

# Telling our info science stories

**Sheila Webber**

**Chair, ASIS&T European Chapter**



There is lots to enjoy in this issue of the ASIS&T European Chapter Newsletter.

Firstly we introduce a new feature in which our European Chapter Fellows share reflections on their own articles: a series inspired by the *Citation Classics* feature Eugene Garfield ran in *Current Contents* for many years. Our first contributors are **Professor Pertti Vakkari** and **Professor Tom Wilson** (see pages 3 and 4).

Secondly, we have a number of reports from the *ASIS&T Global 24 hour conference*, including from organisers **Anna Maria Tammara** and **Agnes Mainka**, and presenters **Ying-Hsang Liu** and **Alison Hicks** (see pages 6-10). The 24 hour conference was an exciting idea, exhilarating for delegates, though exhausting for staff who followed through the whole day! There are also short reports on two ASIS&T European Chapter webinars: *Coffee with author Susan Oman*, and a joint event with *SIG-USE* (see page 11) - and a note on the ASIS&T South Asia Chapter webinar at which I was honoured to be an invited speaker.

Thirdly, the call is out for proposals for the annual **Information Science Trends** conference, which takes place online 15th-17th June 2022. The theme is **Untold Stories in Information Science**, and the deadline for proposals is 23rd May. Go to page 5 for full details!

In addition we have our regular calendar of information science events on page 2, and details of committee members and country representatives at the end of the newsletter.

Good reading, and happy May!

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## Happy May!

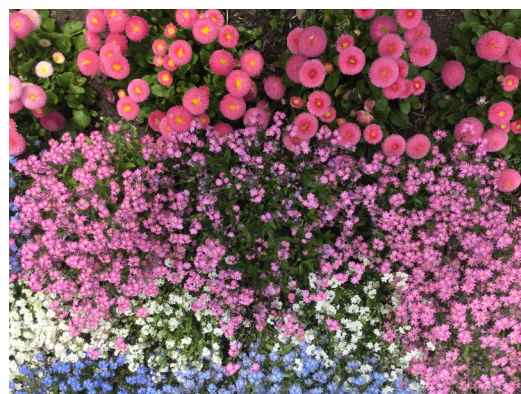


Photo: Sheila Webber

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**Facebook Page:** @ASISTEuroChap

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News to share? Event to report? Publication you want us to showcase? then -  
**contribute to the newsletter!**

**Email:** [asist.europeanchapter@gmail.com](mailto:asist.europeanchapter@gmail.com) **Copy date for the July edition: June 27th 2022**

# Events calendar

Email [asist.europeanchapter@gmail.com](mailto:asist.europeanchapter@gmail.com)  
if you would like events included here!

## European Chapter events

15-17 June 2022. **Information Science Trends "Untold Stories in Information Science"**

26-29 July 2022. IFLA Conference. **European Chapter Meetup at the IFLA Conference!** <https://2022.ifla.org/> Look out for further details!



## Other events (in 2022)

18 May. **Copyright Conference 2022**. Online.  
<https://www.cilip.org.uk/page/CopyrightConf22>

20 May. 13.00 CEST. Online. **European Doctoral Seminar Series**  
<https://ischools.org/european-doctoral-seminar-series>

23-25 May. **BOBCATSSS conference**. Online and in Debrecen, Hungary.  
<https://konferencia.unideb.hu/en/BOBCATSSS2022>

29 May-1 June. Oslo, Finland. **Conceptions of Library and Information Science - CoLIS11**.  
<https://www.oslomet.no/en/about/events/colis11>

31 May- 2 June. Leipzig, Germany. **Bibliothekskongress**.  
<https://www.bid-kongress-leipzig.de/>

1-3 June. Rotterdam, Netherlands. **European Association for Health Information and Libraries (EAHIL) 2022 Conference**. <https://eahil2022.nl/>

7-10 June. Online. **Canadian Association for Information Science 50th Annual Conference**: "100 Years of Information Science: Understanding the Past and Building the Future" <https://www.caiss2022.ca/>

9-10 June. Pretoria, South Africa. **15th International Southern African Online Information Meeting (SAOIM): "Robots, Drones, and Zombies"**.  
<https://tinyurl.com/24dxfzpn>

13 June. **Deadline for proposals: Nordic Workshop on Bibliometrics and Research Policy**. Turku, Finland, September 21-23, 2022. <https://sites.utu.fi/nwb2022/>

22 June. **AIIM Forum Europe: Intelligent Information Management**. London, UK.  
<https://www.aiimforumeurope.com/>

21-25 August. **American Chemical Society Division of Chemical Information 264th Meeting**. Chicago, IL, USA.  
<https://www.acs.org/content/acs/en/meetings/acs-meetings/abstract-submission/call-for-abstracts.html>

1 September. Deadline for proposals for iConference 2023. <https://ischools.org/iConference>

19-23 September. 9th **Annual Conference of the International Council on Archives (ICA) 2022**: "Archives": Bridging the Gap". Rome, Italy.  
<https://www.ica.org/en/ica-roma-2022-conference>

26-29 September. **Information Seeking in Context (ISIC) 2022**. Berlin, Germany.  
<https://pages.cms.hu-berlin.de/ibi/isic-2022/>

