SIG III Newsletter

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asis&t
International Information Issues

1. Greetings from Chair

Welcome to SIG III from the 2003-2004 Chair, Nathalie Leroy

A warm welcome to the "hottest SIG around" in the words of Marketing Chair Nadia Caidi! After winning the SIG of the Year Award three years in a row, SIG-III has again been recognized in 2003 through two of its members. Sue O'Neill Johnson, Immediate Past Chair, won the SIG Member-of-the-Year Award, while the SIG Publication-of-the-Year Award went to the SIG III website thanks to the excellent work done by Yin Zhang, Chair-Elect. On behalf of all SIG-III members, let me convey our warmest congratulations to both.

Such recognition is a tribute to the dedication of all SIG-III members. Over the years, SIG-III has regularly attracted talented new members, including a large number of active overseas members.

Our slate of officers is long. It reflects the strong commitment by individual members to ensuring that our SIG's work continues to benefit many. It also reflects the wide range of programs SIG-III sponsors, such as InfoShare, the Global Village, or the International Paper Contest. In this Newsletter issue, you will find the minutes of the Business Meetings that took place in Long Beach. They have been prepared by Suzanne Stemler and provide more details about the extensive work program for 2004.

This year, we will be celebrating the fifth anniversary of our International Paper Contest. 2004 will also be the year of India. Two international conferences are

scheduled to take place in Delhi, organized by past winners and participants in the International Paper Contest. The October conference is scheduled to be organized with the joint support of ASIST and SLA.

SIG-III members, from the founding members to the more recent recruits, all share a common vision: making a difference in international information issues. During the Annual Meeting in Long Beach, a proposed addition to our Mission Statement was approved unanimously: "To develop an international network of digital scholars, experts on digital libraries and information technology, in developing countries."

Sharing knowledge in our domain of expertise is our way to contribute to bridging the digital divide and to building the inclusive Information Society called for by the Declaration of Principles that has just been adopted by the World Summit on the Information Society:

"We, the representatives of the peoples of the world, assembled in Geneva from 10-12 December 2003 for the first phase of the World Summit on the Information Society, declare our common desire and commitment to build a people-centred, inclusive and development-oriented Information Society, where everyone can create, access, utilize and share information and knowledge, enabling individuals, communities and peoples to achieve their full potential in promoting their sustainable development and improving their quality of life, premised on the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and respecting fully and upholding the Universal Declaration of Human Rights."

2. SIG III Recognized at the Annual Meeting

Sue O'Neill Johnson Won the SIG Member-of-the-Year Award

Sue O'Neill Johnson, SIG III Chair, is the winner of the 2003 SIG Member-of-the-Year Award. SIG III has been a winner of the ASIST SIG-of-the-Year Award for the past three years in a row (2000-2002) while Sue played a leadership role in the group as its Chair in 1999-2000, Past Chair 2000-2001, and Chair Elect 2001-2002. Under Sue's leadership, SIG III has initiated many new programs, such as International Paper Contest and

International Travel Grants, to name a few. Congratulations to Sue on the well-deserved award!
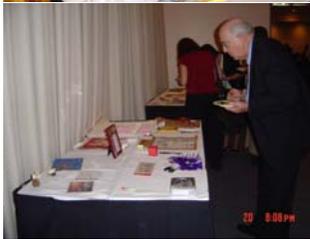
SIG III Website Won the SIG Publication-of-the-Year Award

SIG III Website (http://www.asis.org/SIG/SIGIII/) is the winner of the SIG Publication-of the-Year Award. The award recognizes the best publication produced by a SIG during the previous year. Yin Zhang, SIG III Communications Officer and Webmaster (2001-2004), received the award for the group.

Thanks for all the comments and suggestions for improving the site! SIG III Website strives to meet the needs of its audience and to facilitate SIG III administration and communication. Your comments and suggestions are always welcome!

3. Annual International Reception

The International Reception at the ASIST 2003 Annual Meeting was held on Monday, October 20th, from 8 to 10 p.m. Elsevier Science, Inc. donated generously $1000 to the reception. This year's reception attracted a large number of attendees as it always has!

The Silent Auction went really well at the International Reception. Thanks for all those who participated. Many SIG III members helped the auction by contributing wonderful items for sale, setting up and managing the sale, and buying the items.

