GUEST EDITORIAL

As the countdown toward NASIG's 10th Annual Conference winds down, it is fitting that we take a look back at the years gone by. There are so many wonderful events and people to chronicle, that I am sure some have been overlooked. Therefore, apologies in advance. NASIG could not exist without the dedication and contribution of all its members, so each one of you should take pride in your own efforts to make NASIG what it is today and what it will become over the next ten years.

NASIG has played such a crucial role in my own career, I cannot imagine life without it. Yet those early days were filled with trepidation as well as excitement:
- would ALA sniff us out before we'd even begun?
- would enough people become members?
- would enough people attend our conference?
- would enough members roll up their sleeves to pitch in and help?

Luckily for all 1,000+ members and 600 or so conference attendees today, the answers were NO, YES, YES, and YES!! Here we are, a strong, vital, stable and financially solvent organization.

This special issue highlights the many NASIG accomplishments over its first decade, celebrates many of the key players in the organization, hears "words of wisdom" from a number of the "22" (those who will be attending their 10th consecutive conference), and honors the nearly 50 Student Grant awardees. There are many dedicated and devoted NASIGers in serials land, and we'd like to dedicate this issue to all of them, but in particular to our founders, John Riddick and Becky Lenzini. We'd also like to take a moment to remember those who are no longer with us, especially Mary Ellen Clapper and Margaret McKinley.

So just how did NASIG start?

My version of the birth of NASIG goes something like this. In 1978 the United Kingdom Serials Group (UKSG) held its first conference, under the auspices of Blackwell's. John Merriman, Director of Blackwell's Periodicals Division was the real driving force behind the group. A number of years later, in 1984, a group of
sixteen librarians from America attended the UKSG conference as part of a promotion for an "International Serials Conference." (Other Americans attended, but were not part of this tour group.) The sixteen were: Minna Saxe, Marcia Tuttle, Kimberly Dobbs, John Dean, Alice Ball, Charlotte Hensley, Leigh Chatterton, Clara Mae Chittum, Susan Malchoff and Christine Smith (aka "the Getty Girls"), Susan Davis, Ken Kirkland, Marilyn Gonsiewski, Linda Visk, Hilda Horvath, and John Riddick. These librarians found themselves set adrift upon British soil without benefit of actual tickets home or certainty that their week's tour had really been arranged as promised. Marcia Tuttle became de facto tour leader (ask her about the "$100 a day") and John Merriman took the group under his wing. In spite of the travel arrangements snafu, the "Class of '84," as they are known in UKSG lore, banded together and had a wonderful experience.

Now for those unfamiliar with the UKSG, it is the model on which NASIG is based. The UKSG conferences are also held on college or university campuses with plenary and workshop sessions, but they allow exhibits and corporate sponsorship. Tours are held one afternoon during the conference, and there is usually some type of sit-down banquet. UKSG membership and conference attendance numbers are lower than NASIG's, but their dues are much higher because they support a full-time paid administrator. NASIG members asked for more programming time during the conference, so we adjusted our schedule to hold tours after the conference closing. NASIG runs on the strength of its volunteers and support from its members institutions/employers and accepts NO contributions or sponsorship from corporate entities.

It was this UKSG experience in 1984 (plus many pleasant hours exchanging ideas over sherry, bitter or maybe a "Pimm's cup") that stuck in John Riddick's head, and the concept of a North American Serials Group began to take shape. But John needed partners (co-conspirators) to bring his idea to fruition. He formed a study group to investigate the possibilities and determine the viability of such an enterprise. Initial positive reaction resulted in an informational meeting held in conjunction with ALA Midwinter 1985 in Chicago. More positive feedback and encouragement--NASIG is off and running!!

John tapped the talents of many people, including a number of his UKSG trip companions. Marilyn Gonsiewski and I were invited to serve on an Executive Council and were subsequently elected as officers of the fledgling NASIG, Ken Kirkland arranged for meeting space at DePaul and has served on the Nominations and Elections and Student Grants Committees, Leigh Chatterton helped plan the conference program for Bryn Mawr and co-edited our first proceedings and was elected to a Board position. Marcia Tuttle was elected to the first official Board, and Minna Saxe has also held Board office and committee assignments.

What about the next 10 years?

I have never claimed to be a great visionary or innovative thinker, so I don't expect to see this section reprinted in the 1990th anniversary issue! However, in the true NASIG spirit, I'll give it my best shot.

From reading the thoughts of those who have attended all the conference, it is apparent that we need to get back to the smaller, more intimate conferences. Regional mini-NASIGs or the "Best of NASIG" seem likely. I see continued dependence on the volunteer spirit so characteristic of our first decade--NASIG is a real "can do" organization. Tapping into the talents and energies of a large membership is essential. Any move toward permanent, paid office staff will be a slow and difficult row to hoe--at least until we "old timers" move on....

We have already successfully ventured into the electronic age thanks to Birdie MacLennan, Ann Okerson, Marilyn Goller, Dave Rodgers and the American Mathematical Society. Many capable NASIGers are moving us ever forward on the electronic front and we can look forward to applying our electronic know how from our pole position on the information superhighway's race to the 21st century.

NASIG's greatest strength--NETWORKING--will be sorely needed and tested in the times to come. As scholarly publication moves into a predominantly electronic form, as governmental and institutional support dwindle, as personal resources become more scarce, as library schools continue to close, as who knows what will happen happens, we will depend more and more upon the networking opportunities afforded by NASIG to understand where we have been, where we are going, and where we could be. NASIG is greater than the sum of its parts, but each part (ie, member) is essential to NASIG's continuing success. So, in the words of that sports shoe company, "JUST DO IT!!"

In closing, I would like to offer some very personal musings...NASIG has grown so much from those early
days of small, intimate conferences. As Treasurer I learned almost every member's name by heart, and while I don't know everyone in the organization now, I still know quite a few! It's been an adjustment, and there is some sense of loss as we continue to see memberships exceeding 1,000 and conference attendance at 600 or so. We risk losing the intimacy and true sense of belonging that distinguishes NASIG from many other professional organizations. One of the reasons I was so happy to become involved in NASIG was my frustration at trying to overcome the bureaucracy of the Serials Section of ALA. NASIG has given me professional recognition in a way that ALA never could. I still belong to ALA and support the Serials Section, but NASIG is where my heart and soul are. For all but one year of NASIG's existence I have been involved as an officer or conference planner. And I can honestly say that they have been the most wonderful years of my life (maybe the fact that I got married in 1986 helps too). There have been so many special people, beautiful and intriguing conference locales, stimulating programs, but mostly wonderful conversations about all things serial. Thank you, John, for offering me the opportunity to be a big fish in the NASIG pond. It's been great!

NASIG CHRONOLOGY

1984

April Sixteen American Librarians attend the UK Serials Group Meeting. Ideas of a North American version begin to dance in John Riddick's head....

June Becky Lenzini and John Riddick form a Study Group to investigate the feasibility of a North American Serials Group.

1985

July General information meeting held at DePaul University in Chicago. Interest sufficient to warrant moving forward with plans for a conference in 1986.

A Site Selection Team was appointed. Tina Feick (then with Boley) and Lenore Wilkas (University of Pennsylvania) visited several sites and selected Bryn Mawr College.

Late in the year an Ad-Hoc Executive Council was formed. John Riddick (Central Michigan) and Becky Lenzini (then with Faxon) were co-chairs. Tina Feick (Boley) was vice-chair, Susan Davis (SUNY Buffalo) was Treasurer, Marilyn Gonsiewski (Cal Poly-San Luis Obispo) was Secretary. Lenore Wilkas became the first Newsletter Editor.

Dues were set at $15. Membership solicitation began.

Oct. A Site Selection Committee was appointed for the 2nd conference. Tina Feick, John Riddick and George Lupone (Cleveland State). Site visits were done in Ohio.

1986


Leigh Chatterton (Boston College) and Mary Beth Clack (Harvard) are appointed as Conference Program chairs.

Executive Council meeting. Denison University in Granville, Ohio was selected as the site of the 2nd conference.

May Second issue of Newsletter appears. Draft Bylaws distributed. Membership reaches 324.

June 22-25 1st conference at Bryn Mawr College, Bryn Mawr, PA, is a huge success. Proceedings published as "Serial Connections: People, Information, and Communication."

Nov. 1st elections. Bylaws approved.

Officers for 1987

John Riddick (Central Michigan) President
Tina Feick (Boley) Vice-President
Marilyn Gonsiewski (Cal Poly) Secretary
Susan Davis (SUNY Buffalo) Treasurer
Mary Fugle (Springer) Member at Large
Daphne Hsuah (Ohio State) Member at Large
Carol Kelley (Texas Tech) Member at Large
Ann Okerson (Jerry Alper) Member at Large
Marcia Tuttle (Univ of NC) Member at Large
Ann Vidor (Georgia Tech) Member at Large

Lenore Wilkas continued to serve as Newsletter Editor.

Dec. Board selected Oglethorpe University in Atlanta as the site of the 1988 conference.
1987

June 14-16 2nd conference at Denison University, Granville, OH. 1st Fun Run/Walk. Proceedings published as "The Serials Information Chain: Discussion, Debate and Dialog."

Student Grant Program established. 1st recipients at 1988 conference.