28 October. Pittsburgh, USA, & virtual. **Information Science Summit**. <https://tinyurl.com/54pu935e>

29 Oct.-1 Nov. **85th Annual Meeting of the Association for Information Science and Technology**.  
<https://www.asist.org/am22/>

**Submit your poster proposal for the 2022 annual meeting!**

<https://www.asist.org/am22/>



## ASIS&T European Chapter: Fellows' choice

Inspired by Eugene Garfield's series, "Citation classics" series in Current Contents (see <http://garfield.library.upenn.edu/classics.html>) we have asked our European Information Science Fellows to give a personal account of one of their *own* publications, that means something to them. The series starts with contributions from **Professor Pertti Vakkari** and **Professor Tom Wilson**

### Professor Pertti Vakkari



Vakkari, P. A. (2001). Theory of the task-based Information Retrieval process: A summary and generalization of a longitudinal study. *Journal of Documentation* 57(1): 44-60, 2001.  
<https://doi.org/10.1108/EUM0000000007075>

I was acquainted in mid-1990's with Carol Kuhlthau's work by Tefko Saracevic's suggestion when I inquired about suitable scholars to lecture at our summer school for doctoral students. I read her book *Seeking meaning* (1993). It was love at first sight. Her ISP model attracted me because it articulated how learning tasks trigger information search processes. I had been interested in task-based information search from the beginning of 1980's, but not found proper models to study the phenomenon. At that time studies on information retrieval applied mostly a laboratory model not involving humans, while studies on information seeking focused typically on the use of libraries.

The ISP model inspired me to realise a series of studies on how students searched information for writing a research proposal. I elaborated the ISP model to match with the requirements of information search from a database. Specifically, I studied how the stages of writing a research proposal were related to the information types searched, to the search tactics and term choices, and to the relevance judgements. The study was longitudinal, observing participants three times during the process. That was, and still is, exceptional, which is unfortunate, because information intensive tasks take time and require more than one search session. Our understanding of task-based searching is still very limited.

The results were published in four papers. Although related, the papers did not provide a model of task-based information search. Therefore, I decided to write a summary paper which would generalise the findings in the form of theory. It was fascinating because it gave me a chance to combine my interest in task-based search and in theory building. I had written articles on theory growth in studies on information seeking. I applied that knowledge to my empirical findings. I was somewhat astonished how systematic the resulting theory was.

The conclusions of the article are still valid, I believe: "Our results and theory demonstrate clearly that the information sought, search tactics, term choices and relevance judgements as well as the contributing types of information in documents depend systematically on the stage of the task performance process. The obvious conclusion is that it is productive to study information searching as a process in connection with the task that generates it. By understanding the task of the searchers, we will be able to create research results, which will also provide useful information for designing information systems."

**Pertti Vakkari**



## ASIS&T European Chapter: Fellows' choice

### Professor Tom Wilson

Wilson, T.D. (2002). Alfred Schutz, phenomenology and research methodology for information behaviour research. *New Review of Information Behaviour Research*, 3, 71-81.  
<https://proftomwilson.files.wordpress.com/2018/07/schutz02.pdf>

My interest in this paper's citations (247 according to Google) was piqued by the discovery that it was being cited by researchers in disciplines other than information science. Apart from one self-citation, the rest covered more than 20 research areas, including education (63 citations) equal to information science, followed by business and economics (23), health related (22), sociology (22) and computer science/information systems (10).



I first became interested in the work of Alfred Schutz in the late 1970s when I happened upon the three volumes of his collected papers, sitting on the new books shelf in Sheffield University Library. I picked one of them up and, leafing through it, came upon his essay, The well-informed citizen - I began to read it and realised that I had to borrow it and read it more carefully and thoroughly.

The essay is part of Schutz's effort to create a genuine 'theoretical science dealing with the social distribution of knowledge', rather than the existing 'sociology of knowledge' associated with the work of Marx and Mannheim, which focused on the economic conditions associated with the distribution of knowledge, or on the ideological foundations of truth statements.

The well-informed citizen deals with how knowledge is distributed in society by presenting a set of 'ideal types' (a device in sociological research that enables the classification of common sets of characteristics in the research data). The ideal types are, the expert, the well-informed citizen, and the 'man on the street'. As one might expect, the expert has detailed, verified knowledge of the area of his/her expertise, but this does not necessarily imply that the expert is in academia. Most people are expert in some area, seeking to become well-informed in others, and functioning on recipe knowledge as man on the street in many more.

Perhaps exploring these different ideal types within the same person might be more productive of insights into information behaviour than simply looking at one type, often only the 'expert'.

**Tom Wilson**





# Call for proposals: Information Science Trends 2022

**Untold Stories in Information Science. Deadline: 23rd May 2022**

**Conference date:** June 17-19, 2022, 14.00-17.00pm (BST/ Dublin time: which is, e.g., 9.00-12.00 US EST - see <https://tinyurl.com/bdetwf8x> for 14.00 BST in your time zone).

**Deadline for submitting proposals** (abstract of 400-750 words): 23rd May 2022.

**Organisers:** The European Chapter (EC) & European Student Chapter (ESC) of ASIS&T

**Submissions:** At <https://easychair.org/conferences/?conf=ist22> including uploading a completed abstract template <https://tinyurl.com/IST22cfp>

**Registration:** <https://tinyurl.com/IST22reg>

**Fees:** ASIS&T members: no charge (but registration still required). Student non-members: US \$10; Other non-members: US \$25.

