

## Editor's Notes

Welcome to the first issue of the IASSIST Quarterly vol. 29.

This issue contains the winner of a paper contest set up by IASSIST. Lisa Neidert from the University of Michigan wrote about the winning paper:

### Announcement: Strategic Plan Publication Award

The review committee for the IASSIST Strategic Plan Publication Award is happy to announce a winner for this year's competition.

The winner is Margaret Law of the University of Alberta for her paper "Reduce, Reuse, Recycle: Issues in the Secondary Use of Research Data," which explores issues in the long-term access to data.

She discusses the costs and benefits in the secondary use of data. Her paper is based on the Canadian case. Each country in our international community of data professionals has different legal issues related to confidentiality, privacy, and ethics of data use.

The careful description of the Canadian case allows IASSIST to develop specific and more general points of advocacy on data access.

The committee was very pleased with the submissions to this competition.

The papers focused on access, documentation, and advocacy. All of the papers were excellent and we look forward to publishing them in future issues of IQ.

Lisa Neidert,

Chair, IASSIST Strategic Plan Publication Award committee

Our lead article is the paper by Margaret Law that you might have heard about earlier. Other good papers being input to the competition have been appearing in earlier issues and will be appearing in coming issues of the IQ. And "thank you" to the Publication Award committee for their work.

A trio of researchers John Adams, Hasan Al-Madfai, and Ray Thomas from Napier University, University of Glamorgan, and The Open University all in UK are here presenting a paper on "The Production and Presentation

of Statistics of Unemployment. Comparability Issues". Even though The United Nations publishes unemployment statistics for 123 countries and most of these statistics are based on International Labour Office criteria, many countries also produce unemployment statistics based on insurance records and on the basis of registered unemployment as well as sample social surveys. "This paper aims to compare the main features of the different methods. The dimensions compared include the conceptual basis for the definition of unemployment, boundaries of employment and inactivity, entry statistics and duration of unemployment, use of denominators for production of unemployment rates, and the cultural influence of the statistics. The paper identifies conflicts between achieving international comparability and national needs". The article summarizes a full report to be published. The paper was presented at the IASSIST conference 2005 in the session "Cross-national Socio-economic Data: Boundaries of Evidence".

Chuck Humphrey is writing on "The Preservation of Research Data in a Postmodern Culture". The postmodernism is the compilation of an individual packaged identity rather than receiving that from an institution like in organized religion and political parties. This view transfers to data archives as dissemination turns to be a more direct on-demand access to global data resources using the Internet. The other side of this coin is that some users are "self-archiving" which is an approach unable to address the life cycle of research data. Compared to the institutional approach the individual approach will be short termed. How about you readers, do you find the institutional data archives to be under pressure from "self-archiving"?

The IASSIST website is constantly evolving so remember to pay a virtual visit to [iassistdata.org](http://iassistdata.org) and the IASSIST weblog (blog) - IASSIST Communiqué - at <http://iassistblog.org>.

So please visit the IASSIST website at [www.IASSISTdata.org](http://www.IASSISTdata.org). Among other things, you can find information on previous and coming conferences. The 2006 conference will take place at Ann Arbor, Michigan (23-26 May). Furthermore, on the IASSIST website you will find access to 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, discussion input, etc. Contact the editor via e-mail: [kbr@sam.sdu.dk](mailto:kbr@sam.sdu.dk).

Karsten Boye Rasmussen, December 2005