

SIG-III Newsletter

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

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Message from the Chair

By Yao Zhang, Chair, ASIS&T SIG-III

Greetings! As the chair of SIG-III of 2016-2017, it is my pleasure to introduce this issue of Newsletter. The past year was not a peaceful year, we experienced amazing changes in our research field and huge griefs of losing our beloved colleagues and friends. Meanwhile, the unrest global environment has also revealed to us the life of the less fortunate and reminded us that we are able to make a change.



Over the past years, our SIG members have been continuously working on and contributing to the international information issues. Thanks to the hard work of the board officers and members, our SIG had broad exposure on conferences, nationally and internationally. The SIG-III group carried on its excellent tradition by hosting the International Silent Auction during the ASIS&T annual

conference. The efforts of our members and the generosity of the donors supported numerous scholars and students from

less developed countries and regions to join our big family. We are also very grateful for Routledge/Taylor & Francis whom has constantly support our International Paper Contest for many years. Our board members work diligently to promote the lately significant research around the world to more audiences through this event every year. Partnering with SIG ED, SIG-III has the pleasure to invite DR. Margret Law to conduct a webinar focusing on developing the partnership regionally and internationally. This webinar is of great significance and importance considering the current global economic trends. Therefore, we truly appreciate the presenter and the staff member who helped us organize and coordinate this event. This year, SIG-III also sent representatives to iConference to present and introduce our work. We believe this is a great opportunity to reach out to other academic units outside ASIS&T and a big step towards global collaboration.

This year, we welcomed many new members, listened to their wonderful ideas, and shared their love and joy. With no doubt, many of them will or has become our lifelong partners and friends. At the same time, several scholars have retired or passed away. They are not only valuable assets in the LIS field, but also respectable advisors and dear friends to us. Most of them have served on SIG-III and the ASIS&T board. It is their contribution that builds the foundation of our current work. So, in the coming year, let us remember them, carry on their passion, and pass their spirit to our new friends.

ASIS&T 2016 International Conference

By Xiao Hu., Immediate Past Chair

The International Reception in Annual Meeting 2016 was held in Copenhagen, Denmark on Monday, Oct. 17th. This was the first time that the Annual Meeting and thus the International Reception to be held outside the U.S. We are very grateful for the European ASIST Student Chapter who donated a gift basket for the International Reception. By tradition, the gift is presented to the winner of the raffles, and the income of the raffle sale, as well as that of the Silent Auction will be used to support both the InfoShare program and the International Paper Contest. These programs are to cultivate and strengthens the connections between ASIS&T/the field and the students/professionals from developing countries.

Interestingly, in this reception, our gift basket was presented to a series of winners rather than one winner. Perhaps it was due to the heavy weight of the basket (many

thanks again to the European student chapter!), and surely because of the kindness of our winners, the basket was donated again and again, first by the raffle winner, Prof Lynn Connaway, then the second and third winner, Prof. Lisa Given and Prof. Rong Tang. Eventually, all the winners resolved in sharing the gift which gave the event an end that was happier than ever.



For the Silent Auction this year, we got many wonderful donations of items from all over the world. We have built an online gallery to showcase some items awaiting bids: [http://www.asis.org/SIG/SIGIII/silent-](http://www.asis.org/SIG/SIGIII/silent-auction-2016-asist-annual-meeting)

[auction-2016-asist-annual-meeting](http://www.asis.org/SIG/SIGIII/silent-auction-2016-asist-annual-meeting) Thanks to our dear members Toni Carbo, Nouf Khashman, Lynn Connaway, Krystyna Matusiak and many more who kindly donated beautiful items from their cultures for the Silent Auction. We were especially grateful for Prof. Marcia Bates who kindly donated her newest book series, “*Information and the Information Professions: Selected Works of Marcia J. Bates*”, volumes I to III. It was definitely a hit in the event!



We would also like to thank the volunteers who helped sell the raffles. The raffle sale raised approximately USD \$226, while the auction about USD \$375. It was very interesting that we had cash from different currencies: Danish krone, Swedish krone, Canadian dollars and U. S. dollars. It was truly an international experience!