**The  
basics!**

## Confirmed keynotes:

**Professor Tom Boellstorff** (Department of Anthropology, University of California, Irvine, USA)

**Dr Crystal Fulton** (School of Information and Communication Studies, University College Dublin, Ireland)

We invite researchers, practitioners and students to submit abstracts for talks (15 minutes presentation + discussion time). Students can also submit proposals for posters (10 minute presentation of their poster). We welcome proposals from ASIS&T members, and from non-members.

We interpret Information Science broadly to include all kinds of information experience and information behaviour, information retrieval, data science, information literacy, information organisation, and ways of knowing.

This event focuses on **Untold Stories in Information Science** and accepts submissions within information science/studies covering research (completed or in progress), practical projects or examples, and conceptual work.

"Untold stories" may refer to a story that simply has not been told before (a new research question or problem), or to stories from voices, cultures and places that have been neglected or suppressed. It is a theme open to your interpretation, but this gives some ideas about what we have in mind:

- *Research methods for untold stories.* Discussion of approaches & methods for discovering and exploring unknown stories (e.g. ethnography; autoethnography; participative & collaborative approaches; mixed methods; data mining). This can include: Scholarly discussion of challenges and possibilities of specific data collection & analysis methods; Engagement with ethical and practical issues; Methodologies used in specific research projects
- *Places where untold stories unfold.* Are untold stories in hidden or hard- to-access places (e.g. in the dark web, in conflict zones, in people's heads, buried in big data) or are they hidden in plain sight? You may want to tell us where and how you discovered an untold story, and issues around that discovery
- *The people in the untold story.* Who were the people who featured or guided your research? What did you discover and how were they involved in that discovery? What do you know about how they feel about their story and how it is told?
- *Telling the untold story.* Discussion of how one can disseminate: e.g. experience of using multimodal presentation of results, what channels you use to tell the story, challenges and possibilities
- *The researcher and the untold story.* Discussion of researcher positionality & impact; reflection on personal research journeys

**Any questions?** More information: <https://www.asist.org/2022/05/11/ist22-cfp/>

We are happy to answer any questions you might have regarding this event. Please send an email to: [asist.europeanchapter@gmail.com](mailto:asist.europeanchapter@gmail.com) or the IST conference co-chairs: *Sheila Webber*, [s.webber@sheffield.ac.uk](mailto:s.webber@sheffield.ac.uk) ; *Dr Sophie Rutter*, [s.rutter@sheffield.ac.uk](mailto:s.rutter@sheffield.ac.uk) ; *Dr Jesse Dinneen*, [jesse.dinneen@hu-berlin.de](mailto:jesse.dinneen@hu-berlin.de)



# ASIS&T Global 24 Hour conference report!



On April 26-27 ASIS&T organised a 24 hour global conference. This ambitious undertaking had been planned for a while, and it included regional teams who planned the programme for three time zones: the Americas, Asia-Pacific, and Africa & Europe. It was non-stop and a triumph - especially for those who supported it through the whole 24 hours! We asked some European Chapter members to give their impressions.

## Some thoughts from the Europe Africa Time zone organizers

by **Anna Maria Tammaro & Agnes Mainka**

The ASIS&T 24-Hour Global Conference has been our first experience of organizing a fully virtual conference, available to both ASIS&T members and non-members who could participate without traveling. The Global Conference was also our first experience of collaboration between the ASIS&T Chapters of Europe and Africa. The aim was to attract new members to ASIS&T and an attempt was made to achieve this by organizing a content-rich and highly engaging [program](#).



**Anna Maria Tammaro**



A completely virtual conference offers many possibilities for interaction even greater than a face-to-face conference. We have tried to use all these possibilities and be innovative. To facilitate interaction and networking, the platform Miro [see left] was used to communicate between participants, for example used for questions to the authors and to always have an eye on the program and timetable. There are 3 different time zones in Europe and Africa and Miro reported the exact time for each of the zones. The Miro platform was especially useful when we had to change the program at the last moment due to the delay of a keynote, to rearrange the program.

Many of the expected results of the 24 Hours Global Conference have been achieved. The most important result for us in particular was certainly the good collaboration with the members of the two ASIS&T Africa and Europe Chapters involved. We worked very well in the Program Organizer Committee with the volunteers from the two Chapters: Blessing Mawire, South Africa, Liezl Ball, South Africa, Tamara Heck, Germany, Aylin Ilhan, Germany, Marton Nemeth, Hungary. We also enjoyed the final Panel *"Creating Connections for Enhancing Collaborative and Professional Development: Opportunities and Challenges"* where we built bridges to continue this collaboration. The chairs (Hilal and Webber) and chairs-elect (Msoffe and Rutter) of the ASIS&T Africa and Europe Chapters have shared their experience of creating connections across disciplinary, physical, cultural, linguistic, and virtual boundaries, and identifying opportunities and challenges.



**Agnes Mainka**

The choice of keynotes was also an example of collaboration. For the keynotes the Committee has chosen a well known expert from each of the two Chapters: **Ina Fourie**, South Africa spoke on: Information Behavior as Research Lens for Life: Our Challenges, Joys, and Opportunities; **Isto Huvila**, Sweden: A Relational Information Science? For Networking, Sharing and Learning, The two keynotes stimulated a lively conversation, their themes were both inspiring and provocative, mostly based on their research on information science [see pp.9-10].

