

# SIG III Newsletter

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International Information Issues

<http://www.asis.org/SIG/SIGIII/>

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### Winners of the 2007 ASIST SIG III International Paper Contest

#### Duncan Omole

The American Society for Information Science & Technology (ASIST) Special Interest Group on International Information Issues (SIG III) is pleased to announce the following winners of its eighth International Paper Contest:

1. Shampa Paul (India), "A case study of e-governance initiatives in India."
2. Soumitra Sharma (India), "Exploring best practices in public-private partnerships (ppp) in e-government through select Asian case-studies"
3. Rama Devi (India), "Towards promotion and dissemination of IK. A case of NIRD."
4. M.Masoom Raza Amar Nath (India), "Use of IT in University Libraries of Punjab, Chandigarh and Himachal Pradesh: A Comparative study."
5. Elsa Barber, Silvia Pisano, Sandra Romagnoli, Verónica Parsiale, Gabriela De Pedro y Carolina Gregui (Argentina), "User Interface of Web Opacs in Mercosur Member and Associate Countries."
6. Medha Joshi (India), "Digital resources for information accessibility at the point of care:

an overview of Library Information System at Tata Memorial Hospital."

The theme of this year's contest was "Joining Research and Practice: Social Computing and Information Science."

The principal authors of each of the six winning papers will be awarded a two-year individual membership to ASIST. In addition, the leading two winners, Shampa Paul and Soumitra Sharma will be awarded a minimum of \$1,000 each to attend the October 18-25, 2007 ASIST Annual Meeting, in Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

These winning papers and other submitted papers for the competition will be considered for publication by Elsevier's International Information and Library Review, which is edited by Toni Carbo.

Thanks to the generous donations from participants of the October 6 2006 Kenya Embassy Fundraiser, Elsevier, and many of our previous organization and individual donors. Your efforts have enabled us to continue with this International Contest. Further fundraising effort is underway and we welcome donations as well as entries to the ongoing raffle to support the contest. Updates will be provided periodically as we get closer to the conference.

Congratulations to the winners!

The Contest Committee worked really hard in selecting the winning papers. The paper contest was organized by Julian Warner (Chair) and Judy Jeng (co-Chair).

The judges were:

Julian Warner, The Queen's University of Belfast, School of Management and Economics. Belfast, Northern Ireland;  
Judy Jeng, New Jersey City University, Congressman Frank J. Guarini Library, Jersey City, New Jersey, USA;  
Yin Zhang, Kent State University, School of Library and Information Science, Kent, Ohio, USA;  
Yunfei Du, Wayne State University, Detroit, Michigan.

We thank the jury members for their selfless effort and our donors for their compassion which makes it possible to develop and sustain this international network of digital scholars and experts on digital

libraries and information technology in developing countries.

More information about the paper competition is available from the SIG III website (<http://www.asis.org/SIG/SIGIII/>) under Paper Contest.

### **SIG III sponsored panels at ASIST 07**

#### **Kate Johnson**

Out of nine SIG-III sponsored panels submitted for the ASIST conference in Milwaukee in October, four were selected for presentation. This is rather disappointing since the roster of proposed panels was very good and many received "strong accept" recommendations by the reviewers. According to Pascal Calarco, Panel and Technical Sessions Chair, "We had 50 outstanding proposals; I had slots for only 41 of them. The review assessment is only one part of crafting the meeting program. We also considered items such as topic balance. We had several excellent panels dealing with aspects of international information, and I could not accept them all." For next year, I think we have to ensure that the topic of the panels falls more closely within the overall theme of the conference. Nevertheless the panels sponsored by SIG-III will strongly represent our interests at the conference. They are:

Title: Information Behavior in Developing Countries: Research, Issues, and Emerging Trends (SIG USE, SIG III, SIG ED)

Panelists: Johannes Britz, Bharat Mehra, Kevin Rioux, Dania Bilal, Lokman Meho and Michel Menou

Title: International Perspectives in Open Government (SIG III and SIG IFP)

Panelists: John Bertot, Charles McClure, Nadia Caidi and Terrence Maxwell

Title: North American Information Initiatives in Sub-Saharan Africa (NAIISA): Social Computing Environments and Implications (SIG III)

Panelists: Kendra Albright, Johannes Britz and Wallace Koehler

Title: 5th Global Information Village Plaza – MySpace, OurSpace: Social Networking in the International Arena (SIG/III and SIG/BWP)

Presenters: Aaron Bowen and Amanda Wilson

### **Fundraising updates**

#### **Duncan Omole**

Participants of the Kenya Embassy fundraiser and Elsevier have contributed \$ 7531.64 to the 2007 ASIST SIG III International Paper Contest. Further fundraising effort is underway and we welcome donations to continue supporting the International Paper contest. Donations should be sent to:

ASIST for the "Digital Scholars Fund,"  
attn: Richard Hill  
Executive Director, ASIST  
1320 Fenwick Lane, Suite 510  
Silver Spring, MD 20910, USA

For the first time in the history of SIG III, a new and innovative fundraising effort is also underway. You still have two more months to enter the raffle contest, support SIG III's digital scholars and win fabulous prizes. Enter today at <http://www.asist.org/SIG/SIGIII/fundraising/fundraising2007/>

### **Infoshare recipients at SLA**

This year 3 Infoshare recipients attended Special Library Association annual meeting in Denver Colorado June 2-6, 2007: Mr. Muhammad Shafiq from Pakistan, Dr. Debal Chandra Kar (India), Shivanthi Weerasinghe (Sri Lanka).

Muhammad Shafiq shares his experiences

"I am pleased to share with you that I attended 98th SLA annual conference 2007 in Denver, CO. USA and received SLA Business & Finance Division International Travel Award sponsored by ISI Emerging Markets. I met many diversified professionals in the conference. I participated in multi topics sessions. I also attended the Business and Finance Division CE Course on "Making a Business Case for the Information Centre: key strategies for business and financial libraries". I got lot of exposure through the tours like HIS Tour, US Mint and Denver Capital Tour. I learned a very good experience from the conference.

I have been granted two days consultancy meetings for LIS activities through International Visitor Leadership Program supported by U. S. Department of State Washington DC, USA.

I shared my expertise, skills and ideas with the different Library & Information Professionals from U. S. Department of State, Library of Congress, Meridian International Center, U.S. SEC and Georgetown University, Washington Dc. USA. I found these professionals very supportive. I found this program very informative and professional.

I also visited England, Scotland and KSA to meet some other professional friends and worth seeing places on my way back from USA.

I will be pleased to share this experience in details if anybody desire.



Muhammad Shafiq and Debal C. Kar at SLA Info Expo



Shafiq at Library of Congress



Muhammad Shafiq at CRS, Library of Congress

Kind regards,  
Muhammad Shafiq  
DDH., DLSc. MLSc. MA Economics  
SLA Fellow  
ASIST InfoShare Membership Recipient 2007”

**Announcement – Book Donation**

Looking for book (and other media) donations for Makerere University

Kate Johnson

This year the ASIST planning committee has come up with an idea that will encourage ASIST members to contribute to a worthwhile project as part of their involvement with the annual meeting in October 2007 in Milwaukee. They have decided on a book drive (I assume donations can also include recent CDROMs as well) which will be used to benefit a library organization in a developing country. The Wisconsin Chapter of ASIST (which is headquartered in Milwaukee at the present time) has agreed to coordinate the drive. We have been in touch with Director Elisam Magara of the East African School of Library and Information Science (EASLIS) at Makerere University in Uganda, who has agreed to be the recipient of the donated books. EASLIS has MLIS and Ph.D. programs as well as a new

Bachelor of Records and Information Management degree. As part of its strategic plan for the coming year, EASLIS is also developing a model teaching laboratory, so the books and other items donated will be highly appreciated. Only current materials related to the library and information science field should be considered for donation. These can also include, for instance, computer manuals or any other up to date materials (no earlier than a 2000 publication date, please) used as text books in LIS programs or any books received by faculty as review copies. A complete list of appropriate subjects and materials will be available from the conference website.

The items can be brought to the meeting in Milwaukee where a box will be set up near the registration area to receive the donations. You can also send your donations directly to: School of Information Studies, c/o Dick Kawooya, Bolton 510, 3210 N. Maryland Ave, University of Wisconsin- Milwaukee, Milwaukee, WI 53211. The School has also agreed to defray the shipping charges for this year's donation.

Since this project is very much in keeping with the kind of initiatives SIG-III supports, I have suggested that we consider taking over the coordination of the drive for subsequent years. We will discuss this at our business meeting in Milwaukee.

## SIG III Listserv and Web Site

To post a message to sigiii-l:

Send your message to [sigiii-l at asis dot org](mailto: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:

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For example, if your list delivery address is [msmith@yahoo dot com](mailto: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 the "Email My Password to Me"

button to have your password emailed to you.

SIG III Web site:

The official Web site of SIG III is located at <http://www.asis.org/SIG/SIGIII/>. Please contact Hong Cui ([hcui7 at uwo dot ca](mailto:hcui7@uwo.ca)) if you have any questions regarding the SIG III Web site and the sigiii-l listserv.