



ACTIVITY REPORT 2015-16

The activities and communication outreach the SIG engaged in this academic year were the following: —Submitted by Ken Herold, Fall 2016

1. SIG SPONSORSHIP OF EVENTS

Co-Sponsorship of a panel with ASIS&T European Chapter at the AM in Copenhagen, Denmark, 2016

“Tomato Tomahto: European Perspectives on Information Science (SIG/HFIS, EUChap)”

- Julian Warner: A Nordic Information Science? A Highly Contested Tradition
- Niels Windfeld Lund: The Whole Earth Girded by Telegraph Cables: European Influences on Information Science
- Fidelia Ibekwe-SanJuan: Information and Communication Sciences in France: The Balancing Act
- Michael Buckland: A (Mostly) European Influence on Information Science: Documentation and Neodocumentalism
- Isabella Peters: Definitions and Perceptions of Information Science – As Provided by Members of the ASIS&T European Chapter

2. ADMINISTRATION OF ASIST HISTORY RESEARCH AWARDS

A decision was reached by the Advisory committee for 2015 to increase the amount for the History Research Fund from \$1000 to \$2000. Best Paper award remained at \$500.

Submissions:

Four proposals were received for the History Research Fund.

Four proposals for Best History Paper.

Results:

HISTORY RESEARCH AWARD 2016 - Fidelia Ibekwe-SanJuan (for future work with Thomas Dousa)

Information Science: Origins, theories & paradigms. A comparative approach.

The grant will enable the investigation of how the origins of IS as a discipline in France compare with those in five other European countries—England, Croatia, Spain, Italy, and Finland. Germany is mentioned as a sixth. The thesis that France has developed its own singular form of IS in the context of an entwined information and communication sciences is challenged. The title of the grant application is translated from their well-received book from 2012 in French, and this award extends the exploration of that successful historical and theoretical approach across Europe and in conjunction with many excellent colleagues across the continent. We congratulate the award winners for the international scope of their endeavor and wish them all good work.

HISTORY PAPER AWARD 2016 - Gabor Szommer

Parallel expansions: The role of information during the formative years of the English East India Company

Dr. Szommer is an independent researcher in Hungary, who has performed similar original economic investigations of the early years of the Dutch East India Company. Primary source materials lend a thoughtful and fascinating glimpse into shared navigational knowledge. The model posed is one of information aggregation (and loss!) amidst vast distances wherein nascent corporate decision-making necessarily relied upon incomplete and asynchronous reporting. The History Board commends Dr. Szommer for his historical perspective and detailed portraiture and hope this grant stimulates publication of an impressive study.

ASIS&T History Fund Advisory Board for 2016:

- Ken Herold (Chair SIG HFIS)
- Jenna Hartel (Incoming Chair SIG HFIS)
- Samantha Hastings
- Ronald Day
- Michael Buckland
- Kathryn La Barre

Awards submission link: <https://www.asist.org/about/awards/history-fund-awards/>

3. MEMBERSHIP REPORT

According to latest figures, our SIG has witnessed a change in membership up and down since the \$10 fee for 2nd SIG membership has been waived.

As of 14th July 2015:

FY16 (208 members)

FY17 (150 members) [\$533 allocation]

Decrease of 58 (-28%) over FY16, but an increase of 39 over FY14

4. OFFICERS FOR 2016-17

We are pleased to welcome our incoming officers for FY17:

- Chair : Ken Herold
- Chair-Elect : Lynnsey Weissenberger
- Secretary-Treasurer : Stacy Wykle
- Webmaster : Sarah Buchanan
- Past-chair : Fidelia Ibekwe-SanJuan

Our special best wishes to Bob Williams and our heartfelt thanks go out to Yao Zhang and to Jenna Hartel for their services to HFIS!