

SIG III Newsletter

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### 1. Call for International Paper Contest

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INTERNATIONAL PAPER CONTEST ON DIGITAL LIBRARY INFORMATION SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

The American Society for Information Science (ASIS), International Information Issues Special Interest Group, is holding a competition for papers to be submitted for the Annual Conference in Chicago, IL, 13-16 November 2000.

The Theme is:

Practical collaborative applications of digital library or information science and technology in advancing communications, information and knowledge in the developing world.?

The paper topic could be at the country or regional level, and could include projects supported by government, non government organizations, international organizations, professional associations and/or academic institutions. Papers could present practical experiences in areas such as, but not limited to, the following: development of electronic resources across networks, cooperative projects to avoid duplication of efforts, sharing of resources between information institutions and providers, bringing access to information to distant and disadvantaged communities.

There will be six winners. Winners will be selected by a panel of judges, consisting of Dr. Trudi Bellardo, Hahn, University of Maryland; Dr. Ben-Ami Lipetz, State University of New York at Albany; and Dr. Bahaa El Hadidy, Professor Emeritus, University of South Florida. The prize for each winner is a two-year individual membership in ASIS. In the case of multiple authors, the principal author will be awarded the ASIS membership.

Paper Presentation:

Winning papers will be presented at a Conference Session, moderated by Nathalie Leroy, Dag Hammarskjold Library, United Nations. Discussion leader will be Ms Sylvia Piggott, of the Joint World Bank-International Monetary Fund Library, Washington, D.C. If winners cannot attend the Conference, their paper will be read on their behalf by an ASIS member.

Other Publishing Opportunities:

Submitted papers will be considered for posting on the SIG III web site as pre-publications. In addition they will also be considered for inclusion in the ASIS Bulletin, based on the decision of Editor-in-Chief, Irene Travis, Ph.D. Papers will also be reviewed for inclusion in such publications as a special issue of the International Information and Library Review, subject to the usual peer refereeing process.

Information for authors:

Only papers by a principal author who is a citizen of a developing country are eligible. The papers should be original, unpublished, and in English. We encourage submissions from librarians, information and network specialists, and educators involved in the creation, representation, maintenance, exchange, discovery, delivery, and use of digital information.

ASIS Copyright Policy:

ASIS will have the non-exclusive right to publish any of the papers submitted on its web site or in print, with ownership and all other rights remaining with the author.

Deadline for Submission of Full Papers:

Authors are invited to submit manuscripts, not to exceed 6000 words, by August 31, 2000. Authors are encouraged to submit papers electronically. For more information or to submit manuscripts, please contact Nathalie Leroy by e-mail at the following address: leroy@un.org

Susan O. Johnson, Chair, ASIS SIG III

Susan O. Johnson, Information Officer

The World Bank

Information and Knowledge Sharing Solutions, Information Solutions Group www.worldbank.org

sjohnson3@worldbank.org

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**2. Fundraising Letter**  
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Eugene Garfield, President of ASIS, 2000

Founder and Chairman Emeritus

Institute for Scientific Information

Toni Carbo

Dean and Professor

School of Information Sciences

University of Pittsburgh

Dear ASIS member,

In the last two years developing countries increasingly have recognized the need for planning and implementing digital libraries for access to bibliographic and full text information on the Internet. In some developing nations libraries have been suppressed because of political reasons, or actually been bombed or burned out during war, and library staff have been killed. Libraries throughout the developing world suffer from a severe shortage of funds. Digital libraries are seen as a way of leap-frogging all these problems in order to reconstitute the library systems. They will bring quality information and collections across borders and into rural and urban areas suffering a lack of resources.

International Information Issues SIG (III) has put together a plan, a competition for papers on digital library projects in the developing world. (enclosed is a flier describing the competition. Please pass it on to your colleagues in developing countries). This could be the first step in: Enabling ASIS to take the lead in collecting and identifying quality projects in these countries; Encouraging leading information scientists and librarians to become ASIS members; Helping internationalize ASIS; and, Beginning an archive of papers on development on the SIG III web site.

Submitted papers will be considered for inclusion on the SIG III web site, to develop a knowledge base of digital library information on developing countries. In addition, the top six authors will have their papers read at the Annual Conference in Chicago in November, and will be recognized for excellence by the award of two year memberships in ASIS. In addition all papers will be reviewed for inclusion in Bulletin of ASIS, and for a special issue of International Information and Library Review. All authors will be invited to subscribe to the SIG III listserv, where we expect to have knowledgeable interchanges on international digital library issues, and where opportunities for practitioners and scholars will be made available.

We are creating a fund for this effort, the SIG III Digital Scholars Fund. We need your help. Let's get all ASIS members involved. If we can raise \$10,000 we can cover two-year memberships in ASIS, and pay the expenses to bring the top winners to the Conference. We especially urge Chapters and SIGs to discuss how they would like to support this effort. SIG III will pledge supporting a two year membership in ASIS for one of the winners. For individual support, we would greatly appreciate donations of \$10, \$25 or \$50 to this worthy cause.

