

Editor's Notes

Welcome to the IQ volume 31 double issue 3&4. This marks the end of the 2007 IASSIST Quarterly. This also marks the end of printing of the IQ. With this issue the IQ will only be available on the web-site, available for reading on-line and also for downloading and printing. The effort of bringing earlier issues of the IQ as scanned version to the web-site is continuing.

This double issue is the work of the authors and their articles are introduced below. We are presenting an integrated double issue of high quality. We should also give a special thanks to the editors of the issue. Gretchen Gano is the writing guest editor of this IQ as you can see below. Gretchen Gano is the Assistant Curator Librarian for Public Administration & Government Information and Coordinator, Data Service Studio at New York University Libraries. Gretchen Gano collaborated on this issue from the start with former IASSIST president Ann Green. Together with the authors a great issue has been made.

If some of you would be interested in compiling issues for the IQ as guest editor(s) please contact me. If you don't have anything to offer right now, then please prepare yourselves for the coming IASSIST 2009 if you are acting as chair for a session there. That is an obvious opportunity to bring quality sessions to more people than the session participants and also making the memory more sticky.

Take a look at the website <http://iassistdata.org> and the IASSIST blog - the IASSIST Communiqué – at <http://iassistblog.org>.

Articles for the IASSIST Quarterly are very welcome. Articles can be papers from IASSIST conferences, from other conferences, from local presentations, discussion input, etc. Contact the editor via e-mail: kbr@sam.sdu.dk.

Karsten Boye Rasmussen - December 2008

Introduction to the IASSIST Quarterly Special Issue on Data Services and Institutional Repositories

Welcome to this special issue of the IASSIST Quarterly. This time we turn our attention to the broader environment for digital data collections. Contributors provide examples and analysis about how data makes its way between and among institutional collections in a complex data ecosystem. Data does not exist, nor does it move anywhere on its own, of course. Each author in this issue identifies challenges faced by those who participate in and support the research enterprise all along the way. The complexity of this ecosystem seems to increase as more institutions wish to share collections with one another and to migrate research data across digital repository systems. Data services and repository staff recognize the importance of designing systems to increase faculty participation and to move the data management partnership further “upstream” in the lifecycle to when the plan for designing questions and collecting data is first hatched. System designers find themselves adjusting existing technologies to optimize environments to care for research data as it is created, used, shared, and saved over the long term.