Celebrating SIG-III

“"I am proud of our successes over the last seven months, including opportunities for meaningful member engagement, introducing innovative initiatives, and offering events and professional development in collaboration with other SIGs and chapters, both within and beyond ASIS&T.”

Leili Seifi, SIG-III Chair

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Drs. Bhakti Gala and Vanessa Reyes enjoy a celebratory coffee during their first meeting at the 2022 ASIS&T Conference, page 7
Greetings Everyone! Happy Summer from Iran!

I am excited to share the latest on SIG-III’s initiatives and accomplishments in this issue. I am proud of our successes over the last seven months, including opportunities for meaningful member engagement, introducing innovative initiatives, and offering events and professional development in collaboration with other SIGs and chapters, both within and beyond ASIS&T. As of June 2024, over 40 SIG-III officers and volunteers have enabled us to learn, advocate, meet, network, and socialize with like-minded researchers and colleagues worldwide. They have created value by providing access, fostering a sense of belonging, and focusing on community for its 330-plus members.

Safirotu Khoir and Vanessa Reyes continued to nurture relationships among members through interactive theme-based events at the International Café Meets. Namali Suraweera and the International Paper Contest jury did a wonderful job of planning and implementing the contest. I would like to extend a warm welcome and congratulations to the winners of the IPC contest. Their contributions have greatly enriched the field of LIS, expanded the frontiers of knowledge and promoted practical solutions for the betterment of societies worldwide. Faiza Bashir and the InfoShare committee put great effort into selecting the InfoShare awardees. We are proud to have a diverse group of winners, and I welcome the fourteen new members to the SIG-III community.

The Research Wing initiative, led by Brady Lund and his team, put in a wonderful effort to select the Best Mentor of the Year and Best Project of the Year. I congratulate all the winners for their hard work and invaluable contributions. Vandana Singh and her team launched the highly anticipated ASIS&T SIG-III Global Mentor-Mentee Program. The program aims to foster collaboration and growth within the Information Science community, stimulating international collaboration and providing global networking opportunities. Over 40 mentors and mentees have been carefully matched and have started their collaboration.

To recognize the dedication and efforts of SIG-III volunteers, we announced a call for the Best Volunteer Award in early May. In early June, we announced Safirotu Khoir’s selection as the recipient of the 2024 Best Volunteer Award. Congratulations to Safirotu!

We have collaborated with other SIGs and chapters, both within and beyond ASIS&T, to organize events. Nosheen Warraich, Co-Chair and Chair-Elect, arranged a research workshop in partnership with SIG-InfoLearn to provide participants with the skills and knowledge to conduct thorough systematic literature reviews and effective meta-analyses. We held our second international collaboration with IFLA New Professionals SIG and UNT ASIS&T Student Chapter on "Opportunities and Challenges in the Job Market". We also held our second collaboration with SIG-AI and the South Asia Chapter on "Developing a Responsible AI Strategy for Your Library," presented by Dr. Andrew Cox.

Additionally, we held the 2nd Humans of the Library event with ASIS&T Past Presidents. This event is an innovative way of sharing personal and professional challenges and solutions to build a community. The next Humans of the Library will be held on 8th July. In addition, our International Reception will take place on Sunday 27th October after dinner in Calgary, Canada. We look forward to meeting many of you at this special event to socialize and create lasting memories.

Finally, I would like to express my gratitude to all the officers and volunteers for their remarkable dedication and invaluable efforts in delivering exceptional work and innovative ideas to ensure that SIG-III remains as strong as it is today. I want to thank the members for their continued participation and enthusiasm in our community and the advisors for the incredible guidance, support, and advice they provide. Thank you all!

Please feel free to share your suggestions, thoughts, and comments with us anytime at sigiiiasist@gmail.com, as we highly value your feedback.

Leili Seifi, Chair, SIG-III
Join us for A Festival of Culture, Tradition, and Storytelling.

