The President's Corner: Questionnaire Update / Tina Feick

In December, I sent a questionnaire to the NASIG membership. I did so as I felt strongly that before the NASIG Executive Board took any major steps, we needed feedback from the membership. Out of the 648 questionnaires, 142 (22%) were returned. From experienced questionnaire-senders, I am told that getting over twenty per cent is considered quite good.

The first question dealt with why people joined NASIG. "Information on serials" (48 marked this as no. 1) was the top response followed by "unique serials organization" (38 noted this as no. 1) and "organization that includes all members of the serials information chain" (31 put it as no. 1). Information is certainly important and through our annual conferences and our newsletter, we will strive to disseminate serials information to our membership.

We will now also continue to work to draw members from various geographical areas and all parts of the information chain. ALA's RTSD Serials Section, the Canadian Library Association, and the United Kingdom Serials Group have all appointed liaisons to attend the NASIG conference in Atlanta.

I was very pleased with the overwhelmingly positive answers to question two: "Though a new organization, has NASIG met your expectations?". 119 members (84%) said "yes." The majority of the 23 who marked "no" noted that their inability to attend our conference had prevented them from fulfilling their expectations. The support is greatly appreciated, but there is still a long way to go.

One section of the questionnaire covered terms of office for NASIG officers and the Executive Board members. Reports from
the nominations committees of the past two years have recommended multi-year terms (staggered) and that the vice-president become the president. Continuity and providing enough time to permit the office holder to become effective are recurring themes throughout the committee reports and the comments on the questionnaires. Before asking the membership to change the by-laws which call for one year terms for all Executive Board members and officers, we needed direction from the membership.

Sixty-six per cent (94) of the respondents see two year terms for the Executive Board members and 49% (68) indicated two year terms for the officers with 12% (17) suggesting staggered terms. In answer to the question about the vice-president becoming the president, 80% (113) checked the "yes" space.

The responses to these questions strongly suggest that our by-laws should be revised. The next step is to draft by-law changes and send a proposal to the NASIG membership. I welcome your recommendations for the by-laws and welcome volunteers for members of a by-laws committee to draft the proposal. Copies of the by-laws can be obtained by calling or writing my office.

The responses to other questions also proved to be very valuable, but my space here is limited. The Continuing Education Committee will be given the comments relating to their concern and the Secretary and the newsletter editor will be going over the suggestions for the newsletter. The Executive Board will receive a complete report in the near future and the tallies for all the questions will be made available at a later date.

My thanks to all those who took the time to return the questionnaire. It is obvious that many of you are anxious to see NASIG continue. The Executive Board and I promise to ensure that NASIG becomes a strong serials organization.

MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING / Mary Beth Clack, Secretary

The meeting took place on January 12, 1988, San Antonio Public Library Auditorium, 4-7:30 p.m.

The first order of business was to sign the certificate of incorporation. Susan Davis explained that she had an attorney draw up papers to incorporate in New York State. The advantages of incorporating are protection of individual members, or the Board, from lawsuits; the legal right to own property (such as an office); and the benefits in obtaining insurance required by conference sites. The signers of the certificate of incorporation were: Leigh Chatterton, Susan Davis, Mary Beth Clack, Tina Feick,
Marcia Tuttle, Ann Vidor, and Bonnie Postlethwaite. The certificate was notarized.

Tina Feick referred to Article II of the Bylaws which state NASIG's objectives. She emphasized the cooperative nature of the organization. She said that she had received some requests for NASIG's intervention in "disputes" between libraries and publishers and several requests for the NASIG membership mailing list for what might be considered "commercial" purposes. Several Board members responded that NASIG should address issues but not take sides and Rosanna O'Neil suggested that a statement of neutrality be added to the Bylaws. After some discussion, it was agreed that The NASIG Newsletter will contain a paragraph addressing this issue and that a policy statement should be drafted which may be used to answer such questions and concerns in the future. Tina Feick will draft a statement and Keith Courtney and Rosanna O'Neil will assist in editing it.

Tina Feick also said that she had been asked by Charles Hamaker (Louisiana State University) to appoint a NASIG representative to a proposed RTSD Task Force which will, if approved by the RTSD Executive Board, study serial pricing issues and call for a moratorium on serial price increases for 1989. After discussion, the Board voted to appoint an observer to the task force.

