

NASIG NEWSLETTER

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PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Steve Oberg

SPOTLIGHT ON THE NASIG NEWSLETTER:

*A Conversation with Steve Savage, Newsletter
Editor-in-Chief*

At this point in the NASIG year, it seems like we are in hyperdrive mode, accelerating *very* rapidly toward the Big Dance. If you are a sports fan, you know that "the Big Dance" is a term often used to describe the U.S.

men's and women's collegiate basketball tournaments. But in this case, I'm referring to our 14th annual conference in June at Carnegie Mellon University. As this big event draws near, I have to admit to mixed emotions: disbelief that time is passing so quickly; a bit of anxiety over getting all the things done that need to be completed before we gather in Pittsburgh; relief that arrangements for speakers and events are being handled so capably; and most of all, eagerness to experience and enjoy what this year's Conference Planning and Program Planning Committees have planned for us.

With that background, I thought it was the right time to do something different with this column. I would like to use this space to turn the spotlight onto one of the most basic yet important products of our organization: the *Newsletter*. Surprised by this choice? Well, you shouldn't be. A lot of positive things are happening, both behind the scenes and in the public view, with the *Newsletter*. The *Newsletter* Editorial Board is made up of terrific people: Carol MacAdam (Columns Editor), Maggie Horn (Copy Editor), John Harrison (Distribution Editor), Char Simser (Electronic Production Editor), Cecilia Sercan (Print Production Editor), Naomi Kietzke Young (Profiles Editor), and is very capably directed by Steve Savage as Editor-in-Chief. Steve officially took over as Editor-in-Chief after the Boulder conference. Recently I asked if he wouldn't mind sharing this column with me. I suggested a Q & A format as there were several points I wanted him to respond to. Here is what he had to say:

SO: Steve, I just had to ask this question first: Whatever in the world inspired you to volunteer for this challenging Editor-in-Chief job??!!

SS: Not long after I began as the *Newsletter's* Production Editor in 1994, Maggie Horn (then Editor-in-Chief) said

that it seems to take a certain type of person to enjoy newsletter work. I don't know just what that type is...and I'm afraid to ask...but I guess I'm one of them. Maggie is, too. Given how well they do their parts, I suspect the 5 other *Newsletter* volunteers, but don't tell them I said that. I don't know how they'd feel about being labeled "newsletter geeks" along with the rest of us.

SO: OK, so now that you've been doing this for several months, what have you learned? If you knew then what you know now, would you still have taken on this role?

SS: Well, the first thing I learned fortunately didn't surprise me *too* much: it's more time consuming than I thought it would be! In spite of that -- yes, I'd do it again. Most of the time it's been fun, and it's often a nice diversion from my "real" job.

SO: I know that some time ago a survey was issued to the membership, asking for feedback on a variety of things relating to the *Newsletter*. What directives came out of the responses from NASIG members, and how have you addressed them?

NASIG NEWSLETTER

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Members of the *Newsletter* Editorial Board are:

- Editor-in-Chief: Steve Savage,
Wayne State University
- Copy Editor: Maggie Horn,
University at Albany,
State University of New York
- Columns Editor: Carol MacAdam,
JSTOR
- Print Production Editor: Cecilia Sercan
Cornell University
- Electronic Production Editor: Charlene Simser,
Kansas State University
- Distribution Editor: John Harrison,
Bates College
- Board Liaison: Steve Oberg,
University of Chicago

The *Newsletter* is published in February, April, June, September, and December. Submission (January 1, March 1, May 1, August 1, and November 1) deadlines are 4 weeks prior to the publication date. The submission deadline for the next issue is:

1 May 1999

NO LATE SUBMISSIONS WILL BE ACCEPTED

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Send all submissions/editorial comments to:

- Steve Savage
- Technical Services & Systems
- 7th Floor, Science & Engineering Library
- Wayne State University
- Detroit, MI 48202
- Phone: (313) 577-4005
- Fax: (313) 577-3615
- E-mail: stephen.savage@wayne.edu

Send all items for "Title Changes" and the Calendar to:

- Carol MacAdam
- 188 Madison Avenue
- New York, NY 10016
- Phone: (212) 592-7345
- Fax: (212) 592-7355
- E-mail: clm@jstor.org

Send inquiries concerning the NASIG organization,

- membership, and change of address information, to:
- Meg Merging
- University of Nebraska Libraries
- Love Library, 209N
- Lincoln, NE 68588-0410
- Phone: (402) 472-2517
- Fax: (402) 472-5131
- E-mail: mvm@unllib.uni.edu

Send all claims for unreceived issues of the *Newsletter* to:

- John Harrison
- Ladd Library
- Bates College
- Lewiston, ME 04240
- Phone: (207) 786-6270
- Fax: (207) 786-6055
- E-mail: jharriso@abacus.bates.edu

NASIG addresses:

- 2103 N. Decatur Rd., No. 214
- Decatur, GA 30033
- URL: <http://nasig.org>

SS: The approach we used for interpreting the survey findings was simple: Every item that received at least 75% agreement among the respondents became 1st priority; other items have been addressed as resources allowed. We've generally followed this approach closely, though a few specifics would have required more time than I was willing to ask of our volunteers.

The directives from the findings were very clear: a) people want it in print!, and b) keep the content focused on NASIG business and members, with a secondary emphasis on serials information not specific to NASIG. Among many others, some specifics were eliminating rosters, time-dated announcements, and duplication of the conference brochure; adding profiles of NASIG committees, Board members, and long-time members; continuing to include NASIG forms; and including an issue's table of contents in the NASIG-L message announcing its availability. (The survey report will be available through the *Newsletter* index page of NASIGWeb soon.)

Compiling the survey report sparked some other ideas that we've implemented this year. We made several changes in font, style, and layout, suggested by a graphic design professional, to improve the print version's readability. We compiled a style guide to help with consistency. Char and Cecilia now produce the print and online versions simultaneously. This provides an additional quality check and completes the online version earlier.

We've also split a couple of positions in two and eliminated some work for others, and we've found some ways to better use technology to save time and effort.

SO: I've worked with you as the Board Liaison since last July, so I have some sense of what it really takes to put this *Newsletter* together. But most people don't have this inside perspective. Describe briefly what goes on behind-the-scenes in putting an issue together.

SS: Submissions are due to the Editor-in-Chief (me) on the first of the month before the issue's publication date, but the process starts a month prior to that when I send an e-mail reminder about the deadline to scheduled submitters. During this month, the Columns Editor (Carol) completes "Title Changes" and the calendar. The Profiles Editor (Naomi) will also do her work during this time, once this new position is underway.

As I collect the submissions, I set some minor style and formatting details before forwarding the articles to the Copy Editor (Maggie) by the 5th of the month. Maggie edits for grammar, clarity, accuracy, and adds more minor format and style details. 3-5 days are allocated for her work. Maggie forwards the edited files to the Print Production Editor (Cecilia) and Electronic Production Editor (Char), and me. The two Production Editors then work simultaneously on their respective versions.

Cecilia has the most time consuming and difficult part of the overall process. Even with today's sophisticated software, layout work is tedious and at times frustrating. Simply inserting a missing space between two words can cause text to shift so much that all 60 pages of an issue have to be reworked. Each issue goes through 2-4 drafts, with two weeks allocated for this work. When it is finalized, Cecilia mails the print master to Curry Printing and Graphics in Maine.

Meanwhile, Char is converting the word processing files to HTML, adding the headers and footers, ftp'ing the files to the server, proof-reading, etc. Some text also has to be reworded for the online version. For example, the print version must spell out URLs for resources referenced within an article, but the Electronic Production Editor embeds the URL in a hyperlink and rewords the passage around it accordingly.

