

SALAAM NAMASTE AYUBOWAN

2023//VOL.3 NO.1



Welcome!

The first edition of this year's (2023) South Asian Chapter (SA) Newsletter offers insight into the mission of the SA chapter. It gives you an impression of the people involved in the mission.

We introduce our SA chapter officers, chapter news and events, achievements by chapter officers, an overview of library advocacy sessions for South Asia, and a unique My ASIS&T journey column. My ASIS&T journey column collected successful stories of past and current officers as a source of motivation for the community and new members.

WANT TO GET INVOLVED

Are you a LIS student, researcher, or practitioner from one of the South Asia countries and want to get involved in our chapter activities? Do you want to share content in our next newsletter for December 2023? Do you have any ideas for activities or events that could be organized by the SA chapter? We are always looking for motivated LIS students and practitioners who want to participate in our chapter. We especially invite LIS professionals and students from Afghanistan, Bhutan, and Nepal to join our chapter.

Feel free to contact us and share your ideas with us!



This Issue:

Chair's Message

Page 02

SA Chapter Officers 2022-23

Page 03

SA Chapter Update and Event

Page 04

Library Advocacy for South Asia

Page 05

South Asian Chapter's Annual Salam Namaste Ayubowan Event

Page 06

Md. Anwarul Islam Receives the 2023

Lois Lunin Award

Page 06

Best Research Paper Award

Page 07

My ASIS&T Journey

Mr. Sourabh Debnath

Page 08

Ms. Fiza Yosufi

Page 09

Dr. Bhakti Gala

Page 10

Dr. Amara Malik

Page 11



Chair's Message

Dr. Syeda Hina Batool
Institute of Information Management
University of the Punjab

I am excited to see the way the South Asia chapter is growing and shining over the period. South Asia chapter empowers our officers to work collaboratively addressing the needs and the concerns of the members. The chapter enabled officers and members to extend their strong network throughout the region. I am delighted to share some exciting updates and important information with you through this newsletter.

As we embark on a new year, our officers worked tirelessly to adapt and find innovative ways to serve our community. The chapter officers, advisors and members were successful in presenting a panel for ASIS&T mid-year conference 2023 on 'D/Misinformation on Social Media and the Role of the LIS Profession: A South Asian Perspective'. Recently, we extended our outreach and shook hands with the European chapter to propose another panel 'Inclusive curriculum' for the ASIS&T annual meeting 2023. I am pleased to announce that our proposed panel has been highly recommended by the reviewers and got accepted.

We have successfully expanded our reach by establishing partnerships with regional organizations, chapters, SIGs and the Ministry of Education in Nepal. South Asia chapter in collaboration with SIG III conducted a successful workshop on 'Foundations, Techniques, and Applications of Information Visualization'. The workshop was led by Dr. He Jiagen, an expert in the field. Moreover, in collaboration with the Ministry of Education, Nepal, we addressed the critical issue of 'Library advocacy in South Asia through a webinar on June 20, 2023. To keep the community engaged and informed, our chapter collaboration with Sri Lanka Library Association resulted in the form of an international conference in Library and Information Science 2023. The conference theme 'Libraries as Catalyst for Transformation: Resilient Nations for a Better World' is a call to action for the digital world. Many students, professionals and researchers attended the conference and acknowledged the efforts of the organizers. These opportunities will provide valuable insights into the latest developments in the information services sector in South Asia.

Lastly, I would like to extend an invitation to all members to participate in our events, training workshops and seminars to further enrich our endeavors. Together, we can make a lasting impact on society and ensure equal access to information for everyone.

With warmest regards,
Dr. Syeda Hina Batool
Chair

MEET OUR SA CHAPTER OFFICERS. 2023-24



Chair: Dr. Syeda Hina Batool



Secretary: Dr. Amara Malik



Treasurer: Dr. Amjid Khan



**Membership officer:
Dr. Sadaf Rafiq**



**Social Media/Newsletter Officer:
Mr. Mallikarjun Dora**



Chair-Elect: Reshma Dangol



Past Chair: Dr. Ruwan Gamage



**Country Representative, Afghanistan
Fiza Yousufi**



**Chapter Advisor:
Dr. Md. Anwarul Islam**



**Chapter Advisor:
Dr. Naresh Agarwal**



**Chapter Advisor:
Dr. Bhakti Gala**

SIG-III in collaboration with the South Asia chapter conducted a webinar on "Foundations, Techniques, and Applications of Information Visualization" on 1st June 2023

