FY 15 SIG Activities Report
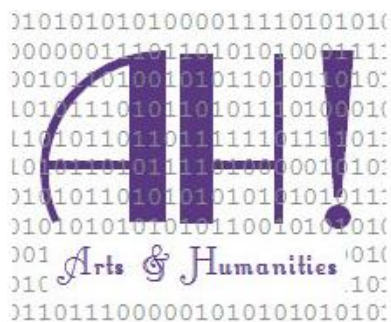
Special Interest Group (SIG): Arts and Humanities (AH)

Submitted by: Jeremy L. McLaughlin

SIG Office Title: Chair

E-Mail: Jeremy.mclaughlin@sjsu.edu

Fiscal Year: FY15

CURRENT OFFICERS

Current Chair:
Jeremy L. McLaughlin, San José State University

Other officers:
Communications: Sveta Stoytcheva, University of Illinois
Webmaster: Sarah Buchanan, University of Texas at Austin
Past Chair: Mary Ann Harlan, San José State University

Do you wish to be considered for the SIG-of-the-Year Award? Yes

1. Did your SIG hold a planning meeting at the last annual meeting? Yes

2. Who represented your SIG at the SIG Cabinet meeting at the last ASIS&T annual meeting?

    Name: Mary Ann Harlan

3. Please list the names of the new leaders in your SIG who may be interested in getting involved in other areas of ASIS&T:

    Names: Jeremy L. McLaughlin

4. Describe any efforts your SIG made especially designed to recruit new members or retain members (e.g., welcome letters, calls or visits, etc.).

New member recruitment and existing member retention through communication and visibility were a focus of the SIG this year. We maximized opportunities to communicate externally and within the Association about the benefits of SIG AH, activities of interest to members, and the value of ASIST and SIGs in general. To re-engage membership we utilized the various organizational lists for communication, were active at the 2014 Annual Meeting, updated and shared a variety of arts and humanities content on our website, and amplified our social media presence with a Facebook community, a Twitter account, a YouTube Channel and by publishing content in the open repository figshare.

2014 Annual Meeting (October 2014) – At the 2014 Annual Meeting, SIG AH leadership and members were actively recruiting new members and engaging with members and other SIGs related to possible collaborations and activity planning. Mary Ann Harlan presented SIG activities and met with potential new members at the New Members Brunch. Jeremy L. McLaughlin and Mary Ann Harlan represented SIG AH at the New Leaders Award events and all of the members of the 2014-15 leadership group were active at the general sessions, receptions/posters, and at social events. We hosted our SIG business meeting (where we elected a new Chair and Communications coordinator, both students!) and co-sponsored the Digital Liaisons session (theme: building communities) with SIG DL. To ensure maximum visibility, former Chair Mary Ann Harlan purchased and members distributed an artistic, SIG-branded puzzle pen holder that was very popular with Meeting attendees.

Website and communications (Jan-Sept 2015) – One major initiative started in January 2015 was to plan for the website migration and updates, and to build a SIG AH social media presence. Our website was

migrated and initial updates were made. Ongoing updates to the Resources page will be completed by the end of August. A major initiative within our communications effort was the creation of a Facebook group and a Twitter account (@asist_ah).

Our Communications coordinator, Sveta Stoytcheva, has been posting amazing #publicdomain images from across the web, thoughtful content that #sigahreads, and various job posts, calls for papers, news, etc… Similar to other groups within ASIST, we've found it difficult to build a following on Facebook but Twitter seems to be working out well for us as a way to engage with members and the larger arts and humanities community. http://twitter.com/asist_ah and http://www.facebook.com/asist.sig.ah

We've engaged with the community via tweet 137 times since January. While SIG AH currently has only 30 followers (about 4 a month) our member and community engagement has been substantial with an exciting amount of conversations and other Twitter activity such as likes and favorites. We've appreciated the ASIST Central social media group's support in this endeavor.

