement awards. A crystal trophy in the shape of a globe was presented to Toni Carbo by the outgoing chair, Daniel Alemneh. Michel Menou was unable to attend the conference and it was noted his award will be mailed to his address.

SIG-III Financial Report

By Bahaa El-Hadidy, Treasurer, ASIS&T SIG-III

The SIG-III finances are in excellent condition, as you can see from the following summary:

The SIG General Fund beginning balance this year was \$13,321. We have been allocated \$607 this year from the General SIG Fund. We spent \$500 on our website redesign, resulting in a net income of \$107. So, our ending balance is \$13,428. Since we have used only \$500 from the allocated \$607, it should be noted that if the unused \$107 is not used by the year end, it will be deducted from our revenues this year.

The InfoShare Program added \$1,143 this year from the Annual Meeting Silent Auction bringing the program balance to \$4,008.10. The program paid two regular ASIS&T memberships and five student memberships for the seven InfoShare recipients, resulting in a balance of \$3,528.10 for FY 2013.

The SIG Scholars Fund started with a balance of \$8,379.68 for the FY ending 9/30/12. The fund paid \$2,000 for the travel expenses of the International Paper Contest's first place winner and \$260 for his workshops: SIG Metrics & SIG Use. The end balance available is \$6,119.68.

2013 InfoShare Award Recipients

By Selenay Aytac and Devendra Potnis, InfoShare Officers, ASIS&T SIG-III

On behalf of all our fellow officers of the Special Interest Group for International Information Issues (SIG-III) of the Association for Information Science and Technology (ASIS&T), we are pleased to announce the winners of the InfoShare awards for 2013.

Information professionals from developing countries, where the cost of ASIS&T membership would be a burden, are eligible to receive one year of membership. SIG-III officers vote on a roster of candidates nominated by ASIS&T colleagues or others.

These memberships were funded by monies raised at the International Reception at the 2012 ASIS&T Annual Meeting in Baltimore, Maryland. We would like to thank

you once again for your support. We are thrilled to be able to offer memberships to the following seven outstanding candidates:

Professional members:

- Mahmood Khosrowjerdi (Iran)
- Ibrahim Ramjaun (Mauritius)
- Teklemichael T. Wordofa (Ethiopia)

Student members:

- Janakiraman Amirthalingam (India)
- Yared Mammo (Ethiopia)
- Fatima Zahra (Pakistan)
- Maryam Zakerhamidi (Iran)

Please welcome these new members into the ASIS&T community! See you all in Montreal, Canada!

2013 InfoShare Award Recipients' Biographies

Professionals

Mahmood Khosrowjerdi



**Mahmood Khosrowjerdi
(Iran)**

Mahmood Khosrowjerdi was born on September 21, 1982 in the beautiful village of Doroodzan, Fars, Iran. He studied for his Bachelor's degree in Library and Information Science (LIS) at Yazd University (www.yazd.ac.ir), 2000-2004, and, consequently, his Master's degree in LIS at the University of Tehran (www.ut.ac.ir), 2004-2006. Khosrowjerdi's Master's dissertation was titled "The impact of personality traits and epistemological beliefs on information seeking behavior of graduate students." His findings were published in *Library and Information Science Research* (ScienceDirect) and the *Iranian Journal of Information Processing and Management* (Scopus).

Khosrowjerdi has been involved in research activities since 2003, while he was working as a research assistant in the Iranian Research Institute of Scientific Information and Documentation (IRANDOC). His interests are information seeking, university ranking, scholarly communication, scientometrics, and, recently, infopreneurship. Khosrowjerdi designed two interesting models for scholarly

communications which were presented in *Library High Tech (LHT)* (Emerald), and *The Electronic Library (TEL)* (Emerald). Then, in 2007, he moved to the Regional Information Center for Science and Technology (RICEST), where he was involved in analyzing scholarly journals in Iran. The results were published in two articles in the *Serials Review Journal* (ScienceDirect). Currently, he is working in the Central Library and Documentation Center of Allameh Tabataba'i University. Khosrowjerdi holds several professional memberships, including Young Researchers and Elites Club (www.bpj.ir), Iranian Scientific Association of Information Management (ISAM) (www.informant.ir), and, recently, ASIS&T (www.asis.org). In addition, he is the owner and managing editor of a newly established journal entitled *Infopreneurship Journal* (www.infopreneurship.net), which is focused on sharing ideas in information management, business, and entrepreneurship in the world.

