

Newsletter

ASIS&T *Special Interest Group for International Information Issues*



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Message from the Chair

Dear Members and Friends of SIG-III,

Warm greetings from Pakistan!

It is both an honor and a privilege to address you through the 3rd issue of the SIG-III Newsletter as Chair for 2024–2025. This year has been a remarkable journey of collaboration, innovation, and engagement across borders, and I am deeply proud of what our diverse and dynamic community has achieved so far. SIG-III continues to play a critical role in connecting information professionals, scholars, and students from around the globe, especially those from developing and transitional countries. This mission has guided our efforts over the past few months, resulting in several impactful activities and strengthened partnerships.

One of our signature events, the International Paper Contest (IPC) 2025, once again showcased the richness of global research and the innovation emerging from LIS communities in the Global South. With entries from China, India, and Sri

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Message from the Chair

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Lanka, and winning topics that explored the intersections of AI, health information, and information behavior, the IPC remains a beacon of academic excellence and opportunity. The first-place winner will present their work at the 88th ASIS&T Annual Meeting in Washington, DC, affirming our commitment to creating global visibility for emerging scholars. Heartfelt thanks to Dr. Namali and all IPC jury members for their dedication and commitment to maintaining the highest standards of excellence.

We were equally pleased to welcome new voices into our professional family through the 2025 InfoShare Membership Award. This initiative, designed to sponsor memberships for professionals from financially under-resourced regions, not only fosters inclusion but also enriches SIG-III with fresh perspectives and regional expertise. We are confident that these new members will bring renewed energy and ideas to our group activities. Dr. Tariq, your hard work and leadership are deeply appreciated.

Our International Café Meeting, held in celebration of World Book and Copyright Day, brought together LIS professionals, educators, and scholars for an engaging discussion on literature, intellectual property, and the role of open access. The thoughtful presentations and lively exchange underscored the power of cross-cultural dialogue in shaping equitable access to knowledge in a digitally evolving world. Thank you,

Dr. Abdul Jabbar, for making this event possible. I look forward to more such engaging initiatives in the coming months.

We also launched our Doctoral Seminar Series, offering early-career researchers and PhD candidates a valuable platform to share their research, receive expert feedback, and build international networks. The presence of distinguished keynote speakers and active participation from attendees demonstrated the strong demand for academic mentoring and collaborative learning within our community. Hats off to Prof. June Abbas and Prof. Kiran for a scholarly debate and for making it an impactful seminar. I extend my sincere thanks to Prof. Devendra Potnis for his invaluable guidance in organizing the Doctoral Seminar Series. I truly appreciate our advisors' support, encouragement, and belief in the idea that led to its successful execution. I'm pleased to share that the next exciting webinar in this series is scheduled for the end of August. Special thanks also go to Dr. Abdul Jabbar for his kind assistance in making these efforts possible.

The "Humans of the Library" event, held in partnership with SIG-EduLearn, offered a refreshing, personal look into the life and work of Prof. Naresh Agarwal, highlighting the human experiences behind professional achievements and reminding us of the value of empathy, resilience, and personal growth in our careers.

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Message from the Chair

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In addition, our collaboration with the International Council on Archives (ICA) and the Chughtai Public Library during International Archives Week 2025 sparked important conversations on digital preservation, access equity, and policy-making in the context of archives in Pakistan. Events like these not only build local capacity but also reinforce SIG-III's role as a catalyst for regional innovation and global knowledge exchange. It's my pleasure to serve as a panelist in this event. Grateful to you, Ms. Rehana, for organizing and managing this initiative so well.

I am also thrilled to share that SIG-III will be prominently represented at the upcoming ASIS&T Annual Meeting in Washington, DC. Our sponsored panel, titled "Responsible AI: Fostering Ethical and Inclusive Information Ecosystems", has been officially accepted and will bring together six global scholars to explore how AI can be designed and deployed responsibly in libraries, archives, and other information settings. This panel aligns perfectly with ASIS&T 2025's overarching theme and underscores SIG-III's commitment to advancing conversations around digital equity, ethical innovation, and inclusive knowledge ecosystems.

Behind all these initiatives is a hardworking and passionate team of volunteers and committee members. I would like to extend my deepest thanks to the IPC, InfoShare, Doctoral Seminar, Newsletter, and Research Wing teams—as

well as our Newsletter Officer and Advisors—for their continued dedication and professionalism. It is their tireless effort that sustains the momentum of our SIG and helps us extend our outreach further each year. Special thanks to Bethany Morton-Jerome for her outstanding commitment and invaluable contributions in editing the excellent issues of the newsletter.