Nov. 1987 Election results:

1988 Board
Tina Feick (Blackwells) President
Roger Presley (Georgia State) Vice-President
Mary Beth Clack (Harvard) Secretary
Susan Davis (SUNY Buffalo) Treasurer
Leigh Chatterton (Boston College) Member at Large
Keith Courtney (Taylor & Francis) Member at Large
Rosanna O'Neil (OCLC) Member at Large
Bonnie Postlethwaite (Faxon) Member at Large
Marcia Tuttle (Univ of NC) Member at Large
Ann Vidor (Georgia Tech) Member at Large
John Riddick (Central Michigan) Past-President

Dec. A survey was sent to all the membership to obtain feedback on the directions NASIG should take. Response rate was 22%.

1988

Jan. NASIG is incorporated as a not-for-profit organization in the state of New York.

Proceedings of the 2nd conference are published.

June 4-7 3rd conference at Oglethorpe University, Atlanta, GA, is a sell-out. First Catalogers Discussion Group is held. Proceedings published as "Serials Information from Publisher to User: Practice, Programs and Progress."

The Board requests a change in the terms of office for officers, and asks the membership to allow the current Board to serve an additional year while a Bylaws change is voted upon.

June A new NASIG logo in blue is designed to include Mexico.

Dec. Revised Bylaws mailed for vote. Bylaws were approved.

1989

Newsletter to appear bimonthly.

Spring: Elections for 1989/90 (start of staggered 2 year term.

1989/90 Board
Roger Presley (Georgia State) President
Mary Beth Clack (Harvard) Vice-President
Teresa Malinowski (Cal State Fullerton) Secretary
Ann Vidor (Georgia Tech) Treasurer
Keith Courtney (Taylor & Francis) Member at Large
Sylvia Martin (Vanderbilt) Member at Large
Rosanna O'Neil (OCLC) Member at Large
Elaine Rast (Northern Illinois) Member at Large
Brian Scanlan (Springer) Member at Large
Ann Weller (Univ of Illinois Health Sciences) Member at Large
Tina Feick (Blackwells) Past President

June 3-6 4th Conference at Scripps College, Claremont, CA. Proceedings published as "The Serials Partnership: Teamwork, Technology, and Trends."


Dec. Lenore Wilkas resigns as Newsletter Editor

1990

Membership brochure published.

June Jean Callaghan (Wheaton) appointed Newsletter Editor.

June 2-5 5th Conference at Brock University, St. Catharines, Ontario, Canada. Our first venture "over the border." Proceedings published as "The Future of Serials."

1990/91 Board
Mary Beth Clack (Harvard) President
Ann Okerson (ARL) Vice-President
Teresa Malinowski (Cal State Fullerton) Secretary
Ann Vidor (Emory) Treasurer
Cindy Hepfer (SUNY Buffalo Health Sciences) Member at Large
Sylvia Martin (Vanderbilt) Member at Large
Rosanna O'Neil (OCLC) Member at Large
Elaine Rast (Northern Illinois) Member at Large
Brian Scanlan (Pergamon) Member at Large
Minna Saxe (CUNY Graduate School) Member at Large
Roger Presley (Georgia State) Past-President

NASIG CHRONOLOGY
1991

April Bylaws revision adopted.

June 14-17 6th Conference at Trinity University, San Antonio, TX. Proceedings published as "A Changing World."

1991/92 Board
Ann Okerson (ARL) President
Teresa Malinowski (Cal State Fullerton) Vice-President
Lisa Peterson (UC Riverside) Secretary
Ann Vidor (Emory) Treasurer
Cindy Hepfer (SUNY Buffalo Health Sciences) Member at Large
Elaine Rast (Northern Illinois) Member at Large
Sylvia Martin (Vanderbilt) Member at Large
Brian Scanlan (Pergamon) Member at Large
Minna Saxe (CUNY Graduate School) Member at Large
Dan Tonkery (Readmore) Member at Large
Mary Beth Clack (Harvard) Past President

July Lisa Peterson appointed to fill remaining year of Teresa Malinowski’s term as Secretary.

John Tagler appointed to fill the term of Brian Scanlan, who resigned from the Board.

1992

Another Membership Survey -- 57% response rate !!!

Directory of Back Issue Dealers compiled by Beth Holley is published.

Mar. 17 The Birth of NASIGNET. NASIG enters the online age.

June 18 1st Preconference on NASIGNET was a huge success.

June 18-21 7th Annual Conference University of Illinois at Chicago, Chicago, IL. Joint programming day with the Society for Scholarly Publishing. Proceedings published as "If We Build It: Scholarly Communications and Networking Technologies."

1992/93 Board
Teresa Malinowski (Cal State Fullerton) President
Cindy Hepfer (SUNY Buffalo Health Sciences) Vice-President
Susan Davis (SUNY Buffalo Health Sciences) Secretary
Ann Vidor (Emory) Treasurer
Julia Gammon (University of Akron) Member at Large
Brenda Hurst (CISTI) Member at Large
Sylvia Martin (Vanderbilt) Member at Large
Elaine Rast (Northern Illinois) Member at Large
John Tagler (Elsevier) Member at Large
Dan Tonkery (Readmore) Member at Large
Ann Okerson (ARL) Past-President

Sept. NASIG obtains permanent address
Ellen Duranceau (MIT) appointed Newsletter Editor.

Late 1992/early 1993 NASIG Gopher established.


1993

June 10-13 8th Annual Conference at Brown University, Providence, RI. Proceedings published as "New Scholarship: New Serials."

June The Board adopted a policy that discourages scheduling other events during the conference period which conflict with the NASIG conference including preconference workshops and other NASIG events.

June Elaine Rast appointed 1st NASIG Archivist.

Work began on developing a Conference Planning Manual.

1993/94 Board
Cindy Hepfer (SUNY Buffalo Health Sciences) President
October Ivins (LSU) Vice-President
Susan Davis (SUNY Buffalo) Secretary
Dan Tonkery (Readmore) Treasurer
Connie Foster (Western Kentucky) Member at Large
Julia Gammon (University of Akron) Member at Large
Brenda Hurst (CISTI) Member at Large
Birdie MacLennan (University of Vermont) Member at Large
Jim Mouw (University of Chicago) Member at Large
John Tagler (Elsevier) Member at Large
Teresa Malinowski (Cal State Fullerton) Past-President

1994

Jan. NASIGNET and Beyond, electronic networking manual, published

"Guidelines for Financial Support for NASIG" adopted

June Two new awards announced for 1995: NASIG Horizon Award for new serialists, and the NASIG Founders Research Grant for research to be presented at a future conference.

June 2-5 9th Annual Conference at the University of British Columbia, Vancouver, BC, Canada. Proceedings published as "A Kaleidoscope of Choices: Reshaping Roles and Opportunities for Serialists."

1994/95 Board
October Ivins (LSU) President
Julia Gammon (University of Akron) Vice-President
Susan Davis (SUNY Buffalo) Secretary
Dan Tonkery (Readmore) Treasurer
Jean Callaghan (Wheaton College) Member at Large
Bobbie Carlson (Medical University of South Carolina) Member at Large
Connie Foster (Western Kentucky) Member at Large
Birdie MacLennan (University of Vermont) Member at Large
Jim Mouw (University of Chicago) Member at Large
John Tagler (Elsevier) Member at Large
Cindy Hepfer (SUNY Buffalo Health Sciences) Past-President

Oct. Maggie Horn (University of California, Davis) becomes Newsletter Editor.

Nov. University of New Mexico chosen as site of 1996 conference.

1995

April NASIG Horizon Award recipients
Leslie Horner Button, University of Massachusetts at Amherst
Michelle Drozdowski, Western Michigan University
Karen Morgenroth, University of Georgia

June 1-4 10th Anniversary Annual Conference at Duke University, Durham, NC. Theme is "Serials to the Tenth Power: Tradition, Technology, and Transformation."

1995/96 Board
Julia Gammon (University of Akron) President
Beverley Geer-Butler (Trinity) Vice-President
Susan Davis (SUNY Buffalo) Secretary
Dan Tonkery (Readmore) Treasurer
Jean Callaghan (Wheaton College) Member at Large
Bobbie Carlson (Medical University of South Carolina) Member at Large
Eleanor Cook (Appalachian State University) Member at Large
Birdie MacLennan (University of Vermont) Member at Large
Kat McGrath (University of British Columbia) Member at Large
John Tagler (Elsevier) Member at Large
October Ivins (LSU) Past President

SEE YOU AT THE 20TH!!
NASIG STATISTICS

Membership Numbers

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>No. of Members</th>
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<td>324</td>
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<td>418</td>
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<td>561</td>
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<td>618</td>
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<td>701</td>
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<td>Jan. 1991</td>
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<td>June 1991</td>
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<td>May 1992</td>
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<td>June 1993</td>
<td>954</td>
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<td>May 1994</td>
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<td>832</td>
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<td>May 1995</td>
<td>1,048</td>
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Finances

In 1986 the dues were $15.00. In 1990 they were increased to $20.00, with separate rates for Canadian members and those outside of North America.

Cash balances (watch the funds grow!)

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
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<tr>
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<td>$124,543.01</td>
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How we've grown

Watch the $ grow!