Finally, we can say that we are grateful to ASIS&T for giving us the opportunity to participate as organizers in this 24 Hours Global Conference, so innovative in the format and facilitating a participatory and engaging environment for sharing knowledge and experiences among many of us.



## ASIS&T Global 24 Hour conference report!



**Isto Huvila**

***Professor in Information Studies,  
Department of ALM, Uppsala  
University, Sweden***

Even if an online conference is not really the same as a live one, this gave a wonderful opportunity to learn a lot about ongoing work and do some socialising with colleagues as well the time of the day that worked for me. Also, even if ASIS&T is far from being known for stiff conferences, the somewhat less formal and more relaxed atmosphere worked also very well and it was great to hear may be at least to a degree a little bit more speculative and discursive than lecturing-kind of talks. On the basis of the African and European programme I would also say that there is extremely interesting information behaviour (incl. practices etc.) research going on at the moment.

**Marina Milosheva PhD  
Student Edinburgh Napier  
University**

"I loved the flexibility of the ASIST24 Hour Global conference format. I tuned in from three different places: the Napier campus, my standing desk, and my garden! "

**Find the abstracts on  
Zenodo!**

<https://zenodo.org/communities/asist-24hr-2022/>

***Alison Hicks, Lecturer and Programme  
Director, Library and Information  
Studies, UCL, UK.***

The timing of the ASIST 24 Hour Global Conference couldn't have been better for the informal research group of which I am part: after two years of immersing ourselves in discussions about transitions, we were at a point where we felt ready to share our gentle but generative theory development process with a broader audience.

Given that our group had never met in person (and in fact, many of us had never met each other in person either!), the conference's focus on shared collaboration provided another rationale for us to reflect upon our playful approach to scholarship in conjunction with colleagues from around the world.

***"as we had hoped, the event  
itself didn't disappoint"***

And, as we had hoped, the event itself didn't disappoint: the fast-paced format meant that the conference went with a verve, with the use of breakout rooms for short papers affording opportunities for more intimate conversations than are normally possible within larger online conference settings. The opportunity to present at an ASIS&T conference didn't go amiss either, something that is often impossible for UK academics given its typical October schedule.

Our research group emerged refreshed and renewed by the encounter and it is to be hoped that this format continues in future. The link to our full text abstract is here:

<https://zenodo.org/record/6382872#.Ynj16GDMKWB>





## ASIS&T Global 24 Hour conference report!



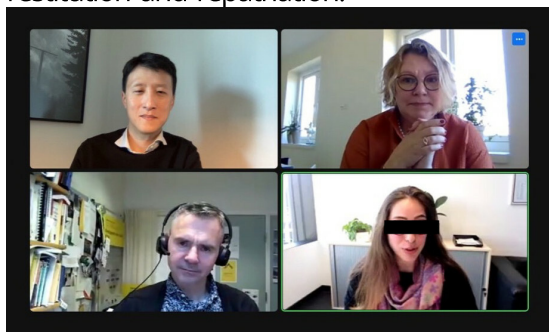
Our OsloMet team members from the *Polyvocal Interpretation of Contested Colonial Heritage* project: Professor Pia Borland, Professor Nils Pharo and Dr Ying-Hsang Liu presented, *Supporting Diverse User Groups of Archives for Open Dialogue in Digital Humanities* at the first ASIS&T 24 Hour



**Ying-Hsang Liu** *Faculty of Social Science, Oslo Metropolitan University, Norway, talks about the project presented at ASIS&T24HR*

Conference on 27 April. As imperialist powers have produced different narratives about themselves: what are these and how have they entered the audio and visual archives? How can archives become part of a challenging conversation around colonialism? Before answering these big questions, the Oslomet team has focused on how do different user groups search video archives? And what information needs and search strategies do these different groups have?

From a survey study using pop-up questionnaires hosted on our partner organisations, Pitt Rivers Museum in the UK as well as our contacts at Sound & Vision, the national audio and video archive of The Netherlands, EUscreen and Aix Marseille University in France (three versions in English, Dutch and French), we have received a total of 46 responses from November 2021 to April 2022. We have identified a more diverse group of users of archives than previously suggested in the research literature. Specifically, we found that in addition to traditional user groups, such as archivists, historians, students and university lecturers, activists and media professionals are also represented. Interestingly, other user groups include authors, independent researchers, drum collectors, textile anthropologists and communication specialists. They visit the digital archives for jobs, studies or personal interests. Other capacities of the visit include finding photos related to my community, a mix of work and interest (social activist), and restitution and repatriation.



Regarding user information needs, types of search questions ranked by frequency include:

*Subject:* "Visual representations in anthropological films of the 20s and 30s"

*Imposed:* "Information required by the broadcaster"

*Exploratory:* "at this stage I just want to see what photographs are in the Collection"

*Specific:* "The Victoria, British Columbia, photographer Richard Maynard (1832-1907) and any photos in your holdings."