A raffle to benefit the SIG III InfoShare Program was also held at the reception. The program sponsors

ASIST membership for information practitioners from developing countries, residing outside the U.S., to help them benefit their information communities and the developments in their countries. This year, the winner, Irene Travis, donated her winning money $160 to the InfoShare Program. Thanks, Irene! The Silent Auction and the Raffle Ticket Sale together raised $611.25!

More information about the InfoShare program and photos of the event are available at the SIG III website.

4. The Global Information Village Plaza

THE GLOBAL INFORMATION VILLAGE PLAZA 2 IDENTIFIES CONCERNS FOR DEVELOPING NATIONS
(October 19-21, 2003, Long Beach, California)

Nadia Caidi (Faculty of Information Studies) and Michel Menou (City University, London) moderated the session on the Global Information Village Plaza at the annual conference of the American Society for Information Science and Technology. The session had as its goal to elicit reactions and input from the lay professional public about the rhetoric and issues surrounding globalization and the information society, and what these concepts mean in a concrete sense. The polling of perception and opinion was done through solicited position statements and on-site discussion. The findings show some interesting trends, particularly from colleagues from developing nations who were very vocal at the session. Their frustration and disappointment with the terms of the debate was evident in the themes raised, among them the realization that access to ICT is important, but cannot achieve much by itself. Rather, there was a call for more relevant and usable content. Localization was also a controversial topic. While localizing content to make it relevant to users' needs was lauded, there was mention of the reluctance of certain information professionals to use software and products in local languages, preferring to use English in the workplace (presumably for prestige or status reasons). There was also a general call for open "everything"-open access and free flow of information, open doors, open minds, etc. Privacy and confidentiality of records was also a

concern. More information and a detailed report will be made available by the moderators.

Contributed by Nadia Caidi
Photos taken during the event are available at the SIG III website.

5. Business Meeting Minutes

ASIST SIG III MEETING MINUTES (Long Beach, Monday, Oct. 20, 2003)

The meeting was opened at 5:30 p.m., Mon., Oct. 20 and conducted by outgoing chair, Sue O'Neill Johnson. Those present were:

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Absent were several Eugene Garfield Travel Grant and International Paper Contest winners as well as Nathalie Leroy, incoming chair, due to "problems" with visas. Bahaa urged that the Association make an official complaint regarding this matter and agreed to draft the complaint; Yin volunteered to assist. [The complaint was made at the Annual Business Meeting and the President turned it over to Michel Menou and Julian Warner, who are now the official international advisors to the Board.]

Sue announced/introduced winners of the 2003 International Paper Contest and Eugene Garfield Travel Grant. International Paper Contest winners:
- 1st place: Ifeanyichukwu F. Njoku (Nigeria) for Information Seeking Behavior of Fishermen in Lagos State, Nigeria (attended);
- 2nd place: Wathmanel Seneviratne (Sri Lanka) for Local Information Upload Strategy in Building Up Rural Community Information Pages on the Internet: An Approach to Attend Information Needs of Rural Sri Lanka (invited but unable to obtain visa);
- 3rd place: Tariq Ashraf (India) for Information Technology and Public Policy: A Socio-Human Profile of Indian Digital Revolution (attended);
- Also recognized was the 2nd place winner of the 2002 Paper Contest, Subbia Arunchalam.

Eugene Garfield Travel Grant winners present:
- Dr. Ca Tran, Vietnam
- Mr. P.K. Jain, India
- Dr. P.R. Goswami, who won a partial grant from the SIG III Board

Sue noted that this is our fourth consecutive International Paper Contest. Paper Contest Committee members include:
- Chairs: Yunfei Du, Nathalie Leroy, Sue O'Neill Johnson
- Marketing: Liwen Vaughan (to be mentored by Sue)
- Travel Grant Logistics: Norman Horrocks
- Fundraising: Linda Bringan (to be mentored by Sue)

Elsevier will be recognized and thanked on a new "thank you" web link from the SIG III website, under development by Yunfei Du. In future, the same will be done for Chapters, SIGs, and other donors.