You are invited to the 12th SIG-III International Café Meet of 2024.
Save the date for Wednesday, July 2, 2024, at 9:00 AM-11:00 AM EDT.
This is a free event.
Registration will be required.

Uniting the ASIS&T community to embrace the many cultures and traditions that tell the stories of our members.

Register at
https://www2.asist.org/ap/Events/Register/WqFBzdQHaCJCE
Celebrating SIG-III Initiatives

The InfoShare Committee of ASIS&T SIG-III is happy to announce 14 individuals as recipients of the 2024 InfoShare Membership Award, as listed on the following page. These recipients have been chosen following a rigorous selection procedure. We believe that these will be a really a great addition to ASIS&T and SIG-III family.

The purpose of the InfoShare Membership Award is to sponsor deserving library and information science (LIS) professionals from developing countries for a one-year complimentary ASIS&T membership, the financial burden of which would otherwise be prohibitive. To be considered for the Award, an LIS professional must be nominated by a current ASIS&T member.

In addition to receiving membership in ASIS&T and SIG-III, Award recipients will participate in a variety of ASIS&T activities during their award year, including attending ASIS&T webinars of their interest, inviting at least five LIS professionals to join SIG-III, and helping the InfoShare Committee to organize at least one InfoShare event.

The 2024 InfoShare Membership Award recipients extend ASIS&T and SIG-III’s geographic reach, giving us more perspective on LIS practice in developing countries. In particular, the 2024 cohort improves SIG-III’s global representation by adding members in Argentina and Egypt, doubling our members in Brazil, tripling our members in Iran, and strengthening the SIG-III community in Nigeria, Pakistan, Turkey, and Zimbabwe.

Congratulations to all of the 2024 InfoShare Membership Award recipients, and welcome to ASIS&T and SIG-III!

InfoShare Committee:
- **Faiza Bashir**, InfoShare Chair 2024 (Pakistan)
- **Dharmveer Modi**, InfoShare Member (India)
- **Massoomeh Niknia**, InfoShare Member (Iran)
- **Elçin Ziya**, InfoShare Member (Turkey)
Celebrating SIG-III Initiatives

2024 InfoShare Membership Award

Congratulations to the 2024 Award Recipients!

Mohammadjavad Ashtari
Iranian Library and Information Science Association
Iran

Tainá Assis
Brazilian Institute of Information in Science and Technology (IBICT)
Brazil

Farnaz Daneshjoo
Iran

Dr. Akram Fathian Dastgerdi
Islamic World Science & Technology Monitoring and Citation Institute (ISC)
Shiraz, Iran

Dr. Hoda Homavandi
Researcher
Iran

Dr. İdris Semih Kaya
Düzce Public Library
Turkey

Sher Afzal Malik
Quaid-e-Azam Library
Lahore, Pakistan

Dr. Sandra Gisela Martín
Universidad Católica de Córdoba (Library Director)
Argentina

Dr. Fatemeh Navidi
Tarbiat Modares University
Iran

Dr. Ifeyinwa Okonkwo
Lecturer, Nnamdi Azikiwe University Awka
Anambra State, Nigeria

Parisa Pasyar
National Library and Archives of Iran
Iran

Dr. Heba Sayed
Director of Planning, Assessment & Business Development
The American University in Cairo, Egypt

Hosea Tokwe
Library Administrative Assistant,
Midlands State University
Zimbabwe

Abeeda Zia
Senior Librarian, University of Veterinary & Animal Sciences
Lahore, Pakistan
The ASIS&T SIG-III has been a symbolic ground for my experience as an ASIS&T member. I want to take this moment before I begin to honor Dr. Leili Seifi’s hard work and dedication to our SIG. Dr. Seifi has been a thoughtful leader, ensuring our members have a sense of belonging, continuing the legacy of many past leaders, and contributing to diversity and inclusion in our SIG. Among her many dedicated efforts, she has managed to organize a mass translation project for our SIG’s website “About” section, where members can experience a description of our SIG in over 18 languages. This is a testament to her commitment and demonstrates the wide reach of our SIG. I was among one of the invited contributors to create the Spanish translation. Thank you, Dr. Seifi, for your thoughtful leadership.

