



SIG-IEP

MID-YEAR NEWSLETTER

ASIS&T SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP IN SIG INFORMATION ETHICS AND POLICY
ISSUE 1 | 02 MAY 2024 | VOLUME 1



**ASIS&T SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP IN SIG
INFORMATION ETHICS AND POLICY
ISSUE 1 | 05 MAY 2024 | VOLUME 1**

May 05, 2024

SIG-IEP MID-YEAR NEWSLETTER

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MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

Dear fellow SIG-IEP Officers and Members,

Welcome to our mid-year SIG-IEP newsletter. We have been updating the SIG-IEP iConnect Library and the website for the past few months. This newsletter contains all the activities, 2024 budget and expenditures, and the need to update the SIG-IEP ByLaws scope, purpose, and focus, which requires members' input.

We are pleased to feature Anam Jamal Ansari's research in our SIG-IEP member's column. Her insightful research, titled 'Safeguarding Knowledge Disaster Management in Indian Academic Libraries', delves into the important field of disaster management in the Indian academic context. Additionally, we have examined the introductory exploration of digital policies, which offers a global perspective on how government and organizational agencies handle information digital policies.

In addition, Policy, Ethics, and Data Privacy Resources from various organizations provide synopsis and ideas for future exploration, particularly the GEDSI framework. Lastly, SIG-IEP members are encouraged to participate, contribute proactive knowledge, and share ideas to develop activities to further enhance SIG-IEP's presence within ASIS&T.

Sincerely,

[Dr. Jelina Haines](#)

Policy Advocacy Lead, Catalyst 2030 Australasia Chapter

SIG-IEP Chair/Newsletter Editor/Writer

ASIS&T Membership Committee | SIG Cabinet Steering Committee

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SIG Information Ethics and Policy (IEP)

SIG Information Ethics and Policy (IEP) helps ensure that ASIS&T members are aware of ethical issues, legislation, policies, governance and regulations affecting the information field and members of the information professions. SIG-IEP provides a digital space that encourages research on and discussion of current and emergent information ethics and policy issues as they affect society. The goal is to promote information awareness of public and private entities' state/provincial, national, and international policies (<https://www.asist.org/sig/sigiep/>)

SIG-IEP activity mid-year updates

The membership count of SIG-IEP has now risen to **357**. Our mid-year report shows slow progress, but it is a steady rise, and members have been maintained, which contributed to the activities below.



- SIG-IEP iConnect Library resources folders have been created (see the image). and the SIG-IEP website has been updated. Unfortunately, we haven't managed to do a follow-up on SIG-IEP social media networks.
- Monthly meetings are conducted (agenda and minutes are published in the SIG-IEP iConnect library folder)
- Webinar: AI and Law/Regulation in Australia and Globally: The Trajectory to Date by Industry Guest Speaker [Principal Lawyer Rossi Law](#)
- Introducing: [ASIS&T SIG-IEP Inaugural Student Engagement Award](#)
- SIG-IEP Newsletter (published twice a year)
- Future Webinar: We are looking for a prospective industry guest speaker to discuss [specific topic] (2 prospective industry speakers are currently negotiating).
- Currently working on updating SIG-IEP Bylaws to expand its scope and purpose.
- Currently working on the SIG-IEP Project proposal
- Currently working on the annual report – **we encouraged SIG-IEP members to share their research stories with our annual report.**
- SIG-IEP 2024 Annual Meeting (will be conducted virtually – ahead of the [ASIS&T annual meeting in Calgary, Canada](#))

SIG-IEP UPDATES BUDGET AND EXPENSES

4133 - SIG-IEP's current Financial Activity 2024
FY 2024 (July 01, 2023 – June 30, 2024)

Total available funds for 2024 (actual)= \$1971.01

Expenditure 2024

Webinar - guest speaker honorary fee (non-member)	\$ 300.00
SIG-IEP Logo Awards 2024	<u>\$ 101.98</u>
Current total expenses	\$ 401.98

Future expenses 2024

ASIS&T SIG-IEP Inaugural Student Engagement Award \$1500.00

Grand total expenses \$1901.98

Available funds as of 01 May 2024: \$69.03

The award is for this year's ASIS&T annual meeting 2024...

