

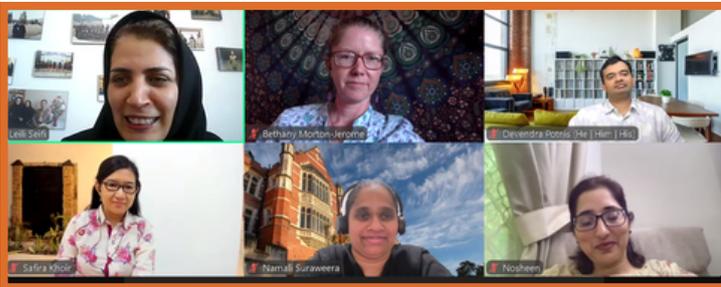


Leili Seifi,
 SIG-III Chair

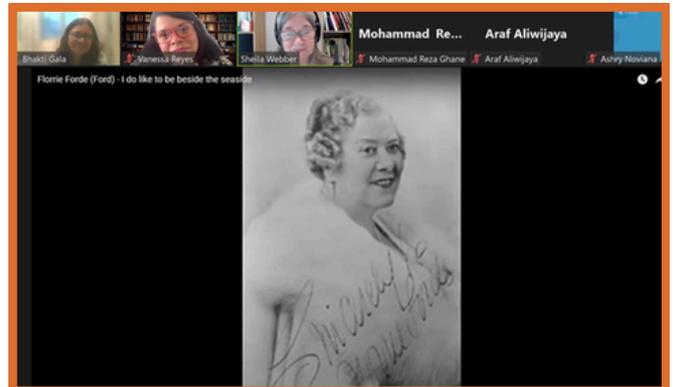
“It has been an exciting year working with a fantastic group of people and the amazing SIG community. I am thankful to the previous officers who have diligently led SIG-III over the years. This year, we have continued their legacy and worked to keep SIG-III successful.”

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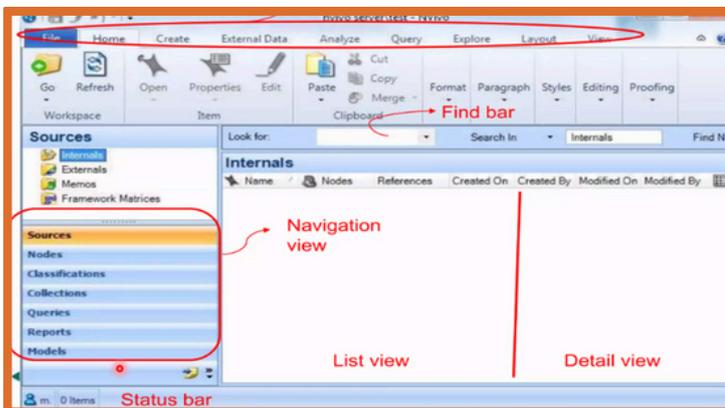
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SIG-III Business Meeting, September 2024



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Message from the Chair

Greetings everyone from Iran!

As the Chair of SIG-III for the 2023-24 term, I am pleased to share the final issue of the SIG-III Newsletter. It has been an exciting year working with a fantastic group of people and the amazing SIG community. I am thankful to the previous officers who have diligently led SIG-III over the years. This year, we have continued their legacy and worked to keep SIG-III successful. I am excited to share that we revisited the SIG-III purpose statement, with the process starting on February 29, 2024, and finalizing on August 1, 2024. I would like to express my gratitude to all SIG-III officers, advisors, and members for their valuable input.

Our SIG achieved significant collaboration both within and beyond ASIS&T. We held a second collaborative workshop with SIG-InfoLearn on qualitative research, focusing on the use of NVivo software. Additionally, our second panel on tips from search committee members with the IFLA New Professionals SIG was especially important for professional development at the international level. The 3rd Humans of the Library event featuring ASIS&T Past Presidents was successfully conducted, providing a platform to share personal and professional challenges and solutions, fostering a sense of community.

The SIG-III International Reception, along with a silent auction and a raffle, was successfully organized at the conference venue. Devendra Potnis, who spearheaded the reception, deserves special thanks. We are also very grateful to the board officers, volunteers, and ASIS&T headquarters staff whose hard work and assistance is invaluable for the success of the International Reception every year. The

2024 year, focused on access, community, and belonging, was highly productive for our SIG, resulting in three ASIS&T awards. This is a significant milestone in the history of SIG-III. This great honour is the result of years of continuous hard work by a team of dedicated officers, former officers, and long-time supporters like you, all of whom have committed themselves to the international mission of SIG-III.

I would like to extend my congratulations to Bethany Morton-Jerome for winning the 'SIG Member of the Year Award' due to her outstanding contributions to the SIG-III Newsletter and Winter School. Her dedication and efforts have brought our newsletter to prominence, ultimately earning it the 'SIG Publication of the Year Award'. Bethany has been instrumental in enhancing the newsletter's appeal by providing an innovative design, interesting content, and comprehensive coverage of SIG-III activities.

In closing, I would like to extend my gratitude to the amazing SIG-III team and its supportive community, including the advisers, ASIS&T HQ staff, and the SIG Cabinet, for their assistance throughout our journey this year. Our new team is now up and running, and I wish them the best of luck in the upcoming year. Thank you all!

Please feel free to share your suggestions, thoughts, and comments with us any time at sigiiiassist@gmail.com, as we highly value your feedback.

Leili Seifi, 2023-24 Chair, SIG-III

SIG-III Stories



Shaharima Parvin, Nominating Committee Member

As a Nominating Committee member of SIG-III, I have witnessed firsthand how our team actively strives to uphold the mission and vision of SIG-III. Through a range of initiatives and professional support, SIG-III successfully unites researchers and practitioners from various countries to tackle pressing global information challenges. My position has allowed me to closely collaborate with Dr. Devendra Potnis whose invaluable insights into the SIG-III election process have been pivotal. Under his mentorship, I have gained a deep understanding of the election process and developed essential leadership skills.

As an independent researcher, one recent trend that I have aimed to pursue is the need to integrate research alongside administrative duties. Because of Dr. Devendra's instructions on how to properly allocate my time, I have been able to handle my research objectives better.

Additionally, I have had the privilege of connecting with Dr. Bhakti Gala and Dr. Leili Seifi, who have profoundly influenced my professional journey. Their support and encouragement have inspired me to push boundaries and continue growing in my field. Being part of SIG-III has not only enriched my career but has also introduced me to a network of inspiring colleagues who have become integral to my professional development.

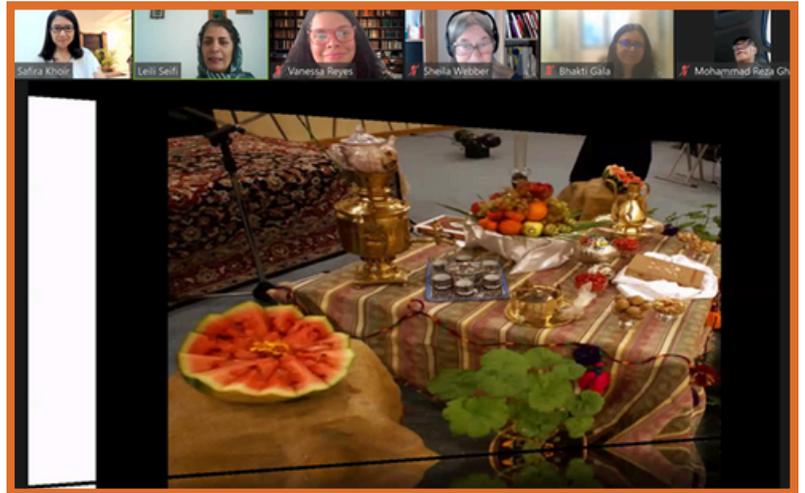
SIG-III Purpose Statement

Based on survey results from SIG-III members, the SIG-III Purpose Statement has been revised to the following points:

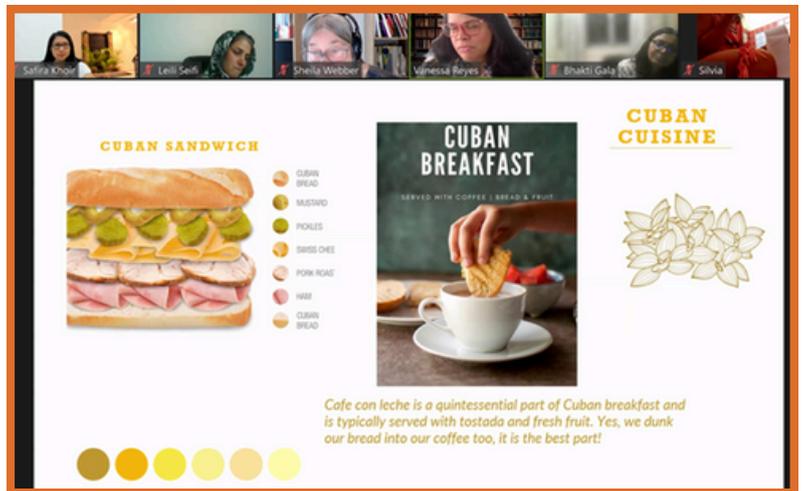
1. Enhance the flow of information, worldviews, and contextual factors (e.g., values, norms, philosophies, lifestyles) from developing countries to developed countries through all the initiatives.
2. Serve as a platform for sharing international information, knowledge, and skills for conducting and disseminating research that advances the information science field and addresses the field's challenges about major international information topics.
3. Offer an inclusive and safe space to all ASIS&T members and stakeholders to exchange ideas, foster dialogue, and raise awareness of information science's professional, technical, educational, and social issues, especially in developing countries.
4. Engage ASIS&T members in international collaborations and enhance professional networking among ASIS&T members.
5. Inspire and equip ASIS&T members, especially in developing countries, to advance their careers.

International Café Meeting

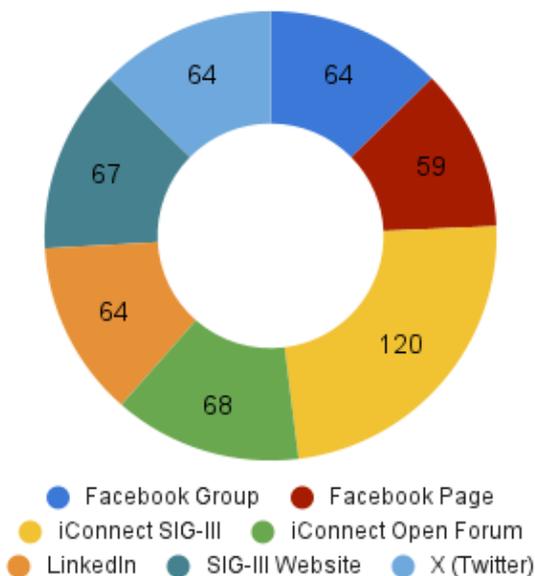
On 2 July, SIG-III offered the 12th International Café Meeting. The theme of this event was ‘A Festival of Culture, Tradition, and Storytelling’. Presenters included Dr. Leili Seifi, Dr. Sheila Webber, Ms. Blessing Mawire, Dr. Safira Khoir, and Dr. Vanessa Reyes, each of whom shared traditions and cultural insights from their background, followed by an engaging discussion of stories and experiences from around the world.



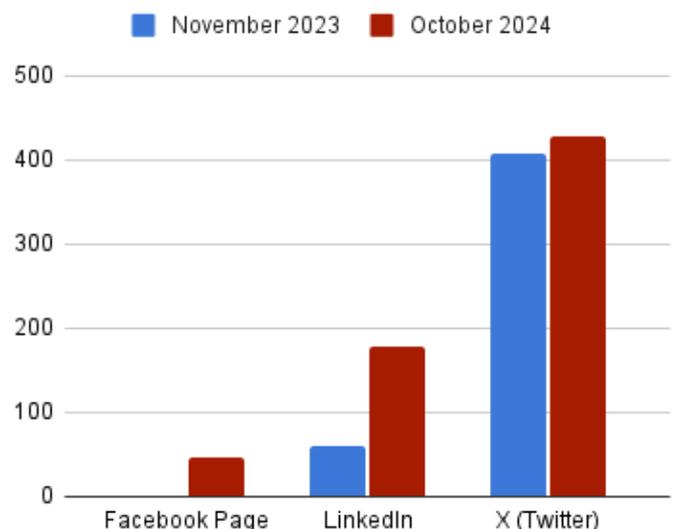
Attendees came from seven different countries, and one attendee commented that this ICM was a “wonderful experience to meet people from other countries in a nice way.” Thanks to the International Café Meeting organizers, Dr. Safira Khoir and Dr. Vanessa Reyes, for planning and hosting this lively meeting.



Social Media Posts 2023-2024



Growth in Social Media Followers 2023-2024



SIG-III Hosts ASIS&T Past Presidents in the 3rd Humans of the Library



Humans of the Library

The 3rd Humans of the Library, an innovative way of sharing personal and professional challenges and solutions to build a community, was held on 8 July. Three ASIS&T past presidents shared their personal and professional stories with attendees.

We had over 30 registered members from the USA, Taiwan, Indonesia, Canada, Ghana, Germany, China, India, Pakistan, Italy, South Africa, Iran, the UK, and Ireland. Leili Seifi, current chair of SIG-III, moderated the event.

The following were the Humans of the Library who shared their stories with the participants:

Dr. Elaine Toms, 2019 ASIS&T President
 Professor and Chair in Information Innovation and Management, Sheffield University Management School, UK
 Story: "A Serendipitous Journey"

Dr. Diane Sonnenwald, 2012 ASIS&T President
 Emerita Professor and Emerita Chair of Information & Communication Studies at the School of Information and Communication Studies at UCD, Dublin, Ireland
 Story: "Reflections on the Journey"

Dr. Gary Marchionini, 2010 ASIS&T President
 Professor, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, USA
 Story: "My Book of Library Life"



How to Land a Job: Tips from Search Committee Members

International
Collaboration

Hosted by SIG-III, IFLA New Professionals SIG & University of North Texas ASIS&T Student Chapter

Librarian Faculty model	Librarian Staff model
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dean makes all hiring decisions *unacceptable applicant • Larger Search Committee (10) • All scores averaged • Research scored <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ publications ○ presentations • Service scored <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Committee membership ○ Committee leadership • More committees involved in 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hiring Manager makes hiring decision • Several Smaller Committees based on position • Single score listed • Contribution to the profession

On 6 August, presenters shared their experiences as search committee members. Participants learned about what hiring managers look for in CVs/resumes and interviews and how they can stand out from other candidates. Derek shared his experience with hiring librarians in an academic library, and Naresh's experience was with hiring faculty. There were a total of 56 participants from different countries: Trinidad and Tobago, Canada, USA, South Africa, Pakistan, Taiwan, India, Ireland, and Iran.



Presenters:

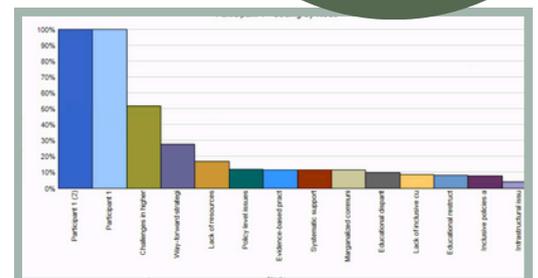
Derek Halling - Associate University Librarian, Texas A&M University Libraries
Dr. Naresh Agarwal - Professor and Director of the Information Science & Technology Concentration, School of Library and Information Science, Simmons University

Beyond Numbers: Mastering Qualitative Research for Deep Insights

ASIS&T
Collaboration

Hosted by SIG-III & SIG-InfoLearn

On 6 August, Dr. Murtaza Ashiq led a workshop on qualitative research techniques, with an emphasis on the use of tools for qualitative data analysis. Dr. Ashiq focused on how Nvivo can handle and analyze qualitative data from sources like text documents, focus groups, and interviews efficiently for researchers. The functions of Nvivo, such as data visualization, thematic analysis, and coding, were demonstrated along with examples of how to use it in real-world scenarios, helping attendees to become acquainted with the interface and features of the software. A very engaged Q&A session followed the workshop, during which attendees asked questions and discussed their experiences using the tool.



Dr. Tayyaba Rasool was the moderator of the workshop. Prof. Nosheen Warraich, Chair-Elect of SIG-III, concluded the session and thanked the participants.

SIG-III hosted its annual International Reception on Sunday 27 October as part of the ASIS&T Annual Meeting program in Calgary, Canada.

The International Reception commenced at 9 pm and lasted for over two hours. Despite being the busiest day of the annual meeting, 48 attendees graced the event with their presence. The Imperial Ballroom was full of vibrant conversations, positivity, and laughter. Everyone enjoyed light snacks while meeting old friends and making new friends.

Attendees could also bid on Silent Auction items and buy raffle tickets. Proceeds from the auction and raffle support SIG-III initiatives, such as the International Paper Contest and the InfoShare Membership Award.

SIG-III raised around USD 300 this year through raffle sales and bids on the eight ethnic artifacts at the silent auction. Special thanks to Saira Soroya (University of Connecticut) and Sandy Hirsh (San Jose State University) who won the raffle but donated their monetary awards to SIG-III.

Tremendous thanks to SIG-III Advisor and previous Chair, Devendra Potnis, for leading the organization of this year's International Reception, and our deep gratitude and appreciation to Cathy Nash and Pamela Yonker for helping with the logistics at the reception.





2024 ASIS&T Special Interest Group Awards



SIG-III Officers



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:
Faiza Bashir
Higher Education Department of the
Government of Punjab, Pakistan



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



Nailah Parbhoo
University of Pretoria, South Africa



Manika Lamba
University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, USA



Newsletter Officer:
Bethany Morton-Jerome
Jordan



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



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



Nominating Committee Member:
Shaharima Parvin
East West University, Bangladesh



Past Chair:
Bhakti Gala
Central University of Gujarat, India



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



Laurie Bonnici
University of Alabama, USA



Shalini Urs
University of Mysore, India

SIG-III Volunteers



InfoShare Committee Members:
Massoomeh Niknia
Iranian Grid Management Company, Iran



Elçin Ziya
Hacettepe University, Turkey



Dharmveer Modi
Indira Gandhi National Centre for Arts, India



International Cafe Meet Organizer:
Safirotu Khoir
Universitas Gadjah Mada, Indonesia



International Cafe Meet Co-Organizer:
Vanessa Reyes
East Carolina University, USA