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SIG-III

NEWSLETTER

What's INSIDE?

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Message from the Chair	1
SIG-III Business Meeting 2020	2
International Paper Contest 2021	3
Reflection of SIG-III in ASIS&T 2020	4
Collaboration between SIG-III and South Asia/Africa Chapter	5

Dear All!

It's my pleasure to welcome you to the Spring edition of the SIG-III Newsletter for 2021. This edition starts with a small 'heads-up' regarding the upcoming '84th Annual Meeting of ASIS&T'. I am also excited to share the reflection of awards through the newsletter that our SIG and officers received in the last year meeting, which, we believe will inspire the SIG-III members a lot to grow further.

This issue also contains some important events like SIG-III Business Meeting-2020, Call for International Paper Contest etc. Finally, this edition features collaboration between SIG-III and South Asia/Africa Chapter, where the attendees share their research ideas to create more value for ASIS&T members in developing countries. I would like to thank the Chair for providing updates on activities through the newsletter.

Thanks again all of you for your support. Hope you enjoy reading this newsletter! Do reach out if you have questions or suggestions about how to work better.

Stay healthy!

Rajesh Kumar Das
Newsletter Officer

SAVE the Date !



EQUITY • DIVERSITY • INCLUSION • JUSTICE • RELEVANCE

OCT 30 - NOV 2, 2021 | SALT LAKE

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Please send your contributions and inquiries for next issue to:

rajesh@nstu.edu.bd or dpotnis@utk.edu

Message from the Chair



Welcome!

I trust you all are safe and well amid the COVID-19 pandemic. I appreciate all the librarians and information professionals around the world, who have played a key role in helping their communities mitigate the challenges posed by this pandemic. There are several unsung heroes in our profession, who regularly dedicate their time, effort, and expertise to address multiple grand challenges in our society. SIG-III, one of the largest SIGs of ASIS&T, is proud to represent such librarians and information professionals.

"Teamwork is critical for the success and growth of SIG-III. I am fortunate and proud to represent such a diverse team that is committed to serving SIG-III members through multiple initiatives."

Let SIG-III celebrate your achievements in the calendar year 2020. I invite you to take this short survey at the link: <https://sig-iiimembersuccess2020.questionpro.com/>. This is an opportunity for you to raise awareness of your contributions to our profession on a global platform. My team and I intend to lead SIG-III from the front to meet member expectations. For instance, in January 2021, we launched an online survey to learn the expectations of over 455 members. Recently, I shared the results of this survey with you all. To meet one of the expectations of SIG-III members, in April 2021, SIG-III submitted a panel proposal on "Conducting and Publishing Research in Developing Countries: Challenges and Solutions" in collaboration with the ASIS&T Africa Chapter and South Asia Chapter, to the 84th Annual Meeting of ASIS&T.

I would like to thank all the esteemed researchers and practitioners who agreed to serve as officers and advisors of SIG-III in 2020-21. Teamwork is critical for the success and growth of SIG-III. I am fortunate and proud to represent such a diverse team that is committed to serving SIG-III members through multiple initiatives. I encourage all members of SIG-III to actively participate in a global dialog by posting and responding to relevant and value-creating messages on <https://community.asist.org/communities/mycommunities>. Finally, I am excited to share with you all that library and information science professionals from several developing countries can now join ASIS&T and SIG-III for free. Let's spread the word and strengthen SIG-III to create value for all.

