



Leili Seifi,
SIG-III Chair

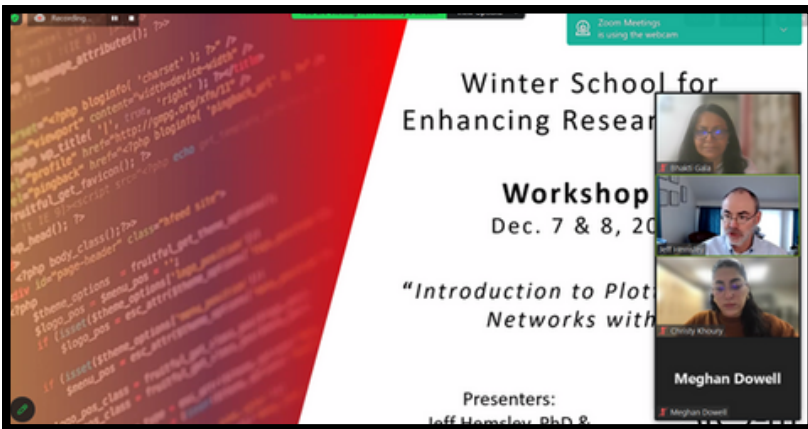
“The collaboration of a passionate team and motivated individuals has led our SIG to the outstanding

results it has today. I am confident that together we can continue the good work and contribute to making our SIG-III a more global, diverse, and inclusive community.”

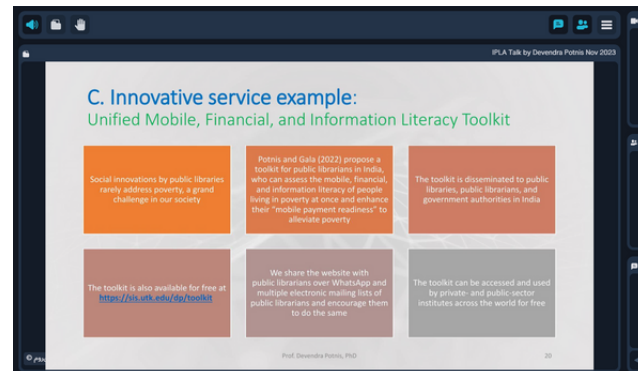
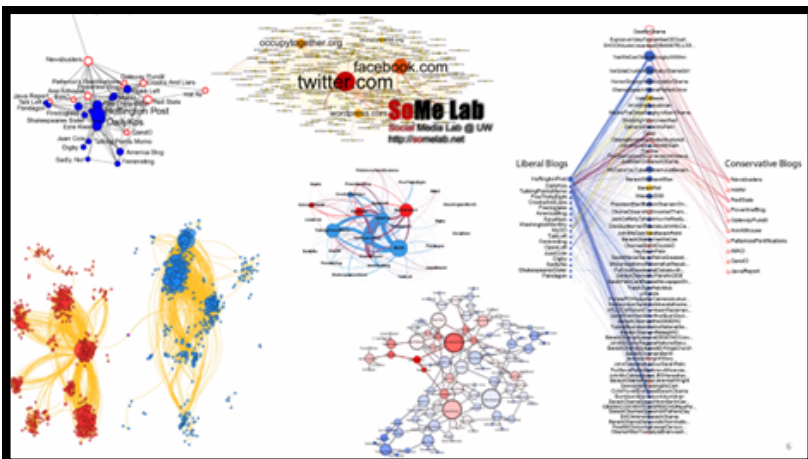
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Message from the Chair

Hello everyone! Greetings from Iran.

I hope you had a restful year-end holiday. Wishing you a healthy, joyous, and prosperous New Year. It is an incredible honor for me to serve as the Chair of the Special Interest Group for International Information Issues (SIG-III). 2023 has been a successful year for SIG-III as we have received four awards in a row: the SIG of the Year Award, the SIG Member of the Year Award, the James M. Cretsos Leadership Award, and the New Leader Award. Another major success was the International Reception that took place during the 2023 Annual Meeting in London. I would like to take this opportunity to express my gratitude to Dr. Bhakti Gala, Past Chair of SIG-III, the entire 2023 team, volunteers, and members for their amazing contributions.