Memory from the Winner of ASIS&T 2016 International Paper Contest

By Yared Mammo, Winner of ASIS&T 2016 International Paper Contest

It was indeed meaningful and aspiring to be recognized as the winner of the 2016 International Paper Contest, before the SIG III international reception at the 2016 ASIS&T Annual Meeting in Copenhagen, Denmark. The recognition equally goes to my promoter and second author Prof. Patrick Ngulube as well.

To start putting down my memoirs, I came across with the good news “. . . SIG III is pleased to announce You as the

Winner of the 2016 International Paper Contest”, on August 1, 2016, early in the morning when I touched my cell phone for the first time [I assure you that I did it after the praying time]. The herald news first reached me through Prof. Afuh Awasom. Through the way, Prof. Awasom, Dr. Xiao Hu and all members who shared it through social media and who were at the reception place in the conference, Copenhagen, were so cooperative to facilitate things for me.

I have been participating in different national, regional and international conferences; however I found the ASIS&T 2016 international conference very unique in that I encountered incredibly many renowned gurus of the LIS



profession in person around the corridors, restaurants, lecture theaters, etc. This conference did not merely allow me to gain knowledge and experience, but

also provided me with the opportunity to be inspired by the sage of pioneers like Prof. Toni Carbo, Prof. Tefko Saracevic, to mention just very few. You know, for instance, we had been communicating via email while I was publishing my article in the International Information and Library Review, Prof. Carbo was editor-in-chief of the journal. I was also reading her articles that she published decades ago. Similarly, I read many articles of Prof. Tefko Saracevic; I just realized it was him by reading his chest badge while we were serving ourselves during the breakfast buffet. After greeting him, the first thing that came to my mind was to tell him that I knew him well by his tremendous contributions that he had made to LIS, but he told me so fatherly that he has always been asking his readers to excuse him for taking their time to read his articles and intellectual products. Mind you, how he is known to be humble and exemplary for LIS professionals like us. This is indeed one of the main things that I gained from this conference. Equally, it was an incredible occasion where I saw my former professor Abebe Rorissa who taught me in Addis Ababa University almost two decades ago. You can imagine how amazing it was to run into someone who has visible contribution in your profession life.

I also learned how brilliant and generous SIGIII is by raising funds through silent auctions to sponsor and ensure the inclusion of professionals like me from developing countries. Through the support, we can attend the conference and be recognized in front of the international gurus and sage members of ASIS&T. I enjoyed the hospitality of Crown Plaza hotel and Copenhagen despite of my busy schedule. I hope that attending the ASIS&T conference will not be the last, but only the start of my engagement with ASIS&T and the profession.

In summary, beyond knowledge and experience gained, the

2016 International Paper Contest and ASIS&T 2016 conference energized me professionally.

Many thanks to all of you!

Yared Mammo (PhD)
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College of Computing and Informatics
Department of Information Science
Haramaya University, Ethiopia

2016 SIG Cabinet Meeting

By Toni Carbo & Catherine Dumas, SIG-III Cabinet Representative

A copy of the official minutes of the meeting will be provided as soon as they are located by ASIS&T staff. This report highlights my brief presentation to the Cabinet and a few key points from the meeting.

Because the SIG III Cabinet Representative, Catherine Dumas, was unable to attend the Annual Meeting, Toni Carbo served as the SIG III Representative for the Cabinet meeting. In the few minutes allowed, she highlighted the SIG III programs at the Annual Meeting, noting joint sponsorships with other SIGs, and reminded participants of the auction at the International Reception (noting some unique items that have been donated) and encouraged everyone to participate and to encourage others to attend. She also reminded the group of the International Paper Contest and the fact that the winner and runners-up would be introduced at the Reception. She also noted that SIG III would like to co-sponsor programs at the Annual Meeting, as well as webinars and encouraged other SIGs to co-sponsor some with SIG III, noting that the 2017 conference will celebrate the 80th anniversary of ASIS&T. Other SIG representatives responded with positive remarks.