NASIG STATISTICS
Conference Attendance and Ratings

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Institution</th>
<th>Attendance</th>
<th>Rating</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bryn Mawr</td>
<td>251</td>
<td>4.45</td>
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<tr>
<td>Denison</td>
<td>272</td>
<td>4.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oglethorpe</td>
<td>351</td>
<td>4.29</td>
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<tr>
<td>Scripps</td>
<td>373</td>
<td>4.4</td>
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<td>Brock</td>
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<td>570</td>
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<tr>
<td>UBC</td>
<td>600</td>
<td>4.3</td>
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Barine (5.0 as highest)

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<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Winners</th>
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<tr>
<td>1988</td>
<td>Lisa Casto, Thomas Champagne, Tschera Connell Harkness, Susan Huff, Robin Lindsay, Christopher McConnell</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1989</td>
<td>Bettie George Frye, Melanie Lightbody, Adriana Rossini, Anita Schuneman, David Ward</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1990</td>
<td>Martha Hill, William T. (Ted) Rodgers, JoAnne Scott, Sarah Tusa, David O'Connor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1991</td>
<td>Joan Boocker, Donna Ertin, Steven Oberg, Katharine (Kay) Teel, Nancy Newsome</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1992</td>
<td>Naomi Kietzke, Jane Lecian, Lisa Rowlison, Darryl Dean James, Susan Sommer, Mary Salony</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1993</td>
<td>Mary Cassner, Robert M. Cleary, John Harrison, Susan Chinoransky, G. LeGrande Fletcher, Karen Zuidema</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1994</td>
<td>Elizabeth Isabella, Cheryl Middleton, Cindy Shearrer, Kay Johnson, Trina Richard, Jennifer Yeaple</td>
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Conference Finances

<table>
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<th>Amount</th>
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<td>Oglethorpe (1988)</td>
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<td>Scripps (1989)</td>
<td>$ 5,484.91</td>
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<td>Brock (1990)</td>
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<td>Univ. of British Columbia (1994)</td>
<td>$36,097.11</td>
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STUDENT GRANT RECIPIENTS

...and the Winners Are:

The Student Grant Program began in late 1987; the first group of six was selected to attend the 3rd Annual Conference at Oglethorpe University in Atlanta. Some funds were provided by the OCLC Serials Control Users Group, which, upon its demise in 1989, donated the balance of its treasury (approximately $1,000) to NASIG support the Student Grant program.

This program has been one of NASIG's most successful ventures, and we can all be proud of the contribution we are making to recruit and mentor potential serialists of the future. The NASIG brochure talks about networking as one of our greatest strengths. NASIG brings its members into contact with many knowledgeable and exciting professionals in the serials community.
Remembrances From Past Recipients:

Following are some comments from Student Grant recipients who were asked about how receiving the grant and participating in NASIG has influenced their careers.

**********

From Thomas Champagne (Class of 1988):

I certainly am working in a serials-related area. I have continued to work with serials since I attended my first NASIG in 1988 -- in fact, I have worked with serials in every position since then! After library school, I worked at the University of Chicago, as a serials cataloger. Then I went to work in a private law firm library, and cataloged EVERYTHING, including of course the serials! Currently, I am working as a serials cataloger at the University of Michigan, doing CONSER cataloging.

Sad to say, I was a firmly committed serialist before NASIG, so getting the grant didn't really affect my career that much, at least not that I know of! I had been a serials cataloging assistant for six years before getting the grant, and knew that I enjoyed working with serials and that was what I wanted to do with my career.

Thomas E. Champagne
Serials Cataloger
Harlan Hatcher Graduate Library
University of Michigan
Ann Arbor, MI 48109-1205

**********

From John Harrison (Class of 1993):

Since my Title Change was just announced in the April Newsletter, I believe that you have the latest on me and my job. (He is Acquisitions Librarian at Northern Arizona University.) Unfortunately, money is tight and I won't be able to get to this year's conference. I do wish to participate in the 1996 conference in Albuquerque, and have made my intentions known to the 96 program committee.

John Harrison
Acquisitions Librarian
Cline Library
Northern Arizona University
Flagstaff, AZ 86011-6022

**********

From W. Ted Rogers (Class of 1990):

My name is William Ted Rogers and I was the 1990 student grant recipient from Louisiana State University. I am currently the Serials Librarian at Old Dominion University. The NASIG conference played a strong role in my decision to pursue a career in serials librarianship. From discussions in workshops, presentations, and off-the-record amongst NASIG attendees, I gathered that serials librarianship would always be full of challenges, changes, frustrations, satisfactions, and that it would NEVER be boring.

W Ted Rogers
Serials Librarian
Old Dominion University Library
Norfolk, VA 23529-0256

**********

From Kay Teel (Class of 1991):

I was working in a serials cataloging unit when I received the NASIG grant in 1991. The NASIG conference helped me decide to keep serials the main focus of my career and exposed me to the rest of the serials chain (acquisitions, publishers) as well as to new technologies (NASIG was the first place I heard about e-journals). I was hired as a monographs cataloger at New York University in Sept. 1991, but because of my interest in serials, I was given primary responsibility for them, and now I am the serials cataloger. Recently, my job has expanded a little as we bring up a new, integrated system, and I handle some acquisitions and serials control duties as well. Attending my 1st NASIG conference also made me sure I wanted to attend every year and get more involved with NASIG, and I was lucky enough to get on the Student Grant Committee in 1993. I'm biased, of course, but I think the student grant is one of the best and most unique things NASIG does!

Kay Teel
Catalog Librarian/Serials Cataloger
New York University

STUDENT GRANT WINNERS
NASIG MEMORIES

A Salute to the NASIG All-Ten Conference Attendees

NASIG hereby recognizes and celebrates the participation of these 22 diverse NASIG members who, on June 1, 1995, will be attending their 10th consecutive NASIG conference. Their contribution is worthy of special recognition, and we hope that all Duke conference-goers and NASIG members will congratulate this group for its loyalty, commitment and dedication to the principles upon which NASIG was founded. They are truly a special bunch of people!!

Mary Beth Clack Harvard College
Keith Courtney Taylor & Francis
Susan Davis State University of New York at Buffalo
Christie Degener University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill-Health Sciences Library
Marla Edelman University of North Carolina-Greensboro
Tina Feick Blackwell's Periodicals
Martin Gordon Franklin & Marshall College
Alice Gormley Marquette University
Cindy Hepfer State University of New York at Buffalo-Health Sciences
Don Jaeger Alfred Jaeger, Inc.
Ken Kirkland DePaul University
Carol Magenau Dartmouth College
Teresa Malinowski California State University--Fullerton
Kathy Meneely Cleveland Health Sciences Library, Case Western Reserve
Ann Okerson Association of Research Libraries
M. Joan Ralston Villanova University
Elaine Rast Northern Illinois University
Esther Sleep Brock University
Heather Steele Blackwell's Periodicals
Gale Teaster-Woods Winthrop University
Joyce Tenney University of Maryland, Baltimore County
David Winchester Washburn University

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NASIG History ...A Personal Perspective....

Each of the 22 listed above was invited to respond to a series of questions about their involvement with NASIG. They were asked:

- What first attracted you to NASIG?
- What did you expect at/from the 1st conference?
- How has NASIG and its conferences changed over the years?
- What suggestions do you have for NASIG in the future?
- Plus all were asked about any special memories of past conferences.

We have heard from over half of these special NASIG members. It is very interesting to note the common themes in all their remarks. NASIG is truly a special and unique organization which draws strength and energy from the enthusiasm and dedication of its members. Read on for some wonderful commentaries on NASIG.

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Name: Elaine Rast
Institution: Northern Illinois University

What did you expect at/from the 1st conference?

To meet colleagues who were interested in serials as I was.

How has NASIG and its conferences changed over the years?

They have gotten much larger, but the enthusiasm is still there.

MEMORIES OF CONFERENCES PAST
What suggestions do you have for NASIG in the future?

To continue doing what is being done so well.

Memories from past conferences:

1986--The food, and the thrill of the first NASIG. Would it be the only?
1987--The heat of Granville, Ohio
1988--The coolness of Atlanta
1989--The coolness and rain of California, and the visors that were not needed
1990--The banquet at Niagara Falls and the Niagara escarpment
1991--The drenching rain and the San Antonio River flood
1992--The cold weather that froze out many attendees in the new Comiskey Park
1993--The inspiring Brown campus
1994--The scenery and the salmon

The three top things I like best about NASIG?

- The people,
- the conferences,
- and the people!

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Name: Cindy Hepfer
Title: Head, Serials and Bindery Department
Institution: State University of New York at Buffalo, Health Sciences Library

What first attracted you to NASIG?

The opportunity to meet with other serials librarians and exchange ideas was the biggest draw for me, but I was also excited by the chance to meet with publishers and vendors "on even footing." The program sounded wonderful, and I wanted to learn as much as I could about two very hot topics: automation and spiraling prices. Moreover, the price was then -- and still is -- affordable!

What did you expect at/from the 1st conference?

I expected to learn a great deal, to meet people who know about all different aspects of serials work, and enjoy a few days in Bryn Mawr. I was not disappointed! And I made a number of friends, people I have come to care very much about both professionally and personally over the years. Really, the "networking" aspect of NASIG has been as valuable to me over the years as the programs.

How has NASIG and its conferences changed over the years?

1) The conferences have become larger. This has had both advantages and disadvantages, of course. But I believe that the fact that so many serialists have benefitted from attending the NASIG conferences and have joined the organization and become involved with it has made NASIG stronger and better than ever.