The popularity of the Symposium allowed us to build a presence on other platforms and engage with members and the global community in new ways this year by making the content easily available via our new YouTube Channel, the open repository figshare, and the San Jose State University ScholarWorks repository. The content and site traffic are discussed more thoroughly below, but in just 3 months we've received a surprising amount of visibility for presentation recordings and figshare slide decks. **Direct views on YouTube account for 83% and ScholarWorks 17% of event recording traffic, and Symposium slides have been viewed 447 times on figshare and shared 5 times from that platform**.

Get to Know a SIG Blog (March 2015) – In March, SIG AH Chair Jeremy L. McLaughlin was interviewed for the ASIST Central 'Get to Know a SIG/Student Chapter' blog. http://www.asis.org/SocialMedia/?p=358

HUG-a-SIG Blog (April 2015) – SIG Chair Jeremy L. McLaughlin also wrote a blog for a SIG membership promotion "campaign" called HUG-a-SIG (#hugasig) which just happened to coincide with the organization's decision to open up membership in multiple SIGs to the Association. http://www.asis.org/SocialMedia/?p=376

New Leaders Award Blog (June 2015) – To support involvement and student applications for the ASIST New Leaders Award, Jeremy L. McLaughlin (a 2014-16 SIG AH New Leader) was quoted in the New Leader application request and information blog on the ASIS&T website. https://www.asist.org/be-a-new-leader-apply-by-june-1/

<u>Student Research Paper Award and Virtual Symposium (Jan-April 2015)</u> – Discussed more thoroughly below, the Student Research Paper contest provided exposure to a new audience and the Contest and Virtual Symposium on Information and Technology in the Arts and Humanities (April 22 and 23) allowed us to show the value of the SIG to over 90 attendees, from 50 institutions, in 6 countries.

This widespread audience allowed SIG AH and SIG VIS to reach existing and potential new members and each day the respective Chairs provided an introduction to their SIG and we discussed ASIST membership as well as the ability for members to join multiple SIGs.

As a direct result of the Student Research Paper Contest SIG AH and SIG VIS sponsored 4 new student memberships at organizations that do not currently have an active ASIST Student Chapter. We will be providing student memberships for our PhD Contest participants in the next fiscal year as well.

5. What programs, including those presented at the ASIS&T Annual Meeting, did your SIG sponsor or cosponsor during the fiscal year? (e.g., continuing education programs, regional meetings, webinars, promotional activities for your SIG or ASIS&T, career guidance, ongoing services, etc.). Please list the name of the program, speakers involved, date and location, estimated attendance, revenue and expenses, a brief description of each program, and other participating organization or ASIS&T units, if applicable.

In addition to the member communication initiatives discussed above, SIG AH took part in several exciting research- and professional development-oriented programs this year.

Digital Liaisons Session, 2014 Annual Meeting (October 2014) – At the 2014 Meeting, SIG AH co-sponsored the Digital Liaisons session with SIG DL. The panel title, *Digital Liaisons: Building Communities and Empowering Culture through Digital Libraries,* and abstract point out the importance of building communities around the dissemination of information and various uses of library-based technology. This is a topic and theme of significant importance to SIG AH this year as we seek to re-invigorate our membership, increase SIG visibility overall, and highlight the importance of these issues across the arts and humanities. This co-sponsored session was an important recruitment tool as we gained increased exposure to the Meeting and to the much larger SIG DL membership. Session abstract: Definitions of digital libraries frequently include the community of users as an essential component. Indeed, information science as a discipline is grounded in theories like Human Computer Interaction and methodologies such as usability that emphasize the role of users in the information ecosystem. Given the increasingly symbiotic relationship between information technology and community, users are no longer just consumers but also partners in, and in effect co-creators of, digital libraries. In this panel, up-and-coming information professionals explored the intersection of digital collections and services with their associated community of users while reflecting upon the mutual interplay between collections, community, and culture. The session featured posters and lightning talks across topics of theory and practice by Undergraduate and Master's LIS students or newly minted professionals.
http://www.asis.org/asist2014/abstracts/panels/56.html

