

American Society for Information Science & Technology(ASIST)
Scientific and Technical Information Science (STI)
Special Interest Group (SIG)

Minutes – Annual Meeting
Tuesday, 11 October 2011
New Orleans

Attending (listed alphabetically): Kevin Crowston, Moriana Garcia, Thanos Giannakopoulos, Joseph Hourclé, Michael Leach, Christina Pikas, Jian Qin, George Ryerson, Todd Suomela, K.T. Vaughan

1. Meeting called to order at 10:30am by Michael Leach, Chair.
2. Officers for 2011: Michael asked if any member present wished to stand for Chair, Chair-Elect, Treasurer, Secretary, Membership Officer and Communication Officer for the 2011-2012 term. The following positions were approved by the members present:

Chair: Michael Leach (second term)

Chair-Elect: Moriana Garcia

Communications Officer: Joseph Hourclé

Michael will communicate with the membership to ascertain if any member is willing to serve in the remaining positions.

3. Programs with Chapters: In an effort to reach out to Chapters (student and regular), the group discussed possible joint programs and possible partners. SIG-STI could develop 1-2 programs per year, then “farm” these out to the Chapters, who would handle the local logistics and on-site coordination. Three regional Chapters mentioned for consideration were: Potomac Valley, Metropolitan New York and Central Ohio – as we have active SIG-STI members in each of these regions. Possible programs are in section 4.

4. Program ideas: The bulk of the meeting revolved around brainstorming and discussing potential programs for the current year for the following:

- Partnership programs with Chapters (see #3 above);
- The 2012 ASIST Annual Meeting, which will be the 75th Anniversary of the Society (Baltimore, 26-31 October)
- The 3rd RDAP Summit (Research Data Access & Preservation; 22-23 March 2012; New Orleans)

Program ideas included the following:

- Further programs highlighting issues (especially practical, implementation-related issues) of data management and curation, from the creation of the DMP (Data Management Plan) to carrying out said plan – to include storage, access/metadata and preservation (especially this latter issue). Programs in this area could be done in cooperation with SIG-DL.
- STEM e-resource analysis and evaluation, especially the various metrics and statistics used to measure value and return on investment in the library community – i.e. how does one justify purchase, say, one e-journal package over another; how can a library determine if a given e-resource is of value to the community; etc. Programs in this area could be done in cooperation with SIG-MET.
- Visualization of STEM data; this discussion was particularly fruitful and moved in several directions; there is KT's visualization project; there are new tools for visualizing large data sets (for example, the eBird project presented at the Plenary Session of the ASIST AM on Monday, Oct. 10th); there were a number of visualization posters presented at the President's Reception on Monday evening); visualization as art – this concept spurred much discussion, including the following:
 - creating an art competition, where submitters would combine art, visualization and STEM data/material to cross all these boundaries; this could be particularly aimed at student chapters, but does not have to be limited to them;
 - partnering with a Baltimore art museum, like the Walters, for a tour, behind the scenes look at their operations, and SIG-STI member luncheon – that museum recently had a Hubble Telescope exhibit (Wednesday morning might be the preferable time for this tour and luncheon if the current model of ASIST annual meetings continues).

Programs in this area could be done in cooperation with SIG-VIS.

- SIG-STI could repurpose the most popular sessions from the upcoming RDAP Summit and use those as a program basis for the partnerships with Chapters;
- A virtual, “e-poster” competition, similar in style to that employed by the AGU (American Geophysical Union); this would involve a “call for posters,” reviewers, and an online presentation space and time; this program could be especially beneficial to those SIG-STI members who can not attend annual meetings.

5. ASIST Bulletin: Articles for the Bulletin are aimed primarily at the practitioners in our Society (JASIST being the primary academics publication). Members of SIG-STI have contributed to the Bulletin in the past and the current Editor, Irene Travis, is looking for possible themed issues and guest editors for the coming year.

6. The assembled members were photographed – this photo will be posted on the SIG-STI website shortly. A brief discussion of communication preferences took place – currently SIG-STI communicates via their webpage and listserv, as well as through the general ASIST Facebook and Twitter accounts. The membership will be polled in late October to determine what further methods of communication are desired.

7. The meeting was adjourned at 11:30am.

Minutes submitted by Michael Leach