Near the end of the issue's process, I notify the Chair of the Database & Directory Committee (Rose Robischon) that we are ready for the file of mailing labels extracted from the *Membership Directory* to be ftp'ed to the printer. The printer runs off 1200+ copies, prints the envelopes, inserts the issues into the envelopes, and delivers them to the post office, all within 3-5 work days.

If we've been lucky every step along the way, we can mail the print master to the printer before the process starts over again for the next issue.

The Distribution Editor (John) handles delivery problems throughout the year. He responds to claims and occasionally serves as a local contact with the printer.

SO: Being Editor-in-Chief isn't all a bed of roses. What are some downsides to this task (other than the obvious one of sometimes having to coerce the President into getting his column turned in on time)?

SS: I really want to find more ways to reduce the work load on the volunteers. I think it's extremely important in a volunteer-based organization such as NASIG to be very protective of every volunteer's willingness to work. This includes using their time efficiently and limiting demands on them. I particularly would like to find ways to make print production job easier and less time consuming. We've made some minor inroads with that this year, but it still requires a lot of time for each issue.

On a more personal side, I wish the *Newsletter* staff could see each other in person more often than once or twice a year at various conferences. Most of our communication is via e-mail, but I sometimes use the phone just so I can interact with a person rather than a computer. I also wish other people (read: our supervisors and administrators) didn't equate this publication with the usual type of newsletter that publishes one or two pages a few times each year. We publish about 200 pages per year, which requires a lot more time to produce than most newsletters. (A few months ago I nervously suggested to the *Newsletter* staff that we change the title to reflect its more substantial nature. I suppose their strong, negative reaction shouldn't have surprised me, given we're serialists.)

SO: What are some goals that you and the Editorial Board would like to address in the future? Given the grind of "real" work that Editorial Board members carry, plus the task of putting out five issues, it must be difficult to see progress ahead sometimes.

SS: Before last summer, I'd never experienced the unusual combination of time frames that the Editor-in-Chief deals with continuously. Long term progress is often difficult to manage--or even recognize--because of each issue's short cycle time, repeated 5 times per year.

We developed our goals from the survey findings, last year's *Newsletter* Editorial Board annual report, and discussion among ourselves and with the Executive Board. The goals fall into three categories:

1. Production: focus on maintaining and improving the quality of the current publication, in terms of appearance, content, and timeliness. Our primary goal is always to get each issue out on time, which we define differently for each version. Ideally, we mail the print master to the printer by the 1st of the month, but I consider it a rousing success if it happens by the 7th. Our goal for the online

version is to make it available to the membership by the time we mail the print master to Maine, if not before. We also plan to start including profiles soon.

2. Resources: manage demands on volunteers effectively. This means not wasting their time; working around their schedules as much as possible; and being protective of their time and energy. I am trying find ways to reduce each person's time to no more than 8 hours per issue; we've not yet achieved that for everyone, especially the Print Production Editor.

3. Miscellaneous: complete related projects as needed. A major task we need to complete as soon as possible is conversion to HTML of the 1992-1994 issues previously available as gopher files. With the crunch of producing 4 issues between November and June, however, we've just not had time to start on this.

SO: Well, those are the questions I had in mind to ask. Any other points you want the membership to know about?

SS: Primarily, I want make sure all NASIG members know that the six volunteers (Carol, Cecilia, Char, John, Maggie, and Naomi) working with me do a great job! All of them essentially have to drop **everything** else (often including personal lives) when we reach their part of an issue's process. I'm really proud of their work. It's been a fun group to work with, too, because many of us seem to have similar senses of humor.

I particularly want to thank Maggie Horn. Before I became Editor-in-Chief last summer, I asked her to stay on as Copy Editor, which was a new position. She graciously agreed, even after 4 years as Editor-in-Chief and periods as Production Editor and Distribution Editor before that. Her knowledge has been invaluable.

Finally, there is one thing I'd like to ask of all NASIG members: Whenever you plan to submit anything for an issue -- please do so by the submission deadline! It will make the *Newsletter* volunteers' lives much, much easier. Deadlines are published in each issue's masthead.

SO: On a final note, I just want to take this opportunity to thank the Editorial Board for the fine job you all are doing. And especially, thanks, Steve, for your infinite patience and skillful leadership! I am very pleased with the changes you've implemented and look forward to more good things to come.

NASIG 14th ANNUAL CONFERENCE (1999) CONFERENCE PLANNING COMMITTEE REPORT

Denise Novak, CPC Chair

All of us on the Conference Planning Committee hope that you have received your Conference Brochure by now. We are all very excited and time is growing short, so make sure that you get your registration forms in as soon as possible. Registration is open to NASIG members only until **April 15, 1999**. After that date, registration will be open to non-members as well. Deadline for all registration is **May 15, 1999**. Please make sure that you mail your registration form to Erika Linke, NASIG Registrar. The registration form is in the Conference Brochure and may also be found on the Web site. To find the Brochure online, go to NASIGWeb at <http://nasig.ils.unc.edu/>, scroll down to the "Time-Dated Announcements" section of this page, then select "14th Annual NASIG Conference."

Remember that if you cancel you must send your request in writing to Erika Linke, NASIG Registrar. There is no penalty for cancellations received before May 10. A 50% penalty applies to cancellations received May 11-June 1, 1999. After June 1, no refunds will be given.

The CPC has planned a number of special activities. On Thursday evening, after the opening session, there will be a cocktail reception in the Music Hall foyer of the Carnegie Museum complex. In addition to some great food, the Boilermakers Jazz Band will play, and there will be docents available to lead tours to the Dinosaur Hall, Polar World and the Museum's newest exhibit, The Hall of the American Indian. The gift shops in the Museum complex will be open, too.

Friday evening we'll cruise the three rivers aboard the Gateway Clipper, "Majestic." This will be a wonderful opportunity to see the magnificent Pittsburgh skyline at sunset. A dinner buffet and live band will be provided for your entertainment.

Saturday night, we turn you loose to explore the nightlife Pittsburgh has to offer. Among the planned events is a Pirates' baseball game. The Pirates play the Kansas City Royals in an Inter-league play game. If you like amusement parks, you'll definitely want to go Kennywood, which celebrated its 100th birthday in 1998 and is the oldest amusement park still in operation west of Coney Island. It has some marvelous old wooden roller coasters and a modern roller coaster called "The Steel Phantom." Check it out at its Web site: <http://www.kennywood.com>. We're also offering tickets

to the Civic Light Opera production of "West Side Story." Visit the following Web site for more information on stuff to do in Pittsburgh: <http://trfn.clpgh.org/> I think we can safely promise you won't be bored in Pittsburgh!

Don't forget the "Late Night Socials" from 10:00 to midnight in the Rec room of Resnick Hall. Listen to music, play cards, meet and greet old and new friends. This is a long-standing NASIG tradition. The Late Night Socials are for everyone, so make sure to drop in.

Of course, the conference is also offering interesting, thought provoking programs in addition to all the fun! There is something for everyone in the program, so don't forget to fill out and send the backside of your registration form to Erika Linke.

Before closing, I want to share some of the questions I've received from NASIG members about the conference. If you have the same question this may save some time.

1. **Parking:** Do I understand correctly that we must use the Parking Garage for Thursday and Friday, then move our cars to alternate parking on Saturday and Sunday?

A: (See page two of the conference brochure.) You don't have to use the parking garage. You will be able to park your car in the Moorewood Parking. If you are arriving Wednesday night, I believe you will be able to park in Moorewood, but you will have to get your parking as soon as possible on Thursday to avoid a ticket.