Sue announced/introduced the following new board members:
- Chair: Nathalie Leroy
- Chair-Elect and Communications Officer: Yin Zhang
- Assistant Chair (outside the US – Canada): Liwen Vaughan
- Assistant Chair-Elect (outside the US – Indonesia): Merlyna Lim
- Past Chair: Sue O'Neill Johnson
- Marketing Chair: Nadia Caidi
- Secretary: Suzanne Stemler
- SIG Cabinet Representative: Toni Carbo; Alternate: Sue O'Neill Johnson
- InfoShare Officer: Suzanne Stemler

Sue noted that SIG III supported five one-year InfoShare memberships this year and recognized Elsevier's continued sponsorship of the SIG III International Reception. InfoShare awardees include:
- Baljin Narantsetseg (Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia)
- Vesna Injac-Malbasa (Belgrade, Serbia & Montenegro)
- Bernard Barizake (Uganda)
- J.K. Vijayakumar (Gujarat, India)
- Abidi Sayed (Director of the East African School of Librarianship at Makerere University, Kampala, Uganda)

Bahaa encouraged us to increase collaboration with Chapters as some Chapters have already provided support for SIG III projects and other Chapters have the potential to provide future support. As SIG III Marketing Chair, Nadia will assist with marketing to Chapters.

Nadia will also work with marketing of the InfoShare program and will collaborate with Suzanne and Tesia Kosmalski (InfoShare trainee).

Sue recognized Norman Horrocks and Yin Zhang for their work in preparing the SIG III Annual Report.

Bahaa gave the Treasurer's report. As of Sept. 30, 2003, we have $2391.00 in the SIG III account. SIG III will keep the entire amount, rather than return half to the general fund, due to our many activities. $312.00 remains in the InfoShare fund.

Ed Sawyer reminded us of the existence of the general ASIST SIG fund and encouraged us to apply for additional money from that fund if needed.

Yin reported the following highlights from the Sunday morning SIG Cabinet Meeting:
- Gretchen Whitney reported new SIG officers can use e-documents;
- ASIST website is under construction and suggestions are welcome;
- SIG websites should be updated and inactive websites will be removed; Inactive SIGs may be dissolved;
- New SIG Cabinet Director (Vicki L. Gregory), Deputy SIG Cabinet Director (Pascal Calarco), and the SIG Cabinet Steering Committee were elected;
- Past SIG officers were recognized, certificates were given; and
- Awards were given: SIG III received both Member-Of-The-Year, Sue O'Neill Johnson, and Publication-Of-The-Year for SIG III website, Yin Zhang and the SIG III team.

Sue presented the following awards:
- Best New SIG Project: Global Information Village (Nadia Caidi and Michel Menou)
- Best Contribution to the SIG III International Paper Contest for 2002-2003: Yunfei Du and Nathalie Leroy
- Best Contribution to the SIG III International Paper contest for 2002-2003,"
- Best SIG III International and National E-Assistance Award: Norman Horrocks
- Best Contributor to SIG III, 2002-2003: Yin Zhang

Sue read the existing SIG III Mission Statement and also read a suggestion for addition to the Statement proposed by Nathalie. Bahaa moved to accept the

proposed change. Vote was unanimous in favor of the revision.

Newly approved Mission Statement (addition appears in bold):

The purposes of SIG III are
- To promote better awareness among ASIST members and information professionals of the importance of international cooperation;
- To facilitate and enhance better communication and interaction among ASIST members and their foreign colleagues on information issues;
- **To develop an international network of digital scholars, experts on digital libraries and information technology, in developing countries; and**
- To provide a forum for exploring and discussing international information issues and problems. SIG III membership includes most non-U.S. ASIST members and a true cross-section of U.S. members.

Bahaa advocated for special membership fees for those from developing countries. Julian replied that the Board is looking into this. Bahaa urged us to keep this matter before the Board and campaign for special reduced membership rates.

Bahaa would like to see a website for the Global Information Village from which we could have continuing discussion throughout the year. Ed suggested the site be made part of the SIG III website.

A brief discussion followed Subbiah Arunchalam's question about the judging process of International Papers. Established criteria are followed by a panel of judges and the process is blind. Concern was also raised about Papers publication in a commercial journal however Sue explained that it is important for winners to be published by scholarly press even though access is through paid subscription. [Toni Carbo explained later that the cost to buy the journal and its articles in a developing country is 80-90% reduced. In addition, the ASIST Bulletin will not be publishing Contest papers in the future, so IILR is the sole source of publishing for the International Paper Contest.]

