

Newsletter

ASIS&T Special Interest Group for International Information Issues



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Message from the Chair

A Transformative Year Ahead for SIG-III: Let's Continue to Drive Global Impact!

Dear SIG-III Colleagues,

Warm greetings from Pakistan! I trust that you had a restful holiday and are feeling rejuvenated and inspired for a dynamic, prosperous, and fulfilling New Year. It is an incredible privilege to serve as the Chair of the Special Interest Group for International Information Issues (SIG-III), and I am filled with great anticipation for what we will accomplish together in 2025.

The year 2024 has been a monumental one for SIG-III. We have proudly received four prestigious ASIS&T awards: SIG of the Year, SIG Member of the Year, SIG Publication of the Year, and the James M. Cretsos Leadership Award. These accolades reflect the unwavering dedication, innovation, and impact that our community brings to the field. Another key milestone was the tremendous success of our International Reception at the 2024 Annual Meeting in Calgary, where we strengthened global connections and celebrated our collective achievements.

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I want to take this moment to express my deepest gratitude to Dr. Leili Seifi, Past Chair of SIG-III, as well as to the exceptional 2024 team, volunteers, and members whose passion and commitment have made this possible. I am honored to work alongside such a talented group of professionals who share a common vision for advancing our goals. Together, we are already shaping the future with new initiatives that will continue to deliver lasting value to our members worldwide. Our team, which represents over 9 countries, epitomizes the global and diverse nature of the challenges and opportunities we are addressing within the information sector.

Stay informed about all the latest SIG-III developments by following us on our social media platforms. Special thanks to Rehana Kauser, our Communications Officer; Bethany Morton-Jerome, our Newsletter Officer; and Abdul Jabbar, ICM Facilitator, for their outstanding contributions to these efforts.

In our ongoing commitment to collaboration, we co-hosted a four-day capacity-building workshop for a delegation from the Maldives in December 2024. Focused on Green and Open-Source Software (FOSS), this workshop was organized in partnership with the Institute of Information Management at the University of Punjab, Pakistan, and it exemplified the global reach and significance of our initiatives.

Looking ahead, we are poised for an even more impactful 2025. Our continued efforts include the International Paper Contest (IPC) for Developing Countries, InfoShare, and the International Café Meets, Research Wing, and Guest Speaker Series. Our first event of the year will be

the International Café Meet on Women's Empowerment in the Digital Age, followed by the 4th Student-Led Conference on Emerging Issues in Library and Information Management at the University of Punjab, Pakistan, in February and March. The call for IPC submissions and InfoShare awards is now open—please help spread the word to maximize participation from developing countries. Additionally, InfoShare is organizing a unique event titled Humans of the Library, which promises to be both inspiring and engaging. We are also preparing an exciting research webinar in collaboration with InfoLearn and a 'Pub Quiz' in partnership with the ASIST Europe Chapter in Q1 2025.

I strongly encourage each of you to actively engage with these initiatives, as your participation will not only enrich your professional network but will also contribute to the growth and success of our global community.

Finally, I want to extend my heartfelt appreciation to all our officers, volunteers, and advisors whose tireless efforts and dedication continue to propel SIG-III forward. The remarkable progress we have made is a testament to the power of collaboration and shared purpose. I am confident that, with your continued support, we will build an even more vibrant, inclusive, and impactful SIG-III in the years ahead.

Please feel free to share your thoughts, ideas, and feedback with me at Nosheen.im@pu.edu.pk. Together, we will make 2025 a year of extraordinary growth and success.

With gratitude and optimism!
Nosheen Fatima Warraich, Chair



IIM Hosts Maldivian Delegation for FOSS Capacity-Building Workshop

The Institute of Information Management (IIM), University of the Punjab, Pakistan, welcomed a distinguished delegation from the Maldives, comprising Dr. Aminath Riyaz, Assistant Professor at the Maldives National University; Ms. Rishfa Ibrahim, Deputy Librarian; and Ms. Ajra Rafeeq, President of the Maldives Library Association.



In collaboration with SIG-III, IIM organized a four-day capacity-building workshop from December 9–12, 2024, focusing on Green and Open-Source Software (FOSS). The event aimed to enhance knowledge and skills in open-source technologies for library and information professionals.



Esteemed instructors, including Dr. Irfan Ali, Dr. Tayyeba Rasool, and Ms. Rehana Kousar, led sessions on two key platforms:

Koha: Software and hardware requirements, installation, essential modules, and hands-on practice.

Dspace: Introduction, installation, content management, access/discovery, and troubleshooting.