Treasurer's Report – Susan Davis distributed a report of revenues and expenditures dated October 28, 1987. The total balance as of December 1987 was $13,720. Susan will send out monthly financial statements beginning in 1988. By March she will begin compiling committee budget forms so that expenditures will be appropriated and monitored. For non-budgeted expenses, a form or voucher will be used which will require an approved signature. She added that if membership renewals come in as expected, we will have an additional $10,000.

Local Arrangements for the Atlanta Conference – Final programs were distributed. Tina Feick asked Ann Vidor and Roger Presley to report on the following areas:

Tours: Joan Luke (Georgia State) will be in charge of the six tours listed in the printed program. Buses will be used instead of vans (city ordinance), so this will affect the numbers permitted to go on each tour.

Registration: A form letter will be sent by Ann Vidor to acknowledge receipt of the white registration forms. Letters will be sent about transportation from the airport to Oglethorpe. Buses, not vans, will be used, so there will be fewer trips than made at Denison. A list of motels will be sent to registrants, since there will be 100 single rooms and 100 double rooms (fewer singles than in the past). Registrants will also indicate on the white form whether they will accept a double room if no singles
are left. Registration is limited to 300 (in the dorms) and to 40+ day registrants each day.

Meals: The conference banquet will be held at the Marriott and all other meals will be in the Emerson Student Center. This is the first time the banquet will be held off-site.

Schedule: There is more free time, specifically Sunday from 4-7 p.m. Discussion rooms will be available for use during this time and sports facilities will also be available. The NASIG Newsletter will emphasize that registrants must arrive Saturday at the earliest. Board members and Local Arrangements Committee members will meet, however, on Friday for orientation, and the Executive Board meeting will be held Saturday morning. There will be a meeting Saturday evening for workshop leaders, speakers, panelists and panel moderators (introductions and orientation).

Conference Program Committee Schedule: Mary Beth Clack reported that the Call for Papers was drafted in July and sent to 15 journals and newsletters; it appeared in 6 of these. For the 1989 Call for Papers it will be necessary to do this even earlier to meet more publication deadlines. The Program Committee met twice during the first week of November to review paper and workshop proposals. The month of November was spent confirming and checking with speakers and the final program was sent to Judith Shelton and her sister (a graphics expert) for the final layout and production. The group agreed that an excellent job was done.

Content: Tina Feick noted that there was a good number of offerings which concentrate on publishing issues and so the emphasis is on that sector, but that there are also speakers on cataloging and acquisitions, and workshops which cover education, pricing and budgeting, binding, operations and automation.

General Sessions: Tina Feick will begin the conference and introduce the first speaker, Graham Marshall. Mary Beth Clack asked for volunteers to introduce the other speakers and panel moderators, explaining that the three panels' participants will be introduced by Brian Scanlan, Ann Okerson and Katina Strauch. These Board members volunteered: Keith Courtney to introduce Brian Scanlan, Marcia Tuttle to introduce Ann Okerson, Rosanna O'Neil to introduce Ed Jones and Susan Davis to introduce Katina Strauch. Rosanna O'Neil will serve as timekeeper and facilitator.

Workshops: Tina Feick pointed out that the program this year gives short descriptions of the workshops to help registrants make choices. Bonnie Postlethwaite will serve as workshop coordinator and will send materials (hints for effective presentations) to workshop leaders. She will also collect audio-visual equipment requests and will have all transparencies produced to ensure visibility and legibility of workshop and all other speakers and panelists' transparencies.
Reimbursement: Mary Beth Clack distributed a suggested reimbursement schedule for program participants which was approved by the Board.

Continuing Education: The Continuing Education will act as a clearinghouse, matching programs with needs/locations and assigning planning for programs that are needed or requested. But the committee cannot be active in this way until it has programs to deliver. Thus, the task force and subcommittee will begin their work while the Committee plans. Marcia Tuttle has also spoken with Hazel Woodward, UKSG's Education Officer about sharing information.

Tina Feick will share the feedback on continuing education gleaned from the NASIG questionnaire as soon as results are compiled. There is a demand for speakers for state and local organization meetings.