I am fortunate to have a wonderful and committed group of officers and volunteers who are working with me toward achieving our goals. Our team has already started planning, designing, and implementing various initiatives to provide continuous value to our members. These officers and volunteers come from over 10 countries, which truly reflects the international information issues we deal with.

To retain and increase community members, our LinkedIn page has been created to enhance member access, and we've already acquired over 70 followers. To improve accessibility, we moved our Facebook group to a page. Please stay updated with the latest news by following our social media. Find the details at the end of this issue. I extend my gratitude to Dharmveer Modi, our Webmaster, Bethany Morton-Jerome, our Newsletter officer, and Ananya Deka, our committed Volunteer, for their efforts on these matters.

The 2023 Special Projects Team hosted the Winter School for Enhancing Research Skills: A SIG-III Initiative. The three workshops held in November and December were “Exploring Python for Data Analysis and Machine Learning

in the Humanities” with Mr. Daniel Agbaji, “Plotting Social Networks with R” with Dr. Jeff Hemsley & Christy, and “Word Vectors & Embeddings” with Dr. Christopher Barrie. I would like to sincerely thank the team, volunteers, and participants for their contributions and successes.

To explore collaborative opportunities with affiliate information associations and global organizations, we organized a joint webinar with the Iranian Public Library Association titled “How Can Public Libraries Create Value for Rural Communities in Developing Countries?” with Dr. Devendra Potnis. We also sponsored the second student-led conference on “Emerging Issues in Library and Information Management” at the University of Punjab, Pakistan.

This year, we continue with successful initiatives such as the International Paper Contest (IPC) for Developing Countries, InfoShare, and the International Cafe Meets, Research Wing, and Guest Speaker Series. SIG-III events in 2024 begin with the International Cafe Meet on New Year's Resolutions in 2024. The call for details of the IPC is now open, and we encourage everyone to spread the word to maximize participation from developing countries. Our next winter school webinars will take place in January and February. To engage our community members, InfoShare has organized an event with the title Humans of the Library. Read more about these initiatives in this issue. We encourage you to actively participate in all of these efforts and strengthen your professional network of valued members.

Finally, I would like to thank our officers, volunteers, and advisors for their great contributions. The collaboration of a passionate team and motivated individuals has led our SIG to the outstanding results it has today. I am confident that together we can continue the good work and contribute to making our SIG-III a more global, diverse, and inclusive community. Please feel free to share your thoughts and ideas with us at sigiiiassist@gmail.com.

Leili Seifi, Chair

Mapping Library and Information Schools: An International Approach

ASIS&T
Collaboration

Hosted by SIG-III and Middle East Chapter

Library and Information Science (LIS) schools and their accreditations play a crucial role in preparing individuals to become effective and competent library and information professionals. A number of efforts have been undertaken to analyze the accreditation standards and procedures for LIS professionals in a specific context (e.g., country); however, there is limited research from a global perspective.

As part of an IFLA initiative, the Building Strong Library and Information Science Education (BSLISE) Working Group, an international team of researchers were tasked to develop: a regularly updated, international database and asset map, capturing information about LIS schools and programs and local structures, organizations, and procedures that address the issues of professional qualifications, accreditation, certification, and registration for professional practice. The researchers shared their experiences of conducting a collaborative international research project, their findings, and the implications of the project for our field.

Results of the study should facilitate greater levels of cohesion and standardization in LIS programs to meet the expectations of a global marketplace. The LIS community can utilize the mapping tool to learn more about issues of professional qualifications, accreditation, certification, and registration for professional practice around the world and gain increased awareness about establishing synergistic collaborations at an international level and avoiding helicopter research.

The webinar was held on October 12, 2023, at 11:00 AM EST.