As we move ahead, I invite each of you—whether you are a seasoned member or newly joined—to engage actively, propose ideas, volunteer, and participate. SIG-III thrives on the collective passion of its members, and we are always looking for new ways to grow together. Thank you once again for being part of this journey. I look forward to continuing our shared mission of building inclusive, equitable, and globally connected LIS communities.

With warm regards,
Prof. Dr. Nosheen Fatima Warraich
Chair, SIG-III

2025 International Paper Contest

SIG-III is delighted to announce the distinguished winners of the prestigious International Paper Contest (IPC) 2025. This year's contest highlighted outstanding research contributions from developing nations, emphasizing their crucial role in the progress of library and information science (LIS). This year, we received a good number of papers from China, India, and Sri Lanka.

The first-place winner of the IPC-2025 will receive the exceptional opportunity to attend the 88th Annual Meeting of the ASIS&T, which will take place in Washington, DC, from November 14-18, 2025, where they will present their innovative research. This prestigious gathering of global professionals provides a unique platform for exchanging knowledge, networking, and collaboration.

ASIS&T and SIG-III congratulate the winners and express deep gratitude to all participants for their invaluable contributions. The research papers submitted for IPC-2025 have greatly enriched the field of LIS, expanding the frontiers of knowledge and promoting practical solutions for the betterment of societies worldwide.

For more information about the ASIS&T SIG-III International Paper Contest 2025 and the winners, please contact any member of the IPC Committee:

- Namali Suraweera, Chair (New Zealand)
- Manika Lamba (United States)
- Naailah Parbhoo (South Africa)
- Priya Vaidya (India)
- Qian Wu (China)
- Dilhani Munasinghe (Sri Lanka)
- Heba Ismail (Egypt)



FIRST PLACE

Chen, Z., & Wei, J.,
Sun Yat-sen
University, China

Can Large Language Models Replace Human Experts in Knowledge Construction? A Comparative Analysis from the Perspectives of Information Quality, Information Perception, and Information Load



SECOND PLACE

Wang, L., Duan, J., & Sheng, N.,
Hangzhou Dianzi
University, China

"Seeing Your Good Figure Online Motivates Me to Exercise": The Effect of Mobile Body Image Comparison on Fitness App Behavior



THIRD PLACE

Wang, L., Wu, X., & Zhu, H.,
Hangzhou Dianzi
University, China

When Chatman Meets Chinese Rural Older People with Health Anxiety: From Life in the Round to Concentric Life Circles

2025 InfoShare Membership Award

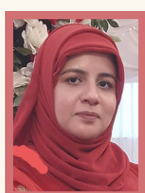
The InfoShare Committee of SIG-III is pleased to announce the recipients of the 2025 InfoShare Award. The InfoShare Membership Award sponsors complimentary ASIS&T memberships for deserving information professionals from developing countries (the financial burden of which would otherwise be prohibitive). These new members become active participants in SIG-III activities, often contributing to event planning and regional connections.

More information about this initiative is available at <https://www.asist.org/sig/sigiii/sig-iii-awards/infoshare/infoshare-news/>.

We extend our heartfelt congratulations to the awardees and warmly welcome them to the ASIS&T community.

InfoShare Committee:

- Muhammad Tariq, Chair (Pakistan)
- Elçin Keleş Ziya (Turkey)
- Massoomah Niknia (Iran)



Kirn Ashraf

Visiting Faculty at Institute of
Information Management,
University of the Punjab, Pakistan



Syaiful Hisyam Saleh

Librarian,
MARA University of Technology,
Malaysia



Razailin Abdul Rashid

PhD Candidate in Computer Science,
University of Malaya, Malaysia



Salva Tahooni

Content Production and Advertising,
Tractor Sazi, Iran



Zhou Hongli

Librarian (Lecturer),
Qiannan Medical College for Nationalities, China;
PhD Candidate in Library and Information Science,
Universiti Malaya, Malaysia

Celebrating World Book and Copyright Day: SIG-III Hosts International Café Meeting

To celebrate World Book and Copyright Day, ASIS&T SIG-III organized an engaging and interactive International Café Meeting on May 15, 2025, from 9:00 to 10:00 AM EDT via Zoom. Designed as an informal and thought-provoking discussion space, the Café Meeting brought together LIS professionals, book enthusiasts, and copyright scholars to share insights on literature, intellectual property, and the evolving landscape of copyright and open access.

The session was skillfully moderated by Dr. Abdul Jabbar, who opened the event with a brief introduction to its purpose and format. In his opening remarks, Dr. Jabbar emphasized the value of open dialogue and cross-cultural exchange to celebrate the intellectual and emotional richness of books, copyright, and literary thought.

Contributions from the distinguished guest speakers made the session both intellectually stimulating and globally relevant. Dr. Shahzeb Khan (Institute of English Studies, University of the Punjab, Pakistan) shared his passionate advocacy for promoting leisure reading culture in Pakistan, particularly within academic spaces. He discussed several impactful initiatives at the University of the Punjab, including a weekly Book Club, campus Book Fairs, storytelling sessions, and the unique practice of professors sharing and discussing books with their students. His experiences and ideas sparked rich

engagement among participants and underscored the importance of fostering a love for reading within university settings.

Dr. Eric Steinhauer (University Library, Fern Universität in Hagen, Germany) gave an interesting talk about open access and copyright law, especially how these affect universities and researchers. He talked about the legal and ethical issues around intellectual property and shared ideas about how books are changing with the rise of artificial intelligence. The conversation became especially lively when the audience discussed the ethical use of AI, including thought-provoking questions about “copyleft” and the global challenges of copyright.

Throughout the session, the audience contributed insightful questions and observations. The International Café Meeting was highly appreciated by attendees for its interactive, informative, and inspiring format. It served as a celebration not only of World Book and Copyright Day but also of the collaborative spirit of the global LIS community.



SIG-III Hosts Engaging Doctoral Seminar

ASIS&T SIG-III successfully conducted the first vibrant and intellectually stimulating event of the Doctoral Seminar Series via Zoom on May 22, 2025, from 9:30 to 11:00 AM EDT. The series is designed to provide PhD candidates and early-career researchers a platform to share their work, receive expert feedback, and engage with a global academic audience.

Originally scheduled to feature Prof. Diane Kelly as the keynote speaker, the program experienced a last-minute change due to Dr. Kelly's health issue. Prof. June Abbas, Professor and Director of the School of Library and Information Studies at the University of Oklahoma, graciously stepped in as keynote speaker and expert evaluator. Her dual role added significant value to the session.

Dr. Abbas delivered an engaging keynote on the topic, "Read Widely, Think Deeply: Choosing a Research Topic", which offered

thoughtful insights into the research journey, from selecting a topic to analyzing and presenting data. Her talk set the tone for the presentations that followed.

Each presenter was allotted 10 minutes to present their topic through a PowerPoint presentation. Following the presentations, Dr. June Abbas offered comprehensive feedback, highlighting strengths and suggesting areas for refinement. She thoughtfully engaged with each presenter, sparking further discussion and academic reflection. The Q&A session featured questions from participants.

In conclusion, SIG-III Chair Prof. Dr. Nosheen Warraich thanked the keynote speaker, presenters, and attendees for their contributions to a successful and enriching event. The SIG-III Doctoral Seminar Series continues to support and amplify emerging voices in the LIS research community.

DOCTORAL PRESENTATIONS

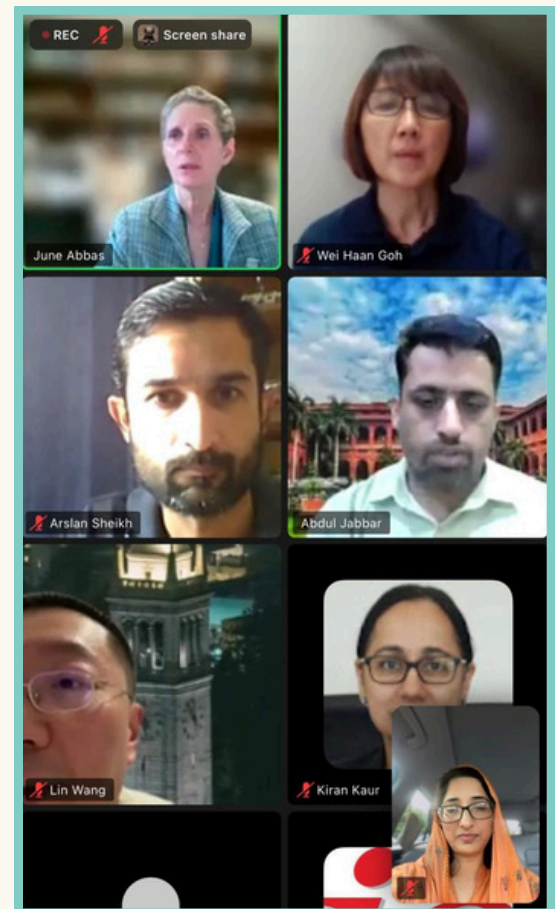
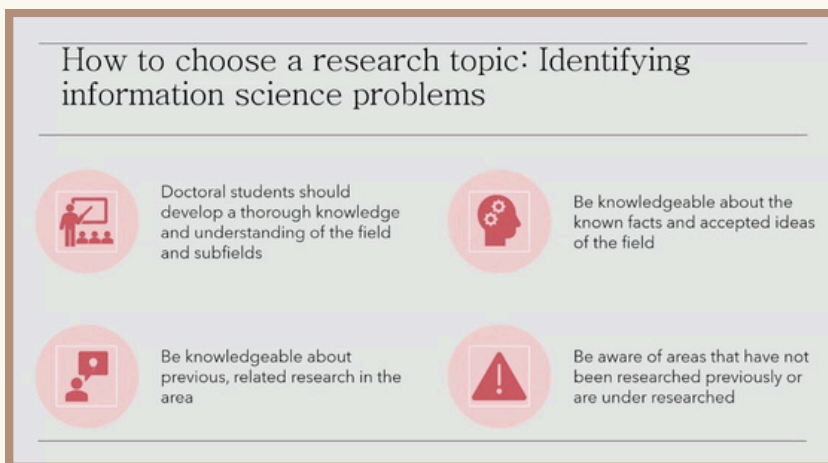
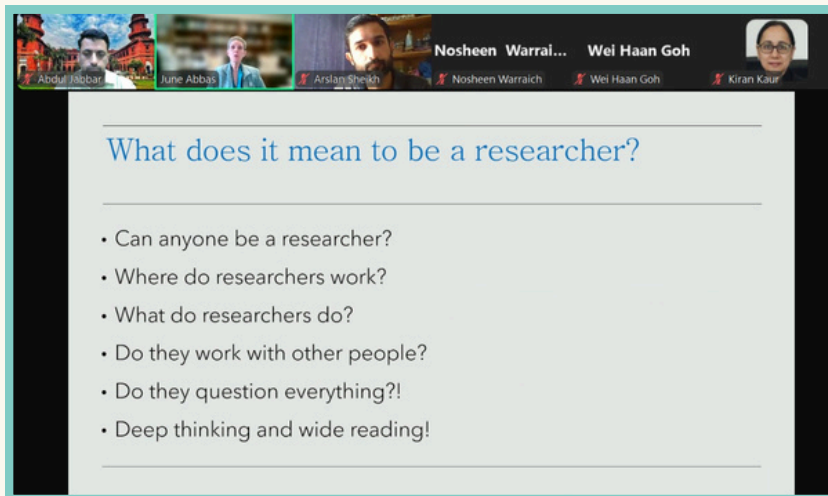
Arslan Sheikh – PhD Candidate, Humboldt University of Berlin, Germany
"The Potential of Open Science in Pakistan: Evidence from the Global South"

Sakeena Ali Khan – PhD Candidate, University of Colombo, Sri Lanka
"The Role of Digital Inclusion in Mitigating Social Exclusion among Youth in Marginalized Communities in Sri Lanka: A Phenomenological Case Study"

Goh Wei Haan – PhD Candidate, Universiti Malaya, Malaysia
"A Framework for Research Data Management Service Sustainability at Malaysian Universities"

Ayesha Khalid – PhD Candidate, University of the Punjab, Lahore, Pakistan
"Many Credible Shares Make Information Work: Verified Climate Information Sharing on Facebook"

SIG-III Doctoral Seminar Series



SIG-III-Sponsored Panel Accepted for ASIS&T Annual Meeting 2025

We are delighted to share that the SIG-III-sponsored panel titled “Responsible AI: Fostering Ethical and Inclusive Information Ecosystems” has been officially accepted for presentation at the 88th ASIS&T Annual Meeting, to be held in Washington, DC, from November 14–18, 2025.

This interdisciplinary panel brings together six international scholars and practitioners from Pakistan, the USA, Canada, and beyond to explore the

ethical, social, and inclusive dimensions of Artificial Intelligence in information environments. The session will offer insights into responsible AI design, algorithmic bias, digital equity, AI literacy, and the evolving role of information professionals. The panel is expected to stimulate dynamic discussion among attendees and reinforce SIG-III’s ongoing commitment to amplifying global voices and addressing pressing challenges in the information field.

Humans of the Library: Engage and Explore

SIG-III's InfoShare initiative and SIG-EduLearn collaborated to host another Humans of the Library event on June 3, 2025, from 10:00 to 11:00 AM EDT via Zoom. Dr. Hoda Homavandi, InfoShare member, moderated the event. The guest speaker was Dr. Naresh Agarwal, Professor and Director of Information Science and Technology Concentration at Simmons University and has held multiple leadership positions at ASIS&T.

Dr. Naresh Kumar opened the conversation by posing a series of questions aimed at helping the audience get to know different aspects of Dr. Agarwal's personal and professional life. Dr. Agarwal responded to each question thoughtfully, clearly, and in great detail, allowing attendees to gain valuable insights into how he approaches his work and manages his life.

He spoke candidly and warmly about various topics, including his childhood and place of birth, his interactions with people, his academic journey and key turning points, his experiences working in different countries, and his research interests. He



also shared about his activities within ASIS&T and how the organization has positively influenced his collaborations and professional engagements.

Dr. Naresh gave an in-depth explanation of his work at Simmons University and offered valuable advice for young and aspiring researchers and educators. He elaborated on how he balances and manages his multiple roles—teaching, research, scholarly interactions and collaborations, association activities, and academic service.

The session concluded with words of thanks from Dr. Tariq, Chair of the SIG-Edulearn and Chair InfoShare of SIG-III, who expressed gratitude to the hosts, the guest speaker, and the participants.

by Dr. Hoda Homavandi



Panel Discussion on Archives Success

Chughtai Public Library, in collaboration with ASIS&T SIG-III and International Council on Archives (ICA), successfully hosted a thought-provoking panel discussion on 14 June 2025, titled “Overcoming Barriers to Archives Access: Unlocking the Potential of Digital Archives in Pakistan”, as part of International Archives Week 2025 #IAW2025.

The session featured insights from leading experts in the field:

Dr. Nosheen Fatima Warraich, Professor of Information Management at University of the Punjab, highlighted the importance of policy integration and academic collaboration to strengthen digital archives and improve long-term access strategies in Pakistan.

Dr. Lubna Akram, Chairperson or Archive Studies at Government College University in Lahore, spoke about the need for professional training, local archiving models, and the development of institutional frameworks for sustainable digital preservation.

Rehana Kousar, Moderator & Digital Archivist, skillfully guided the discussion, bringing forth key questions on access, equity, and the role of technology in modern archival systems.



The panel discussion was attended by librarians, archivists, students of information and archive studies, and practitioners from across the city. An engaging question-and-answer session followed, with active participation from the audience. At the end of the event, gifts were presented to the panelists as a token of appreciation by Chughtai Public Library.

Thanks to the Committee Members Who Manage SIG-III Initiatives

2025 InfoShare Committee



Muhammad Tariq,
InfoShare Chair
COMSATS University, Pakistan



Massoomeh Niknia
Iranian Grid Management
Company, Iran



Elçin Ziya
Hacettepe University,
Turkey

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Lubna Daraz
University of Montreal
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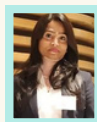


Devendra Potnis, Advisor
The University of Tennessee at
Knoxville, USA

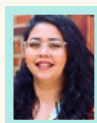
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New Zealand



Priya Vaidya
Aligarh Muslim University,
India



Manika Lamba
University of Oklahoma,
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Naailah Parbhoo
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South Africa



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Shanghai Jiao Tong University,
China



Dilhani Munasinghe
University of Colombo,
Sri Lanka



Heba Ismail
Society for Culture and
Development, Egypt

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2024 - 2025

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Projes Roy

University of Delhi
India



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Victoria University of Wellington
New Zealand



INFOSHARE CHAIR

Muhammad Tariq

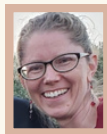
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Pakistan



NEWSLETTER OFFICER

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Jordan



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University of Veterinary and Animal
Sciences, Pakistan



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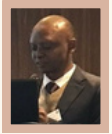
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