2. **Registration:** How late will the registration desk be open on Wednesday night ?

A: The registration desk will be open on Wednesday until 5:00 p.m. (Wednesday's opening time for the registration desk has not been finalized yet. This will be announced over NASIG-L soon.) After that time, you will need to go to the Conference Housing Office to pick up your room key. (See pages 9 and 10 of the Brochure for registration desk hours on Thursday-Sunday.)

3. **Early arrivals:** Remember, if you have any questions, please contact Denise D. Novak, Conference Planning Committee Chair, 14th Annual NASIG Conference. You can send e-mail to Denise at nasig@andrew.cmu.edu or dn22@andrew.cmu.edu; you can even call her at (412) 268-7800. The Conference Planning Committee looks forward to seeing everyone in Pittsburgh.

CONFERENCE PROCEEDINGS EDITORS

NASIG is pleased to announce the 1999 Annual Conference *Proceedings* editorial team. Michelle Fiander, Joseph Harmon, and Jonathan Makepeace from Indiana University, Purdue University Indianapolis (IUPUI) will serve as editors for the 1999 Conference's *Proceedings*.

Michelle Fiander has an M.A in English and an M.L.I.S. from Dalhousie University, Halifax, NS, and is currently serving as Cataloger and Reference Librarian at IUPUI. Joe Harmon has an M.A. in Anthropology and an M.L.S

from Indiana University and is serving as Cataloging Team Leader. Jonathan Makepeace has an M.S.L.I.S. from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and serves as a member of the Cataloging Team. Jonathan is also a member of IUPUI's Digital Library Team and will have primary responsibility for producing the electronic version of the *Proceedings* available to NASIG members.

NASIG extends congratulations to this well qualified and enthusiastic team of editors.

INDEXER VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY

NASIG is seeking an indexer to provide intellectual access to the contents of the 1999 Conference *Proceedings* published by Haworth Press. This is an excellent opportunity to enhance one of NASIG's core contributions to the professional literature.

The indexer will receive proofs of the proceedings in January 2000, and will then have about three weeks to compile a dictionary-style index. A manual with definitions, instructions, and guidance on Haworth's requirements will be provided.

Applicants must be well organized and able to devote concentrated effort to the project during the early weeks of next year. Previous experience is helpful but not

necessary. The indexer works the direction of the *Proceedings* Editors.

To volunteer please submit a letter by **May 3**, describing your qualifications to:

Michelle Fiander
IUPUI University Library
755 W. Michigan St.
Indianapolis, IN 46202-5195
Phone: (317) 274-0480
Fax: (317) 278-0368
E-mail: mfiander@iupui.edu

Fax and e-mail applications are welcome. Questions are also welcome at the telephone number above.

WORKSHOP RECORDER VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

NASIG needs your help. In order for our Annual Conference *Proceedings* to have maximum impact on the profession they must be published completely and promptly. In order to do this, the *Proceedings* Editors need the assistance of workshop recorders.

Volunteers are invited to submit a writing sample and to indicate the workshops they are interested in attending. The writing sample need not be as formal as a published article but should be more substantial than meeting minutes. The Editors will assign a recorder for each workshop. The recorders work under the direction of the *Proceedings* Editors and must submit their reports within four weeks of the conference. Both a paper copy and an electronic copy are required. The electronic copy may be submitted on a disk or as an attachment to an e-mail message to Michelle Fiander (mfiander@iupui.edu).

Either Macintosh or IBM/PC-compatible disks are acceptable. Please save the files as either ASCII or MS DOS text, preferably using MS Word 8 (or lower) or Corel WordPerfect 7 (or lower).

To volunteer please submit an application letter and writing sample by **April 19** to:

Michelle Fiander
IUPUI University Library
755 W. Michigan St.
Indianapolis, IN 46202-5195
Phone: (317) 274-0480
Fax: (317) 278-0368
E-mail: mfiander@iupui.edu

Fax and e-mail applications are welcome. Questions are also welcome at the telephone number above.

CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

Thursday, June 10

- 7:30-8:00 Registration for Preconferences
8:30-5:30 General registration
8:30-1:00 PRECONFERENCES
Metadata
Stuart Weibel, Jane Greenburg, Bradley McLean
Scenario Building
Nancy Rea, Stacey Aldrich
2:00-3:30 Committee Meetings
2:00-4:30 Tours
2:00-5:00 Welcome refreshments
3:30-4:30 First-Timers and Mentor Program receptions
4:45-5:45 Speakers' meeting
6:00-7:00 Opening session
7:00-10:00 Cocktail/buffet
10:00-12:00 Late night social

Friday, June 11

- 6:30-8:00 Breakfast
7:30-9:00 Registration
8:15-8:30 Opening Remarks and Announcements
8:30-9:30 Plenary 1: *Moving the Network Revolution in Knowledge Management Beyond Random Acts of Progress*
William Graves
9:30-10:00 Break
10:00-11:30 Workshop Set 1
1. *Impact of Bundled Databases on Serials Acquisitions in Academic Libraries*
2. *Pricing Implications of Site and Consortia Licensing into the Next Millennium*
3. *Managing Multiple Media and Extraordinary Expectations*
4. *Push Technology*
5. *Printed Back Volumes and Issues*
6. *Elsevier-WebLUIIS Connection*
7. *AACR2 and You: Report on the Recommendations to JSC*
8. *Dear Abby/Dear Abbot*
9. *Hybrid Methods of Desktop Journal Article Delivery*
10. *Deacidification of Journals*
11. *Organizing Web-based Resources*
11:30-1:00 Lunch
1:00-2:30 Workshop Set 1 (repeat)
2:30-3:00 Break
3:00-4:30 Issues 1
1. *Academic Librarianship and the Redefining Scholarship for Librarians*
2. *Elements of Style for Next Generation Serials EDI*

3. *Initial Articles (PEAK)*
4. *Unified Searching of Locally Mounted and Distributed Web Journals*
5. *Evolution of Distance Learning Environments*
6. *Looking Back*
5:15 Buses leave for Dinner/Dane Cruise aboard The Majestic
10:00-12:00 Late night social

Saturday, June 12

- 6:00-7:30 Fun Run/Walk
6:30-8:00 Breakfast
7:30-9:00 Registration
8:15-9:00 Business Meeting
9:00-9:15 Announcements and Introduction of 2000 Conference Committee Planning Chair
9:15-10:15 Plenary 2:
Information Ecologies
Vicki O'Day
10:15-10:45 Break
10:45-12:15 Workshops Set 2
12. *Provocative Public Services: Ways that Serials Public Service is Changing in the Electronic Era*
13. *Toward Better Access to Full-Text Aggregator Collections*
14. *If It's Legal, It's Probably a Serial*
15. *Looking a Gift Horse in the Mouth: Collection Management Following a Statewide Purchase of Electronic Resources*
16. *Supporting E-Journal Integration through Standards*
17. *Forging the Future for Archival Concerns and Resource Sharing*
18. *Convergence of User Needs, Collection Building and the Electronic Publishing Market Place*
19. *Putting It All Together: Involvement of Technical Services, Public Services and Systems to Create a Web-based Resource Collection*
20. *From Catalog Card to MARC*
21. *Realistic Licensing or Licensing Realities*
22. *Taming the Octopus: Coming to Grips with Electronic Resources*
12:15-1:45 Lunch
1:45-3:15 Workshops Set 2 (repeat)
3:15-3:45 Break
3:45-5:15 Networking Nodes
5:15- Evening on Your Own
6:15 Buses leave for selected Evening on Your Own locations
10:00-12:00 Late night social