My experiences as a SIG-III member have been quite meaningful. I have been involved in SIG-III member engagement efforts since 2021 when I ran for SIG Chair alongside the esteemed Dr. Bhakti Gala. In our election, we had a tie in the votes, and Dr. Gala resulted in winning the tiebreaker. During her term as SIG-III Chair, Dr. Gala led the SIG in such an impactful way that it inspired me to work alongside her and to continue my service to the SIG in several volunteer efforts.

One of the efforts I am still pursuing was initiated by Dr. Bhakti Gala and past SIG-III Chair Dr. Devendra Potnis, who invited me to join another engaged SIG-III colleague, Dr. Manika Lamba, to organize and create informal online spaces to encourage members to connect from anywhere in the world. As a result of these planning efforts, the SIG-III International Café Meet (ICM) was established. I cannot share enough how much I have learned from our members through planning these sessions, and it has brought me to be part of other efforts. I have served on SIG committees, such as planning SIG-III’s International Reception overseas in London, and I was honored with the opportunity to tell my story as a practitioner and researcher in the information profession during this year’s Human of the Library series. It was a wonderful experience to share my stories with other prominent members of the SIG. I am looking forward to experiencing the next session.

It has been an absolute honor to support the SIG. This opportunity has allowed me to contribute to the legacy of research, collaboration, and mentorship that all SIG leaders, members, and volunteers have worked so hard to accomplish. I am grateful that during the last ASIS&T Annual Meeting, I was honored by SIG-III as one of their best volunteer award recipients. I highly value this award; it has a special place in my heart as it reflects the care, respect, and appreciation of my contributions to the SIG, and it truly feels wonderful to feel the mutual appreciation that has resulted from my efforts.

My term as a SIG-III ICM Co-Organizer with Dr. Safira Khoir has brought me a lot of joy and valuable collaborative relationships. I have met some of the best colleagues, who I consider to be family members, and I look forward to continuing our work, honoring our diverse research backgrounds, and supporting our professional goals no matter what stage we are in our careers.
Opportunities and Challenges in the Job Market
Hosted by SIG-III, IFLA New Professionals SIG, and University of North Texas ASIS&T Student Chapter

On 28 March, panelists provided insights on the structure of resumes and CVs with practical examples. They also gave some tips for preparing an effective cover letter and shared the viewpoint of a search committee or hiring manager. Leili Seifi moderated the panel, and there were over 45 attendees from Bangladesh, Botswana, Canada, US, Italy, India, Iran, UK, Pakistan, Egypt, and Colombia.

Panelists:
Dr. Tai-Yi Huang - Lecturer, College of Information, University of North Texas
Ms. Anna Motes - Career Coach, College of Information, University of North Texas
Dr. Devendra Potnis - Professor, School of Information Science, University of Tennessee at Knoxville

Developing a Responsible AI Strategy for Your Library
Hosted by SIG-III, SIG-AI, and ASIS&T South Asia Chapter

AI has potential uses in many aspects of library work, and supporting users in its effective use is also part of their remit. Given the complexity of AI itself and its many impacts, there is a need for clear strategic thinking about how to respond. This presentation on 29 April considered the potential impact of AI on library work; analysed the benefits and ethical challenges; and identified some strategy forming tools that can help give library responses a direction. Leili Seifi moderated the webinar with technical support from Kimberly Granados, ASIS&T Deputy Executive Director. There were over 70 registered participants.

Presenter:
Dr. Andrew Cox - Senior Lecturer, Information School, University of Sheffield

A recording of the webinar is available here.
2024 International Paper Contest

ASIS&T SIG-III is delighted to announce the distinguished winners of the prestigious International Paper Contest (IPC). This year's contest highlighted outstanding research contributions from developing nations, emphasizing their crucial role in the progress of library and information science (LIS). This year, we received a good number of papers from China, Egypt, India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, and Zimbabwe.

