News from the Dean’s Suite

Tech Folk Network in Providence

B

oston and the surrounding area are host this
year to a small constellation of national confer-
ces for library and information science pro-

fessionals. Like the conjunction of planet
ets bringing good fortune to GSLIS students,
the SAA (Society of American Archivists) met in August and ALA Mid-
Winter and ALISE (Association for Lib-

ary and Information Science Educa-

tion) will be meeting in January. Most
recently, (in November), ASIS&T
(American Society of Information Sci-
ence and Technology) held its annual
meeting in Providence, Rhode Island.

The ASIS&T conference is a particularly bright light for GSLIS students, because it targets on a national level many of the
concerns about information manage-
ment and technology currently under
discussion at GSLIS. This year’s
theme—“Managing and Enhancing In-
formation: Culture and Conflicts”—
focused on “the role of information sci-
ence in fostering integration and coop-
eration in the global information soci-
ety.” Professor Ching-chih Chen pre-


sented her mature digital library—

Global Memory Net, an NSF funded In-

ternational Digital Library Project—in a

session titled “Building Digital Libraries through Col-

laboration Within and Between Nations.” Professor

Jeannette Bastian also contributed to integration and

coopera

tion, first by venturing to span the divide
between the world of the archivist from that of the informa-
tion scientist, and secondly, by taking on issues of

cultural separation, integration, and identity in history.

She presented her research in the session, “Digital

Memories/Mediated Memories: Influences on the

Creation of Archival and Cultural Web Sites.” Finally,

Michael Leach (GSLIS adjunct faculty member, doctoral

student, and continuing education teacher) who is presi-
dent-elect of ASIS&T, presented a workshop and a paper

on digital institutional repositories.

Since GSLIS is in the process of revising its curriculum, it is reassuring to see the ways in which our new and

revised courses parallel the taxonomies of the

ASIS&T conference. For example, ASIS&T
categorized its talks and panels into Digital Li-

braries, System Design, Information Organiza-
tion, and Knowledge Management. At the

same time, GSLIS is de-

veloping new or revised courses in each of these
categories. Also pre-
dominant at the confer-
ce were many talks about research, evalua-
tion, user behavior, and the assessment of information-seeking behav-
ior, which are covered at

Simmons under the do-

main of the role of re-

search.

Speaking of assessment,
what schools could you

assess as having really

hot doctoral programs in information science? Where

should a Simmons GSLIS student, interested in informa-
tion science, apply? Continued on Page 3

Caryn’s

ASIS&T blog

Video Games as Metaphor
November 14, 2004

Well, day one (Sunday) was a
great start down here at the ASIS&T conference
in Providence! J.C. Herz got things off to an in-


teresting start by talking about the social aspects of

information design...When I first read her bio and
saw that her expertise was in video games, I was

somewhat skeptical, but she made a phenomenal


case for what we can learn from multi-player

online games to...

http://my.simmons.edu/gsulis/caryn/blog.html#vid1

Simmons has made a terrific showing!! Between

students and faculty, I think we are up around 23

people and we are all wearing our buttons...

http://my.simmons.edu/gsulis/caryn/blog.html#vid2

Caryn Anderson is a member of ASIS&T, a stu-

dent at GSLIS, and a research assistant on the

Digital Video Library Toolkit project at Simmons.

She works as an associate with Lee Mizell Con-

sulting. Continued on Page 3

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