Why are they seeking this information? They are primarily trying to find a particular item, gain knowledge and support work tasks. And how are they going to use this information? The most frequent answers are for supporting work tasks, generating creative work and gaining knowledge about the topic. Other use of information includes 'Learning more about my heritage', 'It depends on what I find' and 'To disseminate research'.

Overall, these findings suggest a diverse group of users of archives with different information needs and information use. Aside from finding a particular item to support work tasks, it can be found in photos related to the community to learn about one's heritage, or it can be an exercise of restitution and repatriation. This opens a dialogue for the polyvocal interpretations of colonial heritage collections.

**"It is a successful event for sharing and presenting our research, particularly when people are starting to recover from the pandemic. I have found it even more challenging to recruit participants for our research project during this time. Nonetheless, it is a very successful event bringing together the ASIS&T community within different time zones. In fact, we did our presentation when we were in Norway, Denmark and Germany."**



## ASIS&T Global 24 Hour conference report!



### Sheila Webber, Information School, University of Sheffield, UK, reports on the Africa/Europe keynotes

During the Africa/Europe portion of the ASIS&T 24 hour conference I blogged some of the presentations, at <https://information-literacy.blogspot.com/search/label/ASIST24HR> Below & on p.10 are edited summaries of my posts on the keynote talks.



The first Africa/Europe zone keynote was from **Professor Ina Fourie** (University of Pretoria, South Africa) : *Information Behavior as Research Lens for Life: Our Challenges, Joys, and Opportunities*. This was a rich, complex talk, which I could not capture in its entirety, and I may be misinterpreting. However, I'll try and give a flavour of Fourie's ideas.

#### My observation

- Colleagues, friends, family, media, university
- Information-related experiences – **increase... over-bearing... more**
  - Intense
  - Driven
  - Complex
  - Intermingled
  - Pressure to make sense
  - Cope
  - Meeting with expectations of peers and society
  - Avoid negative experiences e.g. fraud, cybercrime
  - Prominent
  - Urgent
  - Personal information management – a different term?



Fourie started by talking about the scope and importance of information behaviour (IB). She identified IB as exploring all facets of life, and with increased attention to issues such as temporality. Fourie reflected on how it was difficult to read all the literature that could be related to IB, across disciplinary boundaries, and to bring different aspects together. She urged information behaviour researchers to get together to explore the meaning of information behaviour and its relationship with information literacy, information practice etc. Altogether, Fourie advocated for deeper collaboration on IB research, and stressed its importance in making a difference to people's lives.

She defined a research lens as being about what you can do and want to see, paying attention to what previous researchers have discovered, using the available tools and methods. It also involves reflecting carefully on what perspective you will take, and which research questions you will explore. Fourie urged us to think about all the different emotions that each person goes through every day, the different challenges and opportunities, and to consider those when we develop our research lens

She used the example of her own previous day with its interwoven mixture of personal things to organise, work responsibilities and practical issues of managing her health and presence. Fourie emphasised the affective elements in the experience. She noted that "Contemporary society [is] more intense, more driven, more complex and intermingled" - with the pandemic and the ways of working it introduced having increased pressures (e.g. to be more driven, more efficient, to multitask online). At the same time there is still "increasing overbearing pressure" with more anxieties about health, employment etc.

She felt it was this complexity that researchers needed to explore. Information Behaviour research can contribute in making a difference in a lot of ways - e.g. through influencing systems and product design, through action research, in the areas of information and digital literacy. She argued for deeper immersion in the specific research context we are researching, with new contexts (such as streaming social media) emerging.

She also urged researchers to explore and reflect more about who is involved in the research and how research can create safe spaces. Fourie identified the timing of data collection as being a delicate issue, as exploring people's IB in the midst of intense experience can be intrusive, but may also provide insights which would be useful to others. Social networking and IT had brought new values and challenges. Fourie saw one goal as helping others to see IB as a lens on their lives, to make a difference to their quality of life.

Fourie suggested that one way of exploring this new landscape was to include the researcher themselves more prominently, for example, using analytic and collaborative autoethnography. That can be a starting point to connect with others. Each IB researcher needs to reflect on their own personality, beliefs, experience etc. and what that means for their identity as a researcher. Fourie's ideas for developing as an IB researcher included: "reading beyond the borders", exploring multiple methods, researching yourself, and working collaboratively, and creating a third space for research (which included being collaborative, sharing, participate, exploring creatively). Altogether I found this a talk that I wanted to reflect on and discuss with fellow researchers, as it raised a lot of important questions.

#### Suggestions: Third space, participatory design

- Deep contextual immersion to enrich choices for research design
- Multimethods: collection, analysis
  - Shared analysis of the same context, situation, data
- "The self" + peers
  - Collaborative autoethnography, **analytical autoethnography**, transformative autoethnography
- Third space – sharing, exploring, "workshop", unstructured brainstorming and mapping
- What do I we read?
- What should we read?
- New dimensions of collaboration
- Larger scales





## ASIS&T Global 24 Hour conference report!



### Sheila Webber continues her report ...

The second keynote in the Africa/Europe portion of ASIS&T 24 hour Global Conference was from **Professor Isto Huvila** (Department of ALM, Uppsala University), talking about **A relational Information Science? For networking, sharing and learning**.