2) The governance and committee structure of NASIG have become bigger and more demanding. In spite of this, we have managed to remain an all-volunteer organization and prosper. Many people put in great numbers of hours each year to keep NASIG activities on track.

3) The electronic NASIG first envisioned by Ann Okerson and Birdie MacLennan was implemented in NASIONET which has not only enhanced organizational communication, but also has provided us with a chance to mount electronic resources such as the Proceedings and the Newsletter and gain experience with gophers. I hope we can soon establish a Web page.

What suggestions do you have for NASIG in the future?

I hope that the Continuing Education Committee will take NASIG to those who can't attend our national meetings. There are librarians, publishers, vendors and others all over North America who would benefit from the kinds of programs and workshops we can offer them. I also expect to see our electronic resources and communications continue to grow and benefit the serials community. Finally, I hope that we can continue to present well-attended, affordable conferences on college campuses around North America.

Memory lane ... from each of the conferences past:

1986 Bryn Mawr College, Bryn Mawr, Pennsylvania
I recall meeting Peter Gellatly at the Bryn Mawr NASIG, the only time I ever had that opportunity. I remember the chapel, and Mary Ellen Clapper's and Roger Presley's excellent papers. We had a dance with a live band who thought librarians were terrific dancers! I'm not a dancer, so I sat with Marcia Tuttle and we sold tickets for drinks, while Keith Courtney tended bar. Susan Davis used to come back to our room in the wee hours every morning, after the parties broke up, bearing her
infamous cash box. I met or got to know a whole host of people at this meeting who have since become friends, Kit Kennedy, Teresa Malinowski, Ann Weller, Keith Courtney, John Merriman, Kathy Soupsiet, Marilyn Lewis, Esther Sleep, Minna Saxe, Don Jaeger, and Sylvia Martin. I remember the conference planners -- John Riddick, Becky Lenzini, Mary Beth Clack and Tina Feick especially -- and marveling at how they had implemented their wonderful vision of NASIG to a T! Bryn Mawr without a doubt had the very best food we've ever had at any NASIG!

1987 Denison University, Granville, Ohio

Before I get off the subject, Denison also had great food -- and the library staff was especially gracious in hosting a reception with *homemade* goodies! I remember Jane Mackox losing her luggage and having to buy a denim jumper in Granville to wear until the suitcase finally arrived. I recall Marcia Tuttle demanding a washcloth when those weren't readily available; every subsequent NASIG conference, washcloths have been on our MUST HAVE list! (How's that for clout!?) I remember taking long walks around the campus with Kathy Soupsiet and Marifran Bustin, trading stories about kids, Texas and work. I met John Tagler and October Ivins at the second NASIG. Rosanna O'Neil was the hero of the conference for handling the transportation to and from Columbus.

1988 Oglethorpe University, Atlanta, Georgia

Oglethorpe was the only conference my husband attended with me. I remember Ann Vidor at the registration table, enjoying Deanna Astle's folk music, and celebrating Stan Nason's birthday. I had lunch one day with Danny Jones, John Tagler, and Chuck Hamaker, and we talked about Elsevier's medical journals and their prices. I was a recorder for John Tagler's workshop that year. And I'll never forget Tina Feick welcoming attendees and asking us to each meet several new people every day. With people like Tina as leaders, it is no wonder that NASIG always provides a warm and wonderful experience!

1989 Scripps College, Claremont, California

Everyone who was at Scripps recalls being COLD when we expected to be anything but! The souvenir that year was sun visors; but in fact, the Book Store did a booming business in sweatshirts. I recall the mountain backdrop, Teresa Malinowski being absolutely unflappable despite conditions beyond local arrangements' control, and some wonderful programs and panels. In my estimation, the Scripps program was the strongest of the early NASIGs. I recall meeting Dan Tonkery at that NASIG and taking a long walk around the campus with Ann Okerson.

1990 Brock University, St. Catharine's, Ontario

I remember picking up Mary Beth Clack and Keith Courtney at the Buffalo airport and driving them over to Brock. Ann Okerson, Minna Saxe and I were incoming Board members, so I got to attend my first Board meeting. I roomed with Pat Rice, who was editing the Proceedings, and served as the recorder for Betty Landesman's SISAC workshop. I learned first hand how big a job it is to be a part of local arrangements during the conference; Esther Sleep and Susan Davis did an outstanding job -- what stamina! Everyone loved seeing Niagara Falls and many enjoyed a trip to the Shaw Festival. I met Fritz Schwartz, who spoke on EDI that year. Fritz is still giving frequent talks on that topic, and he's become a good friend!

1991 Trinity University, San Antonio, Texas

Gosh, so many great memories from this conference. From the time of Bryn Mawr, I lobbed for Trinity as a NASIG site, and it was great! Kathy Soupsiet, Danny Jones, Bea MacKay, and all of the Texas conference planners did a wonderful job, as did Ann Okerson with the plenary program. October and I had developed the workshops, and were pleased to see them go well. We had wonderful, HOT, sunny weather the entire time, EXCEPT for the evening when we had planned an excursion to the riverwalk -- I remember bus loads of soaked but happy NASIG attendees, after a summer thunderstorm. (That evening, Ann Okerson, October, Mary Beth, Pat Scary and I were holed up in Ann's room talking about the program for 1992, so we avoided getting drenched.) I introduced Dan Tonkery, our wrap-up speaker. Now, I don't like public speaking and I don't make any bones about not liking it. But two terrific people stepped forward to help me calm my nerves -- Isabel Czech and Birdie MacLennan. I'll be forever grateful to them for distracting me so I wouldn't get overly nervous. After Dan's talk, when everyone was preparing to depart, I remember Phil Greene wandering around the campus trying to figure out where he'd parked his car. That was a NASIG I hated to see end, and I hope we return there sometime.

1992 University of Illinois at Chicago, Illinois

Since I don't like speaking, what I recall most about this NASIG is that I survived introducing two ARL directors in a concurrent session -- Barbara Von Wahldt and Jim Neal -- AND also survived presenting a

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workshop! My co-leader in the workshop was Julie Gammon, and she was such a terrific and calming influence that somehow I got through my presentation twice; our workshop was even highly rated! The programs at this conference were some of our best, but the non-traditional schedule -- including some meals on our own -- threw some folks for a loop. This was the first time I'd ever heard Clifford Lynch speak; I was astounded at his ability to "just talk" without reading a paper. In fact, when he realized after the fact that he HAD to present us with a paper for our proceedings, he told me he really couldn't recall what all he'd said. So I sent him my notes from his talk, and he wrote his paper from them! And no one could forget that Jim Mouw and the conference planning committee surprised the attendees and the board with entertainment at the middle Eastern meal we had opening night -- our entertainment was a belly dancer!

1993 Brown University, Providence, Rhode Island

Ah Brown, perhaps our best NASIG overall. I drove up from Buffalo with Susan Davis and Kate Herzog. We had glorious weather for almost the entire stay. Program Planning Committee did some innovative things with program that year, including concurrent sessions, some fancy audiovisual presentations, and Birdie MacLeann's and Marilyn Geller's NASIGNET preconference. I marveled at how calm Pat Putney was about conference arrangements, and enjoyed Jean Callaghan's pride at having us in Providence. We had longer breaks between programs at Brown than we had anywhere else, giving that conference a slightly more leisurely pace than other recent NASIG conferences. I bought my son and me terrific Brown University t-shirts at the Brown Bookstore, but missed out on buying the wonderful wedgewood blue NASIG t-shirts we had that year. And I remember walking around and around and around the dorm quad with Teresa while she filled me in on presidential duties.

1994 University of British Columbia, Vancouver, BC

Susan Davis, my son Jon, and I visited UBC in August 1993 to meet with Kat and her committee members, to talk with the UBC Conference Director, and to look over the facilities. Kat not only turned out to be a first-rate conference organizer but an outstanding tour guide! She showed Susan, Jon, and me all the best sights in Vancouver. (Susan and I also got Jon to a Mariner's-Blue Jay's baseball game in Seattle, so we fared almost as well in his book as Kat did.) The UBC conference itself is a blur of Board meetings, plenary and concurrent sessions and workshops I didn't get to; worrying about public speaking; helping Dan, October, Julie, Bobbie, and Michele attend to speaker needs; calming Minna after she and Sue Malawski were freed from a stuck elevator! The very best moments at the conference for me were spent at the salmon bake and the Anthropology Museum. Even though the weather looked like it was going to ruin our evening, Kat, Dan Tonkery, and the UBC Conference and Museum staff pulled off a very memorable event! I recall very happily passing the gavel along to October at the closing. That evening, Susan, Minna, Elaine Rast, Sylvia Martin, Regina Reynolds, Ken Kirkland, and I went to dinner together in Queen Elizabeth park -- a wonderful meal, view, and company! The next two days, Susan, Minna, Ken Kirkland, and I toured the area. We drove up to Whistler one day for lunch and shopping, and stopped many times along the way to look at views. We ran into Mary Beth Clack who was also having lunch in Whistler and then met her for dinner back in Vancouver.

Name the top 3 things you like best about NASIG:

- First and foremost -- meeting people and making friends
- The conferences and programs
- The opportunities and doors NASIG opens

Name: Christie T. Degener
Title: Resources Management Librarian
Institution: Health Sciences Library, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

What first attracted you to NASIG?