About the topic:

The development and application of information visualization are exciting in science, business, and technology. Visually and interactive presenting data in compelling graphs and charts can help us gain a deeper understanding of stories in massive datasets. Although there are many available techniques and tools of visualization, it is still important to execute effective design and best practices to create clear and accurate visualizations. This Webinar will introduce the basic framework and workflow of information visualization first. With the framework, we will discuss how to effectively use various visual elements (channels and marks) to encode different types of datasets and interaction designs. There is a growing number of techniques and tools of visualization that we can choose from to implement our design. This Webinar will also introduce the latest development in visualization and discuss the most appropriate technical solution for a particular purpose.

Presenter: **Dr. Jiangen He**

International Conference on Library & Information Science (ICLIS)-2023, 27th June 2023

The ASIS&T South Asia chapter was one of the collaborators in the recently held International Conference of Library and Information Science (ICLIS)-2023 organized by the Sri Lanka Library Association (SLAA). The main theme of the conference was "Libraries as Catalysts for Transformation: Resilient Nations for a Better World". **Dr. Syeda Hina Batool** discussed 'resilience theory,' which argues to bounce back against uncertainties, complex systems, adverse situations, and even positive progress. The COVID-19 pandemic is used as an example to illustrate the resilience of libraries and information services in adapting to new challenges. She emphasizes the importance of diversity, variability, and modularity in building resilient libraries and suggests that effective communication networks enhance resilience.

Dr. Ruwan Gamage, in his Plenary Speech, talked on the topic "Librarianship in the Era of Generative Artificial Intelligence (GAI)" he discussed how GAI would offer a new paradigm for information retrieval and knowledge creation, promising to revolutionize libraries by enhancing their services and operations.

D/Misinformation on Social Media and the Role of the LIS Profession: A South Asian Perspective

By: Malik, Amara; Batool, Syeda Hina; Agarwal, Naresh Kumar; Islam, Md. Anwarul; Jayasekara, Prasadi Kanchana; Dangol, Reshma; Lamba, Manika

The spread of d/misinformation on social media poses serious threats to the social, cultural, political, and economic structures of human societies. This panel is designed to discuss the phenomenon of d/misinformation and fake news on social media, including the motives of its sharing and its impact on society. The panellists will also highlight the role of LIS professionals in educating society to assess the quality of online information before decision-making. Sponsored by the South Asia Chapter and bringing in voices from various South Asian countries and North America, the primary focus of the panel will be on the South Asian perspective in looking at d/misinformation. Synergizing multiple perspectives and firsthand experiences of experts and listeners on the contextual misinformation fact-checking phenomenon while focusing on South Asia, the panel should inform the viewpoints of listeners, while contributing towards the research and practice of information professionals, as well as towards institutional policies.

The panel discussion was held at the ASIS&T Mid-Year Conference, a virtual event, the details regarding the panel discussion can be found on the below link.

