

# NASIG NEWSLETTER

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## PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Steve Oberg, NASIG President

### *IN CLOSING:*

#### *Final Thoughts on Some Important Issues*

This is it...my last "President's Corner." I've thought long and hard about interesting ways to bow out (in a literary sense), looking to famous last words from Hollywood for inspiration. How about "Sayonara, baby"? Nope, too short and familiar sounding. What about "I'll be back" (spoken in a thick Austrian accent)? No, can't use that one; it's too malevolent. "This is the beginning of a beautiful friendship"? Well, that may or may not be true! In all seriousness, time has flown by; it is hard to believe that the year is very nearly complete and that it is time to turn over the reins to incoming President, Dan Tonkery.

In their farewell column, many of my illustrious predecessors penned a sort of "year in review" to recognize the many deserving people who make NASIG work so well. I am breaking with that tradition, not because there isn't a great deal to point to in the way of accomplishments by so many of you, and not because you all don't deserve the very best we can give

in terms of recognition and thanks. (Be sure to read through the amazing list of accomplishments outlined in annual reports from standing committees included in this issue.) Instead, I want to share my thoughts with you about various important issues we on the Board have considered this past year, issues that we will continue to face in the future. Three issues in particular stand out to me as important to mention here: the value of volunteerism, the costs of doing business, and NASIG's role in the broader library and information science community. Each topic could justify an entire column of its own, but I will condense them here into essential points.

*The Value of Volunteerism*

We all know how much our organization depends on volunteers. Volunteer work is our hallmark and has been from the very beginning. It gives NASIG a rather unique, grassroots-type style because so many of you help out in various ways. If you are willing to work and collaborate with others, generally speaking you don't have to wait long to find a place available for you in NASIG committee work. Having stated its importance, however, my experience during the past year has indicated to me that at least in some areas, we cannot continue to operate effectively by relying solely on

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volunteer effort. This is not a new concern; it has been debated before. But why bring it up again? Why is there a problem? There are a number of reasons that I can think of, among them:

- More and more people are taking on extra work responsibilities and have less time for volunteer work than before.
- There seem to be fewer entry level jobs in our area of librarianship, which means fewer members who might be able to take on growth opportunities within NASIG.
- Workload in some areas within NASIG such as CPC, PPC, and elsewhere, can be quite heavy and therefore intimidating.
- NASIG is at a more mature stage in its growth, with much more complex processes and expectations for service to members in comparison to, say, 3-4 years ago.

At both the Fall Board meeting and at our Midwinter Board meeting, the Board discussed this complex issue in depth. At my request, Board members solicited input and feedback from current committee chairs and others as to their experiences with volunteer work. We also talked about our own experiences and impressions about the issue. First of all we debated and defined the issue itself, i.e. is there a problem? The answer was, yes, a problem exists and we need to take it seriously. The next logical step was to figure out what steps we could take to address the issue. A wide range of possibilities was considered. One end of the spectrum would be hiring an association management firm (not a new idea – this idea was considered and rejected several years ago). The other end of the spectrum would be to leave the current situation unchanged and not take any steps to address the issue. There were many middle-of-the road options we talked about as well, such as hiring an administrative assistant.

But as you can imagine, there were many strong voices pro and con on the larger issue.

We arrived at several conclusions. One conclusion is that by no means do we want to reduce the number of opportunities NASIG members have for getting involved in the organization, i.e. we do not want to lose the volunteer character NASIG has had from the beginning. Another conclusion was that we have already taken good steps to outsource work and relieve the burden on NASIG members where it makes sense. Examples include paying Bee.Net to be our Internet host provider (including provision of a higher level of service than we have had in the past) and paying Curry Printing to help with

*Newsletter* distribution. We agreed that we should continue to examine our work to see where we can successfully pay others to take on more clerical-type or routine work that falls on committee chairs, Board members, and other volunteers. Steve Savage articulated this situation very well in last issue's "President's Corner" when he stated: "I really want to reduce the work load on volunteers. I think it's extremely important in a volunteer-based organization to be very protective of every volunteer's willingness to work. This includes using their time effectively and limiting demands on them." Yet another conclusion was that we should continue to work on getting complete, up-to-date documentation in place for our processes so that the learning curve for volunteers in various capacities is minimized. An example of progress in this area is the development of a full-fledged Program Planning Committee manual. Finally, the Board agreed that we should provide funds for extra help as needed and requested, e.g. for student workers, for those who need it to help them carry their NASIG workload. Actually, we are already doing this, but we agreed that provision of this kind of support needs to be publicized better. In all of this, our desire is to enable and support your volunteer efforts in the best way possible.

