From the Chair

Welcome back! I hope everyone had a relaxed summer! Before the summer, we had two excellent programs that attracted many of our members: “Do you feel lucky?” in March and “Blogs” in May. Forthcoming is yet another exciting program: our yearly Distinguished Lectureship program. This will be on Sept 22, 2005. Sue Dumais from Microsoft Co. will be this year’s recipient of the award. Sue will talk about the research in the area of personalization in information retrieval. We promise to present the best in the nation, international as well, to our members.

After the Distinguished Lectureship program, our celebration reception for the 30th anniversary of the New Jersey Chapter of ASIS&T is scheduled on November 30. This will be an opportunity to reflect what we have achieved in the past and to look forward to the future of the chapter and the profession.

Yes, it’s the time of the year again: we need new blood to join us to continue our excellence. We will have several vacancies in the next year’s executive board members, including the program chair. If you are interested, please contact as soon as possible either Gerry Grenier, current program chair, or myself to let us know. Our contact information can be found in the Executive Member List in this newsletter. An election will be held soon.

I am looking forward to seeing you at the Distinguished Lectureship and at the reception later this year.

Sincerely,

Xiangmin Zhang
2004-2005 NJ-ASIS&T Chair
Microsoft Researcher Susan Dumais to Receive 2005 Distinguished Lectureship

We are proud to announce Susan Dumais, Senior Researcher in the Adaptive Systems and Interaction Group at Microsoft Research, as the recipient of our nineteenth annual Distinguished Lectureship Award. Please join us at one of more of the events planned on Thursday, September 22, 2005 (see below).

Ms. Dumais is a Senior Researcher in the Adaptive Systems and Interaction Group at Microsoft Research. She has been at Microsoft Research since 1997 and has published widely in the areas of human-computer interaction and information retrieval. Her current research focuses on personal information retrieval, novel interfaces for interactive retrieval, user modeling, relevance measurement, text categorization, and collaborative information retrieval. Her research in information management has influenced several Microsoft products including Windows Desktop Search, MSN Search, Longhorn Search, SharePoint Portal Server, and Office Help. Prior to joining Microsoft Research, she was at Bellcore and Bell Labs for many years. Previous research included well-known work on Latent Semantic Indexing (a statistical method for concept-based retrieval), interfaces for combining search and navigation, individual differences, and organizational impacts of new technology.

Susan has published more than 170 articles in the fields of information science, human-computer interaction, and cognitive science, and holds several patents on novel retrieval algorithms and interfaces. Susan is Past-Chair of ACM’s Special Interest Group in Information Retrieval (SIGIR), and served on the NRC Committee on Computing and Communications Research to Enable Better Use of Information Technology in Digital Government, and the NRC Board on Assessment of NIST Programs. She is on the editorial boards of ACM: Transactions on Information Systems, ACM: Transactions on Human Computer Interaction, Human Computer Interaction, Information Processing and Management, Information Retrieval, New Review of Hypermedia and Multimedia, and the Annual Review of Information Science and Technology, an associate editor for the first and second editions of the Handbook of Applied Cognition, and on program committees for several conferences. She was elected to the ACM CHI Academy in 2004. Susan is an adjunct professor in the Information School at the University of Washington, and has been a visiting faculty member at Stevens Institute of Technology, New York University, and the University of Chicago.

Visit Susan Dumais’ website at: http://research.microsoft.com/~sdumais
"Personal information management: Helping finders become keepers"

Most information retrieval technologies are designed to facilitate information discovery. However, much knowledge work involves finding and re-using previously seen information in the context of ongoing work activities. Ms. Dumais will survey progress and challenges involved in supporting information re-use. An overview of techniques that people currently use to support re-access will be presented, and usage experiences with a desktop search system that provides unified access to a wide range of heterogeneous information that a person has previously seen (email, web pages, files, news, appointments) will be summarized.

4:30 – 5:15 Informal reception
Lobby of Scholarly Communication Center

EVENING RECEPTION AND DINNER PROGRAM
IEEE Operations Center
445 Hoes Lane, Piscataway, NJ
http://tinyurl.com/8eyel

6:00 Social Time
6:30 Dinner Buffet (reservations necessary)
7:30-9:00 Distinguished Lectureship Award Program

PROGRAM:
NJ-ASIS&T Distinguished Lectureship Award presentation, followed by an address by Susan Dumais.

