

# asis&t

## SIG-III

The Special Interest Group for International Information Issues

# ANNIVERSARY COMMEMORATIVE PUBLICATION

1982 - 2022



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## Message from Chair



Dear SIG-III members, I am excited to chair SIG-III, especially when it is celebrating its 40th anniversary. First, I wish to thank all the members who contributed to the success of this SIG since its inception. Without their passion for serving the community, relentless efforts, and countless service hours, it is hard to imagine our SIG-III with over 620 members in October 2022.

This SIG consists of world-class, award-winning researchers and practitioners who have played an instrumental role in building and strengthening ASIS&T. Several members of SIG-III have also benefitted from the expertise and experience of the network of such senior and accomplished members of our SIG. In the last 40 years, SIG-III has created value for thousands of LIS professionals and researchers around the world through the Global Information Village Plaza, In-person and virtual Raffles at ASIS&T Annual Meetings, Donations, InfoShare Program, International Paper Contests, Sponsored Workshops, Sponsored Panels, Newsletters, Special publication issues, Special sections published by the Bulletin of the Association for Information Science and Technology, International Café Hours, and Guest Speaker Series, among other initiatives. I appeal to every member who reads this message to recruit at least one person to grow SIG-III. Currently, there are almost 20 leadership positions in our SIG. I encourage members to come forward to run for SIG-III elections to hold leadership positions in the future. Let's continue undertaking high-impact activities to sustain the growth of this valuable SIG. I wish you all a happy and peaceful life and a successful career ahead!

*Michel Menou*

*Co-founder, SIG-III*



⇒ ***What was your vision for SIG-III?***

I am not sure if “vision” is the right word. I was simply shocked by the fact that although the society changed “American” for “association” in its name, its horizon remained mostly confined to the US. With a group of friends we took the challenge to try and open the windows.

⇒ ***What can we learn from the past achievements and hurdles experienced by SIG-III?***

Sorry if I offend, as usual, many people, but I feel the principal drive for people to take responsibilities and initiatives in society is to win personal exposure and recognition (not to mention personal benefits) more than serve the community. However, the many colleagues who contributed to SIG/III activities proved that this is not an absolute rule. Paraphrasing a famous world leader, they knew the task was impossible, they took the challenge, succeeded and, more important, had fun.

⇒ ***What challenges did you face? How did you overcome them?***

Convincing colleagues in various parts of the world that they could benefit from each other experiences. Even though they did not speak the same language. I am not sure that we succeeded. Another issue was ... \$\$\$, which we tried to solve by fund raising activities, like the auction at the SIG/III party.

⇒ ***What do you think is the best part of SIG-III?***

We had a regular newsletter which I hope contributed to raising awareness. But of course our “secret” party during the Annual Meeting played a special role.

# The SIG-III: A Journey from 1982-2022

1982

The Special Interest Group for International Information Issues (SIG/III) was born.

1983

First SIG-III Bylaws was drafted and approved

1999

The SIG-III Newsletter was launched and published its first issue in December.

2002

The first edition of Global Information Village Plaza was launched by Nadia Caidi and Michel Menou to celebrate SIG-III's 20th Anniversary

2022

New initiative like Research Wing, International Café Hours, Flipped Panel, Guest Speaker Serie has launched.

## ***Bhakti Gala***

*Chair-Elect  
SIG-III, ASIS&T*



### ⇒ ***What do you think is the best part of SIG-III?***

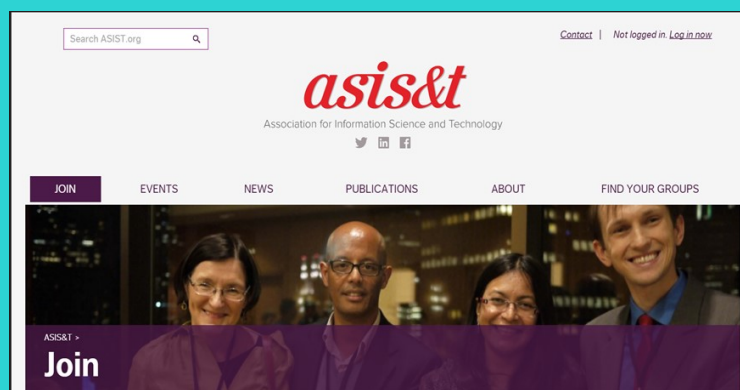
The best part of SIG-III is its global inclusiveness represented by its diverse membership. SIG-III through its many different initiatives provides many opportunities for all its members to network formally and informally, cooperate and collaborate on different information issues and career development.

