

# SIG AH NEWSLETTER Digital



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## SIG AH OFFICERS

2020-21

Julie Carmen  
Chair

Ann M. Graf  
Chair Elect. & Social Media-  
Communication Officer

Arjun Sabharwal  
Website Officer

Muhammad Tariq  
Newsletter Editor

Alicia JW Takaoka  
Secretary

Greetings from Julie Carmen, SIG AH Chair. I wish to welcome all ASIST members! This newsletter is one way to get to know the Special Interest Group of Arts & Humanities (SIG AH). Since the last newsletter in April, we have been busy with our virtual symposium, which was in June. Please read the report for that event in this newsletter. It was a wonderful success, attracting four diverse and interesting researchers in four areas of the humanities.

I neglected to report that Ann Graf has stepped into the role of Co-Chair, also assisting with webinar arrangements and social media announcements. My thanks to Ann for her ability and willingness to step in. She will be the new chair for 21-22! We are looking for a new co-chair for this coming year.

Again, it is with a sad heart that we lost our social-media-communications officer – Gavin. After taking a new job and moving, he has not been able to fulfill his role. We wish him success in all his future endeavors. We will also be losing our productive and hard-working secretary, Alicia. After a full year of helping with this SIG, and winning the ASIST New Leader Award, she is off and running working two jobs. A deep felt thanks to the two of them for time and effort they gave to SIG AH.

As we continue to find willing volunteers to add to the exciting events with SIG AH, I ask all to please consider if you are interested in serving as one of our officers. SIG AH continues to attract multi-disciplinary subjects to strengthen the study of information science and technology in the arts and humanities.

As ever, it is also with a heart-felt thanks to our remaining two hard-working officers: Dr. Muhammad Tariq, our newsletter editor, and Arjun Sabharwal, our webmaster. These two continue to do amazing work and support SIG AH so much.

Please note the call for volunteers for SIG AH officers for the 21-22 year! We're waiting to hear from you! In addition, if you are curious about how to become more involved with us, then we want to hear from you. We are always open to new ideas and feedback from members. If you have any suggestions for a webinar or event, or if you would like to contribute to the Newsletter, please let us know.

SIG AH Social Media links include:

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/asist.sig.ah>

Twitter: [https://twitter.com/ASIST\\_sigah](https://twitter.com/ASIST_sigah)

LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/groups/13941942/>

**Julie Carmen,**  
Chair, SIG AH

## Welcome Message from the CHAIR



# REPORT

## SIG AH SYMPOSIUM 2021

The 2021 SIG AH Virtual Symposium, held on June 23, 2021, was a half-day of four educational presentations involving the arts & humanities within information science technology. ASIST used Zoom to manage this symposium which began with a presentation by Dr. Ann Graf, from Simmons University, Boston. She talked about her research on graffiti art specific to the response to Covid-19 and the resulting social justice content that was part of the analysis of the images of the research. Following this presentation was Travis Wagner, doctoral candidate at the University of South Carolina's School of Information Science and co-founder of the Queer Cola Oral History and Digital Archive. His presentation focused on the ongoing service-learning project aimed at the digitization and preservation of LGBTQIA+ media histories within the state of South Carolina. To support those staying at home during this pandemic, Julie Carmen, former assistant professor at Central Washington University, presented the full details on how to benefit in healing by creating one's own patterns for embroidery by using historical digital images with iron-on-transfer paper. The fourth presentation was by Dr. Kate McDowell, former interim associate dean for academic affairs at the iSchool at Illinois. She shared her research about storytelling and how it offers a framework for researching collective experiences of information science. She

knowledge, and wisdom by revising it as a new storytelling framework to prompt changes in listening to stories of those who have been excluded as informative and generative of justice.

The culmination of these presentations provided insight to unique research that has materialized and been enhanced during this challenging pandemic. Evident in these presentations is the impact the arts have on the understanding of the human condition. Combined with information science technology and research, the archival processes such as digital images on graffiti art about an historic pandemic, archival data processed on the LGBTQIA society, fiber copies of historical art, and the educational influence of story-telling, showcased the powerful effect this multidisciplinary approach has in learning about ourselves and each other.

Throughout the symposium there were scheduled ten-minute breaks, allowing for a steady flow of absorption and reflection of the variety of research applied through aspects of arts, humanities, science, and society. The symposium ended with Chair Julie Carmen inviting members to consider joining SIG AH in service work and calling for new officers to be voted in at the annual conference for ASIST in October. This symposium attracted twice the number of attendees compared to the previous year's symposium with one non-ASIST member attending. Using social media to spread the word and invite non-members for a small fee to the symposium, is a test to attract future members.

