

# ACTIVITY REPORT 2014-15

The activities and communication outreach the SIG engaged in this academic year were the following: —Submitted by Fidelia Ibekwe-SanJuan, Fall 2015

## A. SIG SPONSORSHIP OF EVENTS

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### 1. Co-Sponsorship of a panel within the 3rd ASIS&T European Chapter's Workshop, Osijek, Croatia, 2015

"Towards Unified Approach to Information Science in Europe"  
(<http://web.ffos.hr/aew2015/en/program.php>)

### 2. Call for i-Stories

The idea is to popularise the SIG's identity and purpose by eliciting stories about information in a non-academic format from students, practitioners and scholars allowing a wider participation and not requiring mastery of academic writing with all the expectations (problematics, hypothesis, methodology, results, etc) in a bid to attract new members. The call was posted twice on many lists (sig-l, asis-l, isko-l, eurchap.org, ...).

We received two I-Stories from two LIS scholars (one published at the end of this newsletter), both were awarded the \$30 gift cards. The feedback I got from people who submitted the two stories were very positive. The initiative is new and should be pursued for it to take hold in the community.

### 3. Sponsorship of Webinar "*From iSquares to cSquares: Teaching Information and Communication theories using the Draw & Write Technique*"

- *Presenters:* Fidelia Ibekwe-SanJuan & Jenna Hartel
- <https://www.asist.org/events/webinars/webinar-from-i-squares-to-c-squares/>
- *Date:* 18<sup>th</sup> June 2015
- *Brief Description:*

Information and communication are at the basis of how we know things (epistemology), they are omnipresent in every field of activity. This also makes them very slippery concepts or realities: they often mean different things to different people, hence their exploration is endless. Many of us have grappled with how to convey what we think information and communication mean in our teachings or in our research. Teaching information and communication theories in a pure academic manner can be dead boring for instructors and students alike. Hence, the idea of using an arts-informed technique to approach the different conceptions of Information is a fun and creative alternative (Hartel, 2014; [www.iSquares.info](http://www.iSquares.info)). The current webinar builds on an earlier one about the "iSquare" to introduce the "communication square" or "cSquare" – a compact drawing that visually captures the nature of communication. Our webinar reports how Masters' student in a French School of Journalism and Communication (Aix-Marseille University) produced *both* iSquares and cSquares, to reveal a host of distinctions and commonalties concerning the two elusive concepts. In addition to these substantive insights, the webinar will provide a template for those who wish to take drawing methods in other new directions.

## **2. ADMINISTRATION OF ASIST HISTORY RESEARCH AWARDS**

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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*

4 proposals were received for the History Research Fund.  
2 proposals for Best History Paper

### *Results:*

The awards jury voted unanimously to award the **History Research Fund** to Professor Ronald Day of Indiana University at Bloomington for his project on a book exploring the relationship between "*Documentarity, the Literary and the Right to Truth*".

The awards jury decided unanimously not to award the **Best Paper Award** as none of the papers submitted were strong enough and needed further substantial work.

While Professor Ronald Day acknowledged his pleasure and gratitude to the jury awards for this distinction, he has very graciously and generously offered to forfeit the monetary part of the award which can then be funnelled back to support such historical and discursive research, in particular undertaken by students or junior faculty in need of financial support.

ASIS&T History Fund Advisory Board for 2015:

Fidelia Ibekwe-SanJuan (Chair SIG HFIS)

Ken Herold (chair-elect SIG HFIS)

Robert Williams

Michael Buckland

Kathryn La Barre

Trudi Bellardo Hahn

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

## **3. MEMBERSHIP REPORT**

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According to latest figures, all SIGs have witnessed an increase in membership since the \$10 fee for 2<sup>nd</sup> SIG membership has been waived. As of 14<sup>th</sup> July 2015:

FY15 (111 members)

FY16 (208 members) [\$553 allocation]

increase of +97 (187%) over FY15

## **4. OFFICERS FOR 2015-16**

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We are pleased to welcome our incoming officers for FY16:

Chair : Ken Herold

Chair-Elect : Jenna Hartel

Secretary : Emma Zhang

Webmaster : Sarah Buchanan

Past-chair : Fidelia Ibekwe-SanJuan