Also included in this report are a few updates reporting on progress on recommendations from previous SIG Cabinet meetings. Previous years' discussions on the role of SIGs and expectations for had identified the rather limited role of SIGs as being primarily: the election of officers, an annual report and a budget, and noted that better benchmarks and higher expectations were needed. There also was some discussions of the problems of having high quality sessions rejected because of time and space limitations. A recommendation had been made to add the day back to the conference, to return to the format of earlier years; (Many people had complained that it was difficult to justify time and funding for a conference that is so short and often requires a full day of travel before and after the conference. This is a particularly difficult problem for people outside North America. Several people emphasized the key role that SIGs play in the Association in providing benefits to members, especially those members who are practitioners. The day has been added back and SIGS have become much more involved in organizing sessions at the Annual Meeting, as well as at other ASIS&T meetings, and in

presenting webinars and other educational programs. Progress has been made in recent years in several ideas, including: 1) making annual reports from all SIGs available to help incoming officers and those working to strengthen SIGs; 2) encouraging more strongly co-sponsorship of sessions, which will require addressing the allocation of funds for this and working with the conference committee on sponsored sessions; and 3) having virtual SIG cabinet meetings, thus increasing interaction and collaboration among SIGS.

2017 InfoShare News

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

We have sent three separate calls for this years' award. 9 distinguished individuals from developing countries are candidates for the award. We have received 8 new nominations and 1 nomination from the 2014 InfoShare Award recipient (Ms. Moradi from Iran). After circulating among all officers, we all agreed to award all these 9 individuals for the award:

Anjali Gulati	India
Caroline Nyaga	Kenya
Emezie, Nkeiru Amauche	Nigeria
Alicia Chavarria Esguerra	Philippines
Jennifer Akwi Yunga	Cameroon
Shaharima Parvin	Bangladesh
Qammer Naveed	Pakistan
Shima Moradi	Iran
Usman Omeiza Kazeem	Nigeria

2017 International Paper Contest Announcement

By Innocent Awasom, International Paper Contest Chair, ASIS&T SIG-III

Planning for the 2017 paper contest started immediately the conference theme was announced. Calls for proposals were sent out in April with a deadline of June 10th, 2017. We received 13 papers compared to 5 papers in 2015 and 8 papers in 2016. The papers came from LIS professionals in Pakistan (4) India (4) Iran (2), China, Zimbabwe, Zambia. The jurors are currently reviewing the papers using a rubric developed by the previous team. The results will be announced and published early August 2017, giving enough time for the laureate to make travel plans to attend the Annual Conference.

The principal author of the winning papers will be awarded a two-year individual membership to ASIS&T. In addition, the first-place winner will be awarded a minimum of \$1,000 to attend the 2017 ASIS&T annual meeting Washington, DC.

Special thanks to Routledge/Taylor & Francis for their continuous support of this program. Special appreciation to

the jurors for the 2017 competition:

Innocent Awasom, Int'l Paper Contest Co-Chair
Shimelis Assefa, Int'l Paper Contest Co-Chair
Faith Oguz, Int'l Paper Contest Jury Member
Devendra Dilip Potnis, Int'l Paper Contest Jury Member
Premila Gamage, Int'l Paper Contest Jury Member

Webinar

By Ashraf Sharif & Hassan Zamir

A webinar was organised on April 12, 2017 on "Developing Partnerships Regionally and Internationally". This was a collaborative effort of the SIG-III and SIG-ED. Dr. Margaret Law, a Canadian Library Consultant and instructor at the School of Librarian and Information Studies at the University of Alberta was the speaker of the webinar. She discussed the factors to be considered for developing a good partnership, what are the critical success factors that need to be addressed, and how to promote the idea of partnership within your organization. She also elaborated what documents are required to set up a partnership, and how to evaluate the success of the partnership. She highlighted the advantages and disadvantages of partnering with other organizations, illustrating with examples from the international library community.