Marcia Tuttle is actively seeking members to join the NASIG Holland-UKSG tour, March 18-April 1, 1988. The deadline for registration is mid-January.

Library Science Student Grant Committee: Ann Vidor sent letters to deans of the U. S. library schools asking for a faculty member to serve as a contact person. 75% responded and most designated a faculty member other than themselves to help identify students who would be interested in obtaining a grant to attend NASIG's conference. (The grant includes all expenses - airfare, ground transportation and conference registration fees). The committee is designing an application form which asks about para-professional experience and includes an essay on why the student is interested in serials. The deadline for applying is March 1st; recipients will be notified by April 15 and announced in The NASIG Newsletter. After some discussion, it was agreed that the 1988 budget will be $3000 and that students will be selected without geographical bias. They will be met at the airport and encouraged to arrive on Friday. They will be required to submit a written report after the conference which will be published in The NASIG Newsletter. It was suggested that in the future, a student registration fee be listed.

Newsletter: Tina Feick stated that there have been suggestions in the questionnaire to expand The NASIG Newsletter and that the editor and Secretary, who oversees the newsletter, will consider attending one of the seminars being offered on newsletter publishing.

Librarian Exchange Committee: John Merriman reported that there have been five applicants from the United States and one from the United Kingdom thus far.

Professional Liaison Committee: Tina Feick reported for Christie Degener. She stated that guidelines will be developed to describe
what liaisons' duties are. In addition to a Canadian Library Association liaison, there will be a RTSD-Serials Section liaison. The Medical Library Association liaison has not yet been appointed. It would also be good to have liaisons from publisher associations such as the Society of Scholarly Publishers and the American Association of Publishers.

Job Placement Study Committee: Rosanna O'Neil reported for Marla Edelman. She explained that the group had met and had drafted several documents, which were distributed to Board members, including a description, application form, letters to participants and employers, follow-up questionnaires, news releases and a disclaimer. She said that the description (Enclosure A) should be changed to emphasize serials in the section "Mission." Some changes to the geographical areas would also be made. Rosanna will bring the concerns of the Executive Board back to the committee and it will do more ground work and report at the next meeting.

House Exchange Committee: The current Chair, Mary Beth Clack, reported that the questionnaire for NASIG members was printed in the latest newsletter, vol. 2, no. 4. When responses are received, they will be forwarded to David Woodworth, Chair of the UKSG and of their House Exchange Committee. The UKSG has about a dozen interested members.

Membership: Tina Feick has been working to clean up the database and said that Leigh Chatterton has accepted the task of soliciting ideas concerning which information should be included in the membership directory and drafting a policy for use of the membership list. Suggestions should be forwarded to Leigh.

Questionnaire: Twenty per cent of the membership has returned the questionnaire. There have been a good number of responses from special and law librarians. The remarks contain healthy, constructive criticism and good ideas, particularly about continuing education. Most respondents thus far are in favor of two-year terms for Board members, some favor a three-year term for the Treasurer and it has been suggested that the Vice President be President-Elect. Tina Feick will continue to compile the results and submit a report for the newsletter.

Conference Proceedings: Mary Beth Clack reported that the proceedings of the second conference will again appear as an issue of *The Serials Librarian* and will be available by the end of January 1988. The Board approved contracting with *The Serials Librarian* for the proceedings of the third conference. It was suggested that speakers be sent galleys of edited papers and Mary Beth Clack will ask Peter Gellatly, Editor, about this. Any suggestions concerning the publishing of the proceedings of the fourth conference are welcome.

Insurance: Carol Patrick reported that the insurance policy
expired on January 8, with a binder providing coverage through January 30. NASIG has coverage for $1 million in liability insurance. Insurance which might be added would cover use of a vehicle hired by NASIG (cost = $200 to $300 per year) and bonding the Treasurer (cost = $500 per year). After some discussion, Carol was asked to submit a written report of her remarks at this meeting and it was suggested that comparable organizations' coverage be explored.

1989 Conference Site: Tina Feick will send information to Board members on her committee's visits to possible conference sites and their recommendation for the 1989 site.