Devendra Potnis, Chair, SIG-III

SIG-III Business Meeting 2020

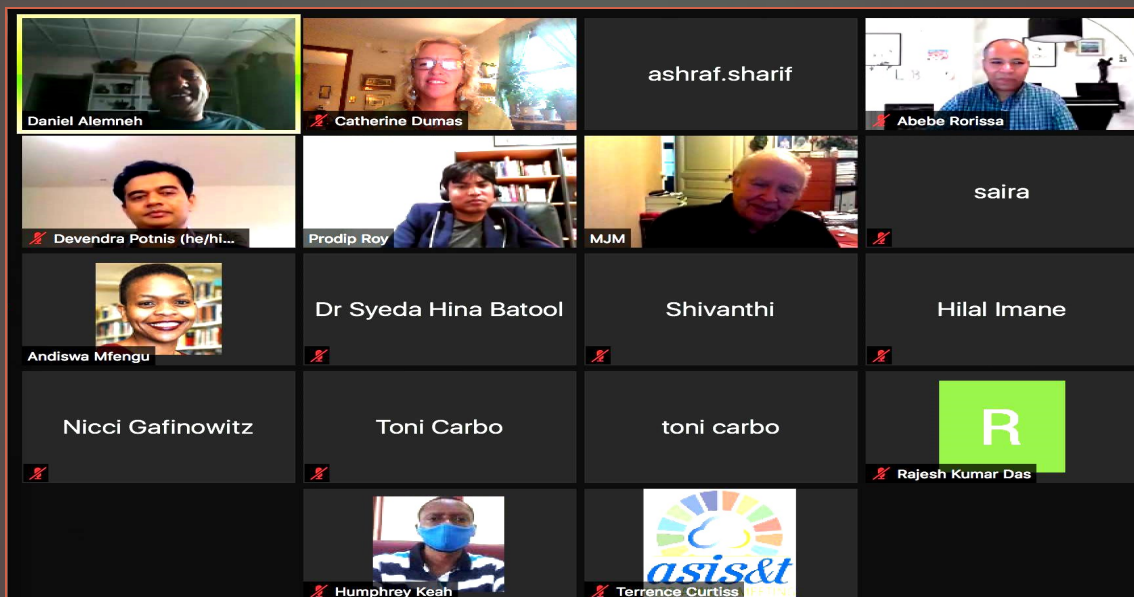


Photo: Catherine Dumas

The Annual Business Meeting of the SIG III held on Tuesday, 28 October 2020 at 11:00 am (EDT) online. All attendees of the meeting including officers and members of SIG-III were connected online, as ASIS&T 83rd conference virtually held due to Covid-19 pandemic. The SIG-III Chair Ashraf Sharif opened the meeting and all attendees introduced themselves.

The agenda for the meeting were as follows:

- ⇒ Approval of the 2019 Business Meeting Minutes
- ⇒ Chair Report
- ⇒ SIG Cabinet Report
- ⇒ International Paper Contest Report
- ⇒ InfoShare Award Report
- ⇒ Communications Officer Report
- ⇒ 2020-2021 SIG III Election Results

Resolutions made from the meeting:

1. For increasing the number of members suggestions were made to contact asis&t initiatives for representation from Central & South America, and Africa. As a new chapter called ASIS&T Africa Chapter has been formed, there's been a lot to encourage those chapter members to join SIG III.

2. As SIG-III is turning 40 in 2022, several plans were discussed among the attendees to celebrate the 40th anniversary of SIG III, including-

- a) Publish an Edited Book (book chapters asp IPC pattern) on the occasion of anniversary.
- b) Record/document past activities of SIG III.
- c) Prepare short documentary film on SIG III achievements.
- d) Involve IPC winners and Infoshare awardees in different outreach activities.
- e) Arrange grand International reception where all members are invited, including previous members. Write/invite our past active members to be part of it again.
- f) Organize panel discussions to highlight SIG-III contribution.
- g) Publish a commemorative publication for celebrating 40th anniversary.
- h) Seek for special funds from ASIS&T cabinets for supporting the above activities on the occasion of anniversary.

Prodip Roy, Co-Chair, SIG-III



International Paper Contest 2021

The Special Interest Group on International Information Issues (SIG-III) of the Association for Information Science & Technology (ASIS&T) invites research papers for the 21st International Paper Contest (IPC) for library and information science (LIS) professionals in developing countries, for the 84th Annual Meeting, to be held in Salt Lake City, Utah, USA on October 30-November 2, 2021. The theme of the Annual Meeting is: "Information: Equity, Diversity, Inclusion, Justice, and Relevance".

The purpose of this contest is to encourage researchers from developing countries to share their work globally. It also focuses to push advancements in information, people, and technology in contemporary societies in the context of 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 2021 ASIS&T Annual Meeting theme from a local and/or international perspective.

All authors should be citizens of and reside in a developing nation. Winners of 2014-2020 contests are not eligible. The papers should be original, unpublished, and submitted in English. We encourage submissions from librarians, information specialists, and educators involved in the creation, representation, maintenance, exchange, discovery, delivery, and use of digital information. Authors are invited to submit manuscripts, not to exceed 5,000 words, by April 30, 2021, via email to nosheen.im@pu.edu.pk as MS Word attachment. Winners will be notified by May 28, 2021.

This year, IPC jury members are from Iran, Malaysia, Pakistan, South Africa, Sri Lanka and Turkey. This committee includes:

- * Nosheen Warraich (Chair)
- * Iman Tahamtan
- * Shivanthi Weerasinghe
- * Jaya Raju
- * Muzammil Tahira
- * Noorhidawati Abdullah
- * Zehra Taskin

The committee will select 3 winners. The 1st-place winner will receive a maximum of US \$1,500 for offsetting the cost of attending and presenting their research poster (48" by 36" inches) based on their research paper at the SIG-III Reception at the 2021 ASIS&T Annual Meeting. In addition, all 3 winners will receive a 2-year individual membership in ASIS&T.

All three winners are welcome to submit their papers to "LIBRI: International Journal of Libraries and Information Studies" and "PJIM&L: Pakistan Journal of Information Management and Libraries" for publication subject to the peer-reviewing process.