“Information retrieval in context”
Information retrieval is an activity that is performed in context – by individuals, at a given time and place, using one or more systems and collections, to support a current task. Susan will review techniques for understand and utilizing important dimensions of context to improve information access.

For registration information, visit http://www.scils.rutgers.edu/nj-asis/dl.htm

Sponsored by NJ-ASIS&T, P-T SLA, NJSLA, Rutgers University Libraries, Rutgers University, School of Communication, Information and Library Science
Weblogs or Knowledgelogs?
By Donna Savino
Rutgers MLIS 2005

On Friday, May 20th, 2005, NJ-ASIS&T offered a networking lunch at Novartis Pharmaceuticals Corporation, featuring Michael Angeles of Information Solutions, Lucent Technologies. He addressed the topic: “Blogs: Passing Fad or the Revolutionary Communication Tool?”

Before I attended the presentation on blogs I thought they were primarily tools for teens to discuss the latest gossip about Hillary Duff. Michael’s presentation, however, allowed me to look at blogs through an information professional’s eyes.

A few statistics about blogs ... the Pew Foundation estimates that 27 percent of Internet users are reading blogs, and 12 percent have posted comments to them. Business Week recently estimated that there are about 9 million blogs on the Internet today. Why so popular? They’re easy to configure, low cost, and easy to understand and communicate information.

Blogs fall into three main categories: personal diaries (journals); special interest groups (i.e., social networking, digital libraries); and internal communications tools within an organization (enterprise weblogs). Michael Angeles, an information architect for Lucent Technology and a former graduate of Rutgers SCILS, focused his talk on the last category—internal project weblogs.

Short for weblog, a blog is information that is instantly published to a Web site. Blog scripting allows someone to automatically post information to a Web site. The information first goes to a blogger Web site. Then the information is automatically inserted into a template tailored for your Web site.

So why are companies so interested in blogs? Blogs provide a conversational aspect to information sharing—anyone with access to the blog can participate in the site. They also represent a move away from centralized communications toward a more “bottom-up” dissemination of information. Also, blogs can place information in context.
Many corporations share a common problem—the diverse need to publish and share information, at a low cost and with minimal human intervention. Enter the blog. The concept of blogging is in line with the shift in knowledge management to a bottom-up communication process. Blogs support diverse information ecologies, allowing interaction, enabling information sharing, and providing ownership of the publishing process to the users.

This is not to say that blogs are one-way communications—quite the contrary, they are totally interactive. Knowledge workers (researchers, scientists, engineers) can both publish and draw from blog information. CIOs can quickly and easily update standards and information technology as well as recognize the need for new standards. An entire community of practice can collaborate and share information.

What’s in store for the blog of the future? As we move from knowledge creation to knowledge consumption, information within blogs is being indexed for enterprise search functions. Future weblogs (or knowledgelogs as I’ve begun to think of them) will increasingly be aggregated and classified through the use of enterprise taxonomies, and will connect to users through the use of social software.

Resources:


Blogger (http://www.blogger.com/start)


Word Press personal publishing platform (http://wordpress.org/)

Radio Userland software (http://radio.userland.com/)
Meet the 2005-2006 RUASIS&T Co-Presidents
By Kristen Fitzpatrick

Since 1998, the Rutgers University Student Chapter of the American Society for Information Science & Technology (RUASIS&T) has offered twice yearly workshops to incoming MLIS students as a peer-to-peer sharing of “technology and library-related survival skills” and insights into the program. Meet two women who, after taking the workshops, both stepped into leadership positions to assure the continuation and improvement of the workshops and the chapter’s service to the Rutgers community.

Stephanie Fox
Stephanie is a person who says, “I could do that” and then does it – better than anyone else. In addition to the regular workshops, Stephanie taught “Computing at SCILS” to the inaugural class of Rutgers online MLIS students.