The workshop also saw active participation from IIM research students. The event was coordinated by Ms. Faiza Bashir, a PhD student at IIM, and concluded with a closing ceremony led by Dr. Nosheen Fatima

Warraich, Chair of SIG-III and Director of IIM. Dr. Warraich commended the collaborative efforts, emphasizing the significance of international partnerships. Shields were awarded to the Maldivian delegation in recognition of their engagement.

This initiative reflects SIG-III's commitment to fostering global information management practices and strengthening professional capacities across borders.



Call for Applications

2025 International Paper Contest

SIG-III invites research papers from library and information science (LIS) professionals of developing countries for the 25th International Paper Contest (IPC). The winners of the 2025 IPC will be awarded in the 88th ASIS&T Annual Meeting, which will take place in Washington, DC, from 14-18 November 2025. The theme of the Annual Meeting is "Difficult Conversations: The Role of Information Science in the Age of Human-Centered Artificial Intelligence".

The purpose of this contest is to encourage researchers from developing countries to share their work globally. It also focuses on pushing advancements in information, people, and technology in contemporary societies in the context of developing countries.

Papers submitted to this contest can discuss research problems, policies, new methodologies, and case studies highlighting practical issues in or outside of LIS work settings, and case studies on any aspect of the 2025 ASIS&T Annual Meeting theme from a local, regional, and/or international perspective.

Eligibility & Information for Authors:

All authors should be citizens of and reside in a [developing nation](#). Winners of the 2016-2024 contests are not eligible. The papers should be original, unpublished, and submitted in English. We encourage submissions from librarians, information and network specialists, and educators involved in the creation, representation, maintenance, exchange, discovery, delivery, and use of digital information.

The deadline for submitting applications is 15 April 2025.

Winners will be notified in late May 2025.

Judging Criteria:

IPC papers will be judged using the following criteria:

- The originality of the research question and objectives
- Ability to situate problem statements against existing literature
- Rigor in research methods
- Novelty and significance of research findings
- Theoretical and/or practical implications and/or contributions
- Quality of presentation and the overall organization of information
- Consistency in citations, references, and grammar

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Please visit <https://www.asist.org/sig/sigiii/international-paper-contest/> for additional details and the submission form.

2025 International Paper Contest

Winners and Award:

The IPC Committee will select three winners. We encourage all three winners to attend the 2025 ASIS&T Annual Meeting for sharing their research. The first-place winner will receive a maximum of US \$1,500 for offsetting the cost of attending and presenting their research poster at the 2025 ASIS&T Annual Meeting in Washington, DC. In addition, all three winners will receive a two-year individual membership in ASIS&T. In the case of multiple authors, the first author will be awarded the ASIS&T membership.

Poster Presentation:

The first-place winner will be expected to present a poster (48" by 36" inches) based on their research paper at the SIG-III Reception at the 2025 ASIS&T Annual Meeting in Washington, DC.

2025 InfoShare Committee



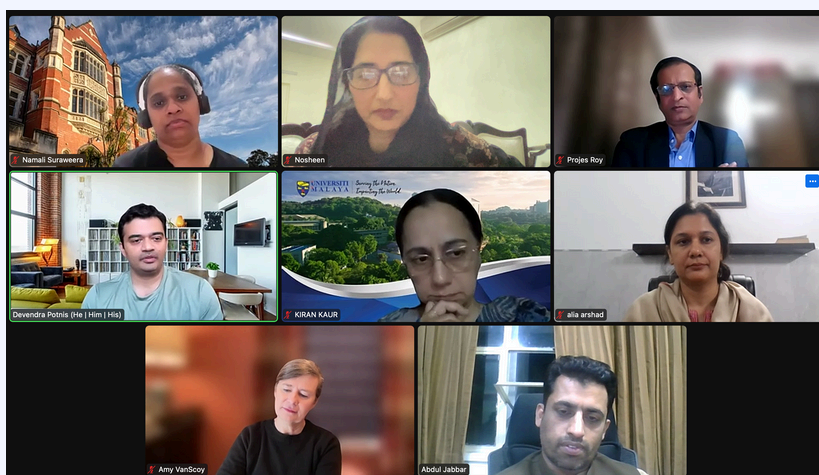
Muhammad Tariq,
InfoShare Chair
COMSATS University, Pakistan



Massoomah Niknia
Iranian Grid Management
Company, Iran



Elçin Ziya
Hacettepe University, Turkey



First SIG-III business meeting of 2024-2025

2025 International Paper Contest Committee



Namali Suraweera, IPC Chair
Victoria University of Wellington,
New Zealand



Priya Vaidya
Aligarh Muslim University, India



Manika Lamba
University of Oklahoma, USA



Naailah Parbhoo
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Shanghai Jiao Tong University,
China