### ⇒ ***How did you benefit from SIG-III?***

SIG-III is responsible for the momentous shift in my professional career. The IPC award opened doors for me which were previously unimaginable. I benefitted tremendously by getting opportunities to collaborate with experts on internationally funded projects and was able to increase my scholarly output. These achievements led the way to a permanent academic teaching position in my home country.

### ⇒ ***Can you share any pictures of SIG-III get-togethers/social events at ASIS&T meetings?***

Proud to have been featured on the ASIS&T website in 2015 after attending the AM 2014 in Seattle.





***Devendra Potnis***

*Chair*

*SIG-III, ASIS&T*

⇒ ***What do you think is the best part of SIG-III?***

To empower SIG-III members by sharing professional opportunities, career guidance, professional networks, knowledge through research panels and workshops, and resources that are not easily accessible to members in developing countries.

⇒ ***How did you benefit from SIG-III?***

Abebe Rorissa introduced me to SIG-III when I was a doctoral candidate in 2010. I was impressed by the warmth of SIG-III members. While serving in different officer positions, I found my “professional home” in SIG-III. I met several international scholars who helped me grow personally and professionally. Senior scholars like Naresh Agarwal and Nadia Caidi write support letters for me. I also serve as a reference for several junior scholars in developing countries. I expanded my professional network after meeting and working with researchers and practitioners like Kendra Albright, Toni Carbo, Edda Tandi Lwoga, Humphrey Keah, Nosheen Warraich, Saira Soroya, Md. Anwarul Islam, Selenay Aytac, Zamir Hassan, Rajesh Kumar Das, Paul Perez, Chris Cunningham, Naailah Parbhoo-Ebrahim, Shimelis Assefa, Ashraf Sharif, Carl Leak, and Daniel Alemneh through SIG-III. I met Bhakti Gala for the first time in Seattle in 2014, and until now, we have produced more than six research publications and won a research grant. The professional needs of SIG-III made my professional life more meaningful. For instance, after surveying SIG-III members, I realized how I could apply my experience of publishing more than 120 research artifacts to help LIS professionals in developing countries conduct and publish research in top-tier venues. Finally, SIG-III served as a good opportunity for me to hone my leadership skills.

⇒ ***How can SIG-III create more value for its members?***

By undertaking more activities that meet the needs of SIG-III members. By inspiring more active LIS professionals to join and lead SIG-III. By training LIS professionals to conduct and publish research in top-tier venues.



***Ashraf Sharif***

*Chair (2019-2020)*

*SIG-III, ASIS&T*

⇒ ***What do you think is the best part of SIG-III?***

To me, the best part SIG-III is that it covers information issues of the international community regardless of the geographical boundaries. This takes care of the communities from low-income countries. It runs the programs that encourage the professionals from the developing world. It always has a vibrant team of officers who contribute to ASIS&T's mission. Its by-laws provide an opportunity to its officers to work closely with other SIGs and Chapters on areas of common interest.

⇒ ***How did you benefit from SIG-III?***

SIG-III has always been on the front line of the ASIS&T program. It has won the SIG of the Year award several times. Its officers have been very successful in running other SIGs and Chapters. Regarding learning from past achievements, I would say that past achievements aid us in going beyond what we are capable of and embracing our actual potential.

To be honest, I didn't experience any hurdle during my tenure as Co-Chair and Chair of the SIG-III. I found the headquarters very supportive, always.

⇒ ***How can SIG-III create more value for its members?***

Although SIG-III is going well, but there has always been a room for doing more and that is the beauty of any vibrant organization. I think there should be more programs to attract and engage the community, particularly young people, to have a healthy debate and dialogue to identify the international information issues and then try to address these issues.

***Duncan Wambogo Omole***

*Chair (2006-2007)*

*SIG-III, ASIS&T*

***What do you think is the best part of SIG-III?***

- \* International collaboration and promoting the value of information.
- \* Bringing in useful research that would otherwise be invisible to the world through the international paper contest. I hope the IPC is growing stronger.