A professional presenter, she manages Thomson-West's Librarian Relations program in New Jersey, Pennsylvania and Delaware, and represents West in library schools and professional librarian associations. She received her J.D. from Rutgers-Camden School of Law and her BA in English from Rutgers College. She was a medical malpractice attorney for almost 7 years before entering the law librarian profession.

Prior to joining West, Stephanie was the Regional Manager, Legal Information Resources for the Newark, NJ office of LeBoeuf, Lamb, Greene & MacRae. She has taught Medical Malpractice Law and Discovery & Depositions in Civil Litigation at Seton Hall Law School and was recently the President of the New Jersey Law Librarians Association (NJLLA). She has written several articles which have been published in NJLLA In-Site, PLL Perspectives, Legal Information Alert, the New Jersey Lawyer and the New Jersey Law Journal.

Mallary Saltzman
Mallary only entered the MLIS program in January, but by April she was named co-president of RUASIS&T, and immediately began organizing this summer's series of workshops.

Mallary has a BS in Psychology from Penn State and an MS in psychology from the University of Illinois, specializing in user interface design. For over twenty years she was a member of technical staff of AT&T Bell Labs (now Lucent Bell Labs) doing software engineering. She is currently a software engineer with Scansoft working on speech recognition applications.

All of her professional work has been in the area of how to present information to a user - either at a computer screen or over a telephone via speech recognition. “I decided to go back to school for an MLIS for a different focus on information behavior,” says Mallary, “and it has been a wonderful experience so far.”
In Memoriam

Frank H. Spaulding, 73, former treasurer of ASIS&T from 1984-86 and member of the planning committee from 1986-1988, died Sunday, 24 July, in Fort Myers, Florida.

Mr. Spaulding was also SLA president (1986 to 1987) and NJSLA President (1977-1978). While SLA President, he created the President's Task Force on the Value of the Information Professional. In a release announcing his death, SLA noted, "Among Spaulding's many accolades are his 1995 installation into the SLA Hall of Fame, 1988 SLA President's Award, and 1990 selection as an SLA Fellow. He served two terms on the SLA Board of Directors between 1982 and 1988; served as New Jersey Chapter President from 1977 to 1978; and he convened the Retired Members Caucus in 2003."

Additional details can be found at: http://www.sla.org/content/SLA/pressroom/pressrelease/2005prelease/pr2518.cfm, and a weblog in his memory at: http://slablogger.typepad.com/frank_spaulding/

Kathleen (Cronin) Millington died Sunday, May 15, after a long illness. She was 52. Kathy was NJ-ASIS&T Program Chair (1990-1991) and Chapter Chair (1991-1992). She also served the chapter in a number of other capacities over the years. Kathy won the national ASIS Chapter-Member-of-the-Year Award, given for significant contributions to the membership of the chapter, in 1996.

Born in Morristown, she had lived in Whippany and Summit before moving to Denville in 1982. Mrs. Millington was employed by Berlex in Montville as manager of library and information services. She had previously headed special libraries at the Howmedica Division of Pfizer and at Zambon Laboratories.

She was an active volunteer in Denville. With her husband, Geoff, she helped to coordinate Denville Community Television for 20 years. The couple co-chaired the St. Clare's Harvest Festival in 1996, 1997 and 2002. Mrs. Millington was an active member of the Denville P.R.I.D.E. council and received the Muriel Hepner Volunteer award in 1999. She received the Chamber of Commerce Volunteer of the Year Award in 1997.
NJ-ASIS&T Fall Calendar

Join many of our members who are presenting at the 2005 Annual Meeting of the American Society for Information Science and Technology

Sparking Synergies: Bringing Research and Practice Together

October 28 - November 2, 2005
Charlotte, North Carolina

For additional information visit:
http://www.asis.org/Conferences/AM05/index.html

NJ-ASIS&T
30th Anniversary Celebration
Date and details to be announced

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Keep track of news and upcoming programs.

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# Chapter Leadership

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<td><strong>Maurica Fedors</strong>  &lt;br&gt;Manager TIC  &lt;br&gt;Engelhard Corporation  &lt;br&gt;732.205.5269  &lt;br&gt;732-205.6900 FAX  &lt;br&gt;<a href="mailto:maurica.fedors@engelhard.com">maurica.fedors@engelhard.com</a></td>
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