Dilhani Munasinghe
University of Colombo, Sri Lanka



Heba Ismail
Society for Culture and
Development, Egypt



Irfan Ali
University of the Punjab, Pakistan

Call for Nominations

InfoShare Membership Award

Responsibilities:

Award recipients will be asked to submit a report on their activities by next year's Annual Meeting, which may include, but are not limited to:

- Join SIG-III.
- Attend at least 3 ASIS&T webinars of their interest in a business year (July 1 to June 30).
- Serve as a volunteer for at least one SIG-III event.
- Promote ASIS&T and SIG-III within their professional circle.
- Sponsor lecture(s) on Library and Information Science topics (according to local needs) in their geographical area on behalf of ASIS&T & SIG-III.
- Build a relationship between ASIS&T and national/regional organizations.
- Conduct seminars at the local and/or national level to highlight the role of ASIS&T and SIG-III.
- Write a brief on their experience with ASIS&T and SIG III at the end of the ASIS&T business year and send this to the SIG III Newsletter Officer for publication in the newsletter.
- Join a SIG-III annual business meeting (physical or online).

Nominators may mentor the award recipients for the above activities.

SIG-III is sponsoring another group of deserving information professionals from developing countries for complimentary ASIS&T memberships (the financial burden of which would otherwise be prohibitive) for 2025. We are soliciting nominations of candidates for the InfoShare Membership Award and look forward to welcoming new members to ASIS&T from across the globe, especially from countries that have never been ASIS&T members or have limited ASIS&T membership.

Eligibility:

Only current ASIS&T members may submit nominations. Nominees must not be current ASIS&T members and must not have been an InfoShare Award winner within the past five years. Preference will be given to candidates belonging to Tier 1 countries as the candidates from the Tier 2 countries can get free membership for two years.

The deadline for submitting nominations is 30 May 2025.
Award recipients will be announced on 30 June 2025.

Nominations:

Please include a one-page curriculum vitae and a one-page description of why this person is deserving of membership, including their willingness to promote ASIS&T within their networks and build relationships between ASIS&T and the national/regional organizations. All curriculum vitae will be kept private, accessible only to SIG-III officers. Send your nominations of deserving candidates to Dr. Muhammad Tariq at tariqnajmi@cuilahore.edu.pk.

Research Wing Fosters Skills and Connections

SIG-III is preparing to open applications for the 2025-2026 cohort of the Research Wing mentoring program. The Research Wing was developed in 2022 with the goal of fostering collaboration and growth within the global information science research community. The program facilitates networking opportunities and skill development with a global reach, matching mentors and mentees based on research interests, mentor expertise, and the type of guidance needed. Mentoring pairs often work on projects such as preparing a research article or presentation, completing a dissertation or other manuscript, or applying for scholarships or post-Doctoral positions.

The inaugural cohort of mentors and mentees was paired in spring 2023, with an impressive 22 mentors and 28 mentees participating. A second cohort for the 2024-2025 term is currently at work, with another 11 mentors and 33 mentees participating. Within both cohorts, some mentors have supported multiple mentees. Each research term runs from 1 June through 31 May and concludes with a research showcase at which the teams present their projects.



Subaveerapandiyan A, who is currently Library Manager at Vinayaka Mission's Research Foundation (Deemed to be University) in India, applied for mentorship in the 2023-2024 cohort with the goal of conducting research that could lead to a journal publication. Pandiyan was paired with Dr. Devendra Potnis at the University of Tennessee at Knoxville, USA, who initiated planning for the Research Wing during his term as Chair of SIG-III. Together, they developed a project that examines the factors that influence researchers' intentions to publish video-based journal articles, a topic that piques their interest because video-based journals bridge the gap between traditional scholarly communication and emerging technologies, making research more accessible and dynamic.
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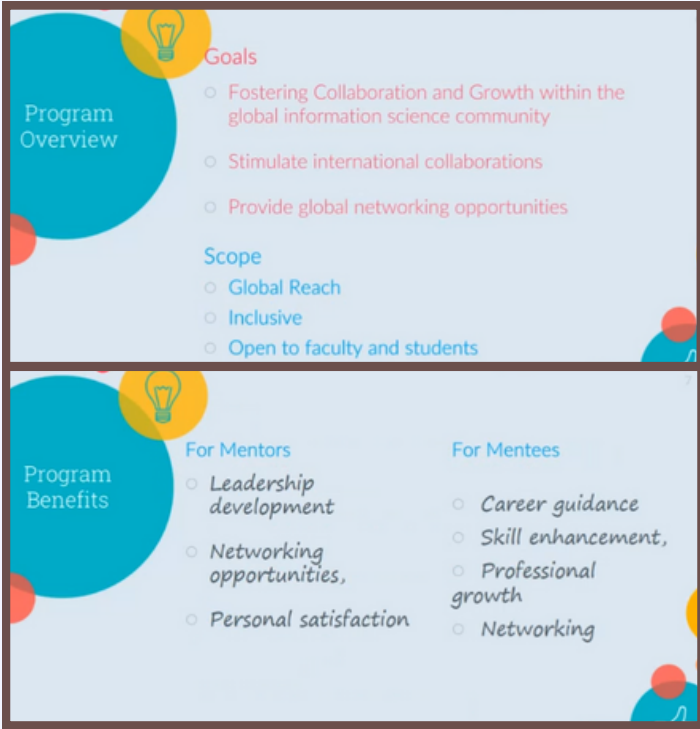
2025-26 Research Wing