Sunday, June 13

6:30-8:00 Breakfast

7:30-8:00 Registration

8:30-10:00 Issues 2

1. *100% Communication*
2. *...And I'll Have That Order with a License on the Side, Please*
3. *Breaking the Database Barrier*
4. *Developing a Web Collection*
5. *Reducing Journal Costs through Advertising*
6. *Redefining the Serial*

10:00-10:30 Break

10:30-11:35 Plenary 3:

Shift Happens

Stephen Abram

11:30-11:45 Closing

11:45-12:45 Box lunches available

12:15-1:15 User Group meetings

12:30 Tour buses leave for Fallingwater, Frick Art & Historical Center

1:30 Checkout time (luggage storage provided)

MINUTES OF THE NASIG BOARD MEETING

Meg Mering, NASIG Secretary

Dates, Time: January 28, 1999 (2:40 pm-6:15 pm); January 29, 1999 (8:30 am-noon)

Place: Philadelphia, PA

Attending:

Steve Oberg, President
Dan Tonkery, Vice President/Pres. Elect
Susan Davis, Past President
Meg Mering, Secretary
Gerry Williams, Treasurer

Eleanor Cook
Carol Pitts Diedrichs
Ann Ercelawn
Jim Mouw
Maggie Rioux
Fran Wilkinson

Guests:

Steve Savage, *Newsletter* Editor
Denise Novak, Chair, 1999 Conference Planning Committee
Jos Anemaet, Connie Foster, Co-Chairs, Program Planning Committee
Mike Randall, Co-Chair, Electronic Communications Committee

[Due to M. Mering's late arriving flight, E. Cook took minutes from 1.0 to 4.6.]

1.0 Welcome and Approval of Minutes from November 13-14 meeting

S. Oberg called the meeting to order at 2:40 pm. The minutes from the Nov. 13-14, 1998 meeting were approved with one addition. A sentence will be added to the RC&M report which indicates that J. Johnston printed additional membership brochures.

2.0 Treasurer's report

After final expenditures were incorporated, the Boulder conference is showing a surplus of \$14,935.00. 1032 individuals have renewed their memberships for a total income of \$19,818.00 thus far. The financial status continues to be good. G. Williams prepared a report analyzing expenses versus income over the past three years. The Board discussed why these figures vary. For instance, the *Newsletter* costs were not included consistently each year, because the bills for the December

issue are often received in January and therefore may be paid in the next calendar year. G. Williams will refigure the report so that the Board can review it again with the missing figures. G. Williams noted that the Board has approved using surplus funds to support core activities which the Strategic Plan says should be covered by membership dues. The Board continued discussion of a modest dues increase that was first proposed at the Fall 1998 meeting. This also led to a discussion of reviewing the *Strategic Plan*.

ACTION: S. Oberg will appoint a task force to review the *Strategic Plan*.

DATE: ASAP

ACTION: The Taskforce will make a report to the Board.

DATE: Progress report at the June 1999 Board meeting.
Final report at the Fall 1999 Board meeting.

Instituting a credit card payment option for NASIG members is proceeding. It will be for VISA and MasterCard only.

Insurance coverage must be resolved immediately so NASIG will be covered for the Carnegie Mellon conference.

ACTION: G. Williams will complete insurance arrangements as soon as she receives the appropriate address information from Carnegie Mellon.
DATE: ASAP

ACTION: Board will formally consider a dues increase. G. Williams will present various financial scenarios to facilitate the decision making process.
DATE: June 1999 Board meeting

3.0 Volunteer Efforts discussion

S. Oberg asked the Board Liaisons to share reports from committee chairs on their needs for extra help and their thoughts on paid staff for NASIG administrative duties. The Board decided not to go in the direction of hiring central, paid staff.

ACTION: Board Liaisons will continue to assist their committees in better understanding how they can hire extra help. A primary means for publicizing availability of funds for extra help will be the Committee Chair Orientation session which will be held each year at the conference.

ACTION: The Board agreed to look at all aspects of the organizational work and examine other areas where NASIG can successfully “outsource” operations similar to what has been done for printing and distributing the *Newsletter*, for support service for NASIGNET, etc.

4.0 Committee Reports

4.1 Archives

Due to illness, M. Fletcher has not completed a list of missing items from the archives. When the list is ready, the Board will be asked to assist in locating these items.

The Board discussed if the archives should include NASIG artifacts, which would include conference souvenirs and other tangible items. The Board affirmed that the archives should include artifacts.

ACTION: S. Davis and M. Fletcher will create a list of artifacts from past conferences and will post a call for donations of the same to the archives. No perishable items will be collected. The CPC manual

will be updated to reflect that one sample of each souvenir should be sent to the archives.

DATE: By the June 1999 Board meeting

4.2 Awards & Recognition

The Committee has divided itself into subcommittees to facilitate review of the various awards. All awards have been widely announced and information and application forms are available on NASIGWeb. We especially need to encourage and recruit people for the Tuttle Award as one deadline cycle has passed with no applicants. It is a new and unique award and will need further publicity.

4.3 Bylaws

D. Tonkery suggested that the committee review Article 10 of the *Bylaws* which state what happens if the organization is dissolved. The current language is vague.

ACTION: Ask S. Davis and others for an historical perspective of why the *Bylaws* were written in this manner.

Subsequently, S. Davis confirmed that this article was written to conform with language in NASIG’s articles of incorporation.

4.4 Continuing Education

The Committee is quite busy with a number of co-sponsored events this year. The Board would like to encourage stand-alone CEC events and discussed various ways of developing stand-alone events for next year. A support mechanism needs to be developed to achieve this goal. Suggestions included partnering with library science programs; designating a specific subcommittee or point person to develop these; and creating repeatable, “canned” programs that can be offered in different regions. CEC members should be proactive in seeking feedback from participants at the annual conference concerning particularly popular plenaries/workshops that would lend themselves to repetition on a regional basis. CEC could post a call for suggestions via NASIG-L for possible “repeat performances.”

ACTION: The Board Liaison for CEC will review the full evaluation of the conference and will summarize the top sessions based on the evaluations. This summary should be completed as soon as possible after the EAC shares this document with the Board. This information will be passed to the CEC for their consideration and will also be posted to the Board

list. The current Board Liaison for CEC, E. Cook, will do this as soon as possible after the Midwinter Board meeting. S. Davis will add this task to the master calendar.

DATE: Annually, as soon as possible after receiving the conference evaluation report from EAC.

4.5 Database & Directory

Committee activities are running smoothly. Renewals are arriving at about the same rate as last year. The online *Directory* is updated once a month.

4.6 Evaluation & Assessment

At the 1998 Fall board meeting, the Board asked EAC to review the conference evaluation form and make suggestions for improvements. The Board discussed the Committee's suggestions for change to the evaluation form.

ACTION: The Board decided not to make any changes to the evaluation form for the 1999 conference.

EAC suggested that the evaluation form be made available on NASIGWeb. The Board discussed the possibility of using an interactive form so people could fill out the conference evaluation form online after they returned home. The Board decided not to pursue an interactive evaluation form at this time.

ACTION: EAC with ECC's assistance, will investigate posting the form on NASIGWeb. They will look for ways to accomplish this task with a minimum amount of work.

ACTION: EAC will send out a reminder on NASIG-L about filling out the evaluation form. The reminder will include information on who to contact for a new form and the URL of the PDF version when that is available.

4.7 Nominations & Elections

Bob Persing, Chair of Nominations & Elections, will be contacting all slated candidates shortly to reconfirm their willingness to be on the ballot. He will send letters to those in the pool, but not selected for the slate. The pool of candidates to choose from was very good this year. The target date for ballot mailing is mid-February. The candidate profiles will be placed on NASIGWeb.