<https://zenodo.org/record/7775553>

Chapter Update and Events



Library Advocacy for South Asia

Date: June 20, 2023, Tuesday, Time 9.00 AM to 12.00 PM

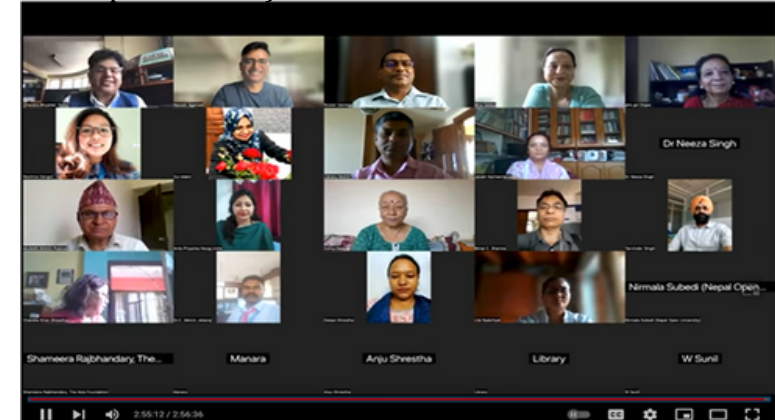
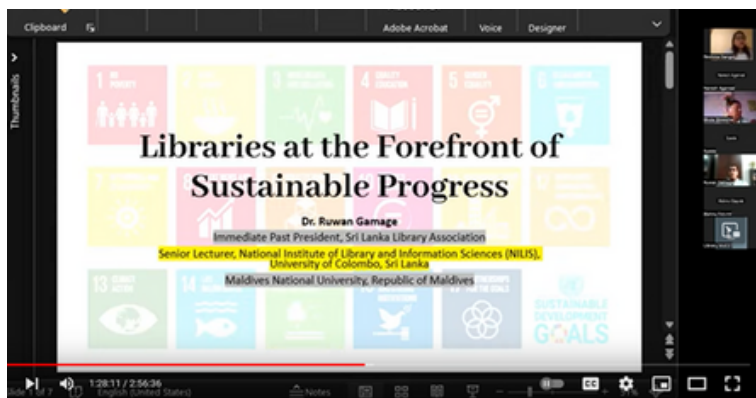
The seminar was jointly organized by the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology, Nepal and ASIS&T South Asia. The welcome remark was given by Dr. Bhola Kumar Shrestha, executive member of READ Nepal. Mr. Yadab Chandra Niraula, welcomed the guest and briefed the participants about the library history in Nepal and the advocacy program in Nepal.

Dr. Naresh Agarwal delivered the first keynote address at the event. During his speech, he highlighted the significance of DEIA (Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, Accessibility) in library advocacy. He stressed the importance of universal design in library spaces to ensure accessibility for disabled individuals, and how this can play a crucial role in improving people's lives. Additionally, he discussed Nepal's potential to lead in areas such as mental health and suggested the creation of a mediation center with library support as a way to make a difference.



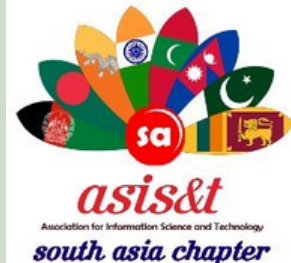
Dr. Syeda Hina Batool was the second keynote speaker at the event. During her speech, she briefly discussed the concept of Library Advocacy and emphasized its significance for the survival of libraries. **Dr. Hina** also highlighted various advocacy tools available for libraries and argued how social media platforms can be utilized for library advocacy.

Dr. Ruwan Gamage delivered the third keynote session on the topic of "Libraries at the Forefront of Sustainable Progress". During the session, he discussed the expectations of both the general public and policymakers/administrators from libraries. Additionally, he talked about the Sri Lanka Library Association's action plan on SDG (Sustainable Development Goal).



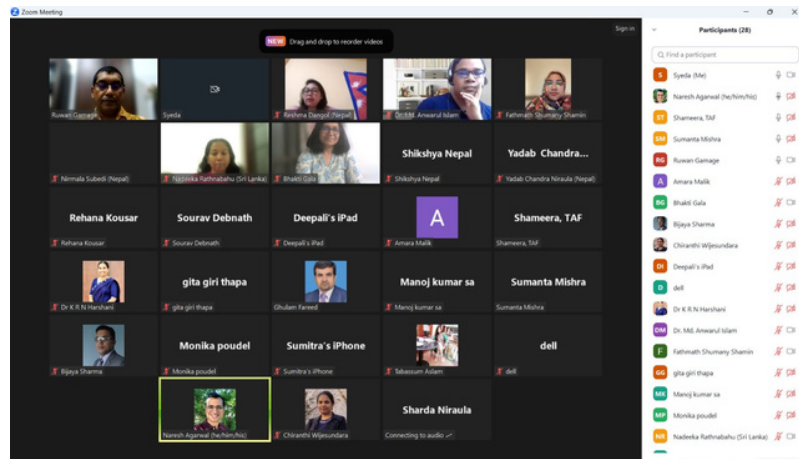
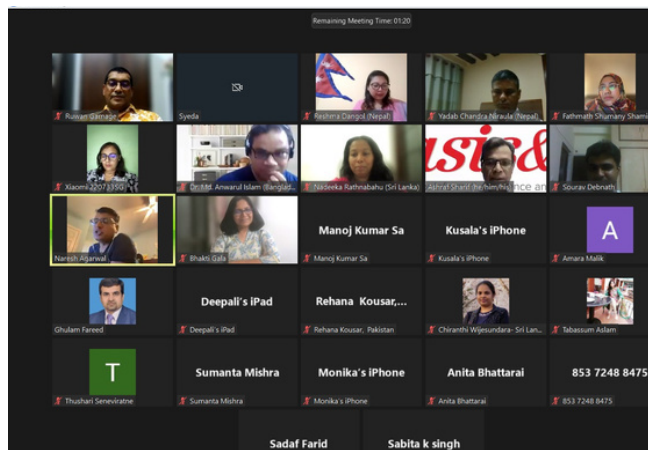
The session concluded with a note of thanks from the conference organizer, **Ms. Reshma Dangol**.