Advocating for SIGIII

By Xiao Hu & Ashraf Sharif

SIG-III joined the presentations of ASIS&T in iConference 2017, in March 24, 2017 in Wuhan, China. Members from Special Interest Groups (SIGs) Education and International Information Issues, and participants of the Asian Pacific, Taipei and European Chapters (chapter of the year in 2016) and the European Student Chapter discussed their programs, which closely support the iSchool concept. The audience includes new iSchool students who are not members of ASIST and iSchools staff who are not familiar with ASIS&T. Xiao Hu presented SIG-III with the slides prepared by Emma and Ashraf. The audience was impressed by our mission of supporting information professionals and students in developing countries.

Ashraf Sharif, our co-chair gave a presentation on ASIS&T and SIG-III at National Conference on "Reshaping Libraries of the 21st Century with Information Communication Technologies (ICTs)" at Baragali Campus of the University of Peshawar, Pakistan, held on July 15-17, 2017. His presentation was titled as "ASIS&T and SIG-III: Introduction and benefits for LIS community". Ashraf introduced ASIS&T as a well-established international organization of information professionals from different backgrounds. Librarians are significant constituencies of the association, but, what make them interesting, is that it

includes such a wide array of specialists and touches all aspects of information science. It supports the young scholars from developing countries through the various programmes held by SIG-III. Pakistan has been contributing to this prestigious organization since long. Ashraf also shared how the LIS community in Pakistan and young scholars can benefit from the activities offered by SIG-III, and encouraged the audience to join ASIS&T and be actively involved in SIG-III.

SIG-III Project Management Strategy

By Eka Grguric

This year SIG-III has undertaken a project to develop increased documentation of SIG operations, and incorporate services such as Google Drive to support the preservation of SIG knowledge as membership changes. We have started by creating a SIG-III Gmail account and uploading backups of photos for use on the website and in social media to the Google Drive space that is a part of the account. We are beginning with the Google Suite because it is inexpensive and in use within ASIS&T by other SIGs. There are international challenges to using Google products and we are looking into alternate options. Currently we are also looking into workflow tools such as Trello for managing SIG projects on a re-occurring basis. The next stage of the project will be a series of interviews with long term members of the SIG III community to collect organizational knowledge.

2016 SIG III Annual Business Meeting Tuesday, October 18, 2016 at 2:15 pm, Thames 2 Meeting Minutes

By Xiao Hu, Outgoing Chair, SIG-III

1. Welcome and Introductions

Xiao Hu, outgoing Chair of SIG-III started the meeting and welcomed the SIG members and cabinet representatives. Emma Yao Zhang, incoming chair joined the meeting via Skype. Participants onsite and online introduced themselves one by one. Xiao acknowledged Toni Carbo and Michel Menou for their tremendous contributions to SIG-III as founding members and advisors.

2. Introduction of the newly elected/re-elected officers

Xiao reported that an online form was sent out to members before the conference to self-nominate or nominate others for open positions. She read the names of new officers for 2016-17. She also noted there were still positions that were not filled and asked from participants who would volunteer for: Co-chair (non-U.S. based), Web master, and Communication officer (U.S. based). With encouragement from all attendees, Ashraf Sharif volunteered to be the co-chair. For the webmaster post, Fatih suggested hiring a graduate assistant to help migrate the website from Drupal to Wordpress, with the budget of USD200. Election of the officers was conducted online ahead of the Annual Meeting. Xiao presented the list of new officers for 2016-

2017. Names of new officers are listed on our SIG's website: <http://www.asis.org/SIG/SIGIII/officers>.

3. Approval of the 2015 Business Meeting Minutes

A copy of the 2015 business meeting minutes in Saint Louise, Missouri was distributed via email prior to the conference. Xiao Hu called for motion to approve the minutes and it was approved unanimously.

4. Chair's Report

The Chair shared the full report through e-mail prior to the Annual Meeting. In the business meeting, she highlighted the major points.