In 1985, when the first organizational meeting was held, I was a relative newcomer to serials work and to the library profession in general. I thought an organization composed of serialists would help me learn about different aspects of serials work (not just the librarian's point of view), allow me to establish useful contacts, and provide opportunities for professional involvement. The focus on serials was very appealing.

What did you expect at/from the 1st conference?

The program sounded interesting, and I expected to learn a lot from the various presentations and workshops. Since my only other national conference experience was ALA, I was surprised but pleased by the informality of the conference. The number of conference attendees...
enabled me to start getting to know other people doing the same type of work; being able to do this fulfilled my expectations about the organization and proved very exciting.

How has NASIG and its conferences changed over the years?

Obviously NASIG's membership and annual conference attendance have increased in size. This may make it more difficult for a newcomer to quickly feel part of the organization and understand what makes NASIG tick. Another change is in the variety of topics covered in the formal and informal conference programming. I remember thinking that programs for serials catalogers were rather few until the Catalogers' Discussion Group started up. I've also noticed some lessening in the "we" (librarians) versus "they" (other serialists) attitude that characterized the earliest conferences. Initially, plenary sessions could (and did) become quite heated as we debated serials pricing practices and other issues that were at the forefront at that time. And in many cases, panel presentations provided a unique opportunity for opposing viewpoints to be aired; the synthesis of these different viewpoints was left up to the listener. More recently, plenary sessions are much larger, making interaction among members of the audience or between audience and speaker a little more difficult and more formal. And now, many panel sessions present a more objective and comprehensive approach that, to some degree or another, has been worked out among the different presenters. I suspect this shift can be attributed to a variety of factors including the larger attendance, the growth of NASIG's reputation as a forum for encouraging exchange of views among representatives of the different serials constituencies, and the increased complexity of some of the serials-related topics that have emerged since NASIG's inception.

What suggestions do you have for NASIG in the future?

Keep reviewing the conference program structure to make sure it meets the needs of the membership; e.g., I think the addition of concurrent sessions was a good change. Keep offering a diversity of programming that reflects the full range of activities that relate to serials work. Everyone comes to the conference with different needs, and these might vary from year to year--so offering programs on managing stress and organizational change are just as relevant as programs on the latest techniques for evaluating vendors or for claims management.

Memory lane ... from each of the conferences past:

I mostly remember the beauty of the different campuses, the adverse weather situations (the cold in 1989, the torrential downpour in 1991), and the times I had some extra involvement with the conference by serving as workshop introducer, leader, or recorder. But here are specific memories:

1986 Bryn Mawr College

This conference really set the standard for the later ones--the setting, food and lodging, and program were all excellent. My experience from the first conference led me to pay my own way to the next one and to encourage colleagues to join NASIG.

1988 Oglethorpe University, Atlanta, Georgia

My boss and I drove down together; when we arrived, she realized she had her suitcase but had left her garment bag hanging in the closet at home. She had gone to Emory and was therefore quite familiar with the area, so this conference started with an emergency shopping trip. This particular conference also demonstrated how NASIG (and NASIG conference planners) can bring people together; I met two NLM colleagues, Kevin McShane and Bill Wilmering, when I introduced one of their workshop sessions.

1989 Scripps College, Claremont, California

I was a workshop presenter myself this year; it was easier than expected because I was familiar with NASIG workshops and even knew some members of the audience. I hadn't thought seriously about publishing the presentation until Cindy Hepfer surprised and complimented me by suggesting that I write it up for Serials Review.

1993 Brown University, Providence, Rhode Island

The end of the conference featured the traditional drawing for an item related to next year's conference, in this case, a UBC sweatshirt. When the presenter drew my business card and then hesitated while pronouncing my last name (which confounds many), a large number of people in the auditorium yelled out "DEGENER!" This made me realize that we can still get to know each other, despite the larger conference size, and definitely made me feel like part of the NASIG family.
Name the top 3 things you like best about NASIG:

- The Membership: Everyone really seems dedicated to serials work and to improving relationships among the different serials constituencies. It is very energizing to talk with others who understand the challenges of serials. I have found I can learn something from almost every one I meet.
- The Conference: The programs have generally been excellent, and I have greatly enjoyed travelling to all different parts of North America.
- Professional Opportunity: NASIG offers a wide range of ways to contribute professionally; this is especially important for someone new to the field.

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Name: Ann Okerson
Title: Director, Office of Scientific & Academic Publishing
Institution: Association of Research Libraries (ARL)

What first attracted you to NASIG?

Hard to remember. I do remember sitting in on planning sessions as part of a group that involved John Riddick and Becky Lenzini well *before* there was a NASIG and talking about how to structure it. I was part of the *board* before there was one and served on the first Board as a member. This goes back to about 1983, which was some time ago!

What did you expect at/from the 1st conference?

Community of spirit and a pleasant time with my colleagues.

How has NASIG and its conferences changed over the years?

Size and scale are the most noticeable, along with more and more complexity in many areas of conferences and services. Also an increasing amount of sophistication in communications (electronic, for example) and planning.

What suggestions do you have for NASIG in the future?

That's a big question. I guess, in general, remember "who" NASIG is and why it was created. If the who and why are relevant, then the organization can continue to be relevant no matter what changes -- size, technology, and so on.

Memory lane... from each of the conferences past:

1986 Bryn Mawr College, Bryn Mawr, Pennsylvania

Well, I remember how shocked I was that the campus was *sooo* lovely and the town (as typified by Lancaster Pike) was so full of bars and so comparatively un-charming! Also, I had forgotten what dorm rooms were like. That was the beginning of the fight with heat and humidity that has been a characteristic of many of our dorm stays.

1987 Denison University, Granville, Ohio

Got a key to the chapel and practiced the lovely pipe organ there, so I'd not get behind with my music lessons. The other thing I remember is that it was hot/humid. I didn't think and painted my nails (polish) and then sat out under a tree with Heather Steele, talking, and couldn't understand why the nail polish didn't dry. It was the humidity, of course!

1988 Oglethorpe University, Atlanta, Georgia

Oh, Oh -- this was my naughty NASIG. I came to my room and found mold in the corners and a plethora of bugs in my suitcase the second I began unpacking! It was not appetizing, so I finally moved to a nearby hotel for the duration. But the conference was close by so I was able to enjoy it all the more!

1989 Scripps College, Claremont, California

Loved the cool, damp weather and the big old room I had. Shabby and primitive, but in its own way classy.

1990 Brock University, St. Catherine's, Ontario

No sharp memories of the conference itself, but the theatre and the falls were spectacular. I enjoyed playing tourist with some NASIG pals in the nearby villages. Nice cultural and Canadian atmosphere.

1991 Trinity University, St. Antonio, Texas

I remember practicing the organ again in the Trinity chapel! It was a terrific conference in so many ways, including the deluge and getting ready with the Program Committee for UIC the next year, which we were already doing by then. On the last day, en route home, I came down with a terrible flu that lasted two
weeks, thus paying for my pleasures.

1992 University of Illinois at Chicago, Illinois
What a contrast -- the heavily used urban campus. That took us all some adjustment, though we did manage to do well. I remember after the fact, that when Patricia Brennan (ARL) and I were inputting the evaluations into SurveyPro, several dorm residents had complained that the washcloths were too tiny. God is in the details!

1993 Brown University, Providence, Rhode Island
Picture-, weather-, and letter-perfect meeting. I took off one half a day (via early a.m. US Air flight and return right after lunch) to attend, on invitation, a breakfast in the white House Rose garden! What a kick that was -- but I definitely wanted to return for the rest of the conference (rather than staying on at home in DC) because it was just too good to miss.

1994 University of British Columbia, Vancouver, BC
My favorite place in the world (BC) so there is nothing, nothing that can spoil it for me. Thus my impressions of this conference are probably unfair (it was very special!!). I loved the grey and the setting on the point. A hard location to beat, but we do keep at least matching the previous years, if not surpassing them.

Name the top 3 things you like best about NASIG.

- Specialness of many of the people who have become colleagues & friends
- Sense of Community
- Non-commercial environment in which to meet and talk as equals

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Name: Marty Gordon
Title: Acquisitions Librarian
Institution: Franklin & Marshall College

What first attracted you to NASIG?

Actually, I was in the exhibit hall of the '86 ALA mid-winter when I first heard about NASIG from a vendor who was VERY excited about the potential the organization might have if it were to do even half as well as UKSG. So, Bryn Mawr being only a stone’s throw from Lancaster, I joined and went to what now is the first of ten-in-a-row!!

What did you expect at/from the 1st conference?

I expected to have the opportunity to chat substantively but informally with many of the "people in the know" within "Serial Land". I expected to hear some worthwhile papers. I expected to come away from NASIG ONE rejuvenated and refreshed.

AND EVERY SINGLE ONE OF THESE EXPECTATIONS WERE MET!!!

How has NASIG and its conferences changed over the years?

Of course, we are much, much larger both as measured in membership (five fold increase?) and attendance (3 fold increase?) so I never have been one to compare either NASIG itself or the Bryn Mawr, Denison or Olgethorpe days with our present situation. It just wouldn't be fair.