#### *Costs of Doing Business*

NASIG's financial stature is quite strong, with fairly deep reserves, because we work hard to keep costs low. We want NASIG membership to be as accessible as possible to everyone, and we also want to enable conference attendance for as many of you who want to come as possible. Frankly, NASIG is a genuine bargain -- a rarity these days. Yet we cannot be complacent about our finances, especially as some of our costs of doing business increase. (This issue ties in very closely with the discussion above.) Just one example of increasing costs is provision of credit card transaction capability. As described in an earlier column, the Board unanimously voted to approve provision of this service because we felt it was a clear benefit to members, one that many of you have been requesting for years. But it is a new level of cost that we are monitoring closely. Another example of increasing costs is in the area of continuing education. This is an area of great strategic importance for our organization and we will continue to support as much as we can in terms of continuing education opportunities for members. Here again, this is a service which answers needs of our constituents and is in line with our strategic goals as an organization, but it is expensive. Other areas where we are purposely spending more money include provision of improved NASIGNet services, and paying for extra help. Increasing costs to provide ongoing or

improved services mean that we are eating into our reserves at a modest rate, and we are doing this on purpose.

As part of considering this issue, the Board has agreed on the need to revisit our dues structure at the June Board meeting. Gerry Williams, NASIG Treasurer, will present different scenarios which we will consider carefully, always keeping in our minds the absolute necessity for keeping direct costs to members as low as possible. The Finance Committee and the Board will also continue to monitor ways in which we can manage our assets effectively for the long term. There is no need for alarm in this area; however, it is an important issue that I think you should know about.

#### *NASIG's Role in the Broader Library and Information Science Community*

This organization has been in existence for 14 years now, and in that relatively short timeframe, it has had a major impact on the professional development of serialists in the U.S., Canada, Mexico, and beyond. As I travel around to various conferences and library events throughout the U.S. as part of my regular job, I consistently hear high praise for NASIG as an organization and for the programs and services we provide. In other words, we have a very good reputation in the broader library and information science community. We are pioneers in provision of electronic services to members, as well as in aggressively reaching out to library school students and beginning serialists with our Student Grant and Horizon Awards, among other honors, in a successful attempt to attract and mentor new players in the serials field. In particular, I hear from others how much they enjoy our conferences, which compare very favorably with many other library-related conferences.

Some nagging questions remain, however, such as: Are we too successful, given our large conference size? Are we playing as significant a role in the broader library and information science as we could be? We are an organization for serialists, but who and what does that include or exclude these days? Should we have a narrow focus on purely serials-related issues, or should we purposely keep a broader perspective on issues in information technology, publishing, and other areas?

As President this past year, one of the most valuable tools at my disposal has been the *NASIG 2000 Strategic Plan*, originally created under the deft guidance of John Tagler

and Mary Beth Clack. This has been our blueprint for where we need to go and why, for several years now. As the year 2000 draws nigh, it is time for us to step back once again and revisit this document in the light of changes within the organization as well as within the communities represented by our members. As one of my last acts as President, I will appoint a task force to take on this work. In that process, many of the questions I've raised above will be addressed. I am confident that as we reinvent ourselves, we will successfully hold onto core values such as mentoring, volunteerism, and outreach, which have shaped us and made us successful.

#### *Conclusion*

In closing, my purpose in highlighting these three issues is not to present a pessimistic or uncertain reality for NASIG. Far from it. Instead, my hope is that this brief discussion will make each of you aware that these issues are important and that those you elect to guide the organization are actively addressing them. Even more importantly, I want to make you think about them for yourself. I urge you to consider them carefully and to share your thoughts and views with any past or present Board member. As always, your participation in NASIG is critical and valued.