SIG ED Webinar, *Producing Effective Online Programs* (January 2015) – Jeremy L. McLaughlin presented at a SIG ED webinar in January related to designing, hosting, and distributing member-oriented virtual webinars and other activities. While presented as a Student Chapter collaboration, Jeremy's position with SIG AH was promoted alongside the Student Chapter as an example of designing and promoting cross-disciplinary content for membership across SIGs, Chapters, and ASIST in general. There were approximately 45 attendees for this event which was sponsored and paid for by SIG ED.
https://www.asist.org/events/webinars/webinar-producing-effective-online-programs/

Get to Know a SIG Blog (March 2015) – In March, SIG AH Chair Jeremy L. McLaughlin was interviewed for the ASIST Central 'Get to Know a SIG/Student Chapter' blog. In this blog we had the opportunity to explain the focus of our SIG, some of our current activities, and future plans (all of which we are proud to say have come to fruition this year). http://www.asis.org/SocialMedia/?p=358

HUG-a-SIG Blog (April 2015) – Jeremy L. McLaughlin also wrote a blog for the ASIST Central website promoting a SIG membership "campaign" called HUG-a-SIG (#hugasig) which just happened to coincide with the organization's decision to open up membership in multiple SIGs to members.
http://www.asis.org/SocialMedia/?p=376

<u>Student Research Paper Award and the SIG Virtual Symposium on Information and Technology in the Arts and Humanities (Jan-April 2015)</u>

Our main activity for the first half of 2015 was the Student Research Paper Award and the Virtual Symposium. In March 2015, SIG AH and SIG VIS received funding from the SIG Cabinet Steering Committee, Special Projects and Reserve Fund, of $2000 from the FY15 stipend. These funds were received to support a co-sponsored student research paper award based on the theme of information and technology in the arts and humanities. We announced the Contest in January 2015 and promoted it extensively through SIG and ASIST mediums, social media, directly with members, and via other association communication channels. After an initial round of judging, student finalists were announced in April and were invited to present their work to a second panel of judges at the ASIS&T SIG Virtual Symposium on Information and Technology in the Arts and Humanities (April 22 and 23).

Following their presentations two winners were announced: Christian James, University of Maryland, College Park, for "Historical thinking, digital methods: The new history pedagogy", and Melissa Higgins, University of Denver, for "Structure, subjectivity, and power: The provisional space of libraries within the social tagging movement." All of the finalists were offered a free ASIST membership and Christian and Melissa each won a $500 Best Student Research Paper Award and an invitation to present their paper as part of a SIG panel at the 2015 Annual Meeting in St. Louis.

The student finalists were joined by a number of other speakers across the two-day event, with 15 speakers total at the Symposium. After an introduction by ASIST President, Dr. Sandy Hirsh, we heard from faculty and professional speakers on topics such as data visualization, altmetrics, and collaborative library projects. Speakers represented organizations such as the National Endowment for the Humanities, altmetric.com, The Ohio State University, Wayne State University, Digital Public Library of America (DPLA), and George Mason University. Over 90 people attended and we were excited to have such a successful collaborative event with SIG VIS.

In total, this event cost SIG AH $580 – $500 for one (1) Student Paper Award and $80 for two (2) new student memberships (SIG VIS split the expenditures equally). The San Jose State University ASIST Student Chapter hosted the event using their Collaborate webinar platform, resulting in no additional cost to SIG AH. We've only used half of the Cabinet award for this project and will be planning a PhD student research paper contest for 2016. http://ischoolgroups.sjsu.edu/asistsc/studentresearchaward/

Final Schedule and speaker details: https://docs.google.com/document/d/1Q-vnmKsFNXeiYkSkXDUvMrYXQs_1U2j4z006JhuKsJQ/edit