Chapter Update and Events



Annual Salam Namaste Ayubowan Event

On July 10, 2023, the South Asia chapter hosted its annual event, which was attended by over 30 professionals from Nepal, Pakistan, India, Bangladesh, and Maldives. During the session, the chapter advisors and officers welcomed the new members and shared their success stories with ASIS&T, particularly with the SA chapter. The chapter chair expressed gratitude for the attendees and briefed them on the benefits of ASIS&T professional and student membership.



Upcoming Events

Global Perspectives on Inclusive Curricula: places, Practices and Pedagogy

A panel discussion on the topic accepted in the upcoming 86th Annual Meeting of the Association for Information Science & Technology, October 29-31, 2023, in London, United Kingdom.

This panel is in collaboration with the European chapter of ASIS&T. Dr. Syeda Hina Batool will represent the South Asia region, and in her talk, she will provide a comprehensive view on inclusive curriculum and its status in South Asia region.

Announcements

Dr. Md. Anwarul Islam receives Lois Lunin Award for 2023

We congratulate our chapter advisor Dr. Md. Anwarul Islam for receiving the prestigious Lois Lunin Award for 2023. This award recognizes individuals who made noteworthy contributions to the practice of Information Science and Technology through leadership, mentoring, and innovation. Dr. Md. Anwarul Islam is an Associate Professor in the Department of Library Management, University of Dhaka, Bangladesh. He has been an ASIS&T member since 2015 and has served in various roles.

Dr. Islam will receive the award at the 2023 ASIS&T Annual meeting to be held On "October 27 - 31, 2023," in London, UK.



More details on the award are available here

<https://www.asist.org/2023/06/13/md-anwarul-islam-receives-the-2023-lois-lunin-award/>

Call for ASIS&T South Asia Chapter Best Research Paper Award (2022-2023)

Nomination for the competition

The award is established to recognize high-quality research papers in the LIS field. The award winner will receive a certificate. The Award will be sponsored by the South Asia Chapter of ASIS&T and will be administered by the elected Committee for the year.

Eligibility

Interested applicants must meet the following qualifications:

- Authors need to be members of the ASIS&T SA Chapter.
- The jury will consider those papers published between 1st July 2022 to 30th June 2023.
- The nominated paper should have been already published in a journal with an ISSN and should have been indexed in a national/international indexing service acceptable to the jury. The papers published in the ASIST proceedings within the period concerned are also eligible.
- The submitted paper should be in the English language.
- Each author can submit only one paper.

Nominations Process

- The application form is given here: <https://forms.gle/XNGy1VtAJ8qC7yEz6>
- Complete all details and attach a copy of the published paper or the full journal.
- Self-nominations are welcome.

Selection Process

The content of each eligible research paper shall be appraised in terms of the following criteria as appropriate:

- a. Societal or scholarly significance of the topic discussed
- b. Appropriateness of the methodology
- c. Creativity and originality of the content
- d. Clarity of expression;
- e. Presentation quality

Presentation of the Award

The award shall be presented to the winner at the ASIS&T Annual Meeting and/or through email.

Important Dates:

Submission deadline: **31st August 2023.**

Notification of the Winner: **20th September 2023**

Sourav Debnath



It is a great honour for me to share my personal experience with all of you as an immediate past secretary. Let me start from the beginning of becoming a member of ASIS&T. I came to know about ASIS&T from my professor in the second semester of the MLIS program. Fortunately, I got a mentor like her who helped to transform me from just a student member to a chapter officer and then taking on the responsibilities of a secretary of a chapter of a prestigious organization like ASIS&T within a very short period. The South Asia Chapter was formed in 2018 and I joined the chapter as a Social Media Manager (Twitter).