For submission and more information, visit: <https://www.asist.org/.../call-for-papers-2021.../> or <https://www.asist.org/am20/submission-types-instructions/#papers>.

Nosheen Warraich, Chair, IPC

Reflection of SIG-III in ASIS&T 2020

ASIS&T Annual Meeting 2020 was significant for SIG-III, as the SIG created a milestone winning three awards:

SIG of the Year

The SIG III has been awarded 'SIG of the Year Award-2020' in recognizing its active engagement throughout the year. The officers were also deeply involved in expanding membership and reaching out the Award Certificates to the winners.

Let's honor and celebrate the award together !



Member of the Year

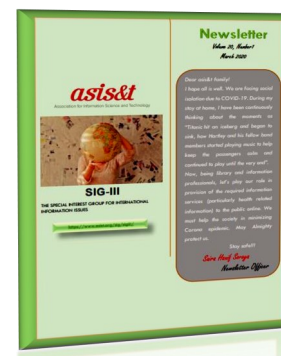
Devendra Potnis has been awarded 'Member of the Year Award-2020' for his leadership in many aspects. Potnis invited and formed a jury of 8 researchers from China, India, Pakistan, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Taiwan, Turkey, and Zimbabwe to work on the IPC committee which approved the review criteria, ethical guidelines, and overall review process for the competition while he was chair of International Paper Contest (IPC) for three consecutive years. He also proposed a new criterion of limiting the paper contest to the researchers and practitioners from developing countries for recognition and awards. He developed mechanism for easy information sharing throughout the international paper contests. Congratulations!!



Publication of the Year

SIG-III Newsletter has been awarded 'Publication of the Year Award-2020' for displaying a vibrant layout and new design, interesting content and a comprehensive coverage of SIG III activities amid of Covid-19 Pandemic. This particular piece also includes content of interest to the community through innovative marketing strategy reaching it to a larger audience.

Cheers to making the most of this award !!



Virtual Raffle Winner- 2020

Winners for 'Virtual Raffle-2020' are: *Catherine Dumas*, *Kendra Albright* and *Daniel Alemneh*. As announced, all three lucky winners received the ASIS&T membership for one year. The winners of 2020's virtual raffle were selected through the process of random selection online on the Wheel of Names website at the Coffee, Tea, and Cocktails hour at 6 pm on October 31st. It is worthwhile to mention that, ASIS&T SIG-III typically arranges the silent auction during the in-person ASIS&T conferences each year. But this year it has taken in the form of virtual raffles due to global pandemic.

Congratulations to all the winners!

Collaboration between SIG-III and South Asia/Africa Chapter

by Dr. Devendra Potnis

To create more value for ASIS&T members in developing countries, in February and March 2021, ASIS&T SIG-III held two separate roundtable sessions with ASIS&T Africa Chapter and ASIS&T South Asia Chapter via Zoom. These sessions were attended by over 25 members, officers, and advisors of SIG-III, Africa Chapter, and South Asia Chapter. Based on these sessions, (1) Devendra Potnis, Chair, SIG-III, (2) Bhakti Gala, Chair, South Asia Chapter, (3) Edda Tandi Lwonga, Chair,

Africa Chapter, (4) Md. Anwarul Islam, Co-chair elect, SIG-III, (5) Nosheen Warraich, Chair, International Paper Contest, (6) Humphrey Keah, Webmaster/Communication Officer and InfoShare Officer, SIG-III, and (7) Abebe Rorissa, Advisor, SIG-III submitted a panel proposal on “Conducting and Publishing Research in Developing Countries: Challenges and Solutions” to the 84th Annual Meeting of the Association for Information Science and Technology.

SIG-III Advisory Board



Toni Carbo, Co-founder & Advisor, SIG-III



Kendra Albright, Advisor, SIG-III



Abebe Rorissa, Advisor, SIG-III

SIG-III Officers 2020-21



Devendra Potnis, Chair



Prodip Roy, Co-chair



Anwarul Islam, Co-chair Elect



Caroline Kobusingye, Treasurer



**Saira Hanif Soroya,
InfoShare Chair**



**Abid Hussain,
InfoShare Member**



**Humphrey Keah, InfoShare Member
& Webmaster/Communication Officer**



**Rajesh Kumar Das,
Newsletter Officer**



**Catherine Dumas,
SIG Cabinet Representative**



**Nosheen Warrach,
IPC Chair**



**Iman Tahamtan,
IPC Jury**



**Jaya Raju,
IPC Jury**



**Noorhidawati Abdullah,
IPC Jury**



**Shivanthi Weerasinghe,
IPC Jury**



**Muzammil Tahira,
IPC Jury**



**Zehra Taskin,
IPC Jury**

Want to get involved in our SIG's activities?
To join SIG-III, please visit our website through:



Want to get updates on news and events or share anything with us?
Connect with us via our social media channels:

