

---

# NEWSLETTER

---



*Membership*  
January 2017: 208  
May 2016: 194  
May 2015: 215  
May 2014: 89

## In this issue ...

- Welcome! – From the Chair
- SIG VIS in Copenhagen
- 2017 Virtual Symposium (April 18 and 19)
- 2017 Student Research Awards
- MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION
- “Re-visualizing” the SIG VIS Website, by Arjun Sabharwal

## Officers (2016-17)

*Chair:* Jeremy L. McLaughlin, San Jose State University

*Webmaster:* Arjun Sabharwal, University of Toledo

*Membership:* Sarah Barriage, Rutgers The State University of New Jersey

*New Leader:* Banafsheh Asadi, McGill University

*Former Chair/Events:* Krystyna Matusiak, University of Denver

*Communications:* Gerald Benoit, Simmons College

*SIG Historian:* Diane Rasmussen-Pennington, University of Strathclyde

## How to join

For information about joining ASIS&T or SIG VIS, visit: <https://www.asist.org/join/>  
<https://www.asist.org/SIG/SIGVIS/>

@sigvis

---

## Welcome! – from the Chair

On behalf of our 2016-17 Officers, welcome to the March 2017 SIG VIS Newsletter!

There's a lot of exciting news to share with our members and the ASIS&T community.

We think this is the first SIG VIS Newsletter in ... well ... quite some

time. We wanted to “revive” this form of communication within the SIG, as a way to share ideas of importance to our members (208 strong!) and the ASIS&T community. To help us re-engage with lovers of visualization, images, and sound, we've migrated our website and designed a new SIG VIS logo (thank you to Gerry Benoit for the design and newsletter).

**“To help us re-engage with lovers of visualizations, images, and sound...”**



Jeremy L. McLaughlin,  
Chair

---

San José State Uni-  
versity

---

The re-branding of SIG VIS is discussed below, by VIS Webmaster Arjun Sabharwal. Arjun and Gerry are joined by a number of new Officers for the 2016-17 year, including Banafsheh Asadi who is working on the

Newsletter and website content, and joined us as a 2016-18 ASIS&T New Leader awardee. Everyone has participated in the re-design of our website and event planning for the year, and you'll be hearing more from our Membership Officer Sarah Barriage in the coming months.

I am especially excited about these efforts and am looking forward to feedback about the new site. In particular, I would like to point out some of the fun content we migrated from the old VIS website, including a few photos and the 2004-2005 blog. Check out this content on the [Archives Page](#) and look out for a potential Panel at the 2017 Annual Meeting. While we have some exciting ideas for the 80<sup>th</sup> ASIS&T Annual Meeting later in 2017, much sooner on the events calendar is the 2017 Virtual Symposium and Student Research Award, which we are co-sponsoring with SIG AH again this year.

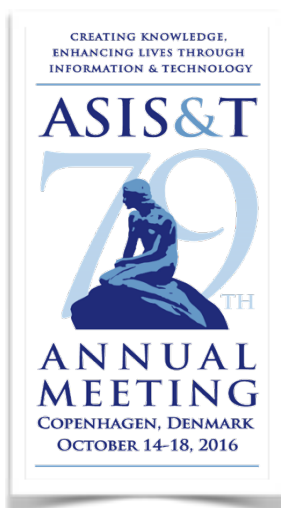
**Please help us promote the Virtual Symposium and the Student Awards, and plan to join us on April 18 or 19. <http://www.asis.org/SIG/SIGAH/2016/10/23/2017-symposium/>**

If ever you have any suggestions for an event or webinar, if you would like to contribute content to an upcoming Newsletter, or if you would like to share feedback, please feel free to get in touch with SIG VIS at [sigvis.asist@gmail.com](mailto:sigvis.asist@gmail.com)

We look forward to working with all of you in the new year!

*Jeremy L. McLaughlin*

Chair, SIG VIS



## SIG VIS in Copenhagen

SIG VIS was well represented at the 79<sup>th</sup> ASIS&T Annual Meeting in Copenhagen. Jenna Hartel from the University of Toronto and VIS Former-Chair Krystyna Matusiak held a successful pre-Meeting Workshop on [Visual Research Methods](#). The half-day Workshop provided a brief introduction to visual research methods and visual data analysis covering a number of different approaches. Participants were able to work with data and tools, and discuss applications to their research. The success of this event and the request for additional hands-on activities have given us a number of ideas for an upcoming VIS Workshop at the 2017 Annual Meeting.

In addition to the Workshop, Krystyna (University of Denver), along with Abebe Rorissa (University at Albany), Dan Albertson (University of Alabama), and JungWon Yoon (University of South Florida) were speakers on the SIG VIS Panel, [How is image seeking and use studied - Theoretical models and research methods](#). Co-sponsored with SIGs AH (Arts and Humanities) and DL (Digital Libraries) the Panel examined theoretical and methodological approaches to how visual information is stored, managed, discovered, and used. Each panelist presented a theoretical model related to non-textual information retrieval and discussed their empirical research.