Ching-Chih Chen (one of the original SIG III founding members) observed:
1. We use some SIG special funds for specific identified purposes;
2. Memberships are not rising perhaps because ASIST is usually the second professional association of many

3. Proposed more communication and collaboration with ALA, IEEE, and ACM and more collaboration in general – as with the upcoming Joint Conference on Digital Libraries (library papers will be accepted more whereas papers presented previously had been primarily computer science papers, but rejection rate remains high at JCDL)

Bahaa suggested raising funds to bring individuals from developing countries to the Joint Conference on Digital Libraries. Ed suggested SIG III sponsor a panel on global inclusiveness and all agreed that this would be a good program suggestion.

Sue summarized P.R. Goswami's and P.K. Jain's concern over lack of standards and the commercially driven nature of LIS education in India and suggested we plan a project to address this issue. P.R. Goswami and P.K. Jain will look into this and discussion will continue at tomorrow morning's meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 6:30 p.m.
Suzanne Stemler, SIG III Secretary

ASIST SIG III MEETING MINUTES (Long Beach, Tuesday, Oct. 21, 2003)

The meeting was opened at 7:30 a.m. Tues., Oct. 21 and conducted by outgoing chair, Sue O'Neill Johnson. Present were:

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Zhang, Yin	yinzhang@slis.kent.edu

Sue chaired the meeting during which we discussed ideas for 2004 SIG III programs.
Michel suggested we offer fewer program sessions and greater poster participation with an increased emphasis on quality of programs and posters. It was also suggested that we collaborate more with other SIGs,

and perhaps other organizations, for greater monetary flexibility and diversity of international projects.

Program Suggestions:

1. Write a grant proposal to obtain funding to improve LIS educational standards in India and exchange information professionals between India and the U.S. Participants could report on progress in a year, initiate the program the following year, then write up and present results the next year. This would show a SIG with specific goals. Perhaps SIG ED would like to join us in this project.
2. Yin suggested a panel program to discuss library education in developing countries and again, it was suggested that SIG ED may be interested in working with us on this.
3. Another suggestion was made to discuss the state of libraries in developing countries and how libraries contribute to culture.
4. Michel cautioned that we may need additional money for these projects and that initially we might link with selected information professionals from other areas of the world electronically, work together with them, then expand to in-person visits. Perhaps we could start a dialog with information professionals from India, Nigeria, Indonesia, or China since information professionals from those countries are well represented in ASIST. Michel also suggested we could do twinning as a way to develop good will.
5. Toni spoke of the International Information Literacy Conference in Prague and also suggested we organize a panel discussion addressing information ethics.
6. Sue suggested we continue with Information Literacy as a theme for a project. Money is available for Information Literacy projects and if we were to collaborate with a larger organization like UNESCO, we could tap into this extra funding.
7. Yunfei suggested a presentation on document visualization of papers which won our International Paper Contest. The presentation would include concept maps, and show trends.
8. Toni would like to see us open up to more themes by expanding beyond digital libraries and in a follow-up to that, Duncan suggested a presentation on African IT infrastructure issues.

In addition to the above suggestions, Toni encouraged more SIG members to participate on international journal editorial boards. Reviewers are needed for these journals, too. Yunfei and Hong volunteered to compile a list of international journals in different disciplines; Toni will help. Sue reminded us that Elsevier publishes a brochure on how to get published in LIS journals and that other publishing houses may make similar information available. Sue also said we should be aware of individual journal reviewing processes as well as deadlines for submission.

Toni said we might compile a list of Fulbrights and inquire as to when they will be visiting their research stations. Perhaps they would help with the interview process for some of our projects. We might start with Balkan countries because of the Information Literacy Conference in Prague. Rafael would like to work on a project with an Eastern European focus and volunteered.

Dr. Goswami initiated a discussion on a long term training project for information professionals in India. What skills are employers looking for in potential employees? Sue suggested we talk to employers to find out. Nadia volunteered to talk to library directors. Ed reminded us that chemists and engineers consult libraries last in their searches for information.

In the end we decided to present the following ideas to the Planning Meeting:
1. International aspects of LIS education (inviting SIG ED)
2. Document visualization of International Paper Contest winners
3. Information Literacy and Information Ethics (tie in with e-government and perhaps use twinning as a method)
4. Panel discussion on global inclusiveness, especially the state of libraries in developing countries – what models are being used? What are the libraries contributing?
5. International collaboration and internationalization of digital library projects – possibly with SIG DL.