The above being self-evident, one CAN say, however, that NASIG has become more sophisticated and discerning in what it is about, has successfully provided a "niche" for all its constituencies while at the same time maintaining the collegiality for which it is world renown, and, perhaps most importantly, has remained "current" with the rapid changes in the management of information throughout the chain of knowledge flow.

What suggestions do you have for NASIG in the future?

"To thine own self be true, and it shall follow...[etc. etc.]" is the single one warning I would give to NASIG. We can not allow ourselves to stray from our mission as defined by the goals and objectives of the Vision Task Force although it is sometimes tempting to do so...we must continue to build upon the work of Lenzini, Riddick and others who have clearly begun what will (prediction!!) become the Numero UNO organization that will serve all its members and the profession(s) at large as the key conduit for intelligent, informed decision making. We MUST always listen to ourselves!!!

Name the top 3 things you like best about NASIG.

- The opportunity to interact with the "best of the best" in each link in the information chain...and to be judged by the work one does rather than one's organizational affiliation.
- The great substance of the conferences ...especially the plenaries and concurrents.
Name: Esther L. Sleep
Title: Head, Serials Dept.
Institution: Brock University Library, St. Catharines, Ontario, Canada

What first attracted you to NASIG?

This seemed to be an organization dedicated to all aspects pertaining to Serials - the first to do so in North America. And to date it has lived up to its billing.

What did you expect all from the 1st conference?

I was curious and looking for an avenue to answer serials problems. I was hoping for a forum for an exchange of ideas, i.e. in-depth, not superficial. The conference certainly did not disappoint me.

How has NASIG and its conferences changed over the years?

One of the basic changes has been in numbers. It started small and intimate and has grown immensely. NASIG has successfully tracked the evolution of information transfer / communication / network and gives more than a glimpse into the future. It has been realistic about the changing role of the librarian, be it serials, cataloging or reference librarian.

What suggestions do you have for NASIG in the future?

NASIG should continue to do what it is good at, i.e. provide a forum for discussion and exchange of ideas. It should try to keep discussion groups small - the increase in size is a problem; in fact, size could be the death of the organization. The volunteer engine has given the organization its energy, and this should never be lost. I would suggest having the tours in the middle of the conference as we did, because it gives a welcome break to the tough problems being considered.

Memory lane... from each of the conferences past:

1986 Bryn Mawr College, Bryn Mawr, Pennsylvania

The excitement of this forum was captivating, and the response outstripped the expectations.

1987 Denison University, Granville, Ohio

The tours were always a highlight, and I particularly was struck by the Indian Mound Tour.

1989 Scripps College, Claremont, California

This was my first introduction to California, and I was quite surprised at the weather - cool and wet.

1990 Brock University, St. Catherine's, Ontario

For this conference I was Chair of the Local Committee. This was the first conference to be held in Canada, and so it was really a bit of an experiment. The following vignettes indicate the interesting problems encountered by the Local Committee:

At this conference a delegate was stranded at a U.S. airport and would be arriving at Buffalo after the last shuttle to Brock. We managed to use our "librarian's" ingenuity to track down the exact flight and time of arrival, to arrange for an airport limousine to pick her up, to page her successfully at her transfer point, and to have the residence doors open for her arrival.

As is usual in these situations there is always a scramble for "damage control" over something. On check-in day we discovered that Conference Services, without reference to the Committee or to any registration requests, had reassigned the rooms which had been very carefully assigned to registrants according to their specifications such as choice of roommates, physical requirements. This meant we had to negotiate reassignment of rooms and hope that we were able to meet everyone's wishes.

At the end of the Conference the Committee heaved a sigh of relief when the assigned land carrier who seemed to specialize in chaos did not lose or have anyone kidnapped on their way from or to the airports. I believe this was the last time the Conference actually laid on ground transportation. After the Conference "serials" ingenuity again came to the fore when a lost note book with no name or address to identify the owner was reunited with the owner. Sleuthing through the notebook revealed details of pay cheques, bank accounts and phone numbers which identified the region and on this information the list of registrants was combed to identify the person. Fortunately I am a mysteries fan.

A spin-off from this conference is a little-known fact. The following spring I was nominated and was selected for the International Convention Ambassador's Award which the St. Catharines Chamber of Commerce gives out to a select few at a Champagne Breakfast each year. This award completely surprised and delighted me.
1991 Trinity University, St. Antonio, Texas
This Conference was a pleasant relief from the hectic pace of the year before. It was great to be able to rejoin the informal exchange of ideas. Again I enjoyed the sights of the city. That was the year I joined the "river rats." A group of us went for a cruise on the river when the heavens opened and the water descended in torrents to much laughter and drenching.

1992 University of Illinois at Chicago, Illinois
I remember very clearly the opening dinner entertainment which was a belly dancer. Though I have travelled and do travel a great deal, somehow I had always missed that entertainment.

1993 Brown University, Providence, Rhode Island
Again I enjoyed the walking tour of the city and the beautiful campus.

1994 University of British Columbia, Vancouver, BC
This was a return to a Canadian site with its unique characteristics.

The last three years I have been very much just the attendee. The topics remained pertinent, and the future a little scary when it comes to where the profession is going. However life is an adventure, and though we have no crystal ball, the future is exciting. Conference content keeps me current, and I often return to work to follow up on ideas I have received. However, I expect long after I retire the memories that will remain will be the informal contacts and experiences. I am constantly amazed at how well the Conferences are run. Though the committees are aware of problems, the arrangements seem to be seamless.

Name the top 3 things you like best about NASIG.

• Focused topics
• Opportunity for informal discussion divorced from a "trade show" atmosphere
• Tours which introduce us to the area

Name: Teresa Malinowski
Institution: California State University--Fullerton

What first attracted you to NASIG?

I heard about NASIG from two colleagues, Marilyn Gonsiewski Lewis and Kay Thorne. In early 1986, Marilyn was the Serials Librarian at California Polytechnical State University and a member of the NASIG Executive Board. She raved about this "new and different" organization for serialists and urged me to join. She spoke about the success of the UKSG conferences and assured me that there would be lots of opportunities to get involved in this grassroots organization! Later that year Kay Thorne, Serials Cataloger at San Jose State University, called me about attending the first conference at Bryn Mawr College. She asked, "Aren't you going?" Clearly the news about NASIG was spreading on the West Coast.

I was attracted to NASIG for a number of reasons. I liked the NASIG concept and NASIG style. NASIG is an organization that reaches out to everyone interested in serials, librarians, publishers and vendors. It strives to create a unique and special community, which fosters communication among its members. From the beginning it focused on becoming a forum for the discussion of issues and encouraged all members to participate. To foster full and equal participation by publishers and vendors, exhibits were not part of the conference. Finally, NASIG extended a warm and very personal welcome.

The First Conference:
I expected something wonderful and the conference exceeded my expectations! The Bryn Mawr campus was a beautiful site, although some of the dorms were rather spartan. Having attendees stay on the campus created a retreat atmosphere which encouraged interaction at many levels among the attendees. I met many colleagues at the first conference and initiated a number of lasting relationships. The Bryn Mawr experience became the "NASIG experience." Also, in general, the mid-eighties was an exciting time in the serials world. For example, the pricing of British journals was a topic of much debate. It was addressed at Bryn Mawr by four speakers in a plenary session entitled "The Bryn Mawr Teaparty: 1776 Revisited."

As the Years Go By:
NASIG was once the "new kid on the block," an organization that had to work hard to gain recognition and prestige. Today the organization has a unique and valued position in the information community. In 1991, Ann Okerson, in her president's column, commented that our conference was the "hottest small library conference
in North America." That continues to be the case because of the quality of our programming, the reasonable cost and the quality of the conference experience.

**Plans for the Future:**

Work to maintain the "NASIG experience" -- the professional experience with a personal touch. Continue to encourage and mentor new members by providing opportunities for involvement.

**Strolling down Memory Lane:**

1986 Bryn Mawr College
Having lunch outdoors in a courtyard surrounded by stone buildings which recall those at Oxford. It seemed so appropriate, given the fact that NASIG was modeled after UKSG.

Sharing a room with a new colleague and friend, May Youmans from Western Carolina University.

1987 Denison University
Talking with colleagues on the bus ride to the campus and to OCLC for a tour.

Dancing with John Riddick and then talking with him about having a NASIG conference on the West Coast. At the time I had no idea that I might be asked to be a member of the local arrangements committee for the fourth conference.

1988 Oglethorpe University
Hearing Deana Astle play the dulcimer on the lawn outside the dorms after a day filled with discussions on copyright issues.

Feasting on the "make your own" ice cream sundaes during one of our afternoon breaks.

1989 Scripps College
Being part of a "dream team" responsible for "local arrangements" (now called Conference Planning). Working with Tina Feick, who was president and the other committee members (Mark Braden, Maria Capp, Lisa Peterson). It was an incredibly challenging and rewarding experience.

Working with the conference director to find a different site for the banquet because it was too cold for an outdoor banquet AND rain was expected that evening. It was a near death experience!

1990 Brock University
The conference banquet and the walk beside Niagara Falls.

The lively discussion that followed Sheila Intner's paper which challenged serials catalogers and called for a new paradigm for accessing serials.

1991 Trinity University
Learning to do the Texas two-step and the great Texas welcome provided by Kathy Soupsiet and Danny Jones, co-chairs of the Conference Planning Committee.

Buying my first NASIG t-shirts! (Why did we wait so long to do this?)