<u>Ongoing website content updates (May-Sept 2015)</u> – With our new WordPress architecture SIG AH is able to easily update our pages and more readily share news and announcements. In retaining our web presence on ASIS.org, our SIG is also able to participate in the ASIST-wide calendar and news feed. Shortly after the new ASIST website launched on April 14, 2015 (following its soft launch at the 2014 AM in Seattle), SIG AH installed our template to our ASIST directory, with the able expertise of ASIST staff. SIG AH Webmaster Sarah Buchanan made several long-awaited updates to our previous content on May 7 including adding featured links to our SIG's Twitter, Facebook, and YouTube social media. By the end of August we will complete the final update to our SIG Resources page, which includes links to numerous

organizations, journals, conferences, and more in the area of humanities, information technology, Digital Humanities, computing, etc… http://www.asis.org/SIG/SIGAH/resources/

Gabriel Finkelstein webinar (September 2015) – On September 9, SIG AH is sponsoring a webinar presentation by Gabriel Finkelstein from the University of Colorado at Denver. All of the details are being finalized, but the cost for this webinar is $50 and is being sponsored and paid for by SIG AH so that ASIST members and non-members can attend for free.

Activity planning for the 2015 Annual Meeting – At the 2015 Meeting, SIG AH is co-sponsoring a Panel with SIG VIS titled, *Breaking traditional barriers: Collaboration, impact, and information technology in the humanities*. This panel brings together student, faculty, and professional speakers to examine key topics related to the role of information and technology in the development of research practices for, and about, the arts and humanities. Within the context of the theme of collaboration and impact, panelists will discuss a collaborative interactive exhibit of library data, image classification of library collections using Flickr, engagement with digital methods, and an examination of altmetrics and current trends in research assessment. Given the focus on cultural impediments and the need to foster a core set of e-based traditions in many disciplines, additional examination of the themes of collaboration and impact will help to define the continued importance of this topic within ASIS&T. Additionally, this panel responds to the need of information professionals and humanists for practical, implementable techniques to disrupt tradition and integrate information technology in new ways.

SIG AH is hosting a social event, will have another SIG AH branded promotional item to give to members and Panel attendees, and is also helping to promote the SIG VIS data visualization workshop and the SIG MET metrics workshop, at the 2015 Meeting. We will also promote the schedule for member papers and posters and other content of interest to SIG membership.

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6. Describe the publications your SIG produced during the activity period (e.g., newsletters, technical publications, pathfinders, joint publications, etc.). Briefly describe those publications here, indicate the publication frequency and intended audience, and enclose a copy of each publication (or provide the URL) with this report.

In addition to the Call for Student Papers and Symposium planning, promotional and scheduling materials, SIG AH produced several important publications this year.
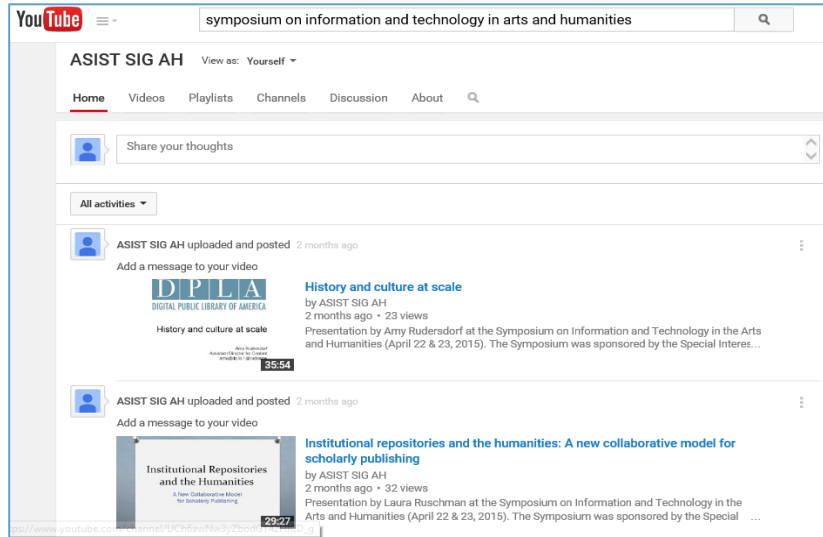
Call for Student Research Papers: http://ischoolgroups.sjsu.edu/asistsc/studentresearchaward/