The past year has had its ups and downs, but it has been a fun ride! Thanks again for electing me to do this job and giving me the opportunity to work with such a fine group of Board members, committee chairs, and other volunteers. It is incredibly rewarding to work with and to get to know such high caliber people who sincerely have the best interests of NASIG at heart and whom I am proud to know as friends. My warm regards go to retiring Board members Susan Davis and Eleanor Cook, both of whom have served the organization with a great deal of dedication and resourcefulness for a number of years. My other colleagues on the Board deserve my warmest thanks as well. Thank you Dan, Ann, Gerry, Carol, Meg, Fran, Maggie, and Jim!

NASIG is a strong organization, and I know that under Dan Tonkery's very capable leadership in the coming year, it will grow stronger yet. Now it is my turn to head out to the back pasture to munch on some green grass and sweet clover; to think about lessons learned from this experience; and to await new opportunities to serve NASIG in other capacities. See you in Pittsburgh! I'll be one of the lucky ones enjoying a good game of euchre at the Late Night Social.

## NASIG COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORTS

### **AWARDS & RECOGNITION COMMITTEE**

Pat Frade and Markel Tumlin, Co-Chairs

Committee Members: Pat Frade (Co-Chair), Markel Tumlin (Co-Chair), Janie Branham, Claire Dygert, Kay Johnson, Reba Leiding, Marcella Leshner, Linda Lewis, Steve Murden, Nancy Newsome, Elizabeth Parang, Michelle Sitko, Laurie Sutherland, Peter Whiting. Board Liaison: Fran Wilkinson.

This was a particularly busy year for the Awards & Recognition Committee. In addition to the usual work of administering the NASIG awards, the Committee completed a review and revision of all award announcements and application forms. It further completed work on a new award, the Marcia Tuttle International Award, which was marketed for the first time.

The first order of business following the 1998 conference in Boulder was for the Committee to put the finishing touches on the Tuttle Award so that it could be advertised in time for the fall award cycle. It was decided that the Tuttle Award would enjoy two yearly cycles, with deadlines of October 31 and April 30. The award was completed and advertised in August, although there were no applications received for the fall award cycle. The Committee has received one applicant for the spring cycle, which it will be considering during May 1999.

Much time was also spent during the fall reviewing all award announcements and applications. Revisions were made (with the approval of the NASIG Board) to address the concerns raised in last year's annual report and also to address other concerns and discrepancies raised by Committee members. The Committee was divided into two subcommittees in order to distribute the workload. Each subcommittee worked on revisions for two awards; their completed work was then presented to the full Committee for approval before it was sent to the NASIG board for approval.

The award announcements were marketed on time and in the manner used in prior years. They were posted on several online discussion lists and on the NASIG Webpage; copies were mailed to all ALA accredited library school program offices. As the February 16<sup>th</sup> deadline for the Horizon, Student Grant, and Fritz Schwartz Scholarship approached, announcements were re-posted on the listservs. Nonetheless, the Committee received fewer applicants than it had in the previous year

for the Student Grant and Fritz Awards. There were 17 applicants for the Student Grant Award (compared with 34 from 1997/1998) and 6 applicants for the Fritz Award (compared with 11 from 1997/1998). On the other hand, the Horizon Award was up to 13 applicants from just 10 in 1997/1998.

Due to the overall smaller number of applications received during the 1998/1999 award cycle, the Committee decided not to divide itself into two subcommittees for application review as it had done in previous years. Rather, all applicants were ranked by all Committee members. The rankings were then compiled by one of the Committee Co-Chairs. Pat Frade compiled the rankings for the Horizon Award, and she is also supervising the review of the Tuttle application(s). Markel Tumlin compiled the rankings for the Student Grants and Fritz Schwartz Scholarship. One of the distinguishing characteristics of this year's applications was that they covered a wider geographic distribution than in previous years. The Committee received its usual mix of applications from Canada and the United States, but it also received Horizon applications from Mexico and Hungary.