5.0 Program Planning

5.1 C. Foster and J. Anemaet, the PPC Co-Chairs, distributed a revised program for the 1999 conference and copies of the letter which will be sent to speakers. The Board reviewed these documents and made minor changes. M. Wilhite will assist J. Anemaet in selecting people to introduce the 22 workshops. A. McKee, the other PPC Co-Chair, was not able to attend this Board meeting.

5.2 The Board and the PCC discussed the program idea "Harnessing the Power of NASIG." This idea grew out of conversations between S. Oberg and Regina Reynolds, a NASIG member. She proposed an issues session that results in an action agenda. The actions are not to be taken by NASIG as an organization but rather by individual attendees who agree to take further steps. Members of the Board noted that NASIG's mission is to foster education and communication and not to make policy about serial related issues. The Board supported the idea of having more sessions with more audience participation. Last summer's workshop "Dear Abby, Dear Abbott" was completely a discussion format and was very well received.

5.3 The Board and the PCC explored the idea of having poster sessions at annual conferences. Poster sessions can be a good opportunity for junior librarians to ease into public speaking at a national level.

6.0 Task Force Reports

6.1 Library School Outreach

S. Oberg recommended that NASIG take a new approach in dealing with the issue of library school outreach, and the Board concurred.

ACTION: The taskforce will be disbanded and thanked for their work. The Board approved S. Oberg's working with the various existing committees to incorporate some of the questions the task force intended to pursue.

DATE: ASAP

6.2 Electronic Archiving

The taskforce has yet to be appointed but will be shortly. It will include representatives from the *Newsletter* and EEC in addition to M. Fletcher.

6.3 PPC manual

J. Luther, S. Gurshman, and C. Hepfer are meeting during MidWinter to further revise and improve the manual. Depending upon their progress, further work may still be needed. The goal remains to develop a full manual in time for the 2000 PPC.

7.0 NASIGNet RFP Task Force Final Report

Taskforce members identified and investigated potential Internet Service Providers. In December 1998, Requests for Proposals (RFP) were sent out to a list of previously identified Internet Service Providers. After reviewing the responses to the RFP, the Taskforce recommended that NASIG select Bee.Net, an Internet Service Provider located just outside of Philadelphia, because they could best suit NASIG's needs. Bee.Net was very responsive to the Taskforce's initial inquiries and was quick to respond to the RFP. NASIG has requested more services from the new Internet provider, therefore the costs will be higher than in the past. The Board agreed that it was money well spent.

ACTION: M. Rioux will ask for further clarification on the indexing and other capabilities offered by Bee.Net.

ACTION: The Board provisionally selected Bee.Net as NASIG's new Internet Service Provider, pending a face-to-face meeting between the ECC Co-Chairs and Bee.Net.

The Board thanked the RFP taskforce for its work. Members of the Taskforce included Stephanie Schmitt, Beth Toren, Robb Waltner, Amanda Xu, Mike Randall, Donnice Cochenour, D. Tonkery and Board Liaison M. Rioux.

UNC is agreeable to maintaining NASIG's Internet and discussion list operations until such a time as the transfer to the new Internet Service Provider can be arranged. Because this process is taking longer than anticipated and will extend beyond the current contract, the Board will consider an additional payment to UNC to cover the extension.

8.0 Site Selection for 1999 and Beyond

8.1 On December 1, 1998, F. Wilkinson and D. Tonkery made a site visit to the University of California, San Diego. They were very impressed with the campus and its facilities. They felt the distance between the dorms and the meeting rooms was an easy walking distance. The

dorms are very impressive, designed more like apartments with full kitchens. Unfortunately, no auditoriums with graduated seating would be available to NASIG during the conference. Ballroom (flat) seating will also only be available on Saturday and Sunday at Carnegie Mellon.

ACTION: The Board officially selected the University of California, San Diego as NASIG's conference site for 2000. The dates for this conference will be June 22-25, 2000.

8.2 The Board again considered a proposal from Brigham Young University to host the conference in 2002 or 2003. Board members expressed a concern that several recent conferences will be held in the west (San Diego – 2000 and San Antonio – 2001). They also did not feel comfortable with the potential BYU Honor Code conflicts and issues.

ACTION: The Board affirmed its earlier decision to drop BYU from active consideration, but that the Salt Lake City area remains a viable location with a great deal of appeal. The Board encourages a proposal for another site in this region for 2003 or beyond.

9.0 Committee Reports, continued

9.1 Electronic Communications

R. Waltner is working on the metadata preconference text for the conference brochure. The three speakers (Jane Greenburg, Bradley McLean, and Stuart Weibel) have already submitted their abstracts for the conference brochure.

Routine maintenance activities have continued for the various NASIG discussion lists. R. Waltner has begun training as backup listowner in anticipation of becoming principal listowner in 1999/2000. Revision of the NASIG Listowner Manual has begun.

M. Randall informed the Board that preparations are underway for the move to a new host provider. ECC members have been involved with remote training in UNIX navigation for the site and have worked with S. Savage on a more efficient approach to posting the latest *Newsletter*. Routine maintenance activities have continued, such as calendar updates, changes to committee rosters, putting up the time-dated announcements for nominations, grant, awards, etc. The committee expects to work with the Conference Planning Committee to make the 1999 annual conference brochure available on NASIGWeb.

9.1.1 The Board reviewed and provided feedback to ECC's suggestions for redesign of and enhancement to NASIGWeb.

ACTION: ECC will begin implementing these changes to NASIGWeb.

DATE: Beginning Summer 1999

9.2 Newsletter

The conversion of gopher *Newsletter* files to HTML has begun and should go fairly quickly. The President's column for the April 1999 issue will be a dialog between S. Oberg and S. Savage about the Spring 1998 *Newsletter* survey.

9.2.1. Because the *Newsletter's* masthead will need to be redesigned for the bulk mailing permit, the permit application may be delayed until March 1, 1999.

9.3 Proceedings

Haworth Press shipped page proofs to Trinity University in mid-January. Co-editors Beverley Geer and Bea Caraway reviewed the proofs and spot-checked for mistakes throughout the approximately 600 pages of text and figures. They shipped the corrected proofs back to Haworth before the end of January.

After Haworth completes their work on the manuscript, it will be sent to the indexer. Jeffrey Bullington will prepare the HTML version of the *Proceedings* for NASIGWeb.

B. Geer and B. Caraway will revise and update the *Proceedings* editors manual and pass it on to the 1999 team.

9.3.1. The *Proceedings* Editors Search Committee recommended that the Board select a team of catalog librarians at IUPUI University Libraries, consisting of Michelle Fiander, Joseph Harmon, and Jonathan Makepeace. The Search Committee believed that the team's qualifications and experience meet NASIG's requirements in producing print and electronic versions of the *Proceedings*.

ACTION: The Board approved the appointment of M. Fiander, J. Harmon, and J. Makepeace as the 1999 *Proceedings* Editors. The Board thanked the *Proceedings* Editors Search Committee for their work. Members included A. Ercelawn (Chair), B. Caraway, Johanne LaGrange, and Margaret Jasinski.

9.4 Publications

Doug LaFrenier, Tina Chrzastowski, and Pam Matthews are putting together a short questionnaire to survey the NASIG membership on its needs in terms of publications. B. Geer and Jennifer Edwards are surveying the current NASIG committee chairs for their thoughts on ways the Publications Committee could be of service to the organization. Ladd Brown has volunteered to investigate what other organizations are doing in terms of publications, and to discuss with past chairs of the Conference Planning Committee the feasibility of the Publications Committee taking over the publication of the Conference Handout Booklet.

