News

1. Conferences

1.1. People Transforming Information - Information Transforming People, Annual Conference of the American Society for Information Science and Technology, Hyatt Regency, Columbus, Ohio, US, 24–29 October, 2008

Complete Call: HTTP://WWW.ASIS.ORG/Conferences/am08/AM08cfp.HTML

ASIS&T 2008 will focus on how people transform information as well as how information transforms people. Submissions by researchers and practitioners are solicited on a wide range of human-centered approaches to topics.

American Society for Information Science and Technology 1320 Fenwick Lane, Suite 510 Silver Spring, MD 20910

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1.2. 37th Annual International Association of School Librarianship (IASL) Conference, University of California Berkeley, 3–6 August 2008

The mission of IASL is to provide an international forum for people interested in promoting effective school library media programs as viable instruments in the educational process. IASL also provides guidance and advice for the development of school library programs and the school library profession. IASL works in cooperation with other professional associations and agencies.

Membership is worldwide, and includes school librarians, teachers, librarians, library advisers, consultants, educational administrators, and others who are responsible for library and information services in schools. The membership also includes a strong community of professors and instructors in universities and colleges where there are programmes for school librarians, and students who are undertaking such programmes. More information about IASL can be found at http://www.iasl-online.org/.

The Research Forum track of the IASL conference links researchers interested in school libraries and school environments from around the world. It is an unparalleled opportunity to learn about school librarianship from a global perspective.

This year's conference theme, "World Class Learning and Literacy through School Libraries," is designed to accommodate a wide range of research foci.

Questions about the conference programme and its tracks should be directed to the Programme Chair:

Kristin Fontichiaro
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Conference information can be found at:
http://www.iasl-online.org/events/conf/2008/index.htm

2. Schools

2.1. University of Maryland, US

Maryland's iSchool in the World's Information Capital is pleased to announce that Assistant Professor Dr. Bo Xie had been awarded $40,000 from the National Library of Medicine (as a subcontract from the National Network for Libraries of Medicine) for her research on "Promoting Health Literacy among Older Adults: Computer Training in Public Libraries." The one-year award will focus on generating new knowledge about the special health and medical information needs of the rapidly aging population and on developing an educational program to train older adults to use information technology to meet those needs. The project is a collaboration between the University of Maryland and Maryland's Prince Georges County Library System.

For more information on Maryland's iSchool, visit www.clis.umd.edu.

2.2. University of Washington, US

The Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) will enter into a cooperative agreement with the University of Washington to conduct a national study on the social, economic, personal, and professional value of free access to computers at public libraries. The University of Washington Information School, working with the Urban Institute, a non-partisan economic and social policy research organization, will examine the impact of free access to computers and the Internet on the well-being of individuals, families, and communities. The IMLS project will be carried out with support from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation.

Working with libraries, users, and communities, and an expert committee of library leaders, researchers, and public policy organizations, the research team will develop methods of measuring the benefits of free computer access. These indicators may help guide decision-making and be used to generate public support for public access computing.

To learn more about the iSchool, please visit www.ischool.washington.edu.