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**Report to ACRL-STIS on ASIS&T and the ASIS&T 2013 Annual Meeting
November 1-5, Montreal, Canada.**

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The [Association for Information Science and Technology](#) (ASIS&T), previously known as *American Society for Information Science and Technology*, is an international organization for information professionals seeking to advance the information sciences and their related applications. The organization favors a multidisciplinary approach that bridges research and practice to benefit information specialists working in unrelated fields.

Most ASIS&T members are involved in information research, with ASIS&T being the main organization for faculty and students from graduate programs in Library and Information Science. Another important segment of its membership is information or computer science professionals working for government agencies or companies developing information technologies. Library practitioners are currently a minority, with most members in this category coming from academic institutions that have research requirements for librarians.

The organization is divided into [Chapters](#), according to members' geographical locations, and [Special Interest Groups](#) (SIGs), according to members' professional specialties or interests. Members are automatically added to a Chapter according to their address, while membership in SIGs is optional (first SIG membership is free, unlimited additional SIGs incur a small fee).

The latest name change of ASIS&T reflects a shift in membership, with a strong momentum brought to the organization by new international members. While local membership in the US has been stable or in decline for some time, the international membership is growing. The European Chapter is very active, having received the *Chapter of the Year Award* for two consecutive years (2012-2013). The Asia-Pacific Chapter is also growing, with several Australian researchers joining the organization in the last years. ASIS&T has decided to invest in its international presence and is currently targeting information science and technology groups, especially in Asia. Members from 38 countries were present at the last ASIS&T Annual Meeting, totaling approximately 600 attendees (information provided during the ASIS&T Business Meeting).

The SIG equivalent to STS is [SIG-STI](#) (Special Interest Group - Scientific and Technical Information). SIG-STI started a realignment process in 2012, in order to re-approach its membership. As part of the process, the SIG created a new Gmail account (which serves as a repository for all SIG transactions and documentation), a new Wordpress website with blog capabilities, and a Twitter account. The SIG also organized a logo contest, and recently started planning a new *Paper Award* (information provided during the SIG-STI Annual Planning Meeting).

ASIS&T publishes two journals: [JASIST](#) and [Bulletin](#). *JASIST* is an international scholarly journal devoted to information science research, while the *Bulletin* is a news magazine directed to information practitioners. Membership in ASIS&T is not a requirement for authors. In addition, ASIS&T publishes a monographic series of books and e-books for students, scholars,

and practitioners in information science and technology. The publisher for the monographs is [Information Today Inc.](#), which is currently accepting proposals and manuscripts for the ASIS&T series. Members of ACRL/STS that do research in information science might consider publishing in these venues.

ASIS&T also maintains a database of job announcements on their website, [Jobline](#), which can be searched free of charge. Users can also post their Resumes by creating an account. It works similarly to *ALA JobLIST*.

Another ASIS&T recent innovation (in the last 3 years) has been the inauguration of a webinar series, [ASIS&T Webinars](#). All webinars are recorded and available on-demand on the ASIS&T website. Most of them are free to the membership. Non-members can access the webinars for a small fee. Software for the webinars and technical support is provided by ASIS&T. The initiative has some parallels with the *ALA Online Learning* series. The goal of *ASIS&T Webinars* is to attract new members by providing a growing online pool of professional development materials. At the ASIS&T 2013 Annual Meeting it was reported that library practitioners are frequent users of this webinar collection. Since membership in ASIS&T is not a requirement to create a proposal for a webinar, ACRL/STS members could use this opportunity to enhance their visibility.

One of the least known aspects of ASIS&T is its support to smaller groups in the information science arena. ASIS&T provides administrative and conference support to PASIG (Preservation and Archiving Special Interest Group), the RDAP (Research Data Access and Preservation) Summit, the IA (Information Architecture) Summit, the ICKM (International Conference on Knowledge Management), and, new this year, the DCMI (Dublin Core Metadata Initiative).

The [ASIS&T 2013 Annual Meeting](#) was held on November 1-5, 2013, in Montreal, Canada. The theme of the meeting was *Beyond the Cloud: Rethinking Information Boundaries*, focusing on how the development of computing and mobile technology and the evolution of the Web environment are challenging information organization and access.

The Keynote Speaker at the meeting was Jorge Garcia, Senior Business Intelligence Research Analyst for Technology Evaluation Centers. His lecture focused on augmented reality and the technological innovation cycle involved in its development. He detailed how this cycle starts in the physical world, moves to the creation of an abstraction (a model), followed by a process of augmentation (using computer power to enhance human brain capabilities), and finally, assimilation of the new information with the human senses to create an augmented reality. He finished his presentation discussing the pros and cons of this new technology.

Some workshops and programs presented at the 2013 meeting that held particular appeal to science librarians included:

- *Metrics 2013: Workshop on Informetric and Scientometric Research*
- *Information Behavior on the Move: Information Needs, Seeking and Use in the Era of Mobile Technology*
- *Digital Liaisons: Engaging with Digital Curation Theory and Practice*

- *Enabling Systems for Inquiry-Based Learning*
- *Altmetrics: Present and Future*
- *Research Know-How for Research Support Services: Preparing Information Specialists for Emerging Roles*

The complete program with presentation abstracts can be found at:

<http://www.asis.org/asist2013/proceedings/openpage.html>

One of ASIS&T's stated goals for next year is to improve its web presence. A plan to achieve this goal includes a redesign of the ASIS&T website, to reflect the latest innovations in information technology and showcase professional opportunities to its members. In addition, the organization has decided to emphasize the human and social aspects of information.

The theme for the upcoming [ASIS&T 2014 Annual Meeting](#) will be *Connecting Collections, Cultures, and Communities*. The meeting will be held on October 31-November 4, 2014, at the Sheraton Seattle Hotel, Seattle, WA. ASIS&T is currently accepting proposals for papers, panels, posters and workshops to be presented at their next annual meeting (first deadline: April 30, 2014).

For questions/comments please contact Moriana Garcia at garciam@denison.edu.