



SIGAH

## NEWSLETTER FALL 2022

### INSIDE THE ISSUE

#### PG. 2

Message by the Chair

#### PG. 5

your JASIST articles effective as you think they are? By S.O Jeffcoat

#### PG. 6

Participation in ICKE22 Conference

#### PG. 7

Call for Nominations



### SIGAH Office Holders

#### Chair

**Ann Graf**

Simmons University, Boston

#### Chair-elect

**Jeremy McLaughlin**

University of Wisconsin-Madison

#### Webmaster

**Arjun Sabharwal**

The University of Toledo

#### Newsletter Editor

**Muhammad Tariq**

COMSATS University, Lahore, Pakistan



## Message by the Chair

### Hello!

This time of year, is always a blur as those of us who work according to academic schedules have been very busy planning our courses and new programming for the semester. Those of us who are attending the annual meeting are also putting the finishing touches on our posters, papers, and presentations and maybe arranging our travel schedules in advance of our trip to Pittsburgh at the end of October. There are only just a few weeks left before we meet at the conference. I will be there with a poster this year and will also spend some time at the SIG-AH booth. Please do drop by and say hi if you're there!

We as a SIG have mostly taken the summer for some rest and relaxation so we can gear back up for possible webinars and another spring symposium. Our newsletter editor, Dr. Tariq Muhammad, has been busy making sure that your submissions and updates are ready to run in this issue.

“Those of us who are attending the annual meeting are also putting the finishing touches on our posters, papers, and presentations and maybe arranging our travel schedules in advance of our trip to Pittsburgh at the end of October”

We are still struggling to find SIG members willing to submit material for our newsletters, so if you have anything you would like to share, please do not hesitate to contact us, either through iConnect or directly via e-mail. We are always looking for short biographies of the membership, any publications, honors, or awards to share, or interesting reports from your research or work.

I had the honor of presenting a keynote address in mid-September at the 2<sup>nd</sup> annual PLWO international conference: Transformation of Knowledge Repository into Knowledge Economy. The conference is sponsored by the Pakistan Librarians Welfare Organization and featured the themes of information/knowledge management and libraries, knowledge economy, social informatics, and technology and information behavior. I spoke on the value of wandering, sharing my own experiences in problem solving on a strict budget and becoming aware of alternative resources that may have never been on one's radar. One of the stories I shared during this talk was about planning for this past spring's SIG-AH annual symposium. If you recall, the topic was on documenting, describing, and differentiating within singular object collections. We had three speakers share about their collections, and all of these very interesting speakers came to us from aspects of my life and work. Our first presenter was the man who does my income taxes each year. Lucas has a collection of over 1000 Buddha figures and is very knowledgeable about aspects of the Buddha as represented in different cultures around the world. Our second speaker was a colleague from Simmons and the third an acquaintance I had interviewed in my research endeavors.

I had not imagined that I would end up inviting my tax guy to speak at a webinar for our international association, but I did and he ended up being a very interesting guest! These are some of the serendipitous associations that make our work enjoyable and often applicable in broader ways than we may originally imagine. We have a wealth of information all around us that is waiting to be tapped. I encourage you to take a wander through your community, through your list of contacts outside work, and even just wander through your

“We have a  
wealth of  
information all  
around us that is  
waiting to be  
tapped”

own home to find and leverage resources that can aid in your research, your teaching, or your writing. Sometimes helpful connections arise just when you need them, often by surprise.

On a personal note, I am currently taking partial leave of my work at Simmons to take care of a critically ill family member. I am at the hospital 5 days a week, up to 8 hours a day, as he goes through cancer treatment. This is a new world to me, one that I can't say is enjoyable, but one that also poses opportunities for learning and growth. I take my computer with me and get work done while waiting during chemotherapy infusions or radiation treatments and other appointments. I wander the halls at this large teaching hospital and I notice all the artworks on display, some professional and some created by employees and patients. It amazes me to see the sheer volume of artworks and I have to wonder how they are all cataloged and documented. Maybe some day I will track down the person or department that is responsible for this task and have a conversation about how they stay on top of it all.

This feeds back into my own work with arts materials and my life-long interest in the fine arts. Again, there is opportunity and interest, curiosity and beauty all around us. I encourage you to look up as you go through the mundane paths of your everyday routines and notice what is around you that you may not have noticed before. Last week, waiting during a chemo infusion, I looked out the window and saw a very large bird in the tip top of a dead tree. I took a photo and asked a friend and found out it was a cormorant. This week I will try to remember to bring my good camera with me to get a better photo if that bird is back. These little things to notice are sometimes what get me through a long day. I hope you see and find them as well.

This is my last newsletter as your SIG-AH chair. Jeremy McLaughlin, our chair-elect, will take over as chair at the annual meeting. I have enjoyed serving the SIG this past year and look forward to being very involved going forward, albeit in other capacities. Jeremy has led the SIG in the past and is very familiar with all that we do. He will do a great job again in this position and I hope that you welcome him and also find a place for yourself in the SIG. We're glad you're here.

**Dr. Ann Graf**  
Chair - SIGAH

“I encourage you to look up as you go through the mundane paths of your everyday routines and notice what is around you that you may not have noticed before”



“Data visualization is the best way for readers to understand research and can be **IMPACTFUL** if done well”

# Are your JASIST articles effective as you think they are?

**S. O. Jeffcoat**

S. O. Jeffcoat, in partnership with Dr. Monica Rogers (University at Buffalo) is analyzing 20 years of the popular Information Science Journal- Journal of the Association for Information Science and Technology (JASIST) to find if the articles inside are lacking in a powerful way! Many JASIST articles include visualizations labeled haphazardly as "tables" and "figures", but should they be?