The Committee is pleased to announce the winners of this year's awards:

#### *Horizon Award Winners*

P. Michelle Fiander – IUPUI  
Jonathan Makepeace – IUPUI  
June Rutkowski – Harvard College Library

#### *NASIG Conference Student Grant Winners*

Jennifer Dekker – University of Toronto  
Susie Husted – CUNY at Queens College  
Kate M. Manuel – Catholic University of America  
Konstantina Matsoukas – McGill University  
Edward W. Murphy – University of South Florida  
Marianne Orme – Pratt Institute  
Michelle Pearse – Simmons College  
Anne F. Rasmussen – Kent State University  
Laurentiu Mircea Stefanu – University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

#### *Fritz Schwartz Serials Education Scholarship Winner*

Donna M. Viscuglia – Simmons College

The Committee was very pleased that although there were fewer applicants for some awards than in the previous year, the applications received were of a uniformly high quality. Each winner attending this year's conference will

be assigned a mentor (in cooperation with the CE Committee) to help make their conference experience a fruitful one.

Essays written by the 1999 Horizon Awardees and selections from a post-conference questionnaire completed by each of the Conference Student Grant winners will be published in the *NASIG Newsletter*. (Ed. note: See pp. 17-20 for *Horizon essays*.)

The work of the Committee could not be accomplished without the support of the Committee online discussion list. The strength of this group is in its members and their willingness to participate in online discussions regarding the fine points of the awards process and their willingness to volunteer for any and all tasks.

There are a few outstanding issues that the Committee will be considering in the coming months and at the 1999 conference:

1. The Committee will be reviewing and revising the post-conference Student Grant questionnaire. It is hoped that this will be completed prior to the 1999 conference in Pittsburgh.
2. The Committee will consider the development of a post-conference questionnaire for the Horizon Award winners. Compiling such information might prove useful in future planning. This will be discussed at the annual conference and electronically.
3. The Committee will discuss a few possible minor revisions to further fine-tune the announcements and applications. Since a major review was conducted this year, these minor points will be ironed out at the annual meeting.
4. The Committee will discuss ways of better marketing the awards to increase the number of applicants, particularly with regard to the Tuttle Award.
5. The Committee will discuss ways to bring more organization to the winners' conference activities. While the winners are publicly given awards at the opening session and provided with special seating at the opening meal, some on the Committee have commented that more organization to their activities throughout the conference, or at least some end-of-conference activity to follow up in some way, might be appropriate. This will be discussed at the annual meeting.

6. Further definition of the lines of communication between the A&R Committee and other committees will be discussed and explored.

The Co-Chairs of the Awards & Recognition Committee are very thankful to the hard work and dedication exhibited by current Committee members. We would like to extend special thanks to those members cycling off the Committee and extend a warm welcome to the new members who will be joining us for 1999/2000.

### ***CONTINUING EDUCATION COMMITTEE***

Judy Irvin, Co-Chair

Committee members: Marty Gordon (Co-Chair); Judy Irvin (Co-Chair); Amira Aaron; Leslie Horner Button; Evelyn Council; Pat French; Jeff Holland; Pat Loghry; Birdie MacLennan; Priscilla Matthews; Denise Novak; Allison Roth; Priscilla Shontz. Board liaison: Eleanor Cook.

The NASIG Continuing Education Committee has been very active since last May preparing and organizing programs for its members and other interested librarians. Committee members have worked cooperatively with other professional organizations to produce programs that are timely and have value. The following programs have been successfully produced since last May:

1. SOLINET/NASIG workshop held August 7, 1998, entitled "USMARC Holdings Format." Presenters were NASIG members Frieda Rosenberg and Mary Van Cura.
2. NASIG sponsored two workshops in California in mid-September. The workshop entitled "Internet Cataloging" was held in two locations within the state. Interest was so great that we were asked to extend each workshop for one day in order to accommodate those wanting to attend. (Note: Our sponsorship here resulted in a number of new NASIG members and a much greater awareness of NASIG in California.)
3. On March 4, 1999 NASIG sponsored speakers to attend IX Foro Transfronterizo de Bibliotecas in Mexico. Steve Oberg and Maggie Rioux presented a program entitled "Intellectual Access Issues for the Digital Library". We were very pleased with this program and are planning additional joint programs with our Mexican counterparts later this year. Priscilla Shontz has done an excellent job in this area of CEC work.