The first-place winner of the IPC 2024 will receive the exceptional opportunity to attend the 87th ASIS&T Annual Meeting, which will take place in Calgary Alberta, Canada, from 25-29 October 2024, where they will present their innovative research. This prestigious gathering of global professionals provides a unique platform for exchanging knowledge, networking, and collaboration.

ASIS&T and SIG-III congratulate the winners and express deep gratitude to all participants for their invaluable contributions. The research papers submitted for the IPC 2024 have greatly enriched the field of LIS, expanding the frontiers of knowledge and promoting practical solutions for the betterment of societies worldwide.

For more information about the ASIS&T SIG-III International Paper Contest 2024 and the winners, please contact any member of the IPC Jury:

- Namali Suraweera, Chair, IPC 2024 (New Zealand)
- Manika Lamba (United States)
- Naailah Parbhoo (South Africa)
- Priya Vaidya (India)

IPC Winners

First Place
"Prompting Responses through Linguistic Cues: A Comparison of User and Chatbot Support for Consumers’ Questions"
bym Qian Wu
Xiamen University, China

Second Place
"Information Seeking Behaviour of Medical Professionals in Rural Hospitals in Sri Lanka: A Path Modeling Approach"
bym Munasinghe Dilhani, Wathmanel Seneviratne, Chrishantha Abeyesena, & S. Somaratne
Postgraduate Institute of Medicine, University of Colombo, Sri Lanka

Third Place
"E-training Networks for Public Librarians"
bym Heba Ismail
Egypt’s Society for Culture and Development
Egypt

2024 SIG-III Best Volunteer Award

Safirrotu Khoir,
International Cafe Meet Organizer
Universitas Gadjah Mada
Indonesia
On 15 May, the SIG-III International Café Meeting Organizers Drs. Safira Khoir and Vanessa Reyes hosted the 11th meeting around Engaging in Virtual International Research Collaborations. ASIS&T members from various parts of the world were present and participated in sharing their research experiences and what they would seek in an ideal international research collaboration. The organizers shared a series of icebreaker activities that allowed members to share their location and research goals.

The session further encouraged members to find new research partners around the globe while taking into consideration some important factors that lead to healthy research relationships on an international scale. Among the factors that contribute to maintaining a stable collaboration, the session highlighted the importance of taking into consideration time differences, professional and cultural practices, and setting up mutual goals that would make for a successful virtual research relationship.

Using Mentimeter interactive browser-based software, participants pinned their location to share with other attendees.

Dr. Vanessa Reyes, International Cafe Meet Co-Organizer

Serving as the chair of IPC 2024 for SIG-III has been a profoundly enriching experience. Coordinating the calls for papers allowed me to engage with groundbreaking research from diverse, international perspectives, enhancing my understanding of global trends in library and information science. Working closely with reviewers to finalise the winners deepened my appreciation for rigorous academic standards and the critical role of collaborative peer review in advancing our field.

This role also honed my leadership and organisational skills, as I managed multiple aspects of the contest, from outreach to evaluation. The opportunity to interact with a vibrant community of scholars and practitioners has been enriching, fostering invaluable professional relationships and networks. My experience with SIG-III has been instrumental in my professional development, reinforcing my commitment to promoting excellence and innovation in LIS globally.
Celebrating SIG-III Initiatives

Research Wing

SIG-III’s Research Wing facilitates informal but lasting and fruitful research collaborations and for capacity building of researchers in library and information-related disciplines. This goal is carried out through the annual mentoring program, now in its second year, which is open to faculty and students from around the world. The program matches mentors with mentees to complete a variety of projects, such as preparing a research article or presentation, completing a dissertation or other manuscript, or applying for scholarships or post-Doctoral positions.

11 mentors and 33 mentees signed up to participate in the 2024-2025 mentoring program cycle. All were successfully matched based on availability, the type of guidance needed, and alignment between mentor expertise and mentee research interests. Some mentors will be supporting multiple mentees, and all projects will be completed between 1 June 2024 and 31 May 2025.