Presenters:

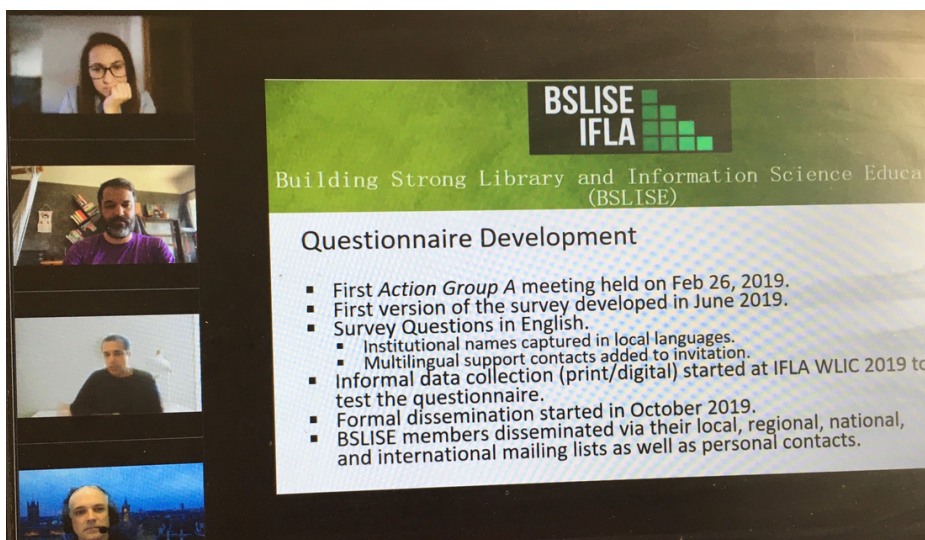
Fatih Oguz is an Associate Professor of library and information science, University of North Carolina at Greensboro.

Núria Bautista-Puig is an Assistant Professor at the Department of Library and Information Science at the Universidad Complutense de Madrid.

Tiago Braga is a Deputy Director of the Brazilian Institute of Information in Science and Technology.

Chris Cunningham is an Assistant Professor at North Carolina Central University as well as the Program Director for External Affairs, Study Abroad, and Experiential Learning.

Leili Seifi



Call for International Paper Contest 2024

The Special Interest Group on International Information Issues (SIG-III) of the Association for Information Science & Technology (ASIS&T) invites research papers from library and information science (LIS) professionals of developing countries for the 24th International Paper Contest (IPC). The winners of the IPC 2024 will be awarded in the 87th Annual Meeting of ASIS&T, which will take place in Calgary, Alberta, Canada from 25-29 October 2024. The theme of the Annual Meeting is "Putting People First: Responsibility, Reciprocity and Care in Information Research and Practice".

The purpose of this contest is to encourage researchers from developing countries and to share their work globally. It also focuses on pushing advancements in information, people, and technology in contemporary societies in the context of developing countries.

Eligibility & Information for Authors: All authors should be citizens of and reside in a developing nation. Winners of the 2016-2023 contests are not eligible. The papers should be original, unpublished, and submitted in English. We encourage submissions from librarians, information and network specialists, and educators.

Authors are invited to submit manuscripts, not to exceed 5,000 words, by 15 April 2024 via the submission form as a Microsoft Word Document.

For more information, visit: <https://www.asist.org/sig/sigiii/international-paper-contest/>

Namali Suraweera, IPC Chair

Upcoming Events



Enjoy Life
Cat better
Help Others
More bon
New Year's Resolutions

asis&t
SIG-iii
Special Interest Group
International Information Issues

You are invited to the
1st SIG-III International Café Meet of 2024
Save the date for Wednesday,
January 24, 2024, at 9:00 AM EDT.

