

# *asis&t*

Association for Information Science and Technology



## **SIG-III**

THE SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP FOR INTERNATIONAL  
INFORMATION ISSUES

<https://www.asist.org/sig/sigiii/>

# Newsletter

*Volume 20, Number 1*

*March 2020*

*Dear asis&t family!*

*I hope all is well. We are facing social isolation due to COVID-19. During my stay at home, I have been continuously thinking about the moments as "Titanic hit an iceberg and began to sink, how Hartley and his fellow band members started playing music to help keep the passengers calm and continued to play until the very end".*

*Now, being library and information professionals, let's play our role in provision of the required information services (particularly health related information) to the public online. We must help the society in minimizing Corona epidemic. May Almighty protect us.*

*Stay safe!!!*

*Saira Hanif Soroya*

*Newsletter Officer*

## Message from the Chair



Greetings!

At the beginning, let us express our sincere sympathy for those who are suffering and fighting against COVID-19, and pray for the speedy control and victory over this pandemic.

It is a matter of great honor and privilege for me to serve as the Chair of the Special Interest Group for International Information Issues (SIG-III) of the Association for Information Science and Technology (ASIS&T). I am lucky enough to have a wonderful and dedicated team of officers and volunteers around me to achieve our goals. We are running different activities through our SIG. International Paper Contest, InfoShare Awards,

International Reception and Silent Auction are some of our flagship programs. Hats off to the leaders of these programs who are working hard to make these programs even more successful.

There are some challenges ahead of us. Financial sustainability and recruiting/retaining members are the big ones. But we will take these challenges as opportunities and will come across with a smiling face. I will be contacting some of the officers to discuss and find out solutions.

Apart from the Annual Business Meeting, we have planned to have quarterly meetings with our Officers. The Q1 meeting has already taken place on January 25<sup>th</sup>, and the Q2 will be held in April. The minutes of these meetings will be posted to the SIG-III website.

The SIG-III has been contributing well for the last 38 years. In 2022, it is going to celebrate its 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary. I invite you all to come forward with

brilliant ideas on how well we can celebrate it. We will incorporate these into the anniversary activities.

Moreover, I am interested in hearing from the team. So, please share your thoughts at [ashraf.sharif@aku.edu](mailto:ashraf.sharif@aku.edu), and I will anonymously share some of them at our next quarterly meeting.

In the end, so as to improve the membership experience for each of us, please make sure to join the wonderful community resources through [iConnect](#).

I hope to see each of you at our quarterly meeting in April 2020. In the meantime, stay safe and healthy by taking all precautionary measures to stop spreading Coronavirus.

*Ashraf Sharif*

**International Paper Contest**  
**By: Devendra Potnis**

The Special Interest Group on International Information Issues (SIG-III) of the Association for Information Science & Technology (ASIS&T) invites research papers for the 20th International Paper Contest (IPC) for library and information science (LIS) professionals in developing countries, for the 83rd Annual Meeting 2020. The theme of the Annual Meeting is: "Information for a Sustainable World: Addressing Society's Grand Challenges." For more information visit: [www.asist.org/am20](http://www.asist.org/am20). The purpose of this contest is to nurture the culture of research in developing countries by recognizing the work of researchers in developing countries.

Papers submitted to this contest can discuss research problems, policies, practical issues in or outside of LIS work settings, and case studies on any aspect of the 2020 ASIS&T Annual Meeting theme from a local and/or international perspective.

Authors are invited to submit manuscripts, not to exceed 5,000 words, by April 30, 2020, via email to [dpotnis@utk.edu](mailto:dpotnis@utk.edu) as Microsoft Word attachment.

## SIG-III International Reception Report 2019

By: Ashraf Sharif

The International Reception evening went very well on Sunday, 20th October 2019 at Crown Hotel, Melbourn. A good number of ASIS&T AM participants joined this reception. The then Co-Chair, Ashraf Sharif, welcomed to the attendees. The program included an introduction to the SIG III, recognizing the winners of the 19<sup>th</sup> International Paper Contest (IPC), InfoShare awards, the raffle ticket sale and draws.





This year, the first-place winner of the IPC was Shakeel Ahmad Khan from Pakistan. Unfortunately, he couldn't attend the AM due to visa problems. Hina Batool from Pakistan received the award on his behalf. In addition to the first-place winner, the principal authors of the second and third winning papers were awarded a two-year individual membership to ASIS&T.

An effort was made for fundraising for the SIG III programs via raffle ticket sales. Once the sale time was over, there draws were held and the gift hampers were distributed to the first, second and third winners of the draws.





I would like to acknowledge the contribution of Prodip Roy and Anwarul Islam. Both had been instrumental throughout the reception. They bought the raffle tickets and three gift hampers from the local market in Melbourne and packed them in a very nice way. Also, they sold the raffle tickets at the reception. I would also like to thank Sarah Buchanan, Catherine Dumas, and Hina Batool, who also volunteered for raffle ticket selling to the attendees.

## SIG-III Business Meeting 2019

The business meeting of SIG-III held on Tuesday, October 22, 2019 as early as 7:30 am at Conference Hall, Crown Conference Center, Melbourne, Australia. This time, the ASIS&T scheduled all SIGs & Chapters business meetings at the same time to give more time to attendees to participate in other programs. Abebe Rorrissa, Anwarul Islam, Ashraf Sharif,

Catherine Dumas, Daniel Alemneh, Hina Batool, Ina Fourie, Prodip Roy and Shimelis Assefa attended the meeting



in-person while Carl Leak and Devendra Potnis were connected online.



The SIG-III Chair Carl Leak opened the meeting and all attendees introduced themselves.

The following were the agenda items:

- Approval of the 2018 Business Meeting Minutes
- Chair Report
- Treasurer Report
- International Reception & Silent Auction
- SIG Cabinet Report
- International Paper Contest Report
- InfoShare Award Report
- 2019-2020 SIG III Election Results
- Vote of thanks and adjourn

Each of the attendees took part in the business meeting enthusiastically. The senior members provided valuable advices to run the group. The detailed report on the business meeting is available at [SIG-III website](#).



**SIG-III Officers 2019-2020**

Chair: Ashraf Sharif

Co-Chair: Carl Leak

Chair-Elect: Devendra Potnis

Co-Chair-Elect: Prodip Roy

Treasurer: Carl Leak

InfoShare Chair/Newsletter Officer: Saira Hanif Soroya

Webmaster/Communication Officer: Hina Batool

SIG Cabinet Representative: Catherine Dumas

IPC Chair: Devendra Potnis

IPC Jury: Yuelin Li

IPC Jury: Zehra Taskin

IPC Jury: Bhakti Gala

IPC Jury: Shivanthi Weerasinghe

IPC Jury: Nosheen Fatima Warraich

IPC Jury: Tung-Mou Yang

Advisors:

Toni Carbo

Kendra Albright

Abebe Rorissa

Past Chair: Carl Leak

# CONTACT US!

CONTACT US!



Suggestions, comments and contents for the next issue can be sent to [saira.im@pu.edu.pk](mailto:saira.im@pu.edu.pk).

Copyright 2020, ASIS&T SIG-III. All Rights reserved.

---



*Saira Hanif Soroya*  
*Newsletter Officer*