Again, this was a fascinating talk, with much to mull over, and I certainly did not capture all his ideas. To explore further: his slides are at <https://www.istohuvila.se/content/keynote-relational-information-science-networking-sharing-and-learning>. You will see he cites his own work at various points and his extensive (and very interesting!) publications list is here: <https://www.istohuvila.se/publications>

Huvila explained why he was querying the idea of Information Science (IS) that still "relational" now: after all, information practice was about relations with other people, and for example bibliometrics is about the relationship between authors and publications. However IS is also "very much about things" so that a product-oriented view may dominate. Also when thinking about relations, we may think of a limited range of relationships, or not think through what the relationships are and what they mean.

He said that he was making a possible contrast between relationism and substantivism, although not probing that deeply here. He reminded us about Buckland's classic paper "Information as thing" : and how we did still need to talk about information things and material things, but it was necessary to also go beyond that to think about what these things do, and look at the relationship between things. Huvila went on to look at three specific relationalities that he is interested in and has explored.

These were: (1) **Relation(alitie)s to information** - he mentioned aspects such as relevance and information literacy being related to information. He posited context as a bounded space, people being somewhere in this contextual landscape. Huvila reflected on the idea of the insider and outsider, and the connections between people through information. He gave the example from his research of archaeologists who are in bounded and often overlapping communities/contexts. He then talked more widely about people's life, the changes in contexts (e.g. with more remote connections, some people with less identification with extended families, more attachment to work contexts). People may be more of insiders or more outsiders, depending on the contexts, with the context not just defined physically.

(2) **Relationalities through information**, for example people making & taking information. He talked about people appropriating information to apply to their own situation - information from others, or information that they already have, but can apply in a different context. Huvila talked about how although information use and information impact is being studied more, it still does not get as much attention as information seeking.

(3) **Relationalities with (information) infrastructures and technologies**. The technologies may not immediately look information-related e.g. a toothbrush - he illustrated it with toothbrushes being used to clean archaeological artefacts, helping to reveal information about the artefact. Another example was people using medical records. Finally he talked a little about how networking, sharing and learning fitted in with his reflections on relationality. He concluded that he was not advocating throwing away Information Science as it has been, but that thinking and researching with more focus on relationalities would be a fruitful way forward.



"My active role at the ASIS&T 24 conference was being chair and participant in a panel on collaboration: this was in my role as Chair of the ASIS&T European Chapter. My fellow-panellists were: **Professor Imane Hilal**: School of Information Sciences, Rabat, Morocco (Chair of ASIS&T Africa Chapter), **Dr Grace Msoffe**: University of Dodoma, Tanzania (Chair-Elect of ASIS&T Africa Chapter), **Dr Sophie Rutter**: Information School, University of Sheffield (Chair-Elect of ASIS&T European Chapter). Each of us gave advice about factors which could promote good collaboration. The slides we used are here and there were also thoughtful contributions from the session participants."

**Sheila Webber, ASIS&T European Chapter Chair**

**Creating connections for enhancing collaborative and professional development: opportunities and challenges**



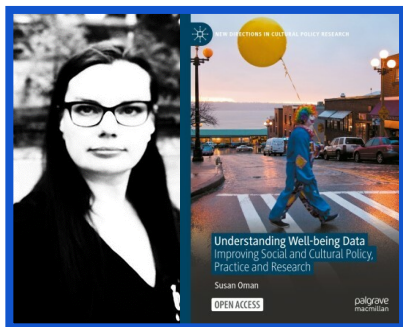
**Professor Imane Hilal**: School of Information Sciences, Rabat, Morocco  
**Dr Grace Msoffe**: University of Dodoma, Tanzania



**Dr Sophie Rutter**: Information School, University of Sheffield, United Kingdom  
**Sheila Webber**: Information School, University of Sheffield, United Kingdom



## Report on March 2022 ASIS&T EC "Coffee with the author: Susan Oman"

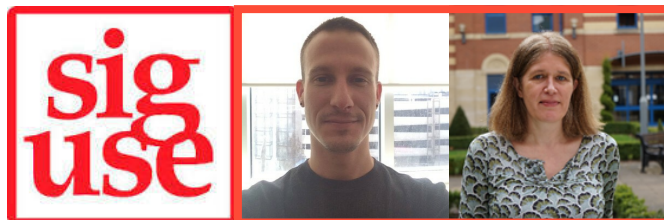


Susan Oman, Lecturer in Data, AI and Society at the Information School, University of Sheffield presented her new book on [Understanding Well-being Data: Improving social and cultural policy, practice and research](#). The overall aim of the book is to help people understand well-being and data. Susan described how she came to understand well-being data through her experiences of working in a call centre in the 1990s and then in universities.

During the talk Susan shared animations that accompany the book. These thought provoking animations are useful in helping us to question assumptions underpinning well-being. They are fun, accessible and if you missed the presentation you can still watch the [animations here](#). They certainly gave us lots to talk about including a healthy discussion on the well-being agenda!

## Report on April 2022: Joint meeting ASIS&T EC with SIG-USE

by Sheila Webber



This session was planned and facilitated by **Nathan Davis** (School of Information, University of Texas at Austin, USA), SIG-USE Recruitment/Membership Officer & Symposium Co-chair; **Dr Sophie Rutter** (Information School, University of Sheffield, UK), ASIS&T European Chapter Chair-Elect (both pictured above), and myself. On the *Information Needs, Seeking and Use (SIG-USE)* website it says "SIG USE members are concerned with people's behavioral and cognitive activities as well as their affective states as they interact with information." We asked people to share *their* ideas of what "USE" was about. There was a good discussion, and I'll mention some of the themes that emerged.