This project term opened with a launch event on 27 May which discussed goals of the program, outlined mentor and mentee responsibilities, and provided time for project teams to plan their collaboration. The mentoring cycle will conclude with a research showcase in late May 2025 at which all teams will present their projects. Based on these outcomes, awards will be granted for 2024-2025 Mentor of the Year and 2024-2025 Project of the Year.

16 countries are represented in this year’s Research Wing mentoring program. Mentors come from Australia, Bangladesh, Belgium, Canada, Ethiopia, India, Pakistan, Sweden, and the United States. Mentees come from Bangladesh, Botswana, China, India, Iran, Malaysia, Nigeria, Pakistan, Philippines, Uganda, and the United States. SIG-III wishes all of the research teams a successful collaboration over the coming year.

Vandana Singh, Research Wing Chair (USA)
Emmanuel Udoh, Research Wing Officer (USA)
Alia Arshad, Research Wing Officer (Pakistan)
Devendra Potnis, Research Wing Advisor (USA)

Inaugural Research Wing Award Recipients

2023-2024 Mentor of the Year: Bhakti Gala, for her guidance of Sourav Debnath, resulting in the publication of a paper that received the best paper award at the National Conference on Evidence Based Library Transformations

Bhakti Gala
Central University of Gujarat
India

2023-2024 Project of the Year: Devendra Potnis and Subaveerapandiyan A., for the thoroughly designed and executed project "Factors influencing video-based journal publications"

Devendra Potnis
The University of Tennessee at Knoxville
USA

Subaveerapandiyan A.
Sai University
India

Sourav Debnath
Indian Institute of Technology (Indian School of Mines)
India
Finding my voice and community with SIG-III:

I recently embarked on a new journey by joining SIG-III. Joining a professional organization with experts excited me, though I was unsure what awaited. Yet, SIG-III’s warm welcome surpassed all expectations from the start.

One of the most impactful experiences so far was participating in the Human Book program. As I sat down to share my story, I felt a mix of vulnerability and anticipation. Would my story resonate with others? Would I feel heard? To my delight, the response was overwhelmingly positive. It was a powerful moment of connection, affirming that SIG-III is more than just a professional organization; it’s a supportive community valuing each member's journey. I’ve found myself constantly learning and growing, surrounded by individuals who are passionate about information science and technology.

The connections I’ve made through SIG-III have been one of the greatest benefits. Networking events and discussions have allowed me to meet amazing professionals from around the world. One of the most supportive aspects of SIG-III is the mentorship opportunities. I’ve had the privilege of meeting mentors who have generously shared their knowledge and experience with me.

To new members, I urge you to fully embrace what SIG-III offers. Engage with the community, seek connections, and embrace mentorship. I’m grateful for SIG-III’s positive environment and eagerly anticipate contributing further to this wonderful community.
Register for the Third Humans of the Library at https://www2.asist.org/ap/Events/Register/7lH5lNxfQHQCd
Member engagement can benefit professional associations, their members, and the profession. Rarely do any studies adopt the "information practices" approach to identify the factors influencing professional associations' member engagement. The experiences, epiphanies, and the frequency of 11 information practices of six SIG-III officers and volunteers when planning and implementing 184 activities of eight initiatives from 2020 to 2023 helped this auto-ethnographic study identify 99 sub-factors influencing member engagement online. Information production, dissemination, recording, use, and discovery emerge as the top 5 information practices of officers and volunteers, in the same order, for influencing the SIG member engagement. Managing member attendance, sharing knowledge, managing member attention, meeting member needs, and building trust serve as the top 5 factors, in the same order, for affecting the member engagement. We propose a theoretical model and provide guidance to associations to enhance and sustain member engagement.
Humans of the Library is an innovative way of sharing personal and professional challenges and solutions to build a community. The 2nd Humans of the Library was held on 7 June. Five past ASIS&T presidents shared their personal and professional stories with attendees.

