International Association for Social Science Information Service and Technology (IASSIST)

40th Annual Business Meeting of the
General Assembly
Toronto, Ontario, Canada
2014/6/5

1. Welcome

The meeting was called to order at 1:11 p.m.

2. Approval of Minutes from 2013 Meeting

MOVED to approve the minutes of the annual general meeting of 30 May, 2013.
Moved: S Spencer, seconded L Kellam. The motion CARRIED.

3. Committee Reports

2014 Program Committee

Special thanks was expressed to the program committee co-chairs, Chuck Humphrey, Jen Green, and Johan Finn as well as Samantha Guss who organized the posters and Lynda Kellam who organized the workshops. B Block said that yesterday was the single best programming day he had ever seen at an IASSIST conference. All of their work putting together the content, workshops and posters is greatly appreciated.

Communications – M Andrews

After expressing happiness with the members of the communications committee, M Andrews invited everyone interested to the committee's meeting from 5-6 p.m.

R Rice as web editor thanked everyone who posted to the blog during the past year. She reminded everyone to look for opportunities to show off the expertise of IASSIST with the world and post to the blog whenever a conversation might be of interest to the wider community. The web site should be easier to log into after work done this year to smooth that process. Thanks go to H Dekker for continuing to provide tech support for the web site. Drupal will be upgraded in the coming year. The back issues of the IQ are still not done, but the committee aims to do so as soon as possible after the conference.

K Boye Rasmussen, editor of the IQ, mentioned that the publication is supposed to be quarterly, but hasn't had that much precision, with special issues and double issues recently. Everyone should take a look if they haven't yet at the special issue devoted to Sue Dodd, a big figure in IASSIST and someone from whose work we are all benefitting. P Adams and L Stephenson who edited that volume were thanked in absentia. K Boye Rasmussen encouraged everyone to consider becoming an author contributor and thanked everyone who contributed their work to this past year's issue.

B Block announced that next year there will be a paper track for the conference. He also encouraged everyone to read the most recent issue of the IQ.

Professional Development – P Lackie and L Kellam

L Kellam led the room in a round of applause for the workshop presenters. This year there were nine workshops with over 80 attendees. If you attended, please fill out an evaluation form – these are important tools for planning. If anyone is interested in the workshop coordination role, please talk to L Kellam. Planning the workshops is a lot of fun and not a lot of work.

L Kellam led another round of applause for the participants in the mentor program. Keep an eye out for an evaluation form for this program. If anyone is interested in leading this program next year, contact L Kellam. It is a great opportunity for a newer member.

P Lackie encouraged everyone to reach into their own organizations to identify other people who could benefit from IASSIST membership and encourage them to join. Our IASSIST tent is quite large and needs to get bigger. The professional development committee hopes to develop in more detail a profile of who our membership is. Participants are encouraged to find the committee's poster at the session coming up and share ideas.

B Block reinforced that workshop coordination is a great way to meet people and that leading the mentorship program is a great way – especially for newer members – to meet new and established members.

Elections – B Block for M Wright

Coming up this year will be elections for virtually all of the roles of the administrative committee. It would be terrific to have a competitive election and it is important work, so please consider running/standing for office. The administrative committee meets throughout the year virtually, once per year in person. If you want to help guide the direction of IASSIST, don't hesitate to nominate yourself or someone else you think would do well.

IASSIST Fellows – T Lindsay for L Martínez-Uribe and S Macdonald

The fellows program this year received 48 applications from 29 countries. Of those, three are in attendance at the conference: Antonin Benoi, Head Librarian at the African Institute for Economic Development and Planning, Dakar, Senegal; Fei Yu, Acting Manager of Research Data Collections at the University of Queensland Library, Brisbane, Australia; Aileen O'Carroll, Policy Manager of the Digital Repository at the Digital Repository of Ireland, Dublin. A position was also offered to Winny Nekesa, Senior Library and Documentation Officer at the Public Procurement and Disposal of Assets Authority, Kampala, Uganda, but she was unable to come this year and the award will be deferred. L Martínez-Uribe is stepping down as co-chair so a replacement is needed. It is a great way to get to know the organization and do great work. Applause was offered for the work of the committee and co-chairs.