One of the topics for discussion was the problem of working at the intersection between different fields in Information Science (IS) (e.g. Information Behaviour and Information Retrieval): you may be seen as not fitting into any of them. There was also discussion about people entering from other disciplines having to find their way in these separate IS fields: "Having to figure out this stuff".

There was a feeling that we should be connecting rather than separating the dots: thinking more about what ties our work together. There was a danger that the field could be fragmented by a focus on identifying differences rather than similarities (though we were not the only discipline to have these problems). For example, there can be false dichotomies e.g. information behaviour vs information practice; didactic vs flourishing: it would be more productive to explore how these concepts or fields fitted together. There is also the issue of there being insufficient attention given to building on existing IS theories and models.

This just gives a taste of our discussion, which was so interesting that we agreed to plan a follow-up session later in the year. Keep a watch for this - you will want to be there next time! Thanks to Nathan Davis for suggesting this collaboration.

A few resources were mentioned during the session: these are a few of them

- Sonnenwald, D.H. (2016). *Theory Development in the Information Sciences*. University of Texas Press. <https://utpress.utexas.edu/books/sonnenwald-theory-development-information-sciences> ISBN: 978-1-4773-0906-3
- ACM SIGIR Conference on Human Information Interaction and Retrieval (CHIIR). <https://ai.ur.de/chiir2022/>
- Huvila, I., Enwald, H., Eriksson-Backa, K., Liu, Y.-H., & Hirvonen, N. (2021). Information behavior and practices research informing information systems design. *Journal of the Association for Information Science and Technology*, 1– 15. (early online publication) <https://doi.org/10.1002/asi.24611>

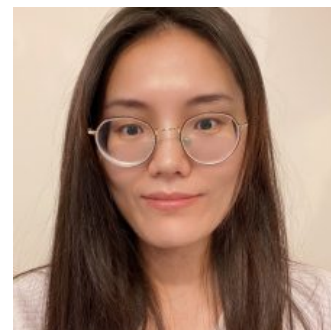
# Your European Student Chapter Committee



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**ESC Secretary/Treasurer: Erika Silverman**  
Strathclyde iSchool, Department of  
Computer and Information  
Sciences, University of Strathclyde,  
Glasgow, Scotland



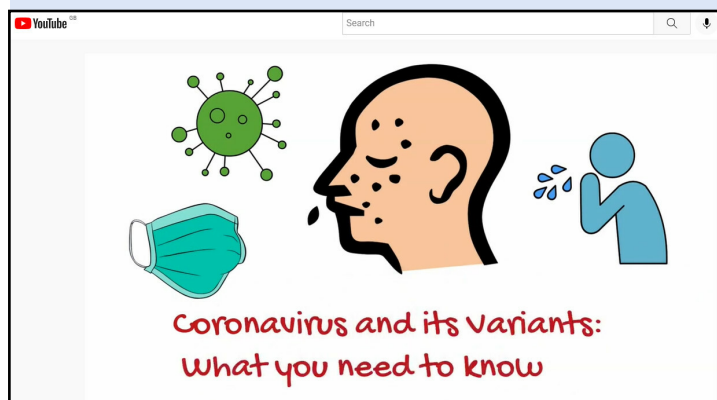
**ESC Communications Officer: Miaomiao 'Molly' Chang,**  
Strathclyde iSchool, Department  
of Computer and Information  
Sciences, University of  
Strathclyde, Glasgow, Scotland

## Report on an ASIS&T South Asia webinar by Sheila Webber

In April I was honoured to be invited to speak at a webinar organised by ASIS&T South Asia Chapter: **Fostering covid-19 literacy in South Asia: be informed, prepared & safe.** This was to celebrate the launch of a YouTube channel in multilingual languages (English, Bangla, Hindi, Sinhala and Urdu) to raise people's awareness about COVID-19 myths, misinformation and disinformation. The programme was moderated by Dr Syeda Hina Batool and included these talks:

- *Project introduction, details and progress* by Bhakti Gala, Project Principal Investigator.
- *The importance of creating relevant material to develop information literacy and to combat disinformation* - my talk - the slides are here
- *Project promotional strategies and engagements* by Dr. Chu Samuel, co-investigator
- *COVID-19 Literacy and information flow distress among patients* by Dr. Atta Ullah Khan
- *COVID-19 Literacy and Pregnant Women's myths* by Prof. Dr. Lubna Riaz

You can find the ASIS&T South Asia channel with videos on COVID-19 in a number of languages at <https://www.youtube.com/asistsouthasiachapter>



## Your committee 2021-2022



**Chair: Sheila Webber**, Information School, University of Sheffield, Sheffield, UK  
[s.webber@sheffield.ac.uk](mailto:s.webber@sheffield.ac.uk)

Sheila Webber is a Senior Lecturer in the Information School, University of Sheffield, UK. She coordinates the Library and Information Services Management postgraduate programmes and is Head of the Libraries & Information Society Research Group. Her main interests for research and teaching focus on information literacy and information behaviour. In particular she is interested in the contextual nature of information literacy, and in information behaviour in computer gaming and 3D virtual worlds. She leads the Virtual Worlds Education Roundtable in Second Life. Her information literacy blog <http://information-literacy.blogspot.com> recently hit 3 million page views.