Bring your favorite café drink and Let's set our goals for the year.
Safirotu Khoir, ICM Chair



INFOSHARE

Humans of The library

Share your story with Global Friends

What is your Story?
Libraries are more than just buildings filled with books – they're run by people who have their own unique stories, wisdom, experiences, struggles, and insights to offer. Are you interested in sharing yours? Join as a human book and showcase your personal side of library services and life experience

[Signup to share your Story](#)
Last date for Signup: January 15, 2024

Event Date: February 16, 2024 @ 10.00 AM (EST)
For question, contact at noonanu@gmail.com

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SIG-iii
Special Interest Group
International Information Issues

InfoShare of SIG-III
The Association for Information Science and Technology (ASIS&T)

Muhammad Tariq, InfoShare Chair

Upcoming Events: Webinar Series for Enhancing Research Skills



Enhancing Metacognitive Awareness & Metaliteracy Skills Towards Becoming a Self-Determined Researcher

25 January, 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM ET

Metacognition, one of the domains of metaliteracy, is essentially critical self-reflection or thinking about one's own thinking. Metaliteracy is a requirement for successful research. It promotes critical thinking and collaboration in a connected world, providing a comprehensive framework to effectively participate in social media and online communities. It is a unified construct that supports the acquisition, production, and sharing of knowledge in collaborative online communities.

Dr. Brenda van Wyk is currently a senior academic in the EBIT Faculty at the University of Pretoria.

Learn more and register at

<https://www2.asist.org/ap/Events/Register/Zrny1k5L>



Information Ethics & Digital Wellness Toolkit

1 February, 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM ET

Digital wellness refers to the notion of “being well in a digital society”. Digital Wellness is characterized by the ability of the user to discern between the dangers and opportunities found in cyberspace, act responsibly, and align his/her online behavior with their offline values. The Digital Wellness Toolkit offers an easy-to-use format (printed and electronic books) and illustrative means to convey key concerns.

Naailah Parbhoo is a full-time lecturer at the University of Pretoria, Department of Information Science.

Learn more and register at

<https://www2.asist.org/ap/Events/Register/zLwybn9p>



Information Ethical Considerations of Generative AI: Research, Teaching & Learning

8 February, 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM ET

After completion of this webinar the participants will:

- have a better understanding of what generative AI is
- have a better understanding of what Information Ethics is
- be aware of the IE implications of Generative AI
- be able to use some generative AI platforms in Research
- be able to use some generative AI platforms in Teaching and Learning

Prof. Marlene Holmner is an Associate Professor in the Department of Information Science at the University of Pretoria, South Africa.

Learn more and register at

<https://www2.asist.org/ap/Events/Register/zLE3kyAp>

2023 SIG-III International Reception

86th ASIS&T Annual Meeting

The SIG-III International Reception was hosted on the 29th October 2023 from 7:30-8:30 pm at Novotel Hotel, London. SIG-III planned multiple events during the reception viz. poster presentation by the International Paper Contest (IPC) winner, silent auction, and a raffle.

The program began with a welcome from the Chair, Bhakti Gala. Wei Feng, the first author of the International Paper Contest winner from China, presented the poster on “Inclusion We Stand, Divide We Fall”: Digital Inclusion from Different Disciplines for Scientific Collaborations, by Wei Feng, Qinggong Shi & Lihong Zhou.

The silent auction organized to raise funds to sponsor IPC and InfoShare initiatives had 18 items from different parts of the world submitted by SIG-III members. Items from Australia, India, Pakistan, and USA, among others, were put on display by Vanessa Reyes. A signed copy of the book “Looking for Information: Examining Research on How People Engage with Information” was donated by the author and SIG-III member Lisa M. Given, which fetched the highest amount of \$55 for a single item.

An exciting attraction to the evening was the Raffle tickets that were sold for a dollar each with a special prize attraction of a ticket for the London Eye sponsored by SIG-III member Chris Cunningham. Proceeds from the silent auction and raffle help fund SIG III special initiatives such as funding student scholarships, and conference attendance for IPC winners from developing countries.

The evening was attended by SIG-III members including Abebe Rorissa, President, ASIS&T, Naresh Agarwal, Past President, ASIS&T, Ian Ruthven, President-elect, members from the ASIS&T office including Lydia Middleton, Executive Director, ASIS&T, SIG-III officers and members. The evening had an attendance of approx. 30 members from Africa, Australia, Bangladesh, Brazil, Canada, China, India, Pakistan, Ireland, UK and USA. Members had a relaxed time with music and light refreshments being provided by SIG-III.