We had over 40 registered members from the USA, Canada, India, Iran, Pakistan, Bangladesh, UK, Philippines, Sweden, Italy, Sri Lanka, Taiwan, and South Africa. Leili Seifi current chair of SIG-III moderated the event.

The following were the Humans of the Library who shared their stories with participants:

**Dr. Abebe Rorissa**, 2023 ASIS&T President  
Professor & Director, School of Information Sciences  
Associate Dean for Faculty Affairs, College of Communication and Information  
The University of Tennessee, Knoxville, USA  
Story: "My Professional and ASIS&T Journey"

**Dr. Naresh Agarwal**, 2022 ASIS&T President  
Professor & Director, Information Science & Technology Concentration, School of Library and Information Science  
Simmons University, Boston, USA  
Story: "Synthesizing Contradictions"

**Dr. Clara M. Chu**, 2020 ASIS&T President  
Director and Mortenson Distinguished Professor, Mortenson Center for International Library Programs  
University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, USA  
Story: "Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI): Information Matters"

**Dr. Nadia Caidi**, 2016 ASIS&T President  
Professor & Director of International Student Experience, Faculty of Information  
University of Toronto, Canada  
Story: "Understanding and Challenging the Politics of Citation"

**Dr. Sandra Hirsh**, 2015 ASIS&T President  
Associate Dean for Academics, College of Professional & Global Education  
San Jose State University, USA  
Story: "Unlocking Career Opportunities: The Power of Professional Networks"
SIG-III Officers

Chair:
Leili Seifi
University of Birjand, Iran

Co-Chair & Chair-Elect:
Nosheen Warraich
University of the Punjab, Pakistan

Co-Chair-Elect:
Humphrey Keah
Rightpoint Information Services Ltd, Kenya

Treasurer:
Sourav Debnath
Indian Institute of Technology (Indian School of Mines), India

SIG Cabinet Representative:
Iman Tahamtan
The University of Tennessee at Knoxville, USA

International Paper Contest Chair:
Namali Suraweera
Victoria University of Wellington, New Zealand

International Paper Contest Jury:
Priya Vaidya
Aligarh Muslim University, India

Naiilah Parbhoo
University of Pretoria, South Africa

Manika Lamba
University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, USA

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San Jose State University, Jordan

Webmaster/Communication Officer:
Dharmveer Modi
Indira Gandhi National Centre for Arts, India

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Nominating Committee Member:
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East West University, Bangladesh

Past Chair:
Bhakti Gala
Central University of Gujarat, India

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Laurie Bonnici
University of Alabama, USA

Shalini Urs
University of Mysore, India

Research Wing Chair:
Vandana Singh
The University of Tennessee at Knoxville, USA

Research Wing Officers:
Emmanuel Udoh
University at Albany, USA

Alia Arshad
University of the Punjab, Pakistan

InfoShare Chair:
Faiza Bashir
Higher Education Department of the Government of Punjab, Pakistan

Research Wing Chair:
Anu Agarwal
The University of Tennessee at Knoxville, USA

Research Wing Officers:
Emmanuel Udoh
University at Albany, USA

Vandana Singh
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Emmanuel Udoh
University at Albany, USA

Alia Arshad
University of the Punjab, Pakistan

InfoShare Chair:
Faiza Bashir
Higher Education Department of the Government of Punjab, Pakistan

SIG-III Volunteers

InfoShare Committee Members:
Massoomeh Niknia
Iranian Grid Management Company, Iran

Elçin Ziya
Hacettepe University, Turkey

Dharmveer Modi
Indira Gandhi National Centre for Arts, India

International Cafe Meet Organizer:
Safirotu Khoir
Universitas Gadjah Mada, Indonesia

International Cafe Meet Co-Organizer:
Vanessa Reyes
East Carolina University, USA

International Cafe Meet Co-Organizer:
Safirotu Khoir
Universitas Gadjah Mada, Indonesia

International Cafe Meet Co-Organizer:
Vanessa Reyes
East Carolina University, USA