



SIG AH

NEWSLETTER

Spring 2021 | DIGITAL | Association for Information Science & Technology - Arts and Humanities Special Interest Group

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SIG-AH OFFICERS

2020-21

Julie Carmen
Chair

Dan Maxwell
Chair Elect.

Arjun Sabharwal
Website Officer

Muhammad Tariq
Newsletter Editor

Gavin Goodwin
Communications/Social Media Officer

Alicia JW Takaoka
Secretary

Message from the CHAIR

Greetings and a warm welcome to the Special Interest Group of Arts & Humanities (SIG AH) members! These past few months have been eventful as Chair, for I have been slowly getting to know our committee leaders for SIG AH. Dr. Muhammad Tariq brings his organizational skills to the table by sending reminders for calls for proposals, requesting our leadership team to think about how the newsletter can become even more impactful to our members by adding new columns such as “get to know a SIG AH member”, and now he has called on the team for input and just launched a survey to find out what you would like to read in our newsletter. Arjun Sabharwal keeps our website orderly and informative, Gavin Goodwin you may recognize for sending out our information messages on iConnect and other social media, Alicia Takaoka helps our record keeping by recording minutes so we can stay on target of our plans throughout the year, and as Chair-elect, Daniel Maxwell has been organizing our monthly Zoom meetings.

It is with a sad heart that Dan cannot continue in this role at this time. As with many shining stars in this realm of information service, many need to make room for bigger calls. I am asking our kind membership to consider if you could step in and serve as co-chair for SIG AH. Once in this role, it would only be a few months to November, in which the new co-chair will step up as Chair. This is an opportunity for the you to serve this amazing SIG with opportunities for creative methods for your vision and leadership to keep this SIG growing.

SIG AH, I believe, keeps information science in the forefront of many research arenas. With arts and sciences, there is no better way to connect and explore a wondrous variety of subject study. No matter the research, career goals, changes in information science leads many other areas of research into better understanding and successful changes in education. Will this be your call? Do you have the time, energy, and foresight to influence and inspire others to write, research, present, mentor? I look forward to hearing from you, if you would like to know more about getting involved in SIG AH.

Please read our newsletters for general updates for members. Future Newsletters will provide additional unique content and contributions from across the organization. With our new team we all look forward to getting to know the membership, including hosting webinars, and our annual online symposium, scheduled for June 23. Please keep a lookout for our calls for proposals for all our events.

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

Twitter: https://twitter.com/ASIST_sigah

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

Julie Carmen

Chair

SIG AH

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UAF Library services in VUCA environment: Best practices and lessons learned during COVID-19 pandemic

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COVID-19 pandemic has categorically proved that we are living and working in a Volatile, Uncertain, Complex, and Ambiguous (VUCA) world. It has significantly affected the social, financial, educational, psychological, political, and professional life of the people of all ages, groups, and backgrounds around the world.

University of Agriculture Faisalabad (UAF) Library: Best practices

Since, UAF Library was not prepared for this kind of VUCA challenge, therefore, our primary approach was to act promptly in available resources during COVID-19 pandemic.

Following are some simple but workable initiatives by UAF Library during time of crisis:

1. Digital literacy - “Every Tuesday, Digital Learning Day”: UAF Library initiated an information literacy program to educate the students and researchers about off-campus searching and accessing the e-books, online journals, and digital theses from their homes.

2. Social media – “Library Services beyond Walls”: UAF Library’s immediate challenge was to reach out the UAF community with a strong message of “library services beyond walls” during chaotic time of COVID-19 pandemic. Therefore, library staff used UAF’s already available WhatsApp Groups and Facebook Pages to disseminate the message about off-campus resources and online services for faculty and students during COVID-19.

3. Off-campus resources – “HEC National Digital Library”: UAF Library worked closely with Higher Education Commission’s (HEC) National Digital Library for providing off-campus access to some essential online databases for UAF faculty and students.

4. Free online resources – “Potential of Internet”: UAF library staff explored internet more deeply and identified websites of free but authentic e-books, online journals, and multimedia resources relevant to 7 major faculties and their departments and institutes at UAF.

5. Library e-mail – “Personalized Information Service”: UAF Library used its departmental e-mail address as a medium to establish individual connections with students. In response to e-mail queries, library staff searched and provided e-books, articles from online journals, digital theses, and other material at the e-mail addresses of students.

Lessons learned during COVID-19:

1. Since, print collection is underutilized since March 2020, therefore, more focus should be on purchasing and subscription of e-resources in future.

2. Reference books in print and textbooks in e-resources are more desirable by students of agriculture and allied sciences at UAF.

3. Subscription to online databases of journals and theses is unavoidable in current scenario and in case of any future VUCA challenge.

4. Since, nearly students of all backgrounds now have mobile phones, therefore, use of appropriate mobile apps will make a difference in providing remote access to library resources.

5. Multiple platforms of communication should readily be available and used to ensure the maximum inclusion of library users during any VUCA situation.

6. Empowering digital literacy skills of students is an area of immediate attention in current scenario.

Authors

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ALICIA TAKAOKA

Alicia Takaoka currently lives in the mountains of Hawai'i on the Big Island (Hawai'i) with The Mister, cats that enjoy long walks in the yard, and a peahen that recently adopted their little family. Current hobbies include reading, working out, enjoying the memes her friends share, and "trying to do this YouTube thing." Even though Alicia is currently taking a break from console gaming until they can acquire a PS5, Alicia is playing a Fast Hero in a tabletop D&D Modern campaign on the weekends.

In February 2021, Alicia successfully defended a dissertation in social informatics and human computer interaction. The doctoral study examines how access to content on social media and the internet can influence perceptions about family and family planning and evaluates voluntary childlessness as a family planning option, specifically identifying perceptions and opinions about voluntarily childless women.



Alicia currently teaches writing across the disciplines. Research focuses on communicative memory, or the memory of everyday interactions, in digital spaces. These projects include data visualization and interactive maps for digital humanities, improving asynchronous communication, and incorporating marginalized communities into research for ethical AI.

You can follow Alicia on Instagram at [@dralit](#), for discussions about mental health and career or Twitter at [@DrAliciaT](#) for wrestling and work-related posts.

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Research Publications

- Carmen, Julie. 2021. “Makerspaces: Combining Information Literacy with Pattern Design for Fiber Art through Digital Images”. *Library Trends* 69 (3), Winter, 2021. Johns Hopkins University Press, Baltimore, MD.
- Carmen, Julie. 2021. “Using Digital Images for STEAM Education and Discovery Through Fiber Art”. *VRA Bulletin* 48 (1), Spring/Summer, 2021. <https://online.vraweb.org/index.php/vrab/article/view/203/211>
- Sabharwal, A. (2021). Functional Frameworks for Socialized Digital Curation: Curatorial Interventions and Curation Spaces in Archives and Libraries. *Library Trends* 69(3), 672-695. [doi:10.1353/lib.2021.0009](https://doi.org/10.1353/lib.2021.0009).
- Graf, A.M. (2021). Time and Space in the Organization of Online Graffiti Art Image Collections. *Library Trends* 69(3), 696-716. [doi:10.1353/lib.2021.0010](https://doi.org/10.1353/lib.2021.0010).

"How Arts & Humanities Within Information Science Technology Convey Understanding of Justice in Society"

SYMPOSIUM BY SIG-AH

June 23, 2021 10.00 am to 4.00 pm (PST)

For info: tariqnajmi@cuilahore.edu.pk



Dr. Ann M. Graf

Assistant Professor in LIS at Simmons University in Boston. She will share her research on the graffiti art response to the Covid-19 pandemic on Instagram and how users of the platform have made their photos of pandemic-related graffiti findable through hashtagging.



Julie Carmen

Julie Carmen is an independent information specialist. She has ten years of experience as an academic librarian with professional focus in archives, special collections, digital initiatives, cataloging, and grant research. She is the chair of SIG AH. She will talk about "Healing Through Handcraft: Using Digital Historic Images and Laid Work."



Dr. Kate McDowell

Storytelling research has involved training collaborations with libraries, university advancement, and nonprofits. McDowell formerly served as interim associate dean for academic affairs at the iSchool at Illinois. She will talk about "Storytelling as Information in Organizational Change Toward Justice."



Travis L. Wagner

Travis Wagner is a Doctoral Candidate at the University of South Carolina's School of Information Science. She will talk about Using LGBTQIA+ History and Queer Theory to Inform Audiovisual Archiving Praxis. Travis is also the co-founder of the Queer Cola Oral History and Digital Archive.

**Special Interest Group of Arts and Humanities (SIG AH)
Association for Information Science and Technology (ASIS&T)**