9.4.1 Katina Strauch, editor of *Against the Grain*, approached S. Oberg about the possibility of providing NASIG members with copies of *Against the Grain* at a reduced subscription rate by virtue of their NASIG membership. The Board felt NASIG should avoid an agreement with a commercial publication such as *Against the Grain*. Currently, the SISAC newsletter includes a column about NASIG; however, NASIG and SISAC have a formal liaison relationship. There was a suggestion that NASIG could provide more information about its activities to *Against the Grain*.

ACTION: The Board referred the issue of NASIG's relationship to serials related publications to the Publications Committee for further study.

9.5 Regional Councils & Membership

Linda Smith-Griffin, the Chair of RC&M, is continuing her effort to identify the active state and provincial representatives. A call was sent out to all regional representatives to verify their contact information. Through this process, a number of vacancies were identified. The Chair is in the process of sending files to Anne Frohlich who volunteered to start converting RC&M documentation to HTML for use on NASIGWeb.

9.5.1. Julia Gammon has proposed that NASIG investigate having regional and state affiliate chapters. Since the fall board meeting, A. Ercelawn has contacted J. Gammon for further information and to discuss possible benefits. She also referred the matter to RC&M. The Committee is reluctant at this time to endorse the establishment of chapters.

ACTION: The Board decided to table this issue for the time being. Legal and financial implications of establishing chapters would require further investigation, and RC&M is currently considering some restructuring.

DATE: Report for June 1999 Board meeting.

10.0 Secretary's report

10.1 M. Mering thanked E. Cook for taking minutes for the first part of the meeting.

10.2 M. Mering distributed revised Board rosters reflecting changes for C. Diedrichs.

10.3 M. Mering compiled the following Board decisions since the November meeting for inclusion in the minutes:

1. Authorized spending up to \$2,900 to fund travel and lodging for Jean Hirons and Steve Shadle, the instructors for the pilot serials cataloging session at Wayne State University, as further NASIG support of the Serials Cooperative Cataloging Training Program. Wayne State University will pick up other costs associated with this session.
2. Agreed to start accepting Visa and MasterCard credit transactions after successfully applying for vendor approval to provide this service. Due to its higher fee structure, the Board did not approve acceptance of American Express credit card payments.
3. Agreed to retain the password for member-only areas of NASIGWeb until after the move to a new Internet host provider is complete.
4. Decided that starting with the 1999 conference, Regional Councils & Membership will send conference brochures to non-members who attended the previous year's conference. The Conference Planning Committee will provide RC&M with a list of non-members who attended the previous year's conference.
5. Agreed to ask the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign's Graduate School of Library and Information Science to provide a link between their LIS Student Awards and Honors' web page (<http://alexia.lis.uiuc.edu/gslis/people/students/awards.html#head>) and the NASIG student awards on NASIGWeb.
6. Approved changing the deadline for registering for this summer's conference from May 21, 1999 to May 14, 1999 to accommodate Carnegie Mellon University's internal needs.
7. Approved the slate of candidates for Vice President/President Elect, Treasurer, and

Members-at-Large presented by the Nominations & Elections Committee.

11.0 Conference Planning Committee

D. Novak, the 1999 Chair of the CPC, reported on the progress of conference planning. All special events plans are now in place. Carnegie Mellon University's Registrar still needs to release specific meeting rooms NASIG can use during the conference. CPC still needs to discuss audiovisual arrangements with the University's Instructional Technology Department. The Board advised D. Novak that EEC has agreed to assist CPC with a web site for the conference.

ACTION: The Board agreed that the conference fees for single accommodations will be \$350, doubles will be \$325. Commuter (off-campus) fees will remain the same as last year, \$250. Additional meeting agenda items will be discussed on the Board discussion list.

The meeting was adjourned at noon.

The next board meeting will be held June 9, 1999 at Carnegie Mellon University.

ABOUT NASIG MEMBERS

IN MEMORIAL: MARGARET BLAIR

Barbara Kuchan

The Health Sciences/Human Services Library, University of Maryland lost a good friend and colleague when Margaret K. Blair, former Head, Acquisitions/Serials passed away Thanksgiving Day, November 26, 1998. Margaret fought a brave battle with cancer for nearly two years before succumbing to the illness. She will be deeply missed.

Margaret started her career at the Health Sciences Library in 1972. She was promoted to the Head of Acquisitions in 1978 and then in 1985 became Head of Acquisitions/Serials when that department was reorganized. Margaret was a dedicated member of the Library staff; she was employed at the Health Sciences Library for 25 years. Margaret was also active with several professional organizations, including the Medical Library Association, NASIG and the Mid-Atlantic Chapter (MAC) of MLA. In 1996, she was the Co-Chair of Registration/Local Arrangements Committee for the MAC meeting held in Columbia, MD. In 1982, she

chaired the Tours Committee for the MAC meeting held in Baltimore.

Margaret was an aficionado of mystery books, the English countryside, and the cinema. Her absence is keenly felt.

IN MEMORIAL: ELAINE RAST

Steve Oberg

Many of you were aware that Elaine Rast, a long-time NASIG member, had been battling cancer, which prevented her from attending the UC Boulder conference last year. It is with a very sad heart that I tell you that Elaine passed away February 12. Elaine was one of NASIG's staunchest supporters, having attended every conference except for the Boulder conference. She served in numerous capacities within NASIG, most recently as our first Archivist. She also served as Board Member-At-Large from 1988-1993.

A memorial service was held Saturday, February 20, at St. Peter's Episcopal Church in Chicago. Memorials may

be made to The Elaine K. Rast Reading Room, Concordia Theological Seminary, 6600 N. Clinton St., Ft. Wayne, IN 46825. NASIG will be making a contribution.

One of the last things communicated to Elaine before her death was that in her honor, the NASIG Board voted to dedicate this year's (Carnegie Mellon) Annual Conference *Proceedings* to her memory. Elaine's husband Larry assured me that this tribute would be warmly appreciated.

On a personal note, I will never forget her warm welcome to me as I attended my first NASIG annual conference as a student grant recipient in 1991. She was one who made me feel at home in NASIG from the outset. She was always gracious, kind, attentive, and caring. In short, she was the perfect mentor. My experience, I realize, was not unique. Many others can also attest to her strength of character, her giving spirit, and her witty outlook on life. She will be greatly missed.

[Ed. Note: Please see the "Letters" section for more information on Elaine.]

TITLE CHANGES

Carol MacAdam

[Note: Please report promotions, awards, new degrees, new positions and other significant professional milestones. You may submit items about yourself or other members to Carol MacAdam. Contributions on behalf of fellow members will be cleared with the person mentioned in the news item before they are printed. Please include your e-mail address or phone number.]

Congratulations and best wishes to all!