4. On March 5, 1999 NASIG sponsored a speaker for the Eighth North Carolina Serials Conference. This was Stephanie Schmitt of Yale University who gave Web/HTML presentations at the conference. This has been a very positive conference for NASIG collaboration, and we look for continued success there. (*Ed. note: See p. 33 for a report of this conference.*)

5. NASIG and the Serials Section of the Louisiana Library Association co-sponsored a pre-conference to the LLA annual conference on March 16, 1999. Julie Gammon gave an afternoon workshop on electronic license agreements. This was a well-received program that was attended by librarians from all areas of service. (*Ed. note: See p. 32 for a report of this preconference.*)

6. Each year at the NASIG annual conference the CE Committee sponsors the mentor program where a first time conference attendee is paired with a "seasoned" conference attendee. The activity received great reviews from the Colorado participants, and we will continue the program at future annual NASIG conferences.

Continuing Education Committee members are working very hard on additional programs for the remainder of 1999. We have programs in the planning stages for California, New England, Florida, Atlanta, and Mexico. At the request of the Executive Board, we are continuing our efforts to forge relationships with other library organizations. We have contacted the Special Libraries Association, and they are very receptive to working with us to produce CE events at one another's annual conferences. This is a work in progress so more should develop later.

In another area of expansion, one of our Committee members will be speaking at the Canadian Association for Information Science conference and has agreed to promote NASIG and distribute membership brochures there.

This year has been very busy and fruitful for us on the Committee, and we look forward to continued success with co-sponsored events even as we pursue new stand-alone programs for the future.

On a personal note, I would like to thank all the Committee members for their work for NASIG. Successful events cannot be produced without dedicated people to work and plan them. Thanks to you all. Also a special thanks to Marty and Eleanor for their guidance and support this year, and I wish them well in their continued involvement in NASIG activities.

## ***DATABASE & DIRECTORY COMMITTEE***

Rose Robischon, Chair

The Committee mounted the *Directory* and the D&D Web pages to the new server via Microsoft FrontPage. Cheryl Riley has been of great assistance to the Chair, by continuing to create the HTML files that are forwarded to Ann Dykas for loading on the Web. Committee members wrote D&D procedures which Carol Gill converted to HTML and loaded on the Web site for access by all D&D Committee members. Mailing labels were prepared for the Continuing Education Committee for members in the Pacific regional council, the Nominations & Elections Committee, and the 1999 Conference Planning Committee. NASIG members have been very good about sending address changes to the Committee. This year's mailings each resulted in approximately 4 pieces of returned mail. We continued to supply Curry Printing with mailing label information in dBASE format as an e-mail attachment. A copy of Microsoft FrontPage was purchased to facilitate the maintenance of the *Directory* on the new server. To ease up some of the workload on the Committee Chair, starting next year window envelopes will be used for mailing all renewal notices. This will eliminate the need to produce and match labels with the corresponding renewal form.

Committee expenses to date have been minor since our major expense is printing and mailing the *Membership Directory*. The *Directory* will be published in May so expenses will not be known until after the printing and mailing. 1999 year-to-date expenses include: \$129.99 for software, \$196.99 for office supplies, and \$227.17 for postage.

The *Directory* information has all been sent to the desktop publisher, Kathy Mitchell. Kevin Randall coordinated the 1999 printed *Directory*. Kathy should complete the desktop publishing and send it to the printer by May 10. We have asked the publisher to have the *Directory* mailed by June 1, 1999.