I thank the International Reception Committee members, Chris Cunningham, Vanessa Reyes, Devendra Potnis, Leili Seifi, and Blessing Mawire, for their contribution towards organizing the events.

Bhakti Gala, Past Chair



Wei Feng presents a poster representing the winner of the International Paper Contest (above) and receives the award from Past Chair, Bhakti Gala (below).



From left: International Paper Contest Winner Wei Feng, ASIS&T President Dr. Abebe Rorissa, and Best Volunteer Award Winner Vanessa Reyes

Winter School for Enhancing Research Skills

Exploring Python for Data Analysis and Machine Learning in the Humanities

17 & 19 November 2023; 10:00 AM to 1:00 PM ET

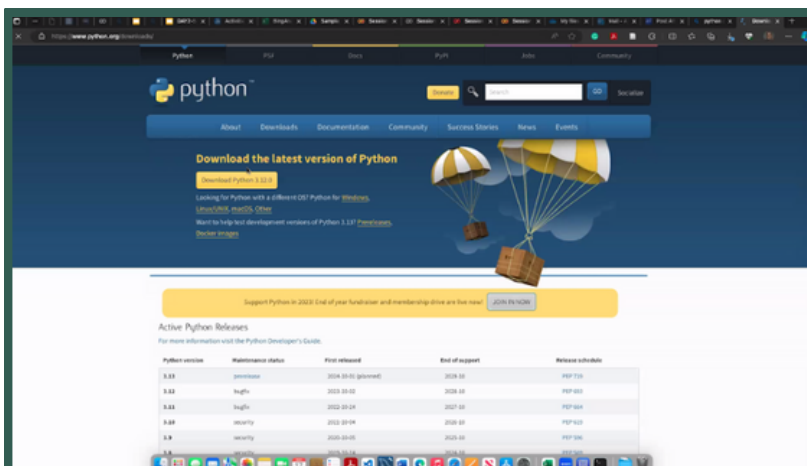
The content presented at this workshop was divided into 5 sessions, including Introduction to Python, Working with Data in Python, Visualizing Humanities Data in Python, Intro to Machine Learning in Python, and Hands-on Machine Learning Project. The target audience was beginners and novices interested in data analysis, data visualization, and machine learning using Python, particularly in the context of humanities data. 25 participants joined the workshop from the United States, Bangladesh, India, Canada, Pakistan, the United Kingdom, and Northern Ireland, including 5 participants who received scholarships. Dr. Leili Seifi from Iran moderated the workshop with assistance from SIG-III Co-Chair-Elect Humphrey Keah of Kenya.

Instructor Daniel Agbaji is a software developer and data scientist from Nigeria who is completing his Ph.D. at the University of North Texas (UNT).

SIG-III used an ASIS&T SIG Special Project award to develop and offer a Winter School for Enhancing Research Skills. The Winter School consisted of three workshops that were held in November and December. Each was six hours long and conducted over two days. Target participants were ASIS&T members who are doctoral scholars, post-doctoral scholars, and early career professionals.



"I learned about new tools (Google Colab) and some further understanding of python's capabilities. Daniel is very patient, clear, knowledgeable & did a terrific job presenting the material."

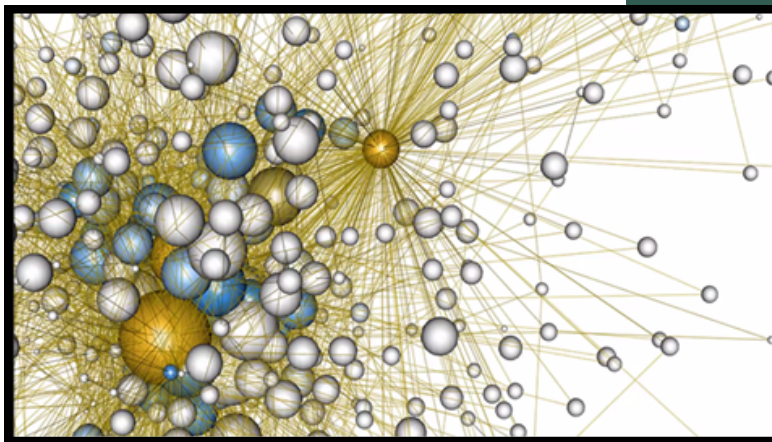


Winter School for Enhancing Research Skills

“This is one of the best classes I have ever taken on any topic. I felt more confident in R after the first three hours than I did after the first three weeks in my Masters' program. Thank for being so clear and effective in your communication.”