Respectfully submitted,
Suzanne Stemler

6. Sessions at ASIST 2003 Annual Meeting

SIG III sponsored or co-sponsored the following sessions at the Annual Meeting:

- Trans-border Dataflow: Implications for Information Dissemination and Policies between the US, Canada and Mexico
- The Public Domain Under Pressure
- The 2nd Global Information Village Plaza: Connecting Multi-Cultural, Multi-Lingual, and Multi-media Universes

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- Sharing and Accessing Internet Resources Across Barriers of Nation, Language, and Collection
- New Information Models for Rural Populations in Developing Countries
- World Summit on the Information Society
- Cultural Variations of Internet Development and Use

7. Member News

Norman Horrocks was Honored

The Nova Scotia Library Association (NSLA) has established the "Norman Horrocks Award for Library Leadership" to honor Norman Horrocks for his support to the Association since its founding and for his achievements.

The award, announced at NSLA's Annual General Meeting on October 25, 2003 in Dundee, Nova Scotia, will be awarded annually by NSLA for leadership in the Nova Scotia library community.

Dr. Horrocks is Professor Emeritus, School of Library and Information Studies, Dalhousie University, Halifax, Nova Scotia, Editorial Consultant, Scarecrow Press, Lanham, Maryland and Contributing Editor, "Library Journal", New York. He is the only person to have received top awards from three national associations - the Canadian, British and American library associations. Dr. Horrocks has been very active in SIG III. He has been helping put together the SIG III Annual Report and manage Travel Grant logistics.

Congratulations Norman!

8. SIG III Officers

Chair: Nathalie Leroy
Chair-Elect and *Communications Officer*: Yin Zhang
Assistant Chair (Outside the US): Liwen Vaughan (Canada)
Assistant Chair-Elect (Outside the US): Merlyna Lim (Indonesia)
Past Chair: Sue O'Neill Johnson
Treasurer: Bahaa El Hadidy
Secretary: Suzanne Stemler
SIG Cabinet Representative: Toni Carbo; Alternate: Sue O'Neill Johnson
InfoShare Officer: Suzanne Stemler

Due to the extensive programs SIG III sponsors, SIG III also has the following officers that other SIGs don't have:

Program Chair: Duncan Omole, Hong Xu (mentor)

Global Village: Naida Caidi and Merlyna Lim

Annual Report: Norman Horrocks

International Paper Contest Committee
- *Chairs*: Yunfei Du, Nathalie Leroy, and Sue O'Neill Johnson
- Yunfei Du: receives papers and constructs Website of papers and thank you Website for donors.
- Nathalie Leroy: finalizes call for paper description, selects judges, and coordinates results.
- Liwen Vaughan: Marketing (Sue O'Neill Johnson, mentor); assistance by Yan Quan Liu
- Norman Horrocks: Travel Grant Logistics
- Linda Bringan (Sue O'Neill Johnson, mentor); Fundraising for International Paper Contest.

SIG III Marketing
- *Chair*: Nadia Caidi
- *Members*: Liwen Vaughan, PR Goswami, Merlyna Lim and Yan Quan Liu
- Marketing efforts for international ASIST memberships, International Paper Contest and InfoShare

InfoShare:
- *Chair*: Suzanne Stemler
- Tesia Kosmalski, Trainee
- Nadia Caidi, Marketing

Advisor:
- Michel Menou

9. SIG III Listserv

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 or view prior postings
    Visit the page
    http://mail.asis.org/mailman/listinfo/sigiii-l

To unsubscribe:
    Step 1. Visit your subscription page at:

http://mail.asis.org/mailman/options/sigiii-l/your_email_address

For example, if your list delivery address is msmith@yahoo.com, the URL to access your subscription page should be: http://mail.asis.org/mailman/options/sigiii-l/msmith@yahoo.com

Step 2. On the subscription page, type your password to unsubscribe.

If you forget your password, click "Email My Password to Me" button to have your password emailed to you.

Please contact the SIG III Communication Officer, Yin Zhang (yinzhang@slis.kent.edu), if you have any questions regarding the sigiii-l listserv.

10. SIG III Website

The official Website of SIG III is located at http://www.asis.org/SIG/SIGIII/. Please contact the SIG III Communications Officer, Yin Zhang (yinzhang@slis.kent.edu), if you have any questions regarding the SIG III Website.

Recent updates:
- Newsletter update
- Photos from the 2003 Annual Meeting
- Selected presentations from the Annual Meeting
- 2002-2003 annual report
- Current officers contact and photos

This issue of SIG III newsletter is compiled by:
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