Year's Work in Serials: Members were sent a copy of the UKSG invitation to co-edit the Year's Work in Serials (a letter written by David Woodworth to Mary Beth Clack). Giving some background information, John Merriman stated that the first edition was published by the UKSG, the second by K. G. Saur and that for the third, the UKSG is seeking two editors from NASIG to join their editors. A £150 honorarium would be paid to each editor. It was agreed that NASIG would not be ready to participate in editing the third edition but that we would ask David Woodworth whether we might consider it for the fourth edition. Tina Feick will write to David Woodworth.

Due to time constraints, remaining items on the agenda were not addressed. Tina Feick will communicate with Board members in the next few months on those topics.

SECOND PROGRESS REPORT --
NASIG THIRD ANNUAL CONFERENCE --
LOCAL ARRANGEMENTS COMMITTEE / Roger Presley, Co-Chair

The Local Arrangements Committee for NASIG's Third Annual Conference to be held in Atlanta, Georgia in June, continues planning diligently for another excellent conference. In February the Committee had its "Conference Program Mailing Party," and sent conference programs and registration forms to all NASIG members. If for some reason you did not receive a conference program and registration form, please contact Ann Vidor, Co-Chair immediately. Her address and phone number are:

Ann Vidor
NASIG
1981 Innwood Road
Atlanta, Georgia 30329
Business phone: (404) 894-4523

As you have seen from the Conference Program, we have a varied and interesting program planned consisting of presentation of papers,
panel discussions, and workshops. Also planned are several interesting tours around Metro-Atlanta and varied social events to help us relax and get to know each other better.

At the Denison Conference last year, several members gave me their names and addresses and said they would be willing to help with the conference, i.e. working at the registration desk, etc. I will be contacting you in May to let you know where we will need help on the conference site. If there are others who would like to help with the conference logistics, please let me know. We would welcome any help. If you are interested in assisting, please contact me at the following address and phone numbers:

Roger L. Presley
NASIG
1040 Lenox Valley
Atlanta, Georgia 30324
Business phone: (404) 651-2176
Home Phone: (404) 264-0746

On February 10 four of the Committee members met with Oglethorpe University's Conference Coordinator to finalize the layout of the various dormitories so we could start making room assignments as registration forms are received. Also, we met with the University's catering service to start planning the menus for the conference meals. We hope to live up to NASIG's high food standards set by the last two conferences.

In summary, all indications point to another excellent conference. Remember that registration is limited to 300 participants with only 100 single rooms available. Consequently, you need to get your registration forms in to Ann Vidor as quickly as possible. We look forward to seeing as many of you as possible at NASIG's Third Annual Conference in June.

Editor's comment: Please note that as of March 1st, no single rooms remain available for the June conference. Only double accommodations are available.

"FREE TIME" AT NASIG'S ATLANTA CONFERENCE / Tina Feick

In last year's conference evaluation, some people requested more free time and others wanted more programming. How to solve the situation? The Local Arrangements Committee has set aside time on Sunday, June 5th from 4:15 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

For those who wish to meet and discuss a serials-related topic: automation, pricing, cataloguing, union listing -or to continue a workshop topic, the Local Arrangements Committee is willing to
arrange space (a room) for your group. If you would like to moderate a discussion group during this time slot, please write to:

Mr. Roger Presley  
NASIG Vice-President  
1040 Lenox Valley Road  
Atlanta, Georgia 30324

Please indicate your topic along with your name, position, and institution. There should be no formal presentations; we are providing space in order to promote discussion. A list of discussion groups will be placed in the registration packets. These groups are not considered part of the official program and will not be part of the printed proceedings.

Program workshops which meet earlier that afternoon are welcome to continue their discussions after taking a short break. Registrants are also free to use the recreational facilities: swimming pool, track, jogging trails -- or just relax!

Please note that we have not lost any time from the program. We have the same amount of program as we had the last two years; we have simply just rearranged.