Symposium schedule and speaker details: https://docs.google.com/document/d/1Q-vnmKsFNXeiYkSkXDUvMrYXQs_1U2j4z006JhuKsJQ/edit

Schedule at a glance: http://www.asis.org/SIG/SIGAH/wp-content/uploads/2015/05/Symposium-Schedule-FINAL-TO-POST.pdf
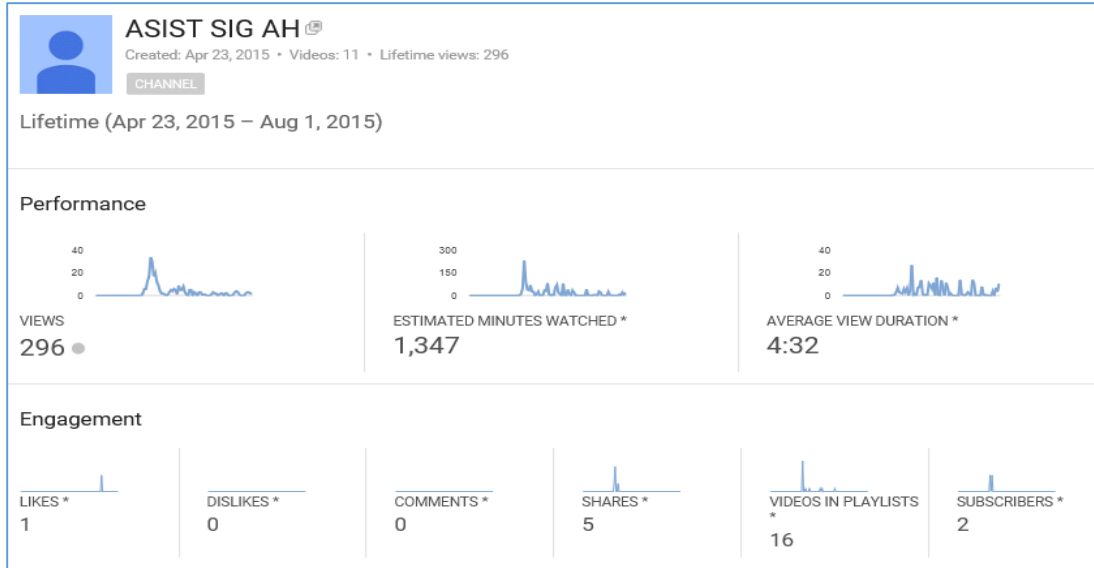
Symposium recordings and slide decks – To provide ease of access for members and global discoverability of the content in different formats, SIG AH published the Symposium recordings on

YouTube and in the San Jose State University ScholarWorks repository. All of the Symposium slide decks are available to download from figshare.

Our new YouTube Channel (https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCh6awNw3yZbodGT42HlCD_g) was created to host the Symposium recordings:

In just over 3 months the YouTube Channel has performed well, reflecting the community interest in the content and positive steps for the SIG towards our goal of greater visibility.

Our content on the SJSU ScholarWorks pages allows for direct viewing of the Symposium presentations, descriptions, and links to YouTube. The ScholarWorks content is also indexed in Google Scholar via the Digital Commons Network and the Directory of Open Access Repositories (DOAR). As shown below, in 3 months the recordings from the Symposium have received a high amount of page views on the ScholarWorks site (compared to other LIS content). http://scholarworks.sjsu.edu/sjsuasist/

Title	URL	First published	Total
Historical thinking, digital methods: The new history pedagogy	http://sch	5/30/2015	33
Viewing art through information visualization: A case study of Bob Ross's The Joy of Painting	http://sch	5/30/2015	19
Traditional and emerging approaches to research assessment in the humanities	http://sch	5/30/2015	19
Piloting interactive exhibits in the academic research library	http://sch	5/30/2015	18
Emerging priorities and strategies for digital humanities funding	http://sch	5/30/2015	18
Structure, subjectivity, and power: The provisional space of libraries within the social tagging mov	http://sch	5/30/2015	16
The impacts of Google digitization projects on libraries	http://sch	5/30/2015	14
Institutional repositories and the humanities: A new collaborative model for scholarly publishing	http://sch	5/30/2015	13
Symposium Introduction: Day Two	http://sch	5/30/2015	10
History and culture at scale	http://sch	5/30/2015	8
Symposium Introduction: Day One	http://sch	5/30/2015	8