***How did you benefit from SIG-III?***

- \* Inclusivity pays. Financial handicap, for instance should not exclude professionals who may not afford participation. Creative programs will bring them in to the benefit of ASIS&T, the profession and society.
- \* Engage in robust fund raising. Many people and organizations out there are willing to help, they are just waiting to be contacted.
- \* Providing funding for professional involvement of those who would otherwise not afford pays off
- \* Recognize and reward good work from members and officers
- \* Partner and Collaborate with publishers and other information professional associations
- \* To really succeed, look at the incentive framework for all
- \* Peer to peer mentoring is just awesome
- \* Keep the alumni network engaged and alive
- \* Partnering with industry pays off
- \* Nothing beats academic-industry partnerships in a professional organization



## *SIG III's 40th Anniversary Interviews: Reflections from IPC Award Winner*



***Syeda Hina Batool***

*IPC Award Winner*

*2016 & 2022*

⇒ ***How did you hear about SIG-III?***

I heard from my colleagues who are already very active in ASIS&T and SIG III.

⇒ ***How did you benefit from SIG-III?***

I won my IPC third place winner award for my PhD paper in 2015-16. This was my first interaction with SIG III team members. As a novice researcher, it gives me confidence to work more dedicatedly in the domain of research. When I joined ASIS&T, SIG III is the first platform where I started my journey as a professional member. This platform welcomes me as a member and the very next year (2019) I become social media officer and Webmaster. I learned professional, technical and communication skills in this position. The significant thing about SIG III is the impartial role of advisors and the team is open to welcome newcomers. Recently, I won IPC first place winner award which gives a feel of sound researcher to me. It gives me motivation to work on more innovative projects. Thank you SIG III!

## *SIG III's 40th Anniversary Interviews: Reflections from Infoshare Awardees*

***Nicoleta-Roxana Dinu***

*2021 Infoshare Award Winner*



⇒ ***How did you hear about SIG-III?***

I have received an email through IFLA list with the announcement about Info Share Awardees and this was the way I have discovered the ASIS&T and SIG-III.

⇒ ***How did you benefit from SIG-III?***

I have attended several online meetings with SIG-III members and officers that have helped me to broaden my professional knowledge and hear enlightening thoughts from LIS specialists.



***Omobolade O. Adeagbo***

*2020 Infoshare Award Winner*

⇒ ***How did you hear about SIG-III?***

I heard about SIG-III through ASIS&T members mailing list.

⇒ ***How did you benefit from SIG-III?***

Through SIG-III, I won the Inforshare award in 2020 which was an achievement for me because it was during the COVID-19 pandemic period. I got a full membership through the Group and I have access to series of Seminars and Workshops.

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***Arjun Sanyal***

*2020 Infoshare Award Winner*

⇒ ***How did you hear about SIG-III?***

I hear about SIG-III from my professional acquaintances.

⇒ ***How did you benefit from SIG-III?***

As a recipient of the InfoShare 2020 Award from SIG III, I had the good fortune of networking with information professionals across the globe. These interactions actually help me immensely in shaping my professional perspectives. Furthermore, as a recipient of the 2020 InfoShare Award, I was provided access to JASIST on the ASIS&T portal. Hence, this helped me a lot in accessing cutting-edge research in myriad areas of the Information Sciences. Given the fact that the information profession and the discipline of Information Sciences have symbiotically praxis-based relation, hence, being associated with SIG-III was a godsend for me. In fact, I try my best to motivate young information professionals to get involved with SIG-III so as to fortify themselves professionally as well as, in the process, contribute their fullest to the discipline of Information Science.

***Shaharima Parvin***

*2017 Infoshare Award Winner*



⇒ ***How did you hear about SIG-III?***

I have heard about SIG-III from one of the winners of InfoShare award. After knowing the activities of SIG-III, I tried to follow its social networking site and mailing list to get updates.

⇒ ***How did you benefit from SIG-III?***

I would like to highlight the following most effective benefits which I have been getting from SIG-III

- \* To build a strong network
- \* To learn contemporary practices of our profession
- \* To explore other opportunities



***Humphrey Keah***

*2021 Infoshare Award Winner*

⇒ ***How did you hear about SIG-III?***

I came to know about SIG-III upon being nominated as one of the InfoShare Awardees in 2020. I was assigned to SIG-III where I got an opportunity to serve as Web Master & Communications Officer.

⇒ ***How did you benefit from SIG-III?***

Being a SIG-III member enabled me to greatly enrich my professional network through interactions with other information professionals from diverse backgrounds. I believe this will enable me to scale new heights as an information professional, going forward.

*Devendra Potnis*

*Bhakti Gala*

*Jiban K. Pal*

*Raj K Bhardwaj*

*Rajesh Kumar Das*

*Vanessa Figueiredo*

*Rajesh Kumar Das*

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