Whitney Alexander is now the Acquisitions Librarian at the Heafey Law Library of Santa Clara University. Previously Systems Librarian at Innovative Interfaces, Whit began his new position on Sept. 3rd, 1998. He says about the change: "Its great to be back in an academic library setting again." Whit's new addresses are:

Heafey Law Library
Santa Clara University
Santa Clara, CA 95053-0430
Phone: (408) 554-4986
Fax: (408) 554-5318
E-mail: WALEXANDER@SCU.EDU

Carole Bell sent news of her new job: "In December 1998, I began as Head of Acquisitions at the University of Maryland, College Park. Although most of my

responsibilities are similar to those that I performed at Northwestern University, my department is slightly larger and I am no longer responsible for serials cataloging. In addition, this is my first stint in a public institution, which has its challenges. Even though I loved Chicago and Evanston, I am very happy to be back on the East Coast where there is spring, hard-shell crabs and my granddaughter." Her new address and numbers are:

McKeldin Library
University of Maryland
College Park, MD 20742-7011
Phone: (301) 405-9307
E-mail: CB216@UMAIL.UMD.EDU

Edward Bergin is now Head Cataloging Librarian at Southwest Texas State University in San Marcos. His previous position was as Serials Librarian at Rice University. Edward can be reached at:

Southwest Texas State University
Alkek Library
601 University Drive
San Marcos, TX 78666
Phone: (512) 245-3005
Fax: (512) 245-3002
E-mail: EABERGIN@YAHOO.COM

Jeff Bullington writes about his new position as Social Science Reference Librarian at the University of Kansas, Lawrence: "The change from Trinity/San Antonio/Texas was a pretty big one, but very interesting. Within two days I went from south Texas and weather in the 60's into the heart of an Arctic cold front with below freezing temperatures. Being originally from Colorado I am familiar with winter but the more than two years in San Antonio with no real winter to speak of did change my internal thermostat and it is still adjusting! My goal of being back in a large, public environment has been achieved with this move. The job is in many ways very similar to what I did at Trinity -- I work in public services doing reference, collection development, instruction, and liaison to academic departments. Here at KU I will not be involved with such a variety of academic areas as I was at Trinity where I covered Economics, History, Political Science, Sociology and Anthropology, and Urban Studies. At KU I have only a couple of subject areas in the Social Sciences. However, there will be one dimension of my work that will be fairly new to me and that is budgeting. At Trinity our serials budgets for the Humanities and Social Sciences were so stable that I very rarely had to actively manage my serials (make decisions about what to keep and what to cut, and work with faculty on that issue). Here at KU, I will be a much more active manager of my serials funds and perhaps have to make many more tough decisions about subscriptions. Because KU is a much larger institution there are many more electronic products and services to work with and to help patrons with. All in all, I'm really enjoying the challenges of a place like this with so many more people (roughly 18,000 students compared to 2,600, and also more faculty and staff)." Jeff's new addresses are:

350 Watson Library
University of Kansas
Lawrence, KS 66045-2800
Phone: (785) 864-8994
Fax: (785) 864-5311
E-mail: JBULLINGTON@UKANS.EDU

Here is the news from **Suzan Burks**: "Actually, when I attended NASIG last year, I was between jobs. I left my position as Head of Cataloging at Ball State before NASIG. I attended NASIG and spent a couple additional weeks in Colorado, camping and fly fishing with a friend, and then I returned to Indiana and moved to Ann Arbor. Before beginning my position on July 23rd as Head of Technical Services at the University of Michigan Law Library, I even had a few days to visit Ann Arbor's Art Fair. I'm learning a lot in this position and have a lot to

learn. Thankfully, there's a terrific group of people to learn from here. I also thoroughly enjoy living in a place where I am cross country skiing in March and, with any luck, fly fishing in April." Suzan's new addresses are:

University of Michigan Law Library
801 Monroe, S-110E Legal Research
Ann Arbor, MI 48104-1210
Phone: (734) 764-4200
Fax: (734) 615-0179
E-mail: SKBURKS@UMICH.EDU

We have this news from **Jill Emory**: "I want to let you know that I have started work as the Collections and Acquisitions Specialist at the University of Texas at Arlington. In this position, I will be considered a liaison between the Collections and Information Resources Management team and the Acquisitions and Cataloging Services team. I expect to still be heavily involved with serials issues. My previous position was Serials Librarian at Texas Southern University in Houston, TX." Jill's new addresses are:

University of Texas at Arlington Libraries
Collection Development/Acquisitions
702 College Street
P. O. Box 19497
Arlington, TX 76019-0497
Phone: (817) 272-7156
Fax: (817) 272-5804
E-mail: EMERY@LIBRARY.UTA.EDU

From **October Ivins** we learn: "My new position is Director, Strategic Relationships, with PubList.com, which is a start-up company located south of Boston. I started full-time in May 1998 and moved to Massachusetts, which is wonderful, in September. Our primary product is an Internet directory of publications (presently mostly serials) targeted to end users. Searching our site is free; publishers can buy enhanced listings; and we provide a gateway to related services. My job has two roles. The first is establishing and maintaining relationships with service partners and content providers (such as document delivery companies, back issues dealers, subscription agencies, directories and so forth) to support 'one stop shopping' for serials information and services. The second role is representing users in collaborative site design and development, marketing, and coordinating responses to user queries. I love finding connections between all of the skills I learned as a serials librarian, and my academic research in electronic commerce and digital libraries. Finally, I feel like a poster child for being active in professional organizations.

I met Rick Bowes, our CEO, at an SSP meeting and he recruited me for a previous consulting job at a NASIG conference." October's new addresses are:

Publist.com
100 Ledgewood Place Suite 302
Rockland, MA 02370-1075
Phone: (781) 792-0999
Fax: (781) 792-0988
E-mail: OIVINS@PUBLIST.COM
URL: <http://www.PubList.com>

Lynda Kresge used to be Technical Services Librarian at Bowdoin College in Maine. Her new job is Head of Database Management at Harvard's Widener Library. She writes: "It is a thrill to be at Harvard and to be working with the wonderful librarians who build and maintain these collections. I began my new job here on July 1, 1998 and am still trying to get used to the scope and scale of the University and its resources -- every day brings new discoveries. I oversee database management activities in HOLLIS and I serve as coordinator of OCLC/RLIN operations at Harvard College Library, so I have great opportunities to work with colleagues throughout the Harvard system. I love it!" Lynda's new addresses are:

Widener Library 88
Harvard University
Cambridge, MA 02138
Phone: (617) 496-3794
Fax: (617) 495-0403
E-mail: LKRESGE@FAS.HARVARD.EDU

Pat Rodgers writes: "I began working for Harrassowitz as Director of Library Support Services for North America on June 1, 1998. On July 1, 1998 Danny Jones became the Director of Research and Development for North America and in August, the North American

customer service office for Harrassowitz moved from Columbia, Maryland to Mobile, Alabama. I'm excited about the direction my career has taken (having worked in a medical library for 23 years) and hope that my library experience will prove beneficial both to Harrassowitz and to our customers." Pat was previously Assistant Director for Technical Services and Finance at the Biomedical Library of the University of South Alabama. Her new addresses are:

Harrassowitz Library Services
820 University Boulevard South, Suite 4B
Mobile, AL 36609
Phone: (800) 348-6886
Fax: (334) 342-5732
E-mail: PRODGERS@OTTOSVC.COM

From **Will Wakeling**, Chair of the UK Serials Group from 1995-97 and known to NASIGers as UKSG's liaison to NASIG, we learn that he has left his former position as Assistant Director for Collection Management at the University of Birmingham in England and crossed the Atlantic to come and work in the US. Since October 1998 he has been Collection Development Officer at Northeastern University, Boston. A particularly interesting part of his work, he says, is in contributing to the cooperative collection development activity of the Boston Library Consortium, and in providing a source of amusement to his colleagues with obscure "Resident-Alien-Speak from Across the Water." Will's new addresses are:

Northeastern University
Boston MA 02115
Phone: (617) 373-4961
Fax: (617) 373-5409
E-mail: WWAKELIN@LYNX.NEU.EDU

LETTERS

To NASIG members, from Steve Oberg, NASIG President:

During the week of Feb. 16 [on NASIG-L], I shared with you the sad news of Elaine Rast's death. Elaine was a long-time NASIG member and played a significant role in various capacities within our organization.