COMMITTEE ON LIAISON RELATIONS / Christie Degener, Chair

Susan Collins has been named CLA-NASIG Liaison for 1987-88. Susan currently works as Serials/Acquisitions Librarian at the Saint John campus of the University of New Brunswick, a post she has held since 1979. In addition to those duties, Susan was elected Convener of the Canadian Library Association's Serials Interest Group for the 1987-89 term. She has been a member of CLA for many years and has recently joined NASIG. NASIG members wishing to voice concerns of mutual interest to CLA and NASIG, or ideas about beneficial two-way communication between these groups, should contact Susan at the following address:

Susan Collins, CLA-NASIG Liaison  
Ward Chipman Library  
Post Office Box 5050  
University of New Brunswick  
Saint John, N.B.  
CANADA E2L 4L5

Marlene Heroux, past chair of the ALA RTSD's Serials Section, has been named ALA-NASIG Liaison. Marlene has been working as Account Services Manager for the Birmingham, Alabama office of EBSCO Subscription Services since October 1987; prior to that, she worked for SOLINET. Marlene also serves as the current editor of
SISAC News. She has been a member of ALA for many years and has recently joined NASIG. NASIG members wishing to voice concerns of mutual interest to ALA and NASIG, or ideas about beneficial two-way communication between these groups should contact Marlene at the following address:

Marlene Heroux, ALA-NASIG Liaison
1148 Briarcliff Road #2
Atlanta, Georgia 30306

The following phone number may also be used for leaving messages for Marlene: (205) 991-1323.

PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE APPLICATIONS SOUGHT

We are seeking individuals with writing and/or editorial skill to serve on the NASIG Publications Committee. The committee charge will encompass the newsletter and the conference proceedings. Subcommittees will be formed for each aspect.

The Committee will be under the leadership of the Secretary of NASIG whose responsibilities cover the publications of our organization. The newsletter editor and the conference proceedings editors will also be part of the committee.

The Committee will oversee the development of the newsletter, advise the Executive Board as to the contracting with a publisher for proceedings, appointing editors for the proceedings, proposing other publications, etc.

This will be a working committee and we need qualified people. Credentials may take the form of writing examples or bibliographic citations. Please submit a letter of interest with your editorial and/or writing credentials to the attention of:

Mary Beth Clack
NASIG, Secretary
52 Fresh Pond Place
Cambridge, MA 02138

The selection of this committee will be done by the NASIG officers. Please note that this committee will begin work on the fourth conference proceedings (1989).
TREASURER'S REPORT / Susan Davis

Memberships have been steadily filling my mailbox. As of March 1, 1, 400+ renewals have been processed and 75 new members have joined. It is very important to renew as quickly as you can. We will be paring down our mailing list after sending out this issue of the newsletter and the conference program. Our current cash balance is $16,537.58.

The last newsletter reported a profit on last year's Denison Conference. The following is a summary of our other expenditures and income for the calendar year 1987.

**INCOME**

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**NET PROFIT OR LOSS**

$1,642.23

**IN MEMORIAM**

We were saddened to hear that NASIG member, Eliza Gary, died after a short illness on September 30, 1987. She was Head of Serials and Union List Cataloguing at the Canadian Institute for Scientific and Technical Information in Ottawa. Sheila Burvill of CISTI wrote
that Eliza's colleagues "found her to be an exceptional serials cataloguer, having as she did an insightful knowledge of the rules and serials cataloguing practices and also an innovative approach to problems." We send our condolences to Eliza Gary's family and many friends.

WORST SERIAL TITLE CHANGE OF THE YEAR NOMINATIONS DUE

Are unnecessary serial title changes driving you wild? Get revenge and nominate them for the Worst Serial Title Change of the Year Awards. These awards, sponsored by the RTSD Serials Section, will be presented at the ALA Annual Conference in New Orleans in July 1988. At that time, we will honor serials whose titles have changed since January 1987. Please send us your favorites. We need the complete citation for the change, including the old title with the number and date of its last issue, the new title with the number and date of its first issue, and the name and address of the publisher. Photocopies of relevant title pages or cataloging printouts are useful for verification. Please send nominations to: Sue Anne Harrington, Chair, Worst Serial Title Change of the Year Committee, University of Oklahoma Libraries, 401 West Brooks, Norman, OK 73019. Don't miss out on this wonderful opportunity! Submit your nominations today. Deadline is May 15, 1988.

PUBLISHER'S ANNOUNCEMENT


In part, this announcement states that existing agreements and arrangements made by the former companies will not be affected by the change and will be honoured to their full extent. New agreements will be made in the name of Kluwer Academic Publishers.