- Sponsorship for our signature International Paper Contest. Our gratitude goes to the Routledge/Taylor & Francis Group who supported USD3000 for our paper contest, so that we can grant *two* sets of awards this year (for both 2015 and 2016).
- One issue of the newsletter was published (http://www.asis.org/SIG/SIGIII/sites/default/files/2016/03F09/sigiii_newsletter_v16n1_0.pdf)
- The International Reception in Annual Meeting 2016 will be held in Copenhagen, Denmark on Monday, Oct. 17th. We are grateful for the European ASIST Student Chapter who will be donating a gift basket for the International Reception. For the Silent Auction this year, we have sent out invitations for participation of the silent auction and donation of items. Awarded membership benefit to thirteen individuals from six countries through InfoShare program
- Nominations and elections were made for the new officers.
- SIG-III has sponsored one panel, Diversity and Multiculturalism of LIS Education, in ASIS&T Annual Meeting held in Copenhagen.
- The International Paper Contest this year gave out two sets of awards. Yared Mammo and Patrick Ngulube (Ethiopia) won the award for 2016 and Amjid Khan and Shamshad Ahmed (Pakistan) won the award for 2015. Many thanks to the jurors!
- SIG-III website is now fully functional, with new content added and essential information updated. Please do visit our SIG-III website at <http://www.asis.org/SIG/SIGIII/>.

5. Treasurer's Report

Naureen Nizam, our treasurer, prepared the treasurer's report before the meeting which was circulated among officers.

6. SIG Cabinet Meeting Report

Catherine Dumas is unable to attend the Annual Meeting. Toni Carbo attended the cabinet meeting and gave a brief report of it. She shared updates and suggestions made in the meeting and reported our SIG's activities to the attendees, particularly the international reception and silent auction.

7. International Reception

The International Reception in Annual Meeting 2016 will be held in Copenhagen, Denmark on Monday, Oct. 17th. This is the first time that the Annual Meeting and thus the International Reception to be held outside the U.S. We are grateful for the European ASIST Student Chapter who will

be donating a gift basket for the International Reception. The gift will be presented to the winner of the raffles, and the income of the raffle sale, as well as that of the Silent Auction will be used to support both the InfoShare program and the International Paper Contest.

For the Silent Auction this year, we have built an online gallery to showcase some items awaiting bids: <http://www.asis.org/SIG/SIGIII/silent-auction-2016-asist-annual-meeting>. Thanks to Toni Carbo and Nouf Khashman who kindly donated items for the Silent Auction and sent the pictures for preparing the Gallery. So far, there have been over 30 unique items from all over the world featured in the gallery. We are especially grateful for Prof. Marcia Bates who kindly donated her newest book series, "*Information and the Information Professions: Selected Works of Marcia J. Bates*", volumes I to III. It was definitely a hit in the event!

The auction and the raffle sale totally raised about USD\$631. It is very interesting that we had cash from different currencies: Danish krone, Swedish krone, Canadian dollars and U. S. dollars.

8. 2016-17 Focus

Incoming chair, Emma Zhang, proposed focuses of our work in the coming year. Besides our regular and signature events, we will organize webinar(s), preferably in collaboration with other SIGs, sponsor 2 programs for ASIS&T Annual Meeting 2017, preferably with other SIGs, actively look for sponsorship, and submit annual report before August 15, to be eligible for SIG of the Year award.

9. Other Business

- One issue of the newsletter was published during the year and Shimelis noted that Lama will send out a call for contribution soon after the conference ended.
- Eka Grguri, from North Carolina State University is a mentee of the new leaders program and will conduct her new leader project in our SIG. The proposed project is to develop project management strategy.
- There is another call on attendees to volunteer for unfilled officer positions. Xiao Hu stepped up for the newsletter editor, while the co-chair-elect position remains open.

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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: <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) for questions on sigiii-l listserv.

Website

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

Facebook Group

The official SIG-III Facebook group is located at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/asist.sig.iii/>.

LinkedIn Group

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

Twitter

The official Twitter account: <https://twitter.com/sig3i>

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