87th Annual Meeting of the
Association for Information Science and Technology
25-29 October 2024
Calgary, Canada

Theme: Putting People First: Responsibility, Reciprocity and Care in
Information Research and Practice

Website: <https://www.asist.org/am24/>

ASIS&T SIG-IEP Inaugural Student Engagement Award

Important Dates

Application due date: Tuesday, 28 May 2024

Awards notification date: Friday, 28 June 2024

Award prize: \$1500.00 – cover registration and travel to the 87th Annual, Calgary, Canada, 25-29 October 2024

The Award

Calling all students studying IS/LIS related to ethical issues, legislation, policies, governance, and regulations affecting the information field and members of the information professions!

The [ASIS&T SIG-IEP Inaugural Student Engagement Award](#) is an incredible opportunity for you to showcase your research and become an active participant in the ASIS&T community. By encouraging engagement with SIG-IEP, this award aims to empower and inspire students to make a difference in the information field. This highly regarded award is granted through a unique submission cycle, providing a once-in-a-lifetime chance for you to demonstrate your skills and knowledge on an international stage. This is your chance to shine globally!

The winning research paper will be awarded a certificate and **\$1500** in cash to support the student's registration and travel to attend the [87th Annual Meeting in Calgary, Canada, from 25 to 29 October 2024](#). As an IS/LIS student, this is a unique opportunity to showcase student's research and contributions at this year's ASIS&T event. With the theme "Putting People First: Responsibility, Reciprocity, and Care in Information Research and Practice student's hard work and dedication can make a real difference in the field. Don't miss this chance to be recognized and contribute to a brighter future for information research and practice.

UPDATING SIG-IEP By Laws

CURRENT DESCRIPTION OF SIG-IEP

SIG Information Ethics and Policy (IEP) helps ensure that ASIS&T members are aware of ethical issues, legislation, and regulations affecting the information field and members of the information professions. It provides venues that encourage research on and discussion of current and emergent information ethics and policy issues as they affect society. It promotes awareness of state/provincial, national and international policies of public and private entities.

PROPOSE EXPANSION OF SCOPES AND PURPOSE OF SIG-IEP

ASIS&T Special Interest Group (SIG) focused on Information Ethics and Policy (IEP). The primary goal of this group is to keep information professionals up-to-date on ethical policies, governance, and regulations across various fields, including health, arts, humanities, technology, education, and the environment. Members of SIG-IEP collaborate to exchange best practices and resources related to information ethics, legislation, and regulations. This collaboration is particularly important in light of the increasing use of AI in the information industry. We, as Information professionals, are responsible for keeping up with the constantly changing landscape. As SIG-IEP members, we ensure that we support one another, especially those who are just starting out in the field of information science.

We urge SIG-IEP members to comment and share their opinions on the proposed expansion, scope, and purpose of SIG-IEP. Do you have better ideas that are best suited to SIG-IEP goals?

SIG-IEP MEMBER'S COLUMN



Contributor Researcher/PhD Student
Anam Jamal Ansari



SAFEGUARDING KNOWLEDGE: DISASTER MANAGEMENT IN INDIAN ACADEMIC LIBRARIES

[Anam Jamal Ansari](#)

Within the academic community, libraries are revered as ancient strongholds of wisdom, containing priceless materials that serve as the foundation for research endeavors. However, these educational havens are not impervious to the erratic power of natural calamities. This paper explores the crucial field of disaster management in Indian university libraries, illuminating the steps used to protect the richness of knowledge housed inside. Indian academic libraries, akin to their global counterparts, face an array of challenges in safeguarding their extensive collections.



The diverse nature of materials, from rare manuscripts to digitized archives, requires a multifaceted approach to disaster preparedness. India, a land of diverse landscapes, is susceptible to a range of natural disasters, including earthquakes, floods, and cyclones. Simultaneously, man-made threats such as fires, accidents, and theft pose significant risks. Academic libraries must navigate this complex landscape to ensure the resilience of their collections.