### PRESENTERS



**Dr. Ann M. Graf**



**Julie Carmen**



**Dr. Kate McDowell**



**Travis L. Wagner**

## MEET THE SIG AH MEMBER

# Arjun Sabharwal



I am an Associate Professor and Digital Initiatives Librarian at The University of Toledo (in Northwest Ohio, USA)—a position that I have held since 2009. I have primarily worked at the Ward M. Canady Center for Special Collections where I have digitized collections for our digital repository and virtual exhibition projects. One of my additional responsibilities has been to curate the Toledo's Attic virtual museum, which has been around since 1997 as a public digital humanities and digital storytelling project. I also wear another hat as the administrator of our open journals system (OJS) platform, which houses several peer-reviewed journals and enjoy the opportunity to teach individuals in various roles how to use the system. At the same time, I am the subject liaison to the Geography, Political Science, and Public Administration programs. I have also served for over 10 years in the university's Banned Books

Committee. Wearing yet another hat, I am the Diversity/Equity/Inclusion officer, working on initiatives that pull me away from digital curation, archiving, and publishing support.

I completed my library, information science, and archival training at Wayne State University in Detroit in 2004, and I had worked at Baker Online until late 2008. That job had introduced me to the inner working of Blackboard, and I have built a digital library within the platform as an embedded information system to meet the needs of online students. My professional (including research) interests have shifted towards the digital humanities, digital curation, and archiving. I can thank two special individuals at Wayne State who had changed my perspectives on archives while I was teaching World Music in the Music Department at the time: one was Wayne State Professor Janet Langlois (former director of the Wayne State Folklore and Ethnomusicology Archive) and the other Prof. Philip Mason, former history professor and founding director of the Archives of Urban and Labor Affairs also called the Reuther Library. They aren't around any longer but both have profoundly influenced me through their support, intellect, and infectious sense of humor. I joined ASIST in 2002 when I enrolled in the MLIS program at Wayne State.

My wife, Kim Chi and I met and married in California over 31 years ago and had lived in Michigan for long before moving to Toledo. My heritage is Hungarian (on mother's side), Indian (father's side) with *Magyar* as my first language (and I'm damn' proud of it!). I was born in Budapest but had spent my early childhood in New Delhi before moving back to Budapest. My mother, brother, and I ultimately defected from Hungary in 1983 by joining a bus tour of Vienna (just for three days...). We settled in the US by the end of that year. My wife is from Da Nang, Vietnam, and she resettled in the US with her family around the same time. As you can see, we truly live a life of diversity. My role as the Diversity Officer for UT Libraries may have been meant for me after all...In 1985 (less than two years after arriving as an immigrant with only a green card then) I enlisted in the California Army National Guard and served as a reservist until 2000. I was briefly deployed to serve as part of the IFOR peace mission in Bosnia in 1996. My personal interests lie in travelling, photography, sculling, and architecture (most specifically, fortresses).



“I also wear another hat as the administrator of our open journals system (OJS) platform, which houses several peer-reviewed journals and enjoy the opportunity to teach individuals in various roles how to use the system. At the same time, I am the subject liaison to the Geography, Political Science, and Public Administration programs”

## MEET THE SIG AH MEMBER

# Dr. Ann M. Graf

My name is Ann Graf and I am an assistant professor at Simmons University in Boston, Massachusetts. I have been a member of ASIS&T since about 2012, and a member of SIG AH for at least four years now. This is the most active SIG of which I am a member and I enjoy it very much!

I received my PhD from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee in 2018 and took off shortly thereafter for Boston and Simmons. My research has explored how graffiti art is documented and organized in online image galleries around the world. More recently I examined the graffiti art response to the Covid-19 pandemic on Instagram. I am specifically interested in how we describe art and cultural heritage objects, and then we organize collections based on facets of description. I teach in the areas of information organization, art documentation, and cultural heritage. I do not have formal training in art, but have always loved visiting museums, learning about art, and trying to make my own when time allows. I've tried my hand at pottery, painting, drawing, weaving, sewing, quilting, needlework, basket weaving, printmaking, and digital design. My heart always returns to photography as my favorite medium of creative expression. I take loads of photographs, and really love to wander around cities and towns that I don't know well and shoot anything that catches my eye, from graffiti and street art, urban decay, patterns, lost items (shopping carts and gloves are often targets), insects, and landscapes. My large photo collection can be seen, in part, on Instagram at [https://www.instagram.com/antsy\\_odonata/](https://www.instagram.com/antsy_odonata/).