---

## 2017 Student Research Awards

SIG AH and SIG VIS are seeking previously unpublished research for a Master's and a PhD Student Research Award. The theme, [Open Science in the Humanities](#), invites participation from a variety of theoretical and empirical perspectives on the topic. We encourage graduate-level submissions from a broad range of disciplines including the arts and humanities, digital humanities/new media, library and information science, and computer science.

Finalists will be invited to introduce their research presentation at the 2017 Virtual Symposium on Information and Technology in the Arts and Humanities (April 18 and 19, 2017) and winners will receive a Student Research Award and cash prize up to \$500.

Complete details, including eligibility and submission requirements, can be found on the 2017 Student Research Awards page: <http://bit.ly/CfSP17>

---

## Membership Information

To become a SIG VIS member, join ASIS&T through the main ASIS&T membership page located here: <https://www.asist.org/join/>

If you are already an ASIS&T member, please log into the ASIS&T site and add SIG VIS to your affiliations (no costs for joining multiple SIGs). To subscribe to the SIG VIS email list or to search the archive of the messages which have been posted visit:

<http://mail.asis.org/mailman/listinfo/sigvis-l>

---

2017 Virtual Symposium on  
**VISITAH**  
INFORMATION & TECHNOLOGY  
in the ARTS & HUMANITIES  
#VisitAH

We are delighted to have the following confirmed speakers at the 2017 Virtual Symposium:

**Miriam Posner – UCLA**

Research data

**Bjorn Hammerfelt – The University of Borås**

Research metrics

**Michael Black – University of Massachusetts, Lowell**

Web scraping

**Joe Locke & Ben Wright – University of Houston-Victoria & University of Texas at Dallas**

The American Yawp

**Alexander Monea – George Mason University**

Speculative code theory

**Jamie Thomas – Swarthmore College**

Zombie discourse analysis

**Joan Beaudoin – Wayne State University**

Information retrieval in art history

**Kate Hayes – Independent Musician**

Open Symphony

**David Bourget – University of Western Ontario**

Philosophy, PhilPapers

## 2017 Virtual Symposium

(April 18 and 19)

<http://www.asis.org/SIG/SIGAH/2016/10/23/2017-symposium/>

The 2017 Virtual Symposium on Information and Technology in the Arts and Humanities will be held online on April 18 and 19, 2017. Once again this year, SIG VIS is co-sponsoring the event with SIG AH.

The theme for the 2017 Symposium is The Information and the Technology of Open Science in the Humanities. Digital technology has had a profound impact on scientific and scholarly communication. This includes fundamental changes to how individuals and groups find information, carry out collaborative projects, and publish, assess, and preserve growing amounts of content. In the sciences, the idea of open research processes and dissemination is inherent in changing research practices; but how are the concepts related to Open Science applied to research in, and about, disciplines in the Humanities?

Additional details about the speakers, and the agenda, will be available on the 2017 Virtual Symposium website: <http://www.asis.org/SIG/SIGAH/2016/10/23/2017-symposium/>

Please RSVP (not required) at <http://bit.ly/RSVP17Symp>

## “Re-visualizing” the SIG VIS Website

The SIG VIS Website was launched in 1994 to disseminate news, presentations, and publications by SIG VIS members and officers. With the World Wide Web just launched and in its infancy, there were fresh new opportunities then to leverage existing technology to visualize image and sound, and information science had reached a new milestone through scholarship on visualization theory and practice. The focus today falls on data visualization, non-textual information retrieval, and leveraging current and emerging technologies for new kinds of representations. The focus of the new Website aims to capture knowledge that has been disseminated in the community of scholars and practitioners, but it also presents a historical look back on the early accomplishments of SIG VIS through its archives of blog posting, articles, and presentations given at earlier ASIST conferences. SIG Chair, Jeremy McLaughlin has put together the blog archive as well as the listing of SIG VIS presentations and activities. Materials in the archives were important to piecing together the complete list of SIG Officers going back to our founding in 1994.

The migration of content from the earlier legacy site into the WordPress environment has presented some issues related to content format as well as site architecture. The former was converted into PDF format preferred for digital archiving and preservation for long-term access. These PDFs were prepared with Optical Character Recognition (OCR), which renders the text fully searchable on the Web as well as in any application (Adobe Professional, Acrobat, PDF Architect, etc.). Site architecture, on the other hand, presented opportunities for decisions on layout, features, and usability. Although there have been no attempts to test the site for user experience and usability, this may be on the agenda to support future enhancements.

After having tried a few attractive templates, the decision was to use “Basic Shop” based on its clarity and adaptability. After testing dozens of plugins for breadcrumbs, collapsible navigation bars, and others, adding the necessary features has improved the site. Best practices in information architecture point out that content rich sites should have a search box as well as breadcrumb trails for searching and navigation. The right-side navigation scheme also required improvement in addition to serving as a site map, and a plug-in has made that possible. Finally, it was important to add a tag cloud to enable the ontological representation of the site, but this is still in progress.

SIG VIS’s aim is to use this site to as a way to communicate with the ASIS&T community, and the world, on issues relating to our mission statement. It is still a work in progress – we hope to include more graphical elements and additional new content in the coming months, and invite feedback from the community.



Arjun Sabharwal,  
Webmaster

---

University of Toledo

---

