

## Editor's Notes

The IASSIST Quarterly is not a newsletter. The frequency and production time means that the content cannot stay in the category of news. Furthermore the content does not resemble a traditional newsletter. There are no letters to the editor nor replies or rejoinders from the membership. Letters and replies are most welcome. But the “welcome” does not seem to have any effect, as the content of the Quarterly is almost exclusively papers from presentations at the IASSIST conferences. Therefore a name like “IASSIST Quarterly Studies” would better cover the function. Is the name important? “What’s in a name”? “IQ” is a beautiful name and most IASSIST members know the type of content to be found in the IASSIST Quarterly. As you all probably are fully aware of the IQ is also available in an electronic form on the internet ([www.iassistdata.org](http://www.iassistdata.org)). The IQ is a media that is part of IASSIST as a virtual community. I find that the IQ is important for IASSIST also as a traditional community. With the paper version of IQ delivered to your door you receive the physical evidence of our professional affiliation. It reminds you that IASSIST does exist in reality, between conferences!

This issue 26-2 of the IASSIST Quarterly contains the following three articles:

At the Amsterdam conference in 2001 with the theme “Collaborative Working in the Social Science Cyber Space” Julia Paris from Technikon Witwatersrand in Johannesburg (South Africa) made a presentation in the session on IASSIST. To the conference Julia Paris brought original African artifacts (not software and data) and this added further color to the presentation on IASSIST and the technology collaboration in Africa. (The IQ can unfortunately only present the text). The article gives a more complex view of Africa than the “poverty-stricken, politically unstable, war-torn continent” that is often presented in the news-media. There are technical initiatives and therefore involvement and further collaboration with IASSIST is recommended.

At the session “Tuning Up Your Web Site: Increasing Its Usability” at the Storrs 2002 conference Stuart Smith from the University of Manchester gave a presentation on “Creating Accessible Style and Content for MIMAS Social Sciences Web Pages”. The presentation was based upon the paper that appears in the IQ: “Accessibility, Social Sciences and the Development of Content Management Systems”. The paper addresses how the use of the web has introduced a “digital divide” and how the data services will overcome these technical and cultural issues. The paper demonstrates how the presentation of web-pages on the internet has received a great deal of attention and shows how it is now possible for the content staff to concentrate on the content

of the web-pages.

At the same 2002 conference a session was dedicated to “Delivering the U.K. Census: Web-Based Access”. In this session Lucy Bell from the UK Data Archive presented the paper “Let us bring you to your census: recent developments in UK census data provision”. The paper describes the process of setting up a one-stop Census Registration Service (CRS). This is an online system for providing quick and simple user registration for access to the resources from the 1971, 1981, 1991 and 2001 UK decennial censuses. As the number of products associated with each census has steadily grown it has become important to make an easier access to the census materials. This became the project for “one-stop Census Registration Service”. The article presents the questionnaire sent to users and summarizes the results revealing issues of dissatisfaction with the earlier process as well as preferences for improved functionality with the new system.

Be sure to enjoy the IASSIST web-site. You can locate many of the PowerPoint presentations at [www.IASSISTdata.org](http://www.IASSISTdata.org). (click “Conferences” and then “Multimedia Presentations” under the “Features” heading). If you have made a conference presentation that is missing on the web-site you should contact the collector Lisa Neidert ([lisan@umich.edu](mailto:lisan@umich.edu)).

Papers for the IASSIST Quarterly are most welcome. Please contact the editor ([kbr@sam.sdu.dk](mailto:kbr@sam.sdu.dk)) about submissions.

Karsten Boye Rasmussen, November 2002