Data visualization is a growing field across disciplines and has been identified as a competency lacked by researchers. But data visualization is more than a buzzword, effective data visualization is essential! Data visualization is the best way for readers to understand research and can be **IMPACTFUL** if done well!

We think Information Science academics can do better; and our research sets out on a mission to evaluate JASIST and find how many missed opportunities there have been-- where figures and tables could have been visualized more effectively.

## **Future Aspirations:**

S.O. Jeffcoat- Jeffcoat holds an undergraduate degree in studio art and worked as a public art consultant before matriculating at UAlbany. Jeffcoat's research focuses on the power of visuals to communicate complex information and anticipates defending their PhD in 2023. Post-graduation, Jeffcoat looks forward to getting back to making mixed media art and advocating for communities excluded by the Digital Divide.

# Participation in ICKE22 International Conference

Dr. Muhammad Tariq, Editor SIGAH Newsletter, was honored to chair two sessions of the 2nd PLWO International Conference ICKE22. The detailed report of the two sessions is as under:

## Chaired 3rd Session of ICKE22

On day first, the 3<sup>rd</sup> session was held with the theme of “Library Services,”. The presenters from the Philippines, Nigeria, and Pakistan presented their research in the session. Dr. Muhammad Tariq (COMSATS University – Lahore Campus) chaired the session. Mr. Muhammad Ansar performed the duties of the secretary for this session.



Prof. Dr. Michael Olsson (Keynote Speaker) from the University of the Philippines Diliman presented his paper titled “Theory & Research in Information Age”. Five more papers were also presented in this session. In the end, Chair Dr. Muhammad Tariq concluded the last session of the conference.

Dr. Muhammad  
Tariq, Editor  
SIGAH  
Newsletter, was  
honored to chair  
two sessions of  
the 2nd PLWO  
International  
Conference  
ICKE22

## Chaired 4th Session of ICKE22

The fourth session, themed on “Information Technology & Information Management,” was held. The presenters from UAE, India, Nigeria, and Pakistan presented their research in the session. Dr. Muhammad Tariq (In Charge COMSATS University Islamabad, Lahore Campus) chaired the session. Mr. Qaiser Iqbal was the secretary for this session. At the end, the chair, Dr. Muhammad Tariq concluded the session with his remarks on the papers.

Moreover, four students of Dr. Tariq also presented their papers at the conference. They are Irfan Ali Taimoor, Humara Majeed, Sumaira Haez and Mukarram Nawaz. The conference ended with a thanking note by the conference chair.

# Call for Nominations

SIG AH is pleased to announce the call for nominations for officers for the 2022-23 year. We are seeking candidates for the open positions of Chair-Elect, Secretary/Treasurer, Communications Officer, and Membership Officer. The efforts of this SIG are open to the global association membership and support the future of information science and technology. SIG AH offers strong networking opportunities within a smaller segment of the international ASIS&T organization.

Committee service is a chance to develop skills, enhance the professional experience, and network with a team of other arts and humanities-focused information professionals.

The SIG's **Chair-elect**, who automatically becomes Chair in the following year, has the following responsibilities:

1. Work closely with the incoming Chair (Jeremy McLaughlin) in planning and executing SIG programs.
2. Serve as the default Alternate SIG Cabinet Representative.
3. Assume the duties and responsibilities of the Chair in the event of the Chair's absence, resignation, or removal from office.
4. Assume the primary responsibility for planning the SIG's programs during the year, including the technical sessions to be proposed for the following Annual Meeting.
5. Be responsible for ensuring that the officer's roster for the year he/she will serve as Chair is sent to the Cabinet Director and Headquarters immediately following elections.

The **Secretary/Treasurer** has the following responsibilities:

1. Keeping records of all meetings and correspondence to members.
2. Assisting in making logistical arrangements for SIG meetings and activities.
3. Being aware of Association policies regarding SIG finances and expenses, as this officer, in cooperation with the Chair, prepares and submits the SIG's budget and receives the SIG's quarterly financial statements.

The **Communications Officer** has the following Responsibilities:

1. Be in regular contact with the membership to solicit information for the newsletter, iConnect, Twitter, or any regular communication channel(s) used by SIG AH.
2. Be familiar with the subject area and understand the procedures and mechanisms of using ASIS&T-owned/sanctioned channels with the assistance of Headquarters.

The **Membership Officer** is responsible for reaching out to recruit more members for the SIG and to retain our SIG membership by communicating with those whose memberships have lapsed or who are about to renew to encourage their continued involvement in SIG-AH.

For more information on the responsibilities and benefits of SIG AH Committee member service, please feel free to send your questions to Ann Graf, SIG-AH Chair, at [ann.graf@simmons.edu](mailto:ann.graf@simmons.edu).

**Submit your nomination here:** [forms.gle/C4mEhq2kPMTZ2ZaV6](https://forms.gle/C4mEhq2kPMTZ2ZaV6)

**The nomination period has been extended to October 8, 2022. SIG-AH members will be notified when the voting period opens the following week.**

# Call for Participation

for next SIGAH Issue – Winter 2022

You can send your proposals for the following columns:

- ✓ Opinion Papers
- ✓ Your success stories
- ✓ Meet the SIGAH Members
- ✓ SIGAH News & Views
- ✓ Anything you want to publish in SIGAH

For **Feedback**, please send your emails to:

**Dr. Muhammad Tariq**

Editor – SIGAH Newsletter

tariqnajmi@cuilahore.edu.pk