Disaster management in Indian academic libraries encompasses a spectrum of preventive measures. Robust fire detection and suppression systems, climate-controlled storage facilities, and regular structural assessments mitigate the risks associated with natural calamities and accidents. In an era defined by technological advancements, Indian academic libraries leverage cutting-edge solutions to enhance disaster preparedness. Digitization initiatives ensure that valuable collections are backed up, reducing the risk of loss. Additionally, sophisticated library management software aids in cataloging and tracking resources, facilitating efficient disaster recovery. The success of disaster management strategies relies on the preparedness of library staff. Indian academic libraries invest in training programs, conducting drills, and fostering a culture of awareness. Collaborative efforts with local communities ensure a coordinated response in times of crises. Acknowledging the pivotal role of academic libraries in preserving knowledge, the Indian government has initiated schemes to support disaster-resilient infrastructure. Financial incentives and guidelines encourage libraries to adopt state-of-the-art technologies and best practices in disaster management.

In the tapestry of India's academic landscape, libraries weave together the threads of knowledge, culture, and heritage. As guardians of this rich legacy, academic libraries in India stand at the forefront of disaster management. Through a holistic approach that combines preventive measures, technological innovation, community engagement, and government support, these libraries endeavor to ensure that the flame of knowledge remains undiminished, even in the face of unforeseen challenges. In embracing these strategies, Indian academic libraries exemplify resilience, demonstrating an unwavering commitment to preserving their intellectual treasures.



What is Digital Policy

Moral Principles led to shared decision-making and action

What is Digital PolicyJ.Haines

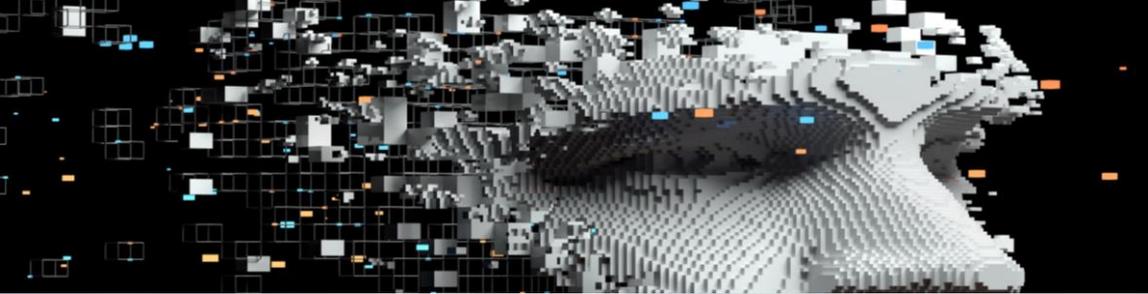
Digital policy is a broad term encompassing the political decisions and frameworks surrounding digital technologies and their impact. It is an independent policy that deals with how governments, institutions, and organizations establish rules and guidelines for navigating the opportunities and challenges the digital world presents. The Government Offices of Sweden argue that digital policy is crucial in determining governmental/organizational activities regulating digital and electronic communications, network and information security, access, and digital infrastructure are fully in place against cyber threats and freedom of expression, access to information and diverse cultural content, health and well-being are protected (UNESCO).

Digital Policy, Capacities and Inclusion



UNESCO has highlighted that digital innovation in AI is growing rapidly and has the potential to help achieve gender equality, disability rights, and social inclusion (GEDSI; Umboh, et., al 2023).) and contribute to the attainment of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs; ITU). However, while AI can be beneficial, users must exercise caution and be mindful of pressing concerns related to human rights, ethics, and knowledge sharing.

Another crucial GEDSI framework that demands our attention centers around Governance, Education, Democracy, Security, and Innovation. Understanding the GEDSI principles is essential to establishing comprehensive data privacy policies that give individuals control over their personal information is a must.