Membership Committee – H Mooney

H Mooney presented some membership visualizations developed by P Lackie and encouraged everyone to come to the membership committee poster to see them in more detail. Organization type of members differs by region, for example, North America membership is dominated by librarians, which isn't true in other parts of the world. Another chart showed geographic distribution of IASSIST members based on Linked-In data, which gives an idea of where people in the world are interested in the type of work we do. Since not all of them are actually represented in our membership, we can see where we might want to reach out. This year's projects included streamlining, with the help of the communications committee, the sign-in to the IASSIST web site. Work in progress includes updating the membership directory fields where we collect information about ourselves. There is a proposal in the works for a liaison program to develop stronger organizational partners. This program will focus on sponsoring other conferences. Some work has been done with ACRL, of special interest to North American academic librarians. A joint interest group is being discussed as well as data literacy. Anyone interested in participating in outreach should get in touch. Everyone was encouraged to visit the interactive poster so the committee can record the great work people are doing, the types of organizations they're from, the roles they have, and what they want from IASSIST to make the organization reflect all of us in the best way possible.

4. Action Groups Reports

Program Planning Manual Action Group – J Darragh

Anyone who's done conference planning knows it's a lot of work. Things change and there are many nuances. The organization needs to rely on that knowledge. J Darragh reported that she, T Lindsay, T Alaterä, and K McNeill are working together to revise the program-planning portion of the conference manual based on updated elements over the last few years. The group got a great start and will continue to work hard hoping for a final draft by next year.

5. Interest Group Reports

Interest Group on Humans Subject Review Committees and Privacy and Confidentiality in Research – B Block for L Stephenson

B Block reported that the work of this group is complete and it is now ended. A few years ago this was an incredibly active interest group, springing up in response to some IRB issues in the US. It did some terrific work.

Data Citation Interest Group – E Moss and H Mooney

This special interest group was formed in 2010 and since then it has authored a quick guide to data citation and written advocacy letters to style manuals. Members of the group authored many of the articles in the most recent issue of IQ in memorium to Sue Dodd, a great influence on citation. Since the group has formed, we have seen better awareness overall in the wider community around data citation. The group currently has no new business, so it will sunset. However, interested individuals are welcome to get in touch with H Mooney or E Moss to save the group from sunsetting.

Data Management and Curation Interest Group – C Perry and S Kramer

S Kramer encouraged everyone to view the full report posted on the blog and on the IASSIST web site. The group now has 500 members. On Tuesday the group sponsored a successful workshop on data management and curation. Applause was given for C Perry for four years of dedication and leadership in this group as she will be stepping down as co-chair. The group is looking for a new co-chair for a two-year term. Those who are interested or want more information can get in touch with S Kramer.

Data Visualization Interest Group – A Leahey and P Lackie

A Leahey reported that the Data Viz group has members from across libraries, archives and research groups who come together over this shared interest. The group has been together since last year, sharing information around tools. It is not yet ready to grapple with best practices, but the potential is there. The co-chairs are excited about next year and subsequent years. P Lackie reported on the workshop, which dovetails with the next interest group and encouraged members to start interest groups as appropriate – it only takes five members to set one up.

Open Source Interest Group – H Decker

H Decker quipped that the group has gotten a lot done in the two weeks since it was approved. IASSIST's newest interest group evolved out of conversations on the IASSIST listserv. People are very interested in exchanging information and resources especially about R programming language and python. There is not a lot to report yet, but look for a blog post and information on the listserv. The hope is to create a community among members where existing experts and power users contribute along with beginners learning to dabble. These tools are profoundly changing the landscape of data services

and the organization needs to be aware of what's going on and contribute to the ecosystem of these software packages. Contact H Dekker if you want to get involved.

6. Treasurer's Report – T Lindsay

T Lindsay reported on the state of the organization's funds. The organization has approximately $200,000 in the bank across all accounts. In the last couple of years we have run slight deficits in order to do things the organization wants to get done. This coming year we'll spend a little extra on sponsorship and continuing to support the Fellows Program at its current level.

7. Regional reports

Regional reports can all be read on the IASSIST web site.

8. Future Conferences

Next year IASSIST 2015 will be held from June 2-5 in Minneapolis, Minnesota, USA. B Block looks forward to going to his hometown! For 2016 and beyond, expressions of interest are welcome. B Block is happy to talk with anyone about what it takes to host an IASSIST conference. It is a terrific way to help your workplace learn about what you do.

9. Other Business

W Giesbrecht reported that the annual IASSIST conference song action group is, as always, open to anyone who wants to participate in writing and performing a song summing up the conference at the wrap-up session. Anyone who wants to participate, please talk with W Giesbrecht.

Session chairs were reminded to upload presentations to the Dropbox account for posting to the web site after the conference.

B Block thanked C Humphrey for his un-plenary in the morning to great applause.

10. Adjourn

MOVED to adjourn the meeting at 1:48 p.m.
Moved: L Kellam, seconded T Alaterä. The motion CARRIED.