1992 University of Illinois at Chicago
Past President Mary Beth Clack's thoughtful and gracious speech at the conference opening.

At the conference reception watching the lights come on in downtown Chicago from high atop the Aroco building. It was a wonderful event at the conference we shared with colleagues from SSP.

1993 Brown University
As President, walking the campus the day before the conference with Pat Putney and Jean Callaghan, the co-chairs of the Conference Planning Committee, and thinking that it was all coming together thanks to the efforts of so many and how we WOULD meet the great expectations everyone has for NASIG conferences.

Having Cindy Hepfer and October Ivins as co-chairs of the Program Planning Committee. The committee developed a great program filled with innovative plenary sessions and a wonderful selection of concurrent sessions and workshops. They only consulted me occasionally and then just to let me know who things were progressing.

1994 University of British Columbia
Attending the NASIGNET preconference done by Birdie MacLennan, Marilyn Geller and the breakout sessions done by Maggie Rioux, Ann Okerson and Dave Rodgers.

Feasting at the salmon barbecue and touring the Anthropology Museum.

Attending the workshop on ethics given by Mary Devlin where she was so effective in presenting various situations and facilitating the discussions. This is my favorite type of NASIG workshop!!

**The three things I like about NASIG:**

- The sense of community and the opportunity NASIG provides for meeting new colleagues
and maintaining friendships

- The consistent and outstanding quality of the conference program
- The opportunities for professional involvement

***************

Name: Kathleen Meneely
Title: Collection Development Librarian - Serials
Institution: Cleveland Health Sciences Library
Case Western Reserve University

What first attracted you to NASIG?

In 1986, a colleague from Cleveland State University told me that a new group (NASIG) had been formed that addressed issues relating to serials. Since I had recently become Head of the Serials Dept. in my own library, this piqued my interest. I secured a copy of the Bryn Mawr Conference information and decided to sign up...the rest is history.

What did you expect at/from the 1st conference?

I hoped to pick up some applicable information and have the opportunity to see how other people were handling the same types of serials problems I was encountering--and I did. In Ohio, we are fortunate to have a great deal of networking activity, and I have always been involved in local/state/regional serials discussion groups and NASIG has broadened that scope even more.

How has NASIG and its conferences changed over the years?

The most obvious change is the number of attendees at the conferences. As time progresses, it seems that there are more and more faces that I do not recognize. However, I do not view this in a negative way at all. Every year I see a resurrection of the same enthusiasm that I felt, and have continued to feel, when I attended my first NASIG conference at Bryn Mawr. Secondly, although NASIG may have experienced some growing pains over the years, the commitment to the organizational mission has held firm and therefore the high standard set forth in the beginning have not changed.

What suggestions do you have for NASIG in the future?

I do not have any specific suggestions for the future, NASIG should just continue to keep in touch with the concerns and needs of the membership and be a forum for monitoring what is happening in the serials arena.

Memory Lane...

1986 Bryn Mawr
Great food...am not sure if any of the subsequent conferences matched the food at Bryn Mawr! The vision and enthusiasm of John Riddick, Tina Feick and Becky Lenzini.

1987 Denison University
This conference stands out from all of the others because I was part of the Local Arrangements (aka "Blue dots"). This was the conference where the "dancing" began--I recall that some rather entrepreneurial individuals "relocated" the party to accommodate some college regulations regarding libations!

1988 Oglethorpe University
The dancing flourished at this conference--the first square dance was in the gym at Oglethorpe and the real "diehards" danced to DJ "toons" one night. Took lots of pictures!

1989 Scripps College
Scripps had a beautiful campus, but I thought California was supposed to be warm!

1991 Trinity University
Getting "soaked" and having my wallet (driver's license, credit cards, and money) stolen on the Riverwalk boat ride! The "silver lining" was that someone in Texas mailed the wallet--minus the money--back to me that same week!

1992 University of Illinois at Chicago
Chicago was cold and windy.

1993 Brown University
Missed the boat!

1994 University of British Columbia
Experiencing the Anthropological Museum.

Top 3 things I like about NASIG...

- Networking with people that work in serials
- Conference workshops
- Educational opportunities
Name: Joan Ralston  
Title: Cataloger-Database Maintenance  
Institution: Villanova University

What first attracted you to NASIG?
First meeting was close to Villanova. Opportunity to learn more about serials. NASIG was small in size.

What did you expect at/from the first conference?
To learn more about serials.

How has NASIG and its conferences changed over the years?
Grown in size, has added people issues to the agenda and less publisher vs. library issues, which is a plus.

What suggestions do you have for NASIG in the future?
To continue to deal with personal issues and personnel issues.

Memory Lane...

1986 Bryn Mawr  
Small groups, great tours!

1987 Denison  
Bugs in bathrooms, no screens on windows. Library Director in pith helmet.

1988 Oglethorpe  
Rustic dining room, but nice!

1989 Scripps  
Outside eating in cold, wet weather in sunny California.

1990 Brock  
Trying to get in the men's dorm--key didn't work. Thank God!

1991 Trinity  
Not being able to get in our rooms with the key.

1992 UIC  
Strolling the Loop and tight security

1993 Brown  
Problem bathrooms, old library system.

1994 University of British Columbia
Fantastic view from our room

Top 3 things you like best about NASIG:

Name: David Winchester  
Title: Serials Librarian  
Institution: Washburn University

What first attracted you to NASIG?
The concept of an organization specifically oriented to my job attracted me to that initial organizational meeting in Chicago in 1985. The interest and the enthusiasm from that meeting seemed to be very positive, and as they say -- the rest is history. NASIG membership was to me an obvious choice.

What did you expect at/from the 1st conference?
I recall that I attended Bryn Mawr with few, if any, preconceived notions. I really didn't know what to expect, so that whatever did or did not happen would not disappoint me. I simply hoped for a positive experience.

How has NASIG and its conferences changed over the years?
My immediate response is the obvious: SIZE. I don't believe that "bigger is better," but neither can I say necessarily that "bigger is badder."

What suggestions do you have for NASIG in the future?
How can I suggest improvement to something which is "pretty darn good?" If NASIG can continue to stay on the path as laid forward in 1985, we will continue to be a dynamic organization.

Memory lane...

1986 Bryn Mawr College  
1st conference is always very special; food was great!! Campus atmosphere was exceptional. Beginning of that NASIG dancing tradition. 1 1/2 hour wait for an airport shuttle; There was this small used book store near
1987 Denison University
Welcome to open the conference was entertaining and unusual. 1st fun run/walk. Prime example of NASIG administrative adaptability when some of us moved the music/DJ to where the dancers were (in other words where the drinks were served).

1988 Oglethorpe University
Folk dancing of some 300 NASIGers, elegant banquet at a Marriott, Stone Mountain--what a huge rock! New friends made :-) Old friend moves on :-(

1989 Scripps College
Sunny California? A rose garden where you were actually encouraged to pick a rose. Square danced for the first time. Has Maria recovered yet from her position as transportation coordinator?

1990 Brock University
Niagara Falls -- Wow! Transportation hassles of which I had none. Another rousing bit of square dancing. Anyone for a Virginia reel -- in Canada? it worked! Alphie's Trough.

1991 Trinity University
HOT! Anyone for a little 2-step? River Walk and the "River Soak" -- still parts of me that haven't dried out. The "NASIG Players" made their first AND only performance to a captive (or any) audience--so much for my performing career....sigh.

1992 University of Illinois at Chicago
COLD! About as cold as it was hot in San Antonio. How cold was it? -- Ask those who went to the baseball game, and have YET to feel their toes.

1993 Brown University
Ivy League atmosphere; OLD!! Bay cruise--Kathy how did you enjoy the cruise?

1994 University of British Columbia
Scenic Location, Salmon BarBQ, now that's a lot of fish! Can one order Kansas beef in a Thai restaurant?

1995 Duke University
A tradition returns! Welcome back John Merriman!

The top 3 things you like best about NASIG?

0 the People
0 the People
0 the People

++++++++++++++++++++++

Name: Tina Feick
Title: Sales Manager
Institution: Blackwell's Periodicals Division

What first attracted you to NASIG

John Riddick contacted me over ten years ago to participate in the original study group. His enthusiasm was the primary motivating force. As a former serials librarian, I had felt isolated within my working environment, and I saw that NASIG could be the serials network that I and others needed. The ongoing attraction has been the people involved in NASIG, the fantastic programs, the great conferences and the opportunity to network with people with similar concerns and issues.

What did you expect at/from the 1st conference?

As I was in charge of the local arrangements, my answer may have a different perspective.

Working with John Riddick and Mary Beth Clack, I found an energy that I had never felt before. We had a mission and we worked very hard to achieve that mission.

I planned for 150 people and we got over 250!!!! I never thought that we would have the kind of positive response that we got. AMAZING was the ongoing reaction.

We were an unknown, we had no budget and no insurance!! We tried to create an informal atmosphere where all members of the information chain could network and we apparently succeeded.

How has NASIG and its conferences changed over the years?

The programs have dramatically expanded to move outside our serials environment to speakers and topics from outside our industry. Very healthy step.

The size of the conference has increased. The numbers question will continue to haunt us. I miss the smaller conferences where I felt that I knew everyone. Yet I
would never exclude any member from their conference!!

Every year we have gotten slicker in our organizing of the conference. We learn each year.