In response to my e-mail, I received messages from several of you that included various memories and reminiscences about her. I already had a sense that this was true, but it was heartwarming to receive confirmation that she had touched so many people's lives.

As a further way of remembering Elaine as a person as well as her contributions to NASIG and to the library profession, I am writing to encourage any of you who knew her to share brief memories, stories, anecdotes of her. Cindy Hepfer has kindly volunteered to gather these reminiscences together into a memorial article for the June issue of the NASIG Newsletter. This compendium of memories would be of comfort not only to everyone who knew Elaine, but also to her husband and family.

You may send your reminiscences to Cindy by e-mail, fax, or regular mail. (For e-mail, no attachments, please.)

Deadline for receipt is **April 20**. [Ed. Note: This date is an extension from the date given in the original NASIG-L message duplicated here.] Cindy's contact information:

Cindy Hepfer
Head, Collection Management Services
State University of New York, Buffalo
Health Sciences Library - Abbott Hall
3435 Main Street
Buffalo NY 14214-3002
Phone: (716) 829-2139
Fax: (716) 829-2211
E-mail: HSLCINDY@BUFFALO.EDU

Thank you!

Larry Rast, Elaine Rast's husband, sent a card to NASIG with the following message:

"The family of Elaine Kirkpatrick Rast sincerely thanks you for your expression of sympathy, and for your memorial to the Elaine K. Rast Reading Room, Concordia Theological Seminary, Ft. Wayne, Indiana."

NASIG received the following:

On behalf of Wayne State University Libraries and our partner libraries in the Detroit Area Library Network (DALNET), I would like to thank both NASIG and

CONSER for giving us the opportunity to host a trial run of the Serials Cataloging Cooperative Training Program on February 22 – 24. With the two excellent trainers provided by CONSER and the funding provided by NASIG, the 2 ½ day Program was able to be “tested” by 26 librarians and paraprofessionals from 10 DALNET institutions as well as the Library of Michigan. Feedback from the participants was quite enthusiastic. They found the content to be very valuable. They very much appreciated having trainers from the highest level of expertise in the field, namely, Jean Hirons, CONSER Coordinator from the Library of Congress, and Steve Shadle, Serials Cataloger for the University of Washington.

I hope all the feedback the participants provided both informally and formally through the evaluation forms and focus group session was helpful as this excellent Program gets fine-tuned before it is offered nationally in the summer. Having Steve Savage, the Head of Cataloging here at Wayne State and who handled the local arrangements for the Program, selected to be one of the trainers was an added bonus for us.

We give the Program two enthusiastic “thumbs up.”

Sincerely,
Louise Bugg
Director of Technical Services and Systems, WSUL
Director, DALNET Online System

SERIALS-RELATED REPORTS

SERIALS TRAINING PROGRAM TESTS FIRST COURSE WITH DALNET LIBRARIES

Jean Hirons, CONSER Coordinator, Library of Congress

Thanks to the support of NASIG, the new Serials Cataloging Cooperative Training Program (SCCTP) was able to test its pilot course Basic Serials Cataloging Workshop in Detroit, February 22-24, at Wayne State University. Jean Hirons and Steve Shadle (University of Washington) presented the course to 26 librarians and paraprofessionals from the Detroit Area Library Network (DALNET). Steve Savage, Wayne State, provided all of the logistics and support for the session and led a focus group discussion following the training to determine the effectiveness of the course materials and content. Thirty-seven serials catalogers have been accepted as trainers and will attend train-the-trainer sessions in June in conjunction with the NASIG conference and the ALA annual meeting.

The course, developed by Cameron Campbell (University of Chicago), includes sessions covering what is a serial, original cataloging of print serials, original cataloging of electronic serials (CD-ROM and remote), when to make a new record, subject analysis, and other relationships and versions (e.g., microforms, supplements, etc.). There are also sessions on identifying good cataloging copy and on editing copy for your library. The course is designed as a two-day session, but has flexibility built in, allowing for single day sessions focused on original or copy cataloging. The test session was held over two and a half days to allow for the focus discussion. The course materials include an instructor's manual, a trainee's manual, and a PowerPoint presentation. The course is primarily designed for beginning serialists with a basic understanding of bibliographic control.

The DALNET group includes a wide range of libraries, including Wayne State University, the Detroit Public Library, and a number of smaller colleges, as well as specialized legal and hospital libraries. Experiences of the attendees were wide-ranging from several with 20+ years of experience to those with under a year. Yet everyone seemed pleased with the content, saying that it was "neither too basic, nor too advanced," "universally useful," and "applicable to all levels of staff and types and sizes of libraries." One of the more experienced participants noted "the cataloging of electronic serials was new to me and thus very interesting. It was also good to have some confirmation of things I have been doing, as well as to revisit the rationale behind what I do." Participants were particularly pleased with the sessions on original cataloging and electronic serials and the "Trends in Serials Cataloging" session. Suggestions for improvement included the copy cataloging sessions and the inclusion of more challenging examples. Campbell and Hirons will examine all of the suggestions carefully in finalizing the materials for publication.

SCCTP's goal is to provide authoritative training materials via the Cataloging Distribution Service and to train experienced serials catalogers to use the materials. SCCTP will leave the coordination of workshops to regional library groups, OCLC affiliates, and individual institutions. Course materials will be available during the summer; those interested in sponsoring a workshop might want to plan for fall of 1999 or spring 2000. More information is available on the CONSER web site.

The CONSER Program, under the direction of Jean Hirons, coordinates SCCTP. NASIG generously provided the initial funding for the program, which was used for the test and will also help fund the train-the-trainer sessions. OCLC networks AMIGOS and SOLINET have also donated staff and resources to support the train-the-trainer sessions. For more information, contact Jean Hirons at: jhir@loc.gov or (202) 707-5947.

CALENDAR

Carol MacAdam

[Please submit announcements for upcoming meetings, conferences, workshops and other events of interest to your NASIG colleagues to Carol MacAdam, clm@jstor.org]

May 12-14, 1999

Utah Library Association Annual Conference

Cedar City, Utah

See: <http://www.ula.org/conference/1999conf/geninfo.htm>

May 15-19, 1999

Medical Library Association Annual Meeting

"Present Tense--Future Perfect?"

Chicago, Illinois

See: <http://www.mlanet.org>

May 18-20, 1999

20th Annual National Online Meeting & IOLS '99

New York, New York

See: <http://www.infotoday.com/nom99/nom99.htm>

May 24-26, 1999

American Society for Information Science Conference

Pasadena, California

June 5-10, 1999

Special Libraries Association Annual Conference

Minneapolis, Minnesota

"Knowledge Leaders for the New Millennium: Creators of the Information Future"

See: http://www.sla.org/conf_meet/99conf/index.html

June 10-13, 1999

14th NASIG Conference

Carnegie Mellon University

Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

See: <http://www.library.cmu.edu/Conferences/NASIG/>

June 16-20, 1999

54th Annual Conference

Canadian Library Association

Toronto, Ontario

"Facing the Challenge: a Practical Survival Guide"

See: <http://www.cla.amlibs.ca/events.htm>

June 18, 1999

Serials Interest Group CLA - Workshop

Metro Toronto Convention Centre

Toronto, Ontario

"Facing the "Seriality" Challenge: a Practical Guide to Surviving the AACR Serials Rule Revision Process"

June 26-29, 1999

ALA Annual Conference

New Orleans, Louisiana

See: <http://www.ala.org/events/ac99/index.html>

Aug. 20-28, 1999

IFLA Annual Conference

Bangkok, Thailand

See: <http://www.ifla.org/IV/ifla65/65intro.htm>

Jan. 14-19, 2000

ALA Midwinter Meeting

San Antonio, Texas