A bit about that account name, *antsy\_odonata*. I sort of love bugs, and especially odonata, or dragonflies and damselflies. Before moving to Boston in 2018, I volunteered at the Milwaukee Urban Ecology Center (UEC) and helped with species counts of odonates in the Center's three urban park settings. I learned a whole lot about these amazing creatures during my three or four years with the UEC and they continue to fascinate me. I have been known to walk along the Fenway in Boston with my dragonfly net to see what species I can find along the Muddy River. I am a member of the Wisconsin Dragonfly Society and the Dragonfly Society of the Americas. Despite popular images of dragonflies as guardians, heavenly visitors, or good luck symbols, they are ferocious predators, easily eating over 100 mosquitoes a day, from larva to adults.

Besides chasing down dragonflies and taking loads of pictures, I enjoy walking, running, biking, and hiking in the great outdoors. I love to garden, knit, do my daily NYT Crossword and other

puzzles, and I also enjoy collecting dolls. My collection focuses on the early to mid-1900s and includes about 2000 dolls at present, each one cataloged - of course! I hope to use this, and a few other of my smaller collections, to teach cultural heritage documentation and cataloging, as well as to inform further research on dolls as cultural heritage artifacts.

I hope new members feel welcomed into SIG AH. This is a great group of practitioners, researchers, and educators who share a passion for the arts and humanities. I am happy to call SIG AH one of my favorite parts of ASIS&T!



## ACTIVITIES – SIG AH MEMBER

### Leadership Award

Alicia JW Takaoka has been selected for New Leader Award by ASIS&. She will be working under the mentorship of President-Elect, Naresh Agarwal. The New Leaders will be meeting at the Annual Meeting in October.

### Paper Presentation

Ann M. Graf has presented her presentation entitled "Images of Covid-19 Graffiti on Instagram." at The Twelfth International Conference on The Image, September 13-14, 2021.

### Research Publication

- Ashiq, M; Rehman, SU, Rafiq, S; Tariq, M (2021). Women Women Library Leadership in Pakistan: A qualitative Study on the Journey of Career Progression and Serving the Community. College and Research Libraries (IF: 2.27) (accepted, will publish in September)
- Jaffri, Syed Habib Akhter; Shahzad, Khurram; and Tariq, Muhammad Dr., (2021) "Citation Analysis of Doctoral Theses Submitted During 2007 to 2016 in Pakistani Library Schools". Library Philosophy and Practice (e-journal). <https://digitalcommons.unl.edu/libphilprac/6004>
- Arjun Sabharwal (2021) Institutional repository engagement framework: Harnessing resources, structure, and process for strategic plan support in higher education, Journal of Electronic Resources Librarianship, 33:3, 137-155, DOI: [10.1080/1941126X.2021.1949150](https://doi.org/10.1080/1941126X.2021.1949150)



## Call for SIG AH Officer Nominations

**Deadline: 20, September 2021**

SIG AH is pleased to announce the call for nominations for officers for the 2021-22 year. We are seeking candidates for the open positions of **Chair, Chair-Elect, Secretary/Treasurer, and Social Media - Communications Officer**. The SIG AH Committee service is a wonderful opportunity to help drive research and scholarship in information science and technology, combined with arts & humanities. SIG AH officer strong networking opportunities within a smaller segment of the international ASIS&T level.

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

The SIG AH Chair's specific responsibilities are the following:

1. Provide leadership that assures all SIG members derive benefits from their participation in the SIG. This should include, but not be limited to, regular communication with SIG members and substantive programming.
2. Serve as default Cabinet Representative for the SIG.
3. Submit the Annual Report and Annual Budget (in conjunction with the treasurer or secretary/treasurer, if the office exists).
4. Manage SIG affairs, including chairing the annual planning meeting and providing accurate minutes of all SIG meetings to Headquarters and to the SIG Cabinet Director.
5. Appoint chairs and members of SIG committees.
6. Serve as chair of the SIG's nominating committee.

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

1. Work closely with the Chair 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 position, elected for a one- or two-year term. This will depend on the person/s running for this position. This position supports the documentation of meeting minutes and other documents as needed. Responsibilities include the following:

1. Keeping records of all meetings and correspondence to members
2. Assisting in making logistical arrangements for SIG meetings and activities.

The Communications Officer carries out one of the most important functions of SIG AH, communicating with members. Responsibilities include the following:

1. Be in regular contact with the membership to solicit information for the newsletter, iConnect, Twitter, Facebook page, 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.

Interested volunteers who wish to serve on this committee should send their interest to the SIG AH Chair, Julie Carmen, at [carmen.julie@gmail.com](mailto:carmen.julie@gmail.com). Please include the position you wish to serve on with a brief bio. The bio can include your education, experience, and interest in working with SIG AH. If you have any questions, you are encouraged to send them to Julie too.

Develop your leadership skills by becoming more involved with this international professional organization by nominating a colleague or yourself for the positions listed. The Call for Nominations closes on 20, September 2021 at 11:59 PST and the election will take place on 27, September 2021. New committee members take office at the end of the Annual Meeting in October 2021.