Current Digital Policy (strategies) by each country

AUSTRALIA

Australia's LIS Policy and Information Policy

- National Library of Australia
- Australian National University (ANU)
- Australian Library and Information Association
(APO – Analysis and Policy Observatory)

Australia's Digital Vision Towards 2030 and Data and Digital Policy landscape with direct Relationship and alignment between the Data and Digital Government strategy and APS Workforce Strategy 2025.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA (USA)

- Guidelines for Library Policies (American Library Association)
- Digital Government Strategy
- Privacy Act of 1974

The Privacy Act of 1974, commonly referenced as the Fair Information Practice Principles (FIPPs) require agencies to comply with statutory norms for the collection, maintenance, access, use, and dissemination of records.

ASIA

- Internet Policy in Asia: What are the technology and legal challenges for 2022?
- Digital Technology (Asian Development Bank)

Evidence shows that there is no specific digital information policy, and each country's digital policies are geared towards governmental economic strategies unless individual organizations and academe implement such digital policies.

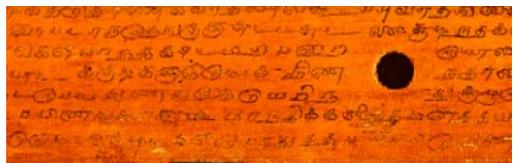
POLICY, ETHICS and DATA PRIVACY RESOURCES

[Libraries as Cultural Rights Defenders: Looking ahead to Culture, Heritage, and Development in 2022](#)

“Culture informs the way we communicate with one another; it defines the way we understand our past and provides a framework for how we see our place in the world. A human rights approach to development that is built upon a foundation of mutual respect and open dialogue must have a cultural element at its heart”.



**International
Federation of
Library
Associations and Institutions**



[Get Involved with Cultural Policy and Advocacy in 2024](#)

‘The past few years have seen major milestones in cultural policy. The historic [Mondiacult Declaration in 2022](#) resulted in the launch of several initiatives to translate its goals into actions’.

Looking ahead to 2024, there will be new opportunities to highlight how libraries are essential to these goals. This year, take stock, focus on building a strong track record of your activities, build connections, and report on your impact.

How to give voice to citizens in evidence-informed policy processes?

Citizens have a vital role in shaping health policies that affect their lives. However, much remains to be done to make policies more responsive to their needs and values. Engaging citizens in evidence-informed policy-making (EIP) greatly contributes to gaining insights into their perspectives, preferences, and experiences and producing more inclusive, equitable, effective, and reflective health policies.



WHO's two new Citizen Engagement resources



Promoting compliance, risk management and ethics

The WHO Office of Compliance, Risk Management and Ethics (CRE) promotes transparency and management of corporate-level risk within the framework of WHO's ethical principles.

To this end, CRE promotes the practice of the ethical principles derived from the international civil service standards of conduct for all WHO staff and associated personnel.



Privacy compliance with Sprintlaw: Protecting your business data an Australian perspective



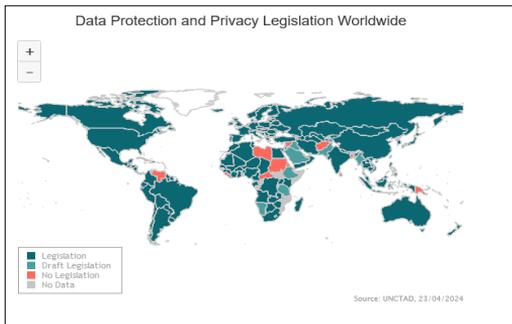
Website Privacy Policy/Governance

Managing your legal obligations, including privacy obligations, is essential when you operate an online business. A well-drafted privacy policy is critical if your business collects personal information. Personal information is defined as anything that can identify (or reasonably identify) an individual, such as name, email address, phone number, home address, and bank details—or if your business has an annual turnover of over \$3 million (auDA).



Data Protection and Privacy Legislation Worldwide

'The UNCTAD Global Cyberlaw Tracker is the first-ever global mapping of cyber laws. It tracks e-commerce legislation in e-transactions, consumer protection, data protection/privacy and cybercrime adoption in the 194 UNCTAD member states. It indicates whether or not a given country has adopted legislation or a draft law pending adoption. In some instances where information about a country's legislation adoption was not readily available, 'no data' is indicated.





SIG-IEP EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

2023-2024 SIG-IEP EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

Please feel free to contact us.



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FURTHER READINGS

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