Frankly speaking, I had very little knowledge about the promotional activities of a new chapter that was too to be expressed within 140 characters while being a novice LIS professional at that time. But the guidance of the first Chapter Chair, Prof Kanwal Ameen steered the learning pace towards the right direction. The way of expressing your views is different from the professional body's public relation medium. It taught me several aspects like the language, the words you choose, and the sentiments of different cultures, and races of members the chapter represents.

The Social media posts communicated not only chapter activities but also attracted new members to join us. The two years of Social Media Managership concretised my foundation of confidence. Under the third Chairmanship of Dr Bhakti Gala, who happened to be the mentor from LIS school got the new role of Secretary. Frequent meetings, scheduling calendar events, drafting minutes, amendments in chapter bylaws, searching webinar resource persons, arranging webinars, and punctually attending every month's business meetings became the new normal. In between the call for free membership was a challenge. Suddenly the chapter membership counts increased fourfold. Spreading the ASIS&T news through new members and collecting their feedback for improvement gave me a new perspective.

The chapter received the Chapter of the Year award and the newsletter got the best newsletter recognition. Both achievements put a benchmark for officers. Meanwhile the chapter also got its logo through an open competition. These narratives apart from my regular responsibilities in the parent institute put the interview board for the second job in awe. After the second tenure, the time came for a transition of responsibility and files smoothly. It was a great learning point while working with multicultural high-profile professionals from different time zones at the same time keeping the interpersonal relationships at par. In-depth thankful to the Chapter Advisor, Prof. Naresh Agarwal, Dr. Anwarul Islam and past Chair Dr. Ruwan Gamage for their insightful guidelines in rendering whatever I could put forth.

Sourav Debnath

Indian Institute of Technology, Dhanbad

Past secretary and social media manager, ASIS&T South Asia

Fiza Yousufi



Throughout my professional journey in the field of information science and technology, the Association for Information Science and Technology (ASIS&T) has played a pivotal role in shaping my growth and providing me with invaluable opportunities for learning, collaboration, and advancement. The impact of ASIS&T on my personal and professional development has been profound, and I am immensely grateful for the transformative experiences it has offered me.

ASIS&T has been instrumental in fostering a sense of community and connection. As a member, I have had the privilege of interacting with like-minded individuals from diverse backgrounds, including researchers, practitioners, educators, and students. The association's conferences, seminars, and workshops have served as dynamic platforms for networking and knowledge exchange. Through these interactions, I have formed meaningful relationships, engaged in insightful discussions, and expanded my professional network, creating a supportive community that continuously inspires and challenges me.

One of the most significant contributions of ASIS&T to my growth has been its commitment to professional development and education. The association offers a wide range of resources and programs designed to enhance the skills and knowledge of its members. The ASIS&T Digital Library, for instance, has been an invaluable repository of cutting-edge research papers, articles, and conference proceedings, allowing me to stay updated on the latest advancements in the field. Additionally, the association's webinars and workshops have provided me with opportunities to delve deeper into specific areas of interest and gain practical insights from leading experts.

ASIS&T has also played a crucial role in nurturing my leadership skills and providing avenues for active participation. The association's various committees, special interest groups, and student chapters have allowed me to contribute to the advancement of the field while honing my organizational and teamwork abilities. Serving in leadership roles within these groups has provided me with invaluable experiences in project management, event planning, and fostering collaboration, empowering me to make a meaningful impact within the association and beyond. Moreover, ASIS&T has opened doors to professional opportunities that have shaped my career trajectory. The association's job board, mentorship programs, and career development resources have been instrumental in facilitating access to employment prospects, mentorship, and guidance. The connections I have made through ASIS&T have often resulted in collaborations, research partnerships, and speaking engagements, all of which have enhanced my professional visibility and contributed to my professional growth.

ASIS&T's commitment to advocacy and public engagement has also left an indelible mark on my journey. The association actively promotes the value and significance of information science and technology through its public policy initiatives, advocacy efforts, and public awareness campaigns. By amplifying the impact of information science in addressing societal challenges, ASIS&T has inspired me to be an advocate for the field, compelling me to contribute my expertise and knowledge towards making a positive difference in society.

In conclusion, the Association for Information Science and Technology has been a guiding light on my path of personal and professional development. Through its vibrant community, robust resources, professional development opportunities, and advocacy efforts, ASIS&T has enriched my understanding, expanded my network, and provided me with the tools and inspiration to thrive in the ever-evolving world of information science and technology. I am deeply grateful for the support and opportunities offered by ASIS&T, and I eagerly look forward to continuing my journey with this remarkable association.

Dr. Bhakti Gala



My ASIS&T journey began in 2014 when I won the ASIS&T SIG-III International Paper Contest Award with a two-year free membership. Attending the AM14 with support from ASIS&T SIG-III led to a domino effect in my professional and personal life. The associations that I made helped me develop an academic identity, collaborate with scholars from across the globe, participate in international projects, and these ultimately played a crucial role in my current employment as an Assistant Professor at a university in India.

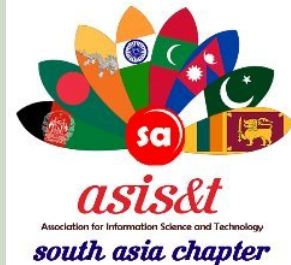
I have been a member of the South Asia Chapter since its inception in the year 2018. I began my contribution to the Chapter as Secretary in 2018-19, Chair-elect in 2019-20 and Chair in 2021-22. As Chair of the South Asia Chapter, I was fortunate to work with a great team of officers, leading to many firsts for the chapter. It was amazing work done by the team of officers working with me that led to the chapter launching its first Salaam Namaste Ayubowan event, getting its logo for the chapter and the newsletter 'Salaam Namaste Ayubowan' that was first published in August 2021. I was fortunate to also lead a great team of members when the SA chapter was awarded the Chapter Special Project Fund of USD 7000 for 2021-22 for the project titled ' Dealing with COVID-19 and saving people's lives in South Asia (SA) areas & beyond - A health informatics promotion project' submitted in collaboration with the Asia Pacific and European chapters. Leading a team of members from 05 countries - India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, and Hong Kong and working collaboratively on this project was a true learning experience. The successful implementation of the project led to the Chapter winning the 'Chapter Innovation Year Award' in 2020-21 for this project.

I credit my work with the South Asia Chapter which also led to the 2022 Cretsos Award for Leadership and the 2022 **Chapter Member of the Year Award**.

Through the activities in the South Asia Chapter, I got an opportunity not only to make lifelong friends across borders, but a chance to constantly work towards the core values of knowledge sharing, lifelong learning, community development, and creating an impact among South Asian countries. This membership has provided me with breakthroughs to work as an international consultant on projects funded by OCLC/ASLISE, ASIS&T and the University of Hong Kong helping me develop specializations in information practices and the larger information domain.

The opportunities have been endless and keep on continuing. I was invited to become a member of the Program Committee Member, for AM 22 and the poster co-chair and worked as a member of the Jury Committee for the Chapter Awards during AM 2021. I was also able to participate actively in ASIS&T annual meetings in 2022, 2021 and 2014 by presenting papers, posters and partnering with team members in panel discussions. My chapter membership led to invitations to contribute to various ASIS& publications such as Inside ASIS&T Member Spotlight, Information Matters (August 2021), South Asia Chapter Newsletter (Salaam Namaste Ayubowan) Issue 1, and Issue 2, SA blog, and the SIG-III newsletter.

I have been advocating for ASIS&T SA membership since its launch and it was a proud moment to hear at the AM22 in Pittsburg when the SA membership was announced as the one of the highest in ASIS&T. I appreciate and acknowledge the inclusive culture that Asis&t South Asia Chapter promotes. This membership has helped me to develop and expand my professional network way beyond my expectations with every year bringing new opportunities for participation and engagement.

