SIG/Organizational Information Management
A LETTER FROM THE CHAIR
2019 June

Dear SIG/OIM Members:

This letter has the following purposes:
- To bring visibility to the officers of SIG/OIM
- To provide:
  - a profile of our members;
  - a brief history of SIG/OIM;
  - what your officers are doing now, and
  - what we're thinking about for the future.

Our officers
To save you the trouble of looking at our webpage to find out who we are, here we are:

2018 – 2019 Officers:
Chair: Deanna Morrow Hall
Chair-Elect: Caroline Coward
Secretary/Treasurer: Bill Edgar
Past Chair: Heather Pfeiffer
Cabinet Representative: Rong Tang

A profile of SIG/OIM members
In the ATTACHMENT, there are three tables which I created by analyzing SIG/OIM's roster of 87 members. Here are summaries of these tables:

- *Where we live*
-The Americas	61/70%
-Asia	13/15%
-Rest of the World	13/15%
- *Where we work*
-Academia	43/49%
-Corporate[1]	23/26%
-Government	6/ 6%
-Unidentified[2]	15/17%

NOTE: ASIS&T is in the process of transitioning its membership functions to the iCONNECT member community platform. The member directory on that platform is incomplete, so I generated this data from the old member directory. I encourage you to use the member directory to find SIG/OIM members in your nation or region, and look for opportunities to get acquainted.

A brief history of SIG/OIM
C*irca* 1976, when SIG/ Costs, Budgeting and Economics (CBE) seemed to be running out of steam, it appeared to be approaching dissolution. However, there were a large number of members who wanted a SIG where they could look at management of information activities in a larger context than

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[1] Includes consultants
[2] Includes retirees

costs, budgeting and economics, so SIG/ Management of Information Activities (MGT) came into existence. In 1980, SIG/MGT had 400+ members, most of whom were managers, or staff, of corporate libraries/ information centers.

Then, beginning in the late 1980s, the corporate world began the process of downsizing/rightsizing, and these functions became easy targets, because many executives did not understand the fundamental contribution that these functions make to the productivity of their professional employees. Consequently, SIG/MGT's membership steadily declined, until now we have only 87 members. However, we have been a persistent bunch, given that 12 of us have been ASIS&T members since before 2000!

On 25 May 2018, Chair Heather Pfeiffer posted a message on the SIG/OIM page on ASIS&T's iCONNECT platform, announcing our new name, SIG/ Organizational Information Management (OIM), and our revised mission statement.   These changes represented some serious bootstrapping efforts, but now, I think that we are in a position to assure our viability.

What your officers are doing now
- *2019 Annual Meeting in Melbourne, Australia*
Last November, knowing where AM 2019 would be, I turned to the member directory to see if there were any SIG/OIM members in Australia. I discovered that there were three, of which one, Dr. Elizabeth Tait, is located in Melbourne. On November 23, I sent an email to her, "asking whether she would have any interest in working with me to organize a panel session at the Melbourne meeting, to be sponsored by SIG/OIM". She responded that she "would be delighted" to work with me, so following numerous emails among Dr. Tait and all the officers, and a conference call in February, Dr. Tait put together a proposal for a panel titled
   *Big Data, Big Challenges: From Datafication to
     Data-Driven Digital Transformation*
There will be four panelists, all selected from Dr. Tait's connections in Australia.

- *Website*
I have discovered that SIG/OIM is the only one out of the 16 SIGs that does not have a website. However, maybe we can be given some consideration for having been on life support pretty much from 2007 to 2017. So I have invited Chair-Elect Caroline Coward to submit a proposal to us by the end of August, defining the features that should be de-

signed into the website, so that she can oversee its development during her term as Chair. This will necessitate finding at least one person, preferably two, who can serve as webmasters. If you are interested in **volunteering** for this role, please let her know. She particularly encourages students to volunteer.

▪ *A logo for the website*
In developing the website, we also need a logo. Thinking about the stated scope of SIG/OIM's charter, I propose that this logo should convey the sense of management over 360° of area; i.e. a continuous process of integrated awareness of information resources over the entirety of an organization. It finally dawned on me that the active sweep of a linear radar beam, or alternatively, the active sweep of a radial radar beam, would be an excellent analogy for this action. If you like either of these ideas, OR if they spark other ideas that you want to suggest, then please let me know.