Khosrowjerdi has published more than 20 peer-reviewed articles in Persian journals, 5 published books (in Persian), and 8 English peer-reviewed articles in the highly ranked journals of Emerald, ScienceDirect, and K. G. Saur Verlag, among others.

Ibrahim Ramjaun



Ibrahim Ramjaun (Mauritius)

Ibrahim Ramjaun is a library and information professional who has completed three decades of work experience in academic, public, special, and national libraries in Mauritius. He earned his Bachelor's degree in Library and Information Science from the Charles Sturt University/University of Mauritius in 2002 and a MSc in Information and Library Management, with distinction, from Birmingham City University (UK) in 2005. Ramjaun was a Visiting Professional at the International Criminal Court Library in the Netherlands in 2007. He was also the recipient of the prestigious IFLA/OCLC Fellowship held in Dublin, OH in 2004. Ramjaun attended the World Library and Information Congress in Berlin in 2003 as well as the first African Library Summit held in 2011. A member of the American Library Association and the current President of the Association of Professional Librarians of Mauritius, Ramjaun has published a number of professional articles at both the local and international levels. He has also been a part-time lecturer in the library and information science field since 2007.

Teklemichael T. Wordofa



Teklemichael T. Wordofa (Ethiopia)

Teklemichael T. Wordofa was an academic staff member of Addis Ababa University (AAU) from 1994 to 2003 and has currently held the same position since May 2011. He coordinates digitization activities and access to digital information within AAU. Wordofa is responsible for developing and managing collaboration between academic and research institutions in Ethiopia to enhance access to digital information under the Programme for the Enhancement of Research Information (PERII), a programme initiated by the International Network for the Availability of Scientific Publications (INASP). Wordofa participates in many e-resource literacy trainings for AAU staff and students, while also teaching courses in the AAU School of Information Science.

Wordofa serves as Coordinator for the Consortium of Ethiopian Academic and Research Libraries (CEARL). As an advocate of open access to research and academic information, he organizes and facilitates series of national workshops on scientific research writing, e-resources use, and digital repository development.

Prior to rejoining AAU in May 2011, Wordofa had worked for the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), based in Vienna, Austria, for seven years as project manager for the development and maintenance of information resources in the field of nuclear science and technology.

In addition, Wordofa is also active in regional issues and is a steering committee member of the International Conference of African Digital Libraries and Archives (ICADLA) as well as Vice-President of the African Digital Library Support Network (ADLSN).

Students

Janakiraman Amirthalingam



Janakiraman Amirthalingam (India)

Janakiraman Amirthalingam holds a Master's in Library and Information Science from Bishop Heber College, Trichy, a M.Phil in Library and Information Science from Alagappa University, Karaikudi, and an MS in Information Technology from Bharathidasan University. Currently, he is pursuing a PhD at Periyar University, Salem, where his research involves ICT applications in research libraries.

Amirthalingam has held the position of Manager of Library Services at the M. S. Swaminathan Research Foundation (Center for Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Development), an internationally recognized NGO, for the past 6 years. He has written research articles on open access archives to present at national and international conferences. Prior to managing the MSSRF's over 20,000 volumes and 3 staff members, Amirthalingam had worked as Chief Librarian in two engineering colleges, where, in one, he set up the RFID system to ensure the safety of the library's materials. He has more than 16 years of experience in running academic and special libraries.

Amirthalingam's special area of research is open access archives (OAA) in the engineering, technology, and management domains. His goal is to set up an OAA institutional repository in every institution so that researchers would be able to easily access information. Amirthalingam has presented more than 10 papers at national and international conferences related to ICT and OAA. He has successfully run OAAs using Eprints software through the Linux Ubuntu Platform as well as maintaining an EPrints (intranet) archive of MSSRF publications, which includes all the research and popular writings of Prof. M. S. Swaminathan as well as press clippings on the work of the Foundation.

Amirthalingam has been a member of SLA, New York since 2008 in the B&F Division and Social Science Division. He is also an Executive Member of SALIS (Society for the Advancement of Library Information Sciences, Chennai, India).

Yared Mammo



Yared Mammo (Ethiopia)

Currently, Yared Mammo is an Assistant Professor of information science, where his main duties are performing as a university/academic librarian, teaching, and continuing research. Mammo has 16 years of professional working experience (managerial & technical/professional responsibilities), of which 14 years were served as a head librarian (Director of Library & Information Services). Mammo is presently serving as a lecturer at undergraduate and graduate levels in the Department of Information Science and Agricultural Information and Communication Management (Communication and Innovation). He has participated in trainings and workshops; presented papers at a variety of regional, national, and international conferences; and served as a resources person for other trainings. Mammo has published 4 articles in international peer-reviewed journals with 8 more articles in the pipeline to be published in reputable international journals in the future. In addition, he has prepared a variety of training/teaching materials (modules) and drafted curricula for the department of information science. Presently, Mammo is serving as a graduate thesis advisor and board member of the examiners as well as a reviewer for an open access international LIS journal.

Maryam Zakerhamidi



Maryam Zakerhamidi (Iran)

Since 2008, Maryam Zakerhamidi has worked as an information specialist with emphasis on the use of digital Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) in the specialized library of the Tavanir Organization in

Tehran. She has also participated in a project to digitize and process materials in the Knowledge Management Department of the Sazeh Pardazi Consulting Eng. Co. since 2011, her work focusing on promoting participatory approaches in knowledge exchange and information management. From 2002 to 2008, during and between her studies, Zakerhamidi worked in several organizations and research institutes in Iran, taking a practical but rigorous approach to information science research.

Zakerhamidi earned her Bachelor's in Medical Library and Information Science from Tabriz University of Medical Sciences in 2006 and completed her Master's in Medical Knowledge and Information Science from Tehran University of Medical Sciences in 2009, respectively. She also earned a graduate degree in Interior Architecture from Shahid Beheshti University, Tehran in 2011.

As a presenter, program committee member, and grantee, Zakerhamidi has been involved in a variety of computer and information science conferences, including iConference, IFLA, RIPE, Informing Science + IT Education Conference, IC-ININFO, and VLDB.

She has also been a member of the IEEE Computer Society, American Telemedicine Association (ATA), ACM, IACSIT, and British Computing Society IR (BCS-IR) special group since 2008.

As a researcher Zakerhamidi's areas of interest include human computer interaction (HCI), user interface, information retrieval (IR), telemedicine, and e-health.

Below is a list of awards that Zakerhamidi has won from 2005 to 2013:

- First rank researcher among BA and MA students, Tabriz University of Medical Sciences, Tabriz, Iran, 2005
- Student Bursary Award winner for 5th Sheffield conference on chemoinformatics, UK 2010
- 76th IFLA conference grant winner, Gothenburg, Sweden, 2010
- Third Place Winner of Balisage 2011 student award, Montréal, Canada, 2011
- Third Place winner of Pars Azarakhsh Digital Library Portal Award, Tehran, Iran, 2011
- Google Grant for female computer scientist's winner, 2011(Vienna, Austria) 2012 (Istanbul, Turkey)
- ALCTS web course winner, 2011
- Received an ASIS&T membership as an InfoShare awardee, 2013

Fatima Zahra

Fatima Zahra's biography was not received by the time of publication. If submitted, SIG-III would be pleased to include Zahra's biography in a future issue of the newsletter.

2013 International Paper Contest

By Maqsood Shaheen, International Paper Contest Chair,
ASIS&T SIG-III

The Special Interest Group on International Information Issues (SIG-III) of the American Society for Information Science & Technology (ASIS&T) is pleased to announce its 13th competition for papers to be submitted for the 2013 Annual Meeting, which will take place in the Centre Sheraton, Montreal, Quebec, Canada, November 1-6, 2013. (<http://asist.org/asist2013/AM2013CFP.pdf>)

Building from the overall conference theme, the theme for this year's paper contest is: "Beyond the Cloud: Rethinking Information Boundaries." Papers could discuss issues, policies, and case studies on specific aspects of the theme from a global and/or international perspective. Topics include, but are not limited to, the following core areas:

- 1. Human Information Interaction:** Information Retrieval; Information Behavior; Human Computer Interaction; Usability; E-Science and Distributed Collaboration; Virtual Organizations; User Modeling; Mobile Technologies.
- 2. Information Organization and Representation:** Metadata; Taxonomies; Information Visualization; Information Architecture; Digital Libraries; Indexing and Abstracting; Classification; Social Tagging; Semantic Web and Ontology; Social Media.
- 3. Information Use and Analysis:** Information Seeking and User Studies; Strategic, Security, and Competitive Intelligence; Information and Knowledge Management; Comparative Analysis of Information Practices; Information Metrics (Bibliometrics/Informatics/Webometrics).
- 4. Information Preservation & Access:** Digital Curation; Big Data; E-books; Information Quality; Copyright, Intellectual Property and Related Issues; Information Literacy.
- 5. Information Environments and Socio-Cultural Aspects:** Organizational and Contextual Issues; Security and Privacy; Economics of Information; Social Informatics; Information Policy; Foundation of Information Science; Digital Humanities; Web 3.0 and related technologies; Cloud Computing.

Selection Criteria

There will be up to three winners who will be selected by a panel of judges including: Maqsood Shaheen (IRC, US Embassy, Islamabad), Alma Rivera (Universidad Iberoamericana, Ciudad de México), and Fatih Oguz (University of North Carolina at Greensboro).

The judging criteria will be based on:

1. Originality of the paper in the developing world and global information ecosystem (originality of the project described, etc.)
2. Relevance to the paper contest theme
3. Quality of argument, presentation, and organization

Eligibility & Information for Authors

Only papers by a principal author who is a citizen of, and resides in, a developing country are eligible. Winners of the 2009-2012 contests are not eligible. The papers should be original, unpublished, and submitted in English. We encourage submissions from librarians, information and network specialists, and educators involved in the creation, representation, maintenance, exchange, discovery, delivery, and use of digital information.

Award

The award for each winner is a two-year individual membership in ASIS&T. In the case of multiple authors, the principal author will be awarded the ASIS&T membership. In addition, depending on SIG-III fundraising for this competition, the first place winner will be rewarded a minimum of \$1,000 toward travel, conference registration, and accommodations while attending the ASIS&T Annual Conference in Montreal, Quebec, Canada, November 1-6, 2013.

Style

The International Paper Contest committee requires that submissions follow the *International Information and Library Review* instructions to authors. Detailed information is available under the heading, Guide for Authors at: http://www.elsevier.com/wps/find/journaldescription.cws_home/622845/authorinstructions

Publishing Opportunities

Submitted papers will be considered for inclusion in a special issue of the *International Information and Library Review*, subject to the usual peer refereeing process, for that journal.

ASIS&T Copyright Policy

ASIS&T will have the non-exclusive right to publish any of the papers submitted on its website or in print, with ownership and all other rights remaining with the author.

Deadline

Deadline for submission of full papers: Authors are invited to submit manuscripts, not to exceed 5,000 words, by May 31, 2013, to Maqsood Shaheen at ShaheenMA@gmail.com, preferably as Microsoft Word or PDF attachments.

Updates from the SIG-III Social Media Squad

By Jennifer Yurchak, SIG-III Social Media Squad Coordinator; Anatoliy Gruzd, Social Media Administrator, ASIS&T SIG-III; and Anindita Paul, Social Media Administrator, ASIS&T SIG-III

A lot has been said about social media and how easy it has made it for people to connect. Social media platforms like Twitter, Facebook, and blogs have redefined information sharing and social networking in multiple ways. They have made it possible to bridge the boundaries of time and space so that relationships can be built and rebuilt as well as knowledge can be preserved and searched. Social media has also made it easier for people to form communities of practice where voices can be heard, support systems can be formed, ideas can flow, hobbies can be shared for which feedback can be sought, and so on. With the click of a mouse or a tap on a tablet, people can connect across geographic boundaries and contribute to various online communities.

Scholars and other professionals around the globe are also starting to rely on social media for professional purposes. Social media platforms – from popular sites like Facebook and Twitter, to more specialized ones, such as Academia.edu and ResearchGate.net – have enabled scholars to easily form online communities, discuss certain topics of common interest, share the results of their research, as well as network and collaborate with colleagues from other institutions.

