Editor's Notes

Welcome to the first issue of the IASSIST Quarterly vol. 28. When talking about publication of the IQ we are still in last year as vol. 28 is 2004, and the articles presented here are also from 2004, mainly from the IASSIST conference. Three articles are presented in this issue.

From the IASSIST conference in Madison, May 2004, is presented a paper from the session on "Mapping the Past with GIS". After the W3 a conference presenter has here creatively come up with C3. The paper from Stuart Macdonald at the Edinburgh University Data Library has the title of "Counting Cows and Cabbages" with the subtitle of "Web-based Extraction and Delivery of Geo-referenced Data". The Geographic Information Systems are a growing area for the IASSIST community of data professionals. The paper demonstrates the scope of the Scottish Edina's data services, and readers can here find information and expertise in setting up the GIS services.

Several areas that are added to the normal data library services were presented in the conference session on "The Diverse World of Digital Libraries". One of the papers addresses "oral history". So we have now moved from the clean-cut quantitative numeric databases of the old days. The article is "Multimedia Oral History Database" by Zoltán Lux from the Institute for the History of the 1956 Hungarian Revolution in Budapest. The oral archive has tape-recordings and transcripts of about a thousand interviews with participant in the 1956 Hungarian Revolution or their children. The archive has since 2003 been carrying out some digitization of the materials (incl. photos). Judged by the publications presented on the website www.rev.hu there are many projects founded in these materials.

The last article is also from the IASSIST 2004 conference. A session presented data from Asia and contained presentations on Vietnam, China, and Korea. Daniel C. Tsang is the author of "Reflections on a Quest for Social Science Data in Vietnam". Dan Tsang is Social Science Data Librarian and bibliographer at the University of California, Irvine. The article is from his work during 2004 as a Fulbright Research Scholar in Hanoi, Socialist Republic of Vietnam. Dan Tsang was based at the Institute of Sociology, Vietnamese Academy of Social Sciences. The article mentions the many social science data sources that are available in Vietnam, most importantly a wealth of statistical data available in yearbooks (CD-ROMs) as well as surveys. Being a country in fast development not all features are as we expect them to be from a myopic western viewpoint. Dan Tsang mentions that from researchers he heard that "data is power" – but actually as it turns out "data is money" is more suitable, as many datasets are being marketed for a highest bidder.

Pay a visit at the IASSIST website on www.IASSISTdata. org. You can find information on previous and coming conferences, and the upcoming conference is in Edinburgh in 2005 (24-27 May). Among other features of the website is the possibility to access the articles of the IASSIST Quarterly as PDF-files.

Papers for the IASSIST Quarterly are most welcome. Papers can be from IASSIST conferences, from other conferences, from local presentation, etc. Contact the editor via e-mail: kbr@sam.sdu.dk.

Karsten Boye Rasmussen,   March 2005