Introduction to Plotting Social Networks with R
7 & 8 December 2023; 10:00 AM to 1:00 PM ET

The second workshop of the SIG-III Winter School discussed the uses and concepts of social network analysis and demonstrated visualization construction and how to make custom plots using R and the igraph network analysis software. The workshop had 14 registrations from different parts of the world. Dr. Bhakti Gala from India moderated the workshop with assistance from Nozipho Ngubane as a volunteer from South Africa.



Instructor Dr. Jeff Hemsley is an Associate Professor at the School of Information Studies at Syracuse University and an Associate Editor at the Journal of Information Technology and Politics. Co-instructor Christy Khoury is a PhD Student at the Syracuse University School of Information Studies.

Word Vectors & Embeddings

11 & 13 December 2023; 8:00 AM to 11:00 AM ET

With 14 registered participants, this workshop used R and Python to demonstrate the use of word vectors and embeddings for social science and digital humanities applications. Participants learned about the history of word vectors and embeddings in the social sciences and gained hands-on practice with these tools. Dr. Manika Lamba from India was the moderator, assisted by Faiza Bashir from Pakistan.

Word vectors and embeddings with Dr. Christopher Barrie, 13 December

Instructor Dr. Christopher Barrie is a Lecturer in Computational Sociology at the University of Edinburgh.

How Can Public Libraries Create Value for Rural Communities in Developing Countries?

Joint Webinar by SIG-III and Iran Public Libraries Association

The objectives of this webinar were to present (a) key ways in which public libraries create value for rural communities in developing countries and (b) lessons from the best practices of these libraries. If library administrators and librarians in Iran reflect upon, contextualize, and adopt these lessons, they can serve their stakeholders more effectively and efficiently. More than 50 participants attended this webinar from Iran, India, Bangladesh, and the USA. The webinar was held on 22nd November at 9:30 am EST.

Presenter: Dr. Devendra Potnis, Professor, Inclusion Lab, School of Information Sciences, the University of Tennessee at Knoxville, USA

Leili Seifi, Chair

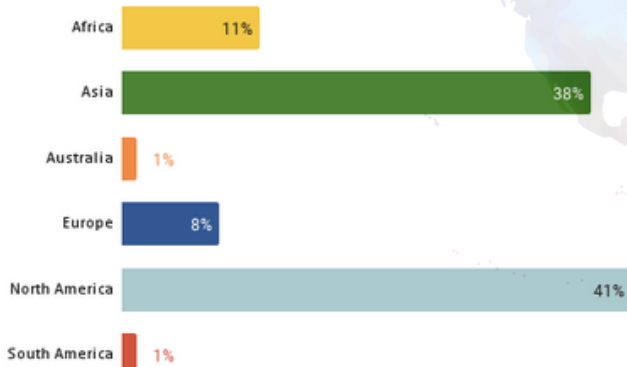
Student-Led Conference: Emerging Issues in Library & Information Management

SIG-III co-sponsored a conference hosted by the Institute of Information Management at University of the Punjab, Lahore. Under the theme "Emerging Issues in Library & Information Management", the conference served as a vibrant platform for students to share their innovative research and to explore advancements, contemporary challenges, and future trends in the ever-evolving landscape of Library and Information Management. The heart of the conference was the exceptional oral and poster presentations. 14 oral presentations and 12 posters covered topics ranging from digital archiving and information literacy to user experience and the integration of artificial intelligence in library services.