▪ *Election of officers*
We need nominations for the following offices:
  ▪ Chair-Elect
  ▪ Treasurer
  ▪ SIG Cabinet Representative.
Here are the criteria[3] for nominations of officers:
  ▪ individuals willing to commit their time to providing the necessary leadership for the SIG.
  ▪ Individuals must be members of ASIS&T and the SIG at the time of their nominations.
  ▪ The best officers are well-versed in the particular interest area of the SIG and also have corporate or organizational support for their professional activities. Individuals without such support find it difficult to attend ASIS&T and SIG meetings and to prepare correspondence to the membership.
This third requirement to attend ASIS&T and SIG meetings can be relaxed somewhat with the availability of virtual attendance at meetings.

Please feel free to nominate yourself! You may communicate your intentions to me by July 31. According to the *SIG Officers Manual*, we must hold our election six weeks prior to the annual meeting[4]. Therefore, we will hold the election during the fourth week in August.

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[3] *SIG Officers Manual*. Revision approved 6/18. p. 11/ Nominations
[4] p. 33

What we're thinking about for the future
▪ *A webinar during 2020*
In case you have forgotten, we sponsored the following very successful (58 registrants) webinar on 30 September 2016:
  Preparing information professionals for an uncertain and rapidly changing future
This was hosted by Dr. William Rouse, one of the panelists on our workshop titled
  So who's managing all that organizational information anyway?
which we sponsored at AM 2015 in St. Louis.

We haven't selected a webinar topic for 2020 yet, but if you want to suggest a topic, and especially, one or more competent individuals to speak on that topic, we would be glad to hear from you. It may be that Dr. Tait's panel will raise issues that are suitable for a follow-on topic for a webinar.

▪ *2020 annual meeting in Pittsburgh*
Given that this meeting is nearly 18 months off, that gives us lots of time to identify topics and speakers for one or more panels. Let me offer this kickstarter for identifying topics:
  *Are there one or more **recurring** issues that you encounter in your work environment that would benefit from a panel discussion by you and your peers?*

Respectfully submitted,
Deanna Morrow Hall
Chair,
SIG/ Organizational Information Management
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IMPORTANT NOTICE!
SIG/OIM has a community located on the ASIS&T iConnect Member Community platform. Here is the URL to the SIG/OIM community page.

You will need the following to login:
▪ Username: email address associated with your ASIS&T account
▪ Password: Your regular ASIS&T password
Your officers will use this system for all community-wide communications.

ATTACHMENT

Membership/ SIG/OIM	87
Distribution by region/ nation	**Number of members**
Africa	**3**
▪ Kenya	1
▪ Nigeria	1
▪ South Africa	1
America/ North	**59**
▪ Canada	7
▪ USA	52
America/ South	**2**
▪ Brazil	2
Asia	**3**
▪ China	2
▪ Japan	1
Asia/ South	**8**
▪ Bangladesh	1
▪ India	5
▪ Pakistan	1
▪ Sri Lanka	1
Asia/ Southeast	**2**
▪ Philippines	1
▪ Thailand	1
Australia/New Zealand	**2**
Eastern Mediterranean	**3**
▪ Israel	2
▪ Jordan	1
Europe	**5**
▪ France	1
▪ Germany	2
▪ Italy	1
▪ United Kingdom	1

Membership/ USA/	52
Distribution by state	**Number of members**
Alabama	1
Arizona	1
California	10
District of Columbia	1
Florida	1
Georgia	1
Illinois	5
Indiana	1
Massachusetts	6
Maryland	2
Missouri	1
North Carolina	3
New Jersey	2
New Mexico	1
New York	7
Ohio	1
Oregon	2
Tennessee	1
Texas	4
Washington	1

Membership	87
Distribution by work affiliation type	**Number of members**
Academic/ no title	9
Academic/ faculty	14
Academic/ practitioner	13
Academic/ student	7
Consultant	7
Corporate	16
Government	5
Public library	1
Unidentified	15