The figshare content has been viewed 279 times directly from our page (the altmetrics presentation was archived under the author's figshare account and brings the total views to 447 for all Symposium content on figshare) and shared directly from the figshare platform 5 times.

http://figshare.com/authors/Symposium_on_Information_and_technolology_in_the_arts_and_humanities/740215

Newsletters Archive (May 2015) – The SIG AH Newsletters Archive page now hosts a set of digitized newsletters contributed by our former officer, Ralph Dumain (http://www.autodidactproject.org/). These materials document the history and activities of SIG AH during much of the 1980s, including our programs for the ASIST 50th Anniversary in 1987. In completing this digitization project over 2013 and 2014, Mr. Dumain not only re-encountered materials from his time as an active officer (1982-1990) but also wrote a memoir of his experiences with the SIG. As a result of his efforts, and in collaboration with SIG AH Webmaster Sarah Buchanan, we now have archived some fascinating documentation related to

the activities of SIG AH during a time of new and rapid developments in the field. Many of the core topics of interest and questions related to theory and methodology are still a part of the discussion today, and we hope the availability of this content encourages future historical research in the history of ASIST and SIG AH. http://www.asis.org/SIG/SIGAH/newsletters/

SIG AH Digital Newsletter: Fall 2014 – Summer 2015 – In August 2015, SIG AH published and distributed our Summer 2015 Newsletter. This Newsletter, the first in a few years, serves as a general update of recent SIG activities, an announcement of upcoming events including those planned for the Annual Meeting, and a call to members for contributions in future Newsletters. We plan to publish a 2015 Annual Meeting roundup Newsletter later this year and another update and preview newsletter (at least one) in 2016. http://www.asis.org/SIG/SIGAH/newsletters/

In progress: SIG AH Website Resources Page – Throughout summer 2015 we have been working on updating our website, including our extensive Resources page (started by Sarah Buchanan). This page on our site is currently being redesigned for easier navigation and discovery, and is undergoing extensive updates that will be completed by the end of August 2015. http://www.asis.org/SIG/SIGAH/resources/

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7. Describe your SIG's participation in other noteworthy activities during the period (e.g., participation in a public effort, such as, legislative hearing, standards committee, representation at meetings of other organizations, etc.).

Sarah Buchanan promoted SIG AH through word-of-mouth at the 2015 iConference. Sarah also contributed to ASIST's strategic planning process through participating in an online focus group facilitated by Maric Kramer on March 23, 2015.

Sarah also presented at the ASIST Leadership Development Program at the 2014 Annual Meeting. http://www.asis.org/asist2014/AM14_Leadership_Development_Program.pdf

Jeremy L. McLaughlin participated in the ASIST Information Professionals Task Force (IPTF) in 2015, and contributed to the President's Strategic Planning initiative for students at the 2014 Annual Meeting.

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8. Please include any other comments you would like to make about your SIG's activities during the period.

2014-15 has been a very successful year of trying new things in SIG AH. Our membership numbers and internal collaborations continue to grow, especially with SIG VIS and SIG DL. Through our new website and use of social media platforms we've focused on engagement and outreach with both existing and potential new SIG members. Activities like the Digital Liaisons session at the 2014 Meeting, the 'Get to Know a SIG' blog, the #hugasig campaign, events like the Virtual Symposium on Information and Technology in the Arts and Humanities, the Symposium archive, and our Newsletters Archives have allowed us to interact with members in new ways while we try to bring value to ASIST and the larger information technology and humanities communities in general. We have another great set of events planned for the 2015 Meeting as well as throughout the next fiscal year.