NASIG has become a strong organization. Financially it is very sound. The membership is healthy and dynamic. I am very proud to have been part of this organization.

What suggestions do you have for NASIG in the future?

Keep the informal tone of the conference. Keep providing challenging programs. Keep the network alive.

We need to move into regional conferences and/or continuing education programs - perhaps using the programs presented at the annual conferences. Many of our members are unable to attend the conference.

Memory Lane

1986 - Bryn Mawr College
lunches in the Cloisters - I go back to the campus and look at the Cloisters area.
seeing everyone talking to everyone else
the fantastic weather - no rain!!!
doing the bunny hop at our dance!!

1987 - Denison University
lovely campus and charming New England style town
The Director singing an aria to call us to dinner
warm weather

1988 - Oglethorpe University
small auditorium yet very conducive for discussion -- best audience participation that we have ever had
the beginning of the discussion groups - cataloguing!!!
the beginning of structured committee meetings

1989 - Scripps College
cold weather - moving events inside!!!
peer review panel - faculty/editor participants
(our first outside the industry)
wine tasting

1990 Brock University
suite rooms
first time - felt large size of conference
Canada

1991 Trinity University
Very hot
Fantastic dorm rooms
Two-stepping one night
River rides where many got drenched!!!
electronic journal becoming a major topic

1992 Univ of Illinois at Chicago
urban campus
great programs
one evening at the top of the bank building

1993 Brown University
charming campus
boat ride for banquet
much of electronic developments - faculty participation

1994 University of British Columbia
Great conference setup
Programs dealing with change
Tours of the city; salmon dinner - anthropological museum

Name the top 3 things you like best about NASIG:

* THE PEOPLE
* THE OPPORTUNITY to NETWORK
* THE GREAT ORGANIZATION

***************

NAME: Susan Davis
Title: Head, Periodicals
Institution: State University of New York at Buffalo

What first attracted you to NASIG?

I was anxious to become involved in professional organizations having attend an ALA or two and a UKSG. I had been a part of the infamous "Class of 1984" at UKSG with John Riddick and others, and I was working with John in the OCLC Serials Control Users Group. John approached me to be a part of the NASIG Executive Council to help formally organize the group and plan the first conference. He offered me the position of Treasurer, and I accepted without hesitation. It was the best decision of my professional life!
What did you expect at/from the 1st conference?

None of us knew quite what to expect. We needed 125 to break even, we had 251! The campus was wonderful and everyone seemed to have a good time, plus it was "soooo" stimulating to attend a conference that focused on serials. I want to lay claim to starting the informal atmosphere of NASIG. Marilyn Gonsiewski Lewis and I were working the registration desk, and someone asked us about the evening meal, what were we going to wear? Well, it was a cookout type meal to be held outdoors, and it was a warm day, so we looked at each other and the shorts and t-shirts we were wearing, and said "we're wearing this!" I take great pride in starting this wonderful NASIG tradition. But back to the question, I just looked forward to an intensive dose of serials!

How has NASIG and its conferences changed over the years?

Obviously, the conferences have grown bigger, but they have also become more sophisticated in programming. We now invite speakers of national and international repute. In the "old days" you could meet, albeit only briefly maybe, every single attendee. Now you are lucky if you even recognize all the names. But John had a great vision for NASIG; he thought we could grow bigger and better. And we certainly have a wealth of talent amongst our membership! But NASIG has not lost its sense of camaraderie, focus of purpose, pursuit of honest, frank and non-confrontational dialogue, networking and most of all FUN! NASIG is a living, breathing, growing organization (one of those sentient beings they talk about on Star Trek). It is truly a wonderful and special place to be.

What suggestions do you have for NASIG in the future?

"Keep on truckin'" as they said in the 70's. NASIG must always look forward, but not forget its roots. It is an organization of the people, by the people and for the people. Listen to the membership, trust its instincts, and go for it!

Memory Lane...

1986 Bryn Mawr College

I echo all the others in awarding Bryn Mawr top marks for food. I first saw bridal attendants in black here. Our double rooms were like a suite--separate sleeping rooms. But others were not so fortunate--one dorm had no hot water. Had my first Dove bar in town. Great dancing with the live band. Writing the check at the end of the conference (about $33,000) to the college. Having to stay up late to close the bar so I could carry the $$ proceeds back to my room for safe-keeping (the start of the "Cashbox era") Going to Longwood Gardens after the conference with Marilyn and her friend Karen. What a wonderful place!

1987 Denison University

It was hot outside but cold in the science building where we had the plenaries. Met lots of nice people on the Local Arrangements Committee, they worked really hard. I've always considered myself an honorary member of each of these committees, because I was Treasurer (for four years) I had to assist with registration and collecting the cash bar proceeds, so I always hung out with them. It has been invaluable experience and a great deal of fun! Washcloths were 10 cents! I remember some folks bought a dozen to take home! I was never bothered by bugs or a hot room! Closing the bar at 2 a.m. meant I got back to my room when it had a chance to cool and even the bugs were asleep! Now we look for air-conditioning!

1988 Oglethorpe University

Our first sell-out! The harpist at the banquet. The best DJ we ever had! Dancing and dancing--Kathy took my picture at my sweatiest! Being so exhausted afterwards that I never noticed the airline didn't tag my bag (no wonder Eastern went belly-up!). I did get it back. Really got to know Mary Beth Clack. First NASIG souvenirs--mugs (white with blue design)

1989 Scripps College

It was sunny there, only it was the day before everyone arrived! I still have my visor! and two sweatshirts! Do you remember envying the Mexican dancers? At least they were doing something to keep warm! Many new-found coffee drinkers (or is that coffee cup holders?!) The "wine lady" was late, and there was a great panic; then I got to show her up a little by bragging about the good New York State wines! Teresa and the other local arrangements folks were unflappable--just that good old laid-back California feeling. Accidentally went home with the check for the bus service. Thank you Maria for covering that! And Dr. Ribbe with his oar! What a great prop!

1990 Brock University

I moved on from being Treasurer to being a part of Local Arrangements. I had the privilege of being the registrar, and trying to assign everyone to a room. We
sold out of singles quite early, and there were a number of unhappy people who had to double up. I also tried to arrange people on the lower floors who couldn't deal with stairs, but the Brock housing office overruled me. We did try hard to get everyone settled in as best we could. After everyone was successfully registered, I remembered "blowing off all the steam" on the dance floor at Alphie's Trough. Thank you Charles for keeping up with me! And I want everyone to know that we specifically asked for there to be a rainbow when we arrived at the Falls! It was the pièce de résistance. And I had my first bus shepherding experience to the Shaw Festival, which also was put to the test at the Falls. I know who all the stragglers are (Jean, Pat, Marian and the Kluwer gang)! Sad to say, Brock was our last formal banquet, as the numbers simply got too big to cost-effectively and logistically hold a banquet. Thanks to the generosity of the Brock Library and the province of Ontario, this was our first major money maker.

1991 Trinity University
What a beautiful place! It was worth the heat and humidity. I was inside watching the heavens pour onto so many other NASIGers. It was a very memorable sight! Poor Mary Beth got flooded out of her room! My first conference with no responsibilities, so I was tapped to help line up introducers for the workshops. Another one of my "life-time" appointments in NASIG, I'm still doing them today.

1992 University of Illinois at Chicago
I was coming back on the Board as Secretary, and had to step in early for Lisa Peterson, who was expecting her first child in a week or two. Sorry UIC, but what a contrast to the beauty of Trinity. Nevertheless, we had an excellent program, and thanks to a fare war by the airlines, a great turnout. I loved the baseball game, even in the cold, and couldn't you have predicted it would go into extra innings! The reception was fabulous, the view is to die for! The start of a new NASIG tradition...

1993 Brown University
Yes, those stragglers of conferences past, Jean and Pat, really pulled together for an almost perfect conference. The weather, the campus, the program, the lobster, the boat cruise, Josiah's, it was all just wonderful. But what happened to all those dancers of the past? I selected some of the best dance music in our collection, and only a few could keep up with the pace! Thanks Kate, Gene, Bob and Marty for trying!! What great deals in the Bookstore.

1994 University of British Columbia
I don't know which I like better, Vancouver or Paris. But I do give Vancouver top marks for scenic views. Such a fabulous city! And the gardens on campus—breathtaking! The salmon was superb, the Museum memorable. It was absolutely essential to take some time to visit the area. Whistler, Victoria, Butchart Gardens, Gastown, are only a few of the possibilities. When are we going back, Kat?

The top 3 things about NASIG: (I decided to list 5)

- People
- Opportunity for personal and professional growth and development
- Different conference venues that allow attendees to explore the entire North American continent
- Affordable price for membership and conference
- Networking in an informal and egalitarian atmosphere

NASIG has made the difference in my professional life. I hope NASIG has gained as much from my participation as I have from it.

A big THANK YOU to all the members of the 10th Anniversary Task Force for their assistance with this issue and the other celebratory events at the conference. The members are: Esther Sleep, Chair, Karen Darling, Susan Davis, Christie Degener, Carol Magemu, Kat McGrath, Elaine Rast, and Karen Zuidema. Special thanks to Maggie Horn for acting as Production Editor, even providing graphics, and not tearing out her hair because we were late!
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NO LATE SUBMISSIONS WILL BE ACCEPTED

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