Stay Tuned! The call for Research Wing applications will be published via iConnect in February.

The success of their work, which navigated global time differences and delays with IRB approval, earned them the first Research Wing Project of the Year Award.

Although the term of their official Research Wing partnership concluded in May 2024, Pandiyan and Dr. Potnis have continued to collaborate on this project, for which they are submitting work to a professional LIS journal, and to communicate about professional interests, skills, and strategies. Both speak very warmly of their experience in the Research Wing and of their respect for one another as researchers and individuals. Dr. Potnis shared that a successful professional relationship requires trust, commitment, and timely communication and is supported when the values of the mentor and mentee are aligned. When asked what advice he would give to future Research Wing participants, Pandiyan said, “Stay curious.

Research is not just about finding answers; it’s about questioning the world around us. Under a mentor like Dr. Devendra, mentees not only grow academically but also gain life lessons that will stay with them forever.”



Recent Publications by SIG-III Members

Ali, I., & Warraich, N. F. (2024). Information systems success in libraries: a meta-analysis of ISSM and future direction. *The Electronic Library*, 42(1), 158-171. <https://doi.org/10.1108/EL-06-2023-0163>

Ali, I., & Warraich, N. F. (2024). Use and acceptance of technology with academic and digital libraries context: A meta-analysis of UTAUT model and future direction. *Journal of Librarianship and Information Science*, 56(4), 965-977. <https://doi.org/10.1177/09610006231179716>

Bashir, F., Warraich, N. F., & Malik, A. (2025). Paradigm shift of health professions education through mobile devices: A literature review of reviews. *Medical Science Educator*, 1-11. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s40670-025-02294-y>

Potnis, D., Gala, B., Seifi, L., & Warraich, N., Lamba, M., & Reyes, V. (2024). Factors influencing professional associations' member engagement online: An "information practices" approach. *Proceedings of the Association for Information Science and Technology*, 61(1), 314-325. <https://doi.org/10.1002/pra2.1030>

Rasool, T., Warraich, N. F., & Arshad, A. (2024). Assessing the relationship between information overload, role stress, and teachers' job performance: Exploring the moderating effect of self-efficacy. *Information Development*, 0(0). <https://doi.org/10.1177/02666669241232422>

Udoh, E. S., Yuan, X., & Rorissa, A. (2024). A framework for defining algorithmic fairness in the context of information access. *Proceedings of the Association for Information Science and Technology*, 61(1), 667-672. <https://doi.org/10.1002/pra2.1077>

Wahid, N., Warraich, N. F., & Tahira, M. (2024). Assessing the research profile of highly productive authors of Pakistan. *Global Knowledge, Memory and Communication*, 73(1/2), 183-201. <https://doi.org/10.1108/GKMC-01-2022-0012>

Warraich, N. F., Irfan, M., & Ali, I. (2024). Understanding students' mobile technology usage behavior during COVID-19 through use & gratification and theory of planned behavior. *SAGE Open*, 14(2). <https://doi.org/10.1177/21582440241242196>

Warraich, N. F., Riaz, Z., & Ali, I. (2024). Trustworthiness, motivation and reward as predictors of knowledge-sharing attitude and intention among students. *Global Knowledge, Memory, and Communication*. <https://doi.org/10.1108/GKMC-08-2023-0306>



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2024 - 2025

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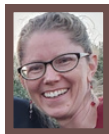
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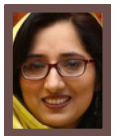
University of Veterinary and Animal
Sciences, Pakistan



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Nosheen Warraich

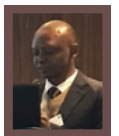
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The University of Tennessee
at Knoxville, USA



PAST CHAIR

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