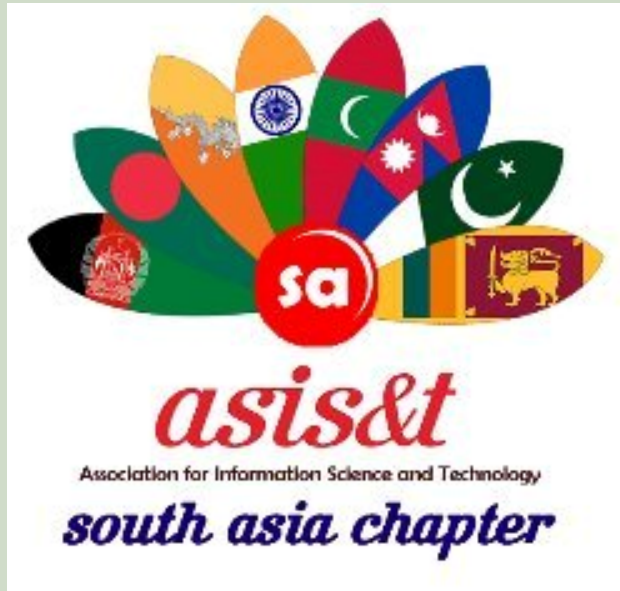


It was in 2021 when I became a member of a highly esteemed community of ASIS&T and realized the immense significance and experienced the enormous benefits of joining an international professional association that is dynamic, diverse, and inclusive. My journey with ASIS&T, though two years, is so amazing and full of learning that, without giving it a second thought, I gladly accept the invitation of Mallikarjun Dora to write it down for the newsletter. In this article, I would like to share my insights and highlight the value of being a part of ASIS&T.

I strongly believe that ASIS&T helped me to enhance my professional exposure and recognition. Immediately, after joining, the association allowed me to participate in the international paper contest held by the SIGIII of ASIS&T. It was the first time, I took part in any international contest. Luckily, my paper was awarded second place in the contest. Appreciation in the form of certificates and congratulatory messages from the community members boost my confidence and encouraged me to take daring steps in my career. After that, I applied for and won the Emerald South Asia LIS Research Fund Award for the year 2022. Moreover, it provided me with several opportunities to present my papers, and moderate sessions in online webinars, and conferences (e.g. ASIS&T 24-Hour Global Conference and 2023 Mid-Year Conference) held by the different sections and chapters of the ASIS&T. Through these conferences and events, I have had the privilege of connecting with experienced professionals, academic leaders, scholars and like-minded people. These professional exposure, interactions, and recognition have enriched my network and provided avenues for mentorship, guidance, and support in research and teaching. For Instance, last year, when I was applying for the post-doc fellowship, many of my colleagues from the ASIS&T community helped and guided me in finding a supervisor relevant to my area of interest from the universities in the UK, USA, and Australia. A few of them also gave me reference letters for the purpose. So, in my opinion, one of the most valuable aspects of being a member of ASIS&T is the abundant opportunities for global exposure, professional networking, and collaborative projects. I strongly believe that the ASIS&T community and leadership are quite dedicated and inspiring, and new members can harness this power to build their career and future professional paths.

While creating my profile on the ASIS&T website, I preferred to select South Asia (SA) Chapter to connect with people from other countries of the same region. Since then, I have been working closely with the chapter, first as a social media officer and now as secretary of the Chapter. I found the members and officers of the chapter as a bunch of flowers of exciting colours representing their countries and LIS culture over there. Working with them help me to explore my potential, previously unknown to me. For example, a translation project of the South Asia Chapter website "About" page into seven SA countries' languages, I took the challenge of translating to Urdu and completed it successfully. It was a quite new learning experience for which ASIS&T appreciated me with a certificate. SA Chapter leadership believes in vision and values; supporting, motivating, and inspiring other members. Here is a sheer sense of comradeship among the chapter leadership and members. By attending, organizing, and participating in the chapter activities as an officer broadened my horizon about the challenges of LIS education and profession in the region. Moreover, I realized how rich the SA region is in talent, intellect, and leadership! Working with these gems enables me to show professional commitment and perseverance. By actively engaging with fellow professionals from the South Asia region, I have been able to exchange ideas, collaborate on projects, and drive innovation within my research project. SA chapter is continuously offering learning opportunities that empower me to stay informed about the trends of the LIS field.

In short, I believe fostering relationships with a dynamic and inspiring community can contribute to new members' personal and professional growth.



Get involved at :

<https://www.asist.org/chapters/saasist/>