**Chair-elect: Sophie Rutter**, Information School, University of Sheffield, Sheffield, UK  
[s.rutter@sheffield.ac.uk](mailto:s.rutter@sheffield.ac.uk)

**Sophie Rutter** is a Lecturer in Information Management at the Information School, University of Sheffield. She is interested in evaluation methodologies including both lab-based and naturalistic studies. Her research focuses on two themes. Firstly, children's information seeking. She is interested in how the environment affects the way children interact with, and use, information. Secondly, communicating and evaluating hand hygiene. She has developed novel lab-based methods for pre-testing hygiene messages, and also worked with school children to co-design hand washing messages. She is currently working on a project that develops and evaluates an Internet of Things hand sanitiser for use in workplace settings



**Treasurer: Lisa Börjesson**, Department of Archives, Libraries, and Museums, Uppsala University, Sweden  
[lisa.borjesson@abm.uu.se](mailto:lisa.borjesson@abm.uu.se)

**Lisa Börjesson** (MA LIS, PhD) is an information science researcher at the Department of ALM, Uppsala University. Her research concerns research data management and data descriptions, particularly process information for data re-use. She teaches information management and information systems at master's level, as well as supervise master's level and doctoral research.



**Secretary and Archivist: Márton Németh**, School of Informatics, Faculty of Informatics, University of Debrecen, Budapest, Hungary  
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**Marton Nemeth** is currently working as a web librarian (from 2017) at the Department of Web Archiving of the National Széchényi Library, Budapest, Hungary. He is finishing his PhD at the Doctoral School of Informatics, University of Debrecen, about web archiving in general and about the evolution of the Hungarian service project in this field. He has master degrees from Szeged University, Hungary in the fields of History and Library and Information Science (2005). He has also obtained a Master's degree from Aalborg, Denmark in European Studies (2007) and another one from International Master Programme in Digital Library Learning (2013). He worked as a system librarian at the Directorate of Informatics of the National Széchényi Library (2005-2012) and as a digital content manager at Monguz Ltd., Hungary (2014-2017).





**Webmaster: Jesse Dinneen**, Institut für Bibliotheks- und Informationswissenschaft, Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin, Germany  
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**Jesse Dinneen** is a Junior Professor in the Berlin School of Library and Information Science at Humboldt University, Germany, where he researches personal information management and philosophical and social issues of the information society. Previously he was a Senior Lecturer at Victoria University, New Zealand and Tomlinson Doctoral Fellow at McGill University, Canada. Jesse is delighted to be joining the vibrant ASIST European chapter and helping to connect information scholars around Europe.



**ESC Faculty Advisor: Diane Rasmussen Pennington**, Department of Computer and Information Sciences, University of Strathclyde, Glasgow, Scotland  
[diane.pennington@strath.ac.uk](mailto:diane.pennington@strath.ac.uk)

**Diane Rasmussen Pennington** is the Chair of CILIP's Metadata & Discovery Group, and previously served as the President of the Canadian Association for Information Science. For ASIS&T, she has been a Director-at-Large, Chair of the European Chapter, and Chair of SIG VIS and SIG CR. Diane has published more than 40 works and delivered over 80 presentations in non-textual indexing and retrieval, emotion-based indexing and retrieval, information organisation, linked data, user engagement on social media, and online health information..



**Membership Officer: Aylin Imeri**, Heinrich Heine University Düsseldorf, Düsseldorf, Germany  
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**Aylin Imeri** is an information science researcher and lecturer (Ph.D.) at the Department of Information Science in the Heinrich Heine University Düsseldorf, Germany. She supervises bachelor and master students, and her research interests are social media, information behavior, and health information behavior, especially from activity tracking technology users.

In the last years, Aylin gained valuable experience and insights through her engagement in Chapter and SIG activities (e.g., Chair, Past-Chair, SIG Deputy Director, SIG Cabinet Director (this year)). Together with Isabelle Dorsch, they established the ASIS&T Special Interest Group Social Media in 2017, initiated by Emile Levine.



**Past Chair: Crystal Fulton**, School of Information and Communication Studies, University College Dublin, Dublin, Ireland  
[crystal.fulton@ucd.ie](mailto:crystal.fulton@ucd.ie)

**Crystal Fulton** is an Associate Professor at University College Dublin, Ireland, where she studies the social interactions among people, information, and communication in daily life settings. Her research into the information worlds of people engaged in serious leisure (e.g., genealogists, urban explorers, gamblers) examines leisure participation and the connections among hobbies, behaviors around information supporting hobby activities, and impact on individuals, groups, and communities. In particular, her work moves beyond more traditional ideas around information acquisition to extend information theories in her investigations of how information is used, shared or hidden, and created in both digital and non-digital environments. Just as Covid-19 has brought challenges, it has also resulted in some relaxing coffee time in the garden where sunshine, flowers, and kitties provide entertainment.

# Who are your European Country Representatives?

Here is a full list of our Country Representatives. Please feel free to get in touch! Don't see a representative for your country here? We are looking for volunteers to fill these gaps. We look forward to working with you!

## Belgium



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