

SIG USE Innovation Award

The Innovation Award was established in 2011 and is administered by the SIG USE Awards Committee. It is sponsored by SIG USE.

*Reviewers of the **best information behavior conference paper** and **poster** awards will nominate the submissions for the Innovation Award. **No separate application process by the authors is required.***

1. Nature of the Award

1.1 The award shall consist of a Certificate for the winning author (and each co-author) and a check for \$200.

2. Purpose of the Award

2.1 The purpose of the award is to recognize innovative work that falls within the scope of information behavior. Information behavior is broadly defined to include how people construct, need, seek, manage, give, and use information in different contexts.

3. Eligibility

3.1 At least one author of the winning work must be a member of SIG USE at the time of application.

3.2 The work must fall within the scope of information behavior (how people construct, need, seek, manage, give, and use information in different contexts). The behavior of real people engaged in information activities (in contrast to imagined or presumed users) must be a central part of the work for it to be considered for the award. The Award Committee will consider work that is innovative in any regard, including (but not limited to) work that employs innovative methodologies and techniques, asks novel and ground-breaking questions, makes theoretical breakthroughs, or uses innovative presentation approaches. The authors must submit a screenshot of their accepted work in the ASIST conference submission system showing the best topic they selected for their work.

Papers, videos, demos, and other work will be eligible for the award.

3.3 The award is not a once in a lifetime award.

3.4 At least one author of the winning work must attend the SIG USE awards ceremony in order to be eligible to receive the award.

4. Administration

The Innovation Award is sponsored by SIG USE and is administered by the SIG USE Awards Committee.

5. Nominations

5.1 SIG USE members whose papers, videos, demos and other work are accepted by the ASIST conference are eligible to receive the award. Authors must include the “human information behavior” indexing category when they submit their materials using the automated system.

5.2 Reviewers of the **best information behavior conference paper** and **poster** awards will nominate submissions for the Innovation Award. No separate application process by the authors is required.

5.2.1 Submissions nominated by ASIST Conference Track Chairs will also be considered.

6. SIG USE Awards Jury Committee

6.1 The SIG USE Awards Jury is composed of 5-7 members for each award category and are appointed by the SIG USE Award Committee. It is highly desirable to have among the members of the Jury individuals who are broadly and historically knowledgeable about the information behavior field, e.g., former chairs of SIG USE and long standing members of the research and professional community.

6.2 Authors of papers submitted for this award are not eligible to serve on the jury.

6.3 In the absence of qualified papers, the Jury may refrain from granting the award in that year.

7. Selection of the Awardee

7.1 The Jury will have access to the final, accepted versions of all conference papers. There will be a double-blinded review process.

7.2 The content of each eligible paper shall be appraised in terms of the following criteria as appropriate: theoretical framework and/or conceptual relevance to information behavior; problem statement and appropriateness of the methodology; significance and implications of the findings; innovation and originality; clarity of expression; and references.

7.3 The maximum number of points that can be given to a paper is 100. The highest score for each of the evaluation criteria is:

- theoretical framework and/or conceptual relevance to information behavior – 20
- problem statement and appropriateness of the methodology – 20
- significance and implications of the findings – 20
- innovation and originality – 20
- clarity of expression – 10
- references – 10

Reviewers will provide a qualitative assessment of 50 to 250 words on the merits of the submission.

7.4 Each eligible submission will be assessed initially by at least three Jury members. The SIG USE Awards Committee assigns papers to individual Jury members for assessment, taking the expertise of individual Jury members into account.

7.5 Each Jury member assigns points to each eligible submission assigned to them for review, based on the criteria used to evaluate it (listed above), and transmits the scores and qualitative assessment for each submission to the SIG USE Awards Committee.

7.6 The SIG USE Awards Committee totals and averages the scores from all the Jury members, and the winner is the submission with the highest average score. To win, a submission must have an average score of at least 80 points. In the case of a tie, the tied submissions should be re-evaluated by all Jury members to determine a single winner.

7.7 The SIG USE Awards Committee shall communicate the jury's decision to the Chair of SIG USE, the ASIST President, and the ASIST Executive Director.

7.8 The SIG USE Awards Committee shall provide a 50-250 words abstract, stating why the award was given. The abstract will be used to publicize the award. Material for this abstract can be taken from the voting rationales provided by members of the jury.

8. Presentation of the Award

8.1 At least one author of the submitted work for the Innovation Award must attend the SIG-USE awards ceremony at the SIG USE Symposium.

8.2 The award shall be announced and presented to the winning author by the SIG USE Awards Committee during the SIG USE Research Symposium at the annual meeting of the Society.

9. Publicity

The award shall be publicized in the SIG USE listserv, website and SIG USE social media sites, and any chapter with which the winner is affiliated.

10. Deadlines

10.1 The Jury Committee shall be assembled in June 2025.

10.2 Selection shall be made and the ASIST President, the ASIST Director, and the Chair of SIG USE shall be notified at least two weeks before the start of the ASIST annual meeting.