Nosheen Fatima Warraich, Co-Chair/Chair Elect



SIG-III Membership








1/3 are students
2/5 work in academia
1/5 work as information professionals

by Bethany Morton-Jerome
(Newsletter Officer, SIG-III)

Social Media FOLLOWERS


Follow us on various social media platforms and get regular updates regarding international information issues.

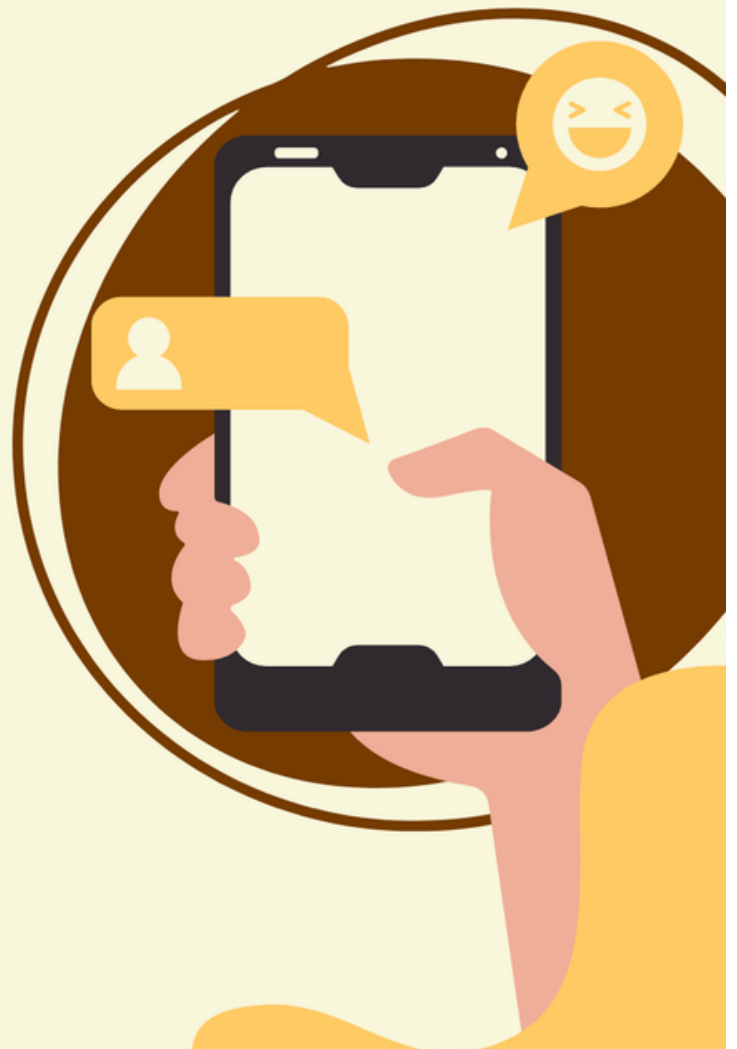
Currently we have:

-  [Facebook group](#): 572 members
-  [Facebook page](#): 11 followers
-  [LinkedIn](#): 71 followers
-  [X \(formerly twitter\)](#): 410 followers
-  [YouTube](#): 21 subscribers

LEARN MORE

 sigiiiasist@gmail.com

 <https://www.asist.org/sig/sigiii/>



by Dharmveer Modi
(Webmaster, SIG-III)



Chair:
Leili Seifi
(University of Birjand, Iran)



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



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



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:
Muhammad Tariq
(COMSATS University of Islamabad, Lahore, Pakistan)



Nominating Committee Chair:
Devendra Potnis
(The University of Tennessee at Knoxville, USA)



Nominating Committee Member:
Shaharima Parvin
(East West University, Bangladesh)



Advisors:
Devendra Potnis
(The University of Tennessee at Knoxville, USA)



Laurie Bonnici
(University of Alabama, USA)



Shalini Urs
(University of Mysore, India)



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



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



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)



Newsletter Officer:
Bethany Morton-Jerome
(San Jose State University, Jordan)



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



International Cafe Meet Chair:
Safirotu Khoir
(Universitas Gadjah Mada, Indonesia)



Past Chair:
Bhakti Gala
(Central University of Gujarat, India)