The renewal rate for NASIG members was 74% with the first notice; after the final renewal reminder, the renewal rate rose to 84%. A courtesy last-minute e-mail reminder went to all non-renewing members April 15. Of the 212 non-renewing members, 37 had bad e-mail addresses; 13 responded with the decision not to renew, and 31 requested another renewal form. If all 31 renew, our renewal rate will be 86%. As of May 1, membership totaled 1205. Membership make-up by type of institution is:

<u>TYPE OF INSTITUTION</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>% OF TOTAL NASIG MEMBERS</u>
University library	714	59.25%
College library	91	7.55%
Community college library	15	1.24%
Medical library	64	5.31%
Law library	62	5.15%
Public library	31	2.57%
Government, national, or state library	52	4.32%
Corporate or special library	55	4.56%
Subscription vendor or agency	106	8.80%
Book vendor	14	1.16%
Publisher	81	6.72%
Back issues dealer	5	.41%
Binder	6	.50%
Automated systems vendor	10	.83%
Library network, consortium, or utility	15	1.24%
Professional association	12	.99%
Database producer	8	.66%
Student	14	1.16%
Other	31	2.57%

Committee members Cheryl Riley, Ann Dykas, and Virginia Rumph rotate off the Committee this year. We appreciate Cheryl's work with creation of the HTML files and answering questions, Ann's work with the Web page, and Virginia's work with the *Directory*. Continuing Committee members are: Donnice Cochenour, Carol Gill, Kevin Randall, Frieda Rosenberg, and Rose Robischon (Chair). New Committee members this year are: Mary Ellen Majors, Kathryn Wesley, and Elna Saxton. We welcome their expertise, ideas, and assistance in meeting our Committee charge.

### ***EVALUATION & ASSESSMENT COMMITTEE***

Jennifer Marill, Chair

Committee Members: Jennifer Marill (Chair); June Chressanthis; Diane Grover; Janice Lindquist; Pat Phillips; Kristine Smets; Joan Stephens; David Winchester. Board Liaison: Jim Mouw. Both Vivian Bernstein and Wendy Stewart dropped out of the Committee for personal and professional reasons. The cycle of activities for the Evaluation and Assessment Committee runs roughly from the beginning of the

calendar year to its end. However, since the annual reports from committees are due May 1 each year, this report will represent activities from January through April 1999. The Committee will produce a follow-up report of its activities in December 1999.

#### *Activities*

In pursuit of the Committee's goals and objectives, the EAC undertook the following activities:

##### *Jan.-March 1999*

Committee task assignments were finalized for the calendar year.

##### *April-May 1999*

Conference and preconference evaluation forms were created for the Pittsburgh conference using the Survey-Pro software.

#### *Expenditures*

The following expenses were reported during Jan.-April 1999: \$109.57 for photocopying and postage.

#### *Goals for June-December 1999*

##### *Post-conference*

Provide brief conference and pre-conference reports to the President and Past President.

##### *Summer 1999*

Committee members will complete data entry from evaluation forms.

##### *August-October 1999*

Using the Survey-Pro software, generate and distribute reports to the NASIG Board and specified committee chairs by the fall Board meeting.

##### *November 1999*

Submit summary conference evaluation report to the *NASIG Newsletter*.

### ***ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE***

Mike Randall and Stephanie Schmitt, Co-Chairs

Committee members for 1998/99 include: Michael Randall (Co-Chair); Stephanie Schmitt (Co-Chair); Michelle Collins Flinchbaugh; Margi Mann; Wendy Moore; Rick Ralston; Beth Jane Toren; Robb Waltner;



Mary Wilke; Amanda Xu; Yvonne W. Zhang. Board Liaison: Maggie Rioux.

Mike Randall served as primary listowner for the year and will turn the responsibility over to Robb Waltner as primary listowner and Margi Mann as backup listowner for the coming year as Mike will be rotating off the ECC as of June. Wendy Moore and Rick Ralston, who will also be leaving ECC, continue their service as backup listowners. Margi Mann and Robb Waltner came on as apprentice back-up listowners in preparation for taking over list responsibility next year.

Stephanie Schmitt served as Webspinner. Beth Toren has agreed to serve as back-up Webspinner for the coming year. Yvonne Zhang has taken over maintenance of the NASIGWeb Jobs listing. Beth Jane Toren served as liaison to the *Newsletter* Board and provided support for each *Newsletter*.