In recognition of these trends, SIG-III has been active in building up its social media presence and engaging the ASIS&T community via social media. As part of our efforts in this area, we officially created the SIG-III Social Media Squad (SM Squad) in Spring 2012, followed by the launch of our new Twitter account, @sig3i. The SM Squad is currently made up of two social media administrators (Anatoliy Gruzd and Anindita Paul), coordinator (Jennifer Yurchak), and six volunteers (Anntoinette Arsic, Arryn Seburn, Hilary Stamper, Innocent Awasom, Sara Knezevic, and Sarah Farrukh). While SIG-III already had a Facebook group, the creation of @sig3i (<http://twitter.com/sig3i/>) was intended to expand its social media presence into the Twitterverse, a great platform for information sharing and community building across countries.

In just a few months since its creation, @sig3i's Twitter community has grown from zero to over a hundred followers, and it continues to grow. While the majority of followers are from Canada and the United States, @sig3i has reached a global community with followers also coming from Ecuador, the European Union, Australia, and Pakistan (see Figure 1). It has also attracted several influential followers who often retweet our tweets including ASIS&T (@asist_org) with over 1,800 followers and LIS Research (@lisresearch) with over 3,200 followers.

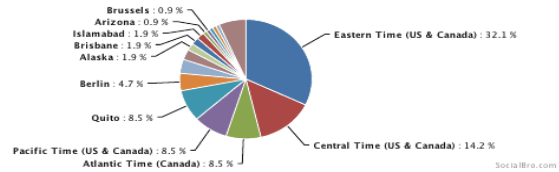


Figure 1: @sig3i Followers by Time Zone

SM Squad tweets cover a range of topics of relevance to the SIG-III community including upcoming job postings, conferences and receptions, emerging technologies of interest to information professionals, and news about libraries and IT-related organizations around the globe. Thus far, the most retweeted links tweeted by the SM Squad were:

- an information literacy infographic (<http://ow.ly/1NmUqo>),
- a blog post about an Austrian digital library initiative (<http://ow.ly/chvQ1>),
- a paper about open access publishing (<http://ow.ly/bnQON>), and
- a CNN World News story about social media in Africa (<http://ow.ly/chyL1>).

These four links demonstrate the breadth of subject matter being disseminated by @sig3i.

To celebrate the initial success of @sig3i and attract more Twitter followers, in July of 2012 the SM Squad conducted a random drawing amongst its followers and awarded Isabella Peters (@Isabella83) from Heinrich-Heine-Universität Duesseldorf in Germany with a \$50 Amazon.com gift card.

As we move into the future, the SM Squad plans to continue supporting SIG-III's goals by promoting global awareness, communication, and interactions amongst ASIS&T and information professionals through @sig3i. For example, at the ASIS&T 2012 conference in Baltimore, Maryland, the SM Squad tweeted about presentations of relevance to the SIG-III community. Through these initiatives, the SM Squad hopes to encourage communication about information issues on a global scale.

Join us on Facebook (<http://www.facebook.com/groups/asist.sig.iii/>) and follow us on Twitter (<http://twitter.com/sig3i/>)!

Call for Donations for InfoShare Silent Auction at 2013 International Reception

By Selenay Aytac and Devendra Potnis, InfoShare Officers, ASIS&T SIG-III

It is time to start thinking about what you want to contribute to the Silent Auction this year. Each year at the ASIS&T Annual Meeting our SIG on International Information Issues holds an International Reception and silent auction. Items donated by ASIS&T members are bid on by other members to raise money to sponsor memberships for colleagues in countries for whom the

membership fee presents a financial hardship.

Donations in the past have included items from the personal households/libraries of members (jewelry, books, etc.), offerings of services (weekend at vacation home, etc), and items created by members specifically for the Silent Auction (paintings, knitted items, wine from member vineyards, etc.).

So, be creative or clear out your attic! No item is too small or too trivial. The bulk of funds are raised on items auctioned for less than \$5!! When in doubt, bring it along!

We'll send you another reminder in early October, but we wanted to get you thinking as you do your spring cleaning.

Thanks for thinking of the InfoShare Award.

2012-2013 SIG-III Officers

Chair

Abebe Rorissa
University at Albany, State University of New York
arorissa@albany.edu

Co-Chair

Kendra Albright
University of South Carolina
albright@sc.edu

Chair-Elect

Anatoliy Gruzd
Dalhousie University
gruzd@dal.ca

Co-Chair-Elect

Krystyna Matusiak
University of Denver
krystyna.matusiak@du.edu

Immediate Past Chair

Daniel Alemneh
University of North Texas
daniel.alemneh@unt.edu

Immediate Past Co-Chair

Shimelis Assefa
University of Denver
shimelis.assefa@du.edu

Treasurer

Bahaa El-Hadidy
International Information Consultant, Tampa, FL
elhadidy@cas.usf.edu

SIG Cabinet Representative

Toni Carbo
Drexel University
tcarbo14@gmail.com

Alternate SIG Cabinet Representative

Chair and/or Chair-Elect

Newsletter Editor

Sarah Emmerson
San José State University
saemerson@yahoo.com

Mentorship Coordinator

Sarah Emmerson
San José State University
saemerson@yahoo.com

Webmaster

Fatih Oguz
University of North Carolina at Greensboro
f_oguz@uncg.edu

Webmaster

Borchuluun Yadamsuren
University of Missouri
by888@mail.missouri.edu

Social Media Administrator

Anatoliy Gruzd
Dalhousie University
gruzd@dal.ca

Social Media Administrator

Anindita Paul
University of Missouri
aninditapaul@gmail.com

Communications Officer

Muhammad Sajid Mirza
International Islamic University, Islamabad
m.sajid@iiu.edu.pk

Communications Officer

Yao Zhang
University of South Carolina
zhang82@mailbox.sc.edu

SIG Liaison Officer

Yao Zhang
University of South Carolina
zhang82@mailbox.sc.edu

International Paper Contest Chair

Maqsood Shaheen
US Embassy, Islamabad
shaheenma@gmail.com

International Paper Contest Jury Member

Fatih Oguz
University of North Carolina at Greensboro
f_oguz@uncg.edu

International Paper Contest Jury Member

Alma Rivera
Universidad Iberoamericana, Ciudad de México
alma.rivera@uia.mx

InfoShare Officer
Devendra Potnis
University of Tennessee
dpotnis@utk.edu

InfoShare Officer
Selenay Aytac
Long Island University
selenay.aytac@liu.edu

Advisory Board Member
Nadia Caidi
University of Toronto
nadia.caidi@utoronto.ca

Advisory Board Member
Toni Carbo
Drexel University
tcarbo14@gmail.com

Advisory Board Member
Edie Rasmussen
University of British Columbia
edie.rasmussen@ubc.ca

SIG-III Listserv, Website, and Social Media Sites

Listserv

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.

Password assistance:
If you forget your password, click the "Email My Password to Me" button to have your password e-mailed to you.

Questions:
Please contact Muhammad Sajid Mirza (m.sajid@iiu.edu.pk) and Yao Zhang (zhang82@mailbox.sc.edu) with questions regarding the sigiii-l listserv.

Website

The official SIG-III website is located at
<http://www.asis.org/SIG/SIGIII/>.

Please contact Borchuluun Yadamasuren (by888@mail.missouri.edu) and Fatih Oguz (f_oguz@uncg.edu) with questions regarding the SIG-III website.

Blog

The official SIG-III blog is located at
<http://sigiii.wordpress.com/>.

Please contact Anindita Paul (aninditapaul@gmail.com) and Anatoliy Gruzd (gruzd@dal.ca) with questions regarding the SIG-III blog.

Facebook Group

The official SIG-III Facebook group is located at
<http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=101547247614>.

Please contact Anindita Paul (aninditapaul@gmail.com) and Anatoliy Gruzd (gruzd@dal.ca) with questions regarding the SIG-III Facebook group.

LinkedIn Group

The official SIG-III LinkedIn group is located at
<http://www.linkedin.com/groups?gid=3868177>.

Please contact Anindita Paul (aninditapaul@gmail.com) and Anatoliy Gruzd (gruzd@dal.ca) with questions regarding the SIG-III LinkedIn group.

Wiki

The official SIG-III Wiki is located at
http://www.asis.org/wiki/chapters-sigs/index.php/International_Information_Issues_%28III%29.

Please contact Anindita Paul (aninditapaul@gmail.com) and Anatoliy Gruzd (gruzd@dal.ca) with questions regarding the SIG-III Wiki.

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