

Editor's Notes

Welcome to the fourth issue of the IASSIST Quarterly vol. 28.

This issue brings us an article on Wikipedia. I have to excuse the production time of the IQ. When this article was received the concept of Wikipedia was not so widespread as it rightfully is now. However the idea has proven durable. Oliver Watteler from the data archive (Zentralarchiv) in Cologne in Germany – part of GESIS – presents us for the fundamentals of Wiki: The Wikipedia is a Web-based encyclopedia. It is a free and copyleft product to be used, read, updated and improved by anyone. The “copyleft” concept is closely connected to open source and freeware, which highlights the free “as in free speech, not as in free beer”. But you can read much more on this at the <http://www.wikipedia.org>. Oliver Watteler is proposing a wikipedia for IASSIST members with coverage of typical IASSIST topics. As he writes it: “wiki could carry the IASSIST spirit one step further into the virtual world”. Remember to visit a part of the virtuality in IASSIST: the new IASSIST weblog (blog) - IASSIST Communiqué – at <http://iassistblog.org>.

Chiu-Chuang (Lu) Chou is a senior special librarian at the Data and Program Library Service (DPLS) at University of Wisconsin Madison, United States. She participated in a three-day workshop called Statistical Disclosure Control for Data Confidentiality with the software ARGUS. The ARGUS software intention is to “modify unsafe data in such a way that safe (enough) data emerge, with minimum information loss”. As Lu Chou explains The Statistical Disclosure Control is mainly concerned by obtaining a balance between the need for data and the need for confidentiality. The software was developed as part of the European Commission’s Fifth Framework Programme. This was addressing work towards a “user friendly information society” and statistical information is part of that society. Lu Chou also looks at the US Federal statistical system and how statistical disclosure control is obtained there.

At the IASSIST conference in Edinburgh 2005 there was a session on “New Insights in Providing Data Services: A Variety of Evidence”. Some of the evidence in the form of a case was the presentation on “Data archiving at the US Central Bank”. The article was presented and is written by Linda Powell, who works at the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System where vast quantities of data are “consumed”. The article demonstrates and discusses several challenges in connection with the diverse pool of data, user access from several platforms as well as the growth of data archiving. The last also includes the dynamic challenge that data consistency over time means dealing with a changing subject, as some concepts and their calculation change over time. Among the technological advances Linda Powell

explicitly mentions XML that is used in several ways, including the XBRL standard.

Please visit at the IASSIST website on www.IASSISTdata.org. You can now find information on previous and coming conferences. The 2006 conference will take place at Ann Arbor, Michigan (23-26 May). You will also find information on the Publication Award for 2006. Furthermore, on the IASSIST website you will find access to the articles of the IASSIST Quarterly as PDF-files. We hope you will enjoy all of this.

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, October 2005