In October 1998, the ECC was directed by the NASIG Board to participate in an RFP process to locate a new lists/hosts provider for the coming year. Donnice Cochenour and Stephanie Schmitt were asked to co-chair a task force for the RFP process. The task force was charged with 1) identifying any and all potential Internet service providers to which a detailed RFP may be sent; and 2) drafting an RFP that contains a comprehensive description of the features, functionality, and service that will best serve NASIG including support for the domain name: <http://www.nasig.org/>. The task force completed this in January 1999. The results of the RFP were presented to the NASIG Board in late January at ALA Midwinter. A decision was made to select Bee.Net, located in Exton, PA, as the service provider for NASIGNet.

In mid-February 1999, the work to build the new site and convert the lists began. E-mail aliases, decentralized Web directories, and accounts were created by the end of February. The site files were moved from the server at the University of North Carolina School of Information and Library Science to the server at Bee.Net. These files were relinked and restructured according to the site reorganization. The ECC tested the site for information and broken links. The ECC participated with the Database & *Directory* Committee, the *Newsletter* Board, and the Continuing Education Committee in testing the site integrity. The ECC would like to express appreciation to these committees for their important contributions towards the successful completion of this project.

In February 1999, extensive testing of the Post.Office list processing software provided by Bee.Net began. ECC

members were recruited as subscribers for a test list to give them and the listowners experience in list operations. In March, Bee.Net staff set up twenty lists and the listowner configured them and migrated the subscriber files. Committee chairs were notified to start using the new lists.

On April 5, NASIG-L began operation at the new site, ending the list transition period that, while characterized by much learning and several surprises, was much smoother than anticipated. The Post.Office mail and discussion list management software is basically similar to ListProc, NASIG's former list software. A new and attractive feature is the availability of a friendly Web command interface, in addition to an e-mail interface, for users and listowners.

On April 5, 1999, NASIGNet, using the new service provider, became available to the public. Continuing projects include implementing list archiving capabilities and completing the conversion of the gopher text files. The site may be found at: <http://www.nasig.org/> and messages to the NASIG-L membership discussion list may be addressed to: [nasig-l@nasig.org](mailto:nasig-l@nasig.org).

#### *NASIG List Activities*

Committee discussion list subscriber files were updated for 1998/99 by Wendy Moore, Rick Ralston and Mike Randall.

Four new lists were set up by Mike Randall and Robb Waltner: NASIG-PUB (Publications Committee), NASIGL-TF (Task Force on Guidelines for NASIG-L), CHAIRS-L (committee chairs), and PUBLIB-L (public libraries).

The annual purge from NASIG-L of non-renewed members was completed. For the second year Rick Ralston did an automated purge, running a file of the membership database, provided by the Database and *Directory* Committee, against the NASIG-L subscribers file.

Archives of past messages on committee lists were purged or retained as directed by 1997/98 committee chairs.

Work continued on revision of the Listowner Manual. The goal is to update the manual for procedures at the new list site, and to make it available on NASIGWeb.

Selected archives of list messages from the UNC site will need to be migrated and made accessible. List messages at the new site are being archived by means of a dummy

subscriber on each list. Making these archives accessible is another goal. Maggie Rioux researched the availability of archiving applications and came up with a promising candidate that has been referred to Bee.Net for review.

#### *NASIGWeb Activities*

The site move and its related tasks were the primary project for the past year. ECC members participated by determining what would be required in the RFP and by searching for potential host providers.

The decentralization of the NASIGWeb site continued with the site move to a new host provider. Directories were created so that each NASIG committee has direct access to the Web files pertaining to their areas. The process will continue throughout the coming year as committees further develop Web documentation and projects.

Beth Jane Toren is working with the *Newsletter* Committee to convert the gopher newsletters that have not been available to the public since 1997. This is a labor intensive project that is being coordinated by Steve Savage, *Newsletter* Editor-in-Chief. These gopher files span the dates of December 1992 - December 1995. Kathy Schmidt of University of Wisconsin-Whitewater has provided the ECC and the *Newsletter* Board with files for a fair number of pre-December 1992 newsletters. We intend to convert these as well during the coming year. The earliest issue available in these files is Vol. 5, no. 3/4 (June/Sep 1990).