As a leading society in the information field, ASIS aims to play an important role in identifying digital library initiatives in developing countries. Our objective is to accelerate the process of providing these countries with their information needs necessary for their socio-economic and industrial development. In a global electronic society, digital libraries may be the effective means to reduce the gap between the information-rich and information-poor societies.

Please send your donation at the earliest possible time. We thank you for your generosity in contributing to this noble effort.

Sincerely,
Eugene and Toni

Please return this form with your contribution to :

Sue O. Johnson, SIG III Chair, ASIS
8720 Georgia Ave, Suite 501
Silver Spring, MD 20910

Please accept my individual tax deductible donation for:

_____ \$10.00 _____ \$25.00

_____ \$50.00 _____ Other amount _____

Name _____

Check enclosed for _____ (please make check payable to ASIS/SIG III Digital Scholars Fund)

Visa Charge Name _____ Amount _____

Visa Number _____ Expiration Date _____

Master Card Charge Name _____ Amount _____

M.C. Number _____ Expiration Date _____

Contributions are tax deductible to the full extent of the law.

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**3. African Digital Library Project Won World Bank Award** (February, 2000)  
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On February 10, 2000, World Bank President James D. Wolfensohn announced 44 winners of a total of \$5 million in seed money for projects that offer new ways of fighting poverty. The news came at the close of a two-day "Development Marketplace" competition sponsored by the Bank and partners to identify and award the most innovative ideas for reducing poverty. The "African Digital Library", was awarded US\$90,000.

About The "African Digital Library" Project:

Sponsors:

Paul G. West, Centre for Lifelong Learning, Technikon SA (pgwest@pgw.org) Ross Paul, World Bank
JJ Labuschagne, The Confederation of Open Learning Institutions of South Africa (COLISA)
Wane Mackintosh, The University of South Africa (UNISA)
Paul Lubout, Vista University

Many academic institutions in Africa are constrained by not having access to The appropriate textbooks to support learners and research. We are establishing a digital library that can be accessed via the Internet, which contains full-text books (<http://AfricaEducation.org/adl/>).

The library is available free of charge to residents and institutions of Africa for academic or business use. The project will create a core inventory of priority materials for the library. eBooks may be borrowed by eligible users for a limited period

of time, during which they will have full access (full-text search, copy-and-paste, print, etc) to the text before it is automatically returned to the library for use by another user.

eBooks are being acquired on an "in-perpetuity" basis. This means that no further expenses are incurred after the initial purchase for storage, management, etc. Copyright issues are taken care of by the service-provider partner, netLibrary. Full text eBooks are searchable by full-text, keywords, etc. eBooks are immediately available to another user the moment it has been "closed". eBooks may therefore be used in multiple countries on the same day.

For more details:

<http://wbln0018.worldbank.org/srm/srmsg/dm/dmfinalparticipants.nsf/winners?openview> then scroll down to entry # 130 African Digital Library

About the Development Marketplace competition:

http://www.developmentmarketplace.org/html/about_press.html#feb10news <http://www.developmentmarketplace.org/html/results.html>

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#### 4. Frequently Asked Questions about sigiii-l Subscriptions

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The purposes of SIG/III are--

- to promote better awareness among ASIS members and information professionals of the importance of international cooperation;
- to facilitate and enhance better communication and interaction among ASIS members and their foreign colleagues on information issues; and
- to provide a forum for exploring and discussing international information issues and problems. SIG/III membership includes most non-U.S. ASIS members and a true cross-section of U.S. ASIS members.

The list is open to all (regardless of membership) and it is unmoderated. We felt that of all ASIS SIGs, International Information Issues especially needed the ability to communicate quickly and widely.

We have taken the liberty of subscribing all members of SIG III based on the information available at headquarters in August, 1999. To change your subscription, you will probably want to unsubscribe the address we have entered for you and re-subscribe from another address.

Here's the HOW-TO instructions:

To post a message to sigiii-l:

Send your message to <sigiii-l@asis.org> [All lower case!]
Attachments will NOT be processed.

To subscribe:

Send to: majordomo@asis.org
Subject line should be blank. It will not be processed.
Text: subscribe sigiii-l
[Note: no capital letters. No signature file.
Do not include your name or e-mail address.]

To unsubscribe:

Send to: majordomo@asis.org
Subject line should be blank. It will not be processed.
Text: unsubscribe sigiii-l
[Note: no capital letters. No signature file.
Do not include your name or e-mail address.]

Please contact me (hxu@mail.sis.pitt.edu) if you have any questions regarding the list.

Thanks for your attention.

Hong Xu
SIG III Communication Officer
sigiii-l Owner

This issue of SIGIII news is compiled by: Hong Xu (hxu@mail.sis.pitt.edu)

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