As soon as practicable, all books and journals, previously bearing the imprints of D. Reidel, Martinus Nijhoff, Dr. W. Junk and MTP Press will appear under the imprint of Kluwer Academic Publishers.
One of our faculty members recently tried to renew a subscription for a relatively new journal with IRL Press. The publisher responded that they would not renew at the personal rate unless the faculty member had "access" to a subscription at the full rate. It was further elaborated that if the "local library" did not subscribe at full rate, either the faculty member would have to pay that rate or have the subscription cancelled. In addition, there was a form the faculty member was asked to sign which included the stipulation that issues would not be donated to a library.

Naturally, the faculty member contacted the library to check on the status of the title, and to express dismay at the publisher's tactics. Because the journal was a substantial title on a subject of much research interest, our library added a new subscription, our faculty member renewed at "personal rate", and we wrote a letter to the publisher questioning their procedures.

They replied that their policy of allowing personal rates only after someone in an institution, "normally the library", first pays the regular subscription was clearly stated when the faculty member first subscribed, but they had allowed a personal rate for the first year "because the journal was new and libraries may not have had time to enter their subscriptions." They further stated "discounted "personal" subscriptions by and large play an irrelevant part in the economics of such journals" and that the specialist scientific journals "viability depends on the number of subscribers who pay the regular subscription price." Finally, they stated this particular journal is published on behalf of a scientific society whose contract dictates the pricing policy.

This was our first experience with this particular policy. Before, personal rates applied to individuals with no conditions. Clearly, that is no longer the case with this journal. And, although the individual may choose the "regular subscription price," the intent is that the library shall be the one to pay it.

We would like to pose some questions to the NASIG community regarding this type of policy. How pervasive is the practice? What other variations on the theme are in existence? Do you view this as a pressure technique by publishers to "force" library subscriptions? Is it fair to put individual subscribers in a position where they may be denied "personal" subscriptions? If individuals choose to pay the regular rate, can libraries get the "personal" rate? Shouldn't individual subscribers be allowed to use their journals as they want?
I invite comments to me personally or to the next issue of The NASIG Newsletter.

Judith Rieke, Serials Librarian
Medical Center Library
Vanderbilt University
Nashville, TN 37232
615-322-3241

UKSG NEWS

The United Kingdom Serials Group (UKSG) will hold their 1988 annual conference at Bodington Hall, University from Leeds from March 28-31. Look for reports in our June newsletter.

The new editor of the UKSG Newsletter is Albert Prior. He succeeds Stella Pilling who very capably handled the newsletter for the last three years. Mr. Prior's address is: Swets United Kingdom Ltd., 32 Blacklands Way, Abingdon Business Park, Abingdon OX14 1SX, England.

The December 1987 issue (v. 9, no. 2) of the UKSG Newsletter was the last issue in that format. It will now appear three times a year in journal format and will be called Serials: The Journal of the United Kingdom Serials Group. Vol. 1, no. 1 will appear in March 1988. This new journal will also publish the UKSG conference proceedings in its summer and winter issues.

Membership in the UKSG is open to any organization or individual and the membership fee for 1988 is £30.00. Full details are available from:

Mrs. Anne Hillier
Administrator
U. K. Serials Group
4 Ashcroft Close
Oxford OX2 9SE
ENGLAND
FROM THE EDITOR

The NASIG Newsletter is published for the members of NASIG and it depends upon its members for news. We would like to encourage submissions concerning any topic of interest to serials people. Have you attended an interesting workshop or meeting on which you would like to report? Would you like to share your library’s experiences in automating serials? Are you a vendor that has a new service to offer? Does your publishing house have a new pricing policy? What is new at your bindery? Have you done a study on serial pricing? We also welcome news of upcoming meetings and workshops of interest. We look forward to hearing from our membership!

For address changes, membership information, missed newsletter issues, conference brochures, please contact:

Tina Feick
President, NASIG
324 Main St.
Cold Spring, NY 10516

call: 1-800-458-3706 (U.S.)
1-800-458-3707 (Canada)
1-609-629-0700 (N.J.)
(please ask for Sarah Robinson who will take a message for Tina)