Interactive Web forms have been made available on the current Web site. As these are modified and updated, we will continue to improve their functionality. The ECC also intends to provide more opportunities to the NASIG organization as resources and skills continue to be developed. Currently, interactive forms are available for the New Membership Form, the Membership Renewal Form, and the Volunteer Form.

Four of the five issues of the *Newsletter* were marked up by the *Newsletter* Board using the same procedures as in the past. The April 1999 issue was posted after the site move to the new host provider. Beth Jane Toren and Stephanie Schmitt worked with the *Newsletter* Editor-in-Chief to ensure that this change was carried out efficiently.

ECC continued to provide the NASIG job listing service through the work of Stephanie Schmitt and Yvonne Zhang. This responsibility will be in the capable hands of Yvonne Zhang during the next year.

The Awards & Recognition Committee supplied eight award descriptions and application forms, which were converted to HTML by ECC members and made available in NASIGWeb. The Nominations & Elections Committee worked with the ECC to post information about the candidates and the ballot process for this year's election. This information was made available on the NASIGWeb.

Maggie Rioux converted into PDF the reimbursement forms for Gerry Williams, NASIG Treasurer. These files were made available on NASIGWeb. The ECC members scanned the NASIGWeb site for inaccurate and/or outdated information, broken links, and they took preliminary steps towards site evaluation. The reports generated by this project will be used during the coming year. Plans have been made to address the organization and presentation of NASIG information online. Thanks should go to Mary Wilke, Wendy Moore, and Yvonne Zhang for this project.

#### *NASIG ECC 1999 Metadata Preconference*

In June the Committee conducted a survey of NASIG members on education and training needs to aid in planning future programs. Based on the results of the survey, Robb Waltner coordinated ECC planning and submission of a proposal for a 1999 preconference on metadata, which was approved by the Program Planning Committee. Speakers will include Stuart Weibel (OCLC) on the Dublin Core Metadata Initiative and related Web infrastructure developments providing metadata architecture to support resource discovery on the Web and Jane Greenburg (UNC-Chapel Hill) on information retrieval protocols.

### ***NEWSLETTER EDITORIAL BOARD***

Steve Savage, Editor-in-Chief

*Newsletter* Editorial Board members for the year were: John Harrison; Maggie Horn; Carol MacAdam; Cecilia Sercan (Dec.- ); Charlene Simser (Dec.- ); Naomi Young; Regina Beach (June-Sept.); Steve Savage (Editor-in-Chief). Board Liaison: Steve Oberg.

This was an extremely busy year for the *Newsletter* Editorial Board. In addition to the constant stream of producing 5 issues, many personnel and procedural changes required much of the Editorial Board's time and energy. Many of these changes grew out of the winter 1998 survey and the 1998 annual report. These included steps intended to improve appearance, fine-tune contents, provide more proof-reading, make the production

processes more efficient, and prepare for converting back issues to HTML.

### *Changes Implemented from the 1998 Survey*

To date, the following improvements and other changes suggested by the 1998 survey results have been made:

1. Including images in the online version
2. Routinely linking entries in the calendar to the events' Web sites
3. Improving navigation within an issue by adding links in the footer to next and previous articles, so readers are not forced to return to the table of contents
4. Retaining emphasis on the print version, while enhancing both versions
5. Including an issue's table of contents in the NASIG-L message announcing availability of its online version
6. Working on lightening the appearance of the print version to improve readability
7. Eliminating the "Address Changes" column
8. Omitting most time-sensitive announcements
9. Revising production processes to support completing the work faster, in an attempt to publish more issues on time (all late issues were due to external factors)
10. Omitting duplication of the conference brochure, while continuing to highlight the upcoming conference
11. Shortening most issues slightly

The following items have been retained or enhanced, in response to readers' preferences for them:

1. Keeping content closely related to NASIG business and NASIG members, with a secondary consideration of non-NASIG serials-related items
2. Continuing to balance news content with personal content
3. Improving the mechanism for members to submit information for "Title Changes" and the "Calendar"
4. Focusing efforts more to provide more complete coverage of NASIG conference reports

### *Content*

"New Members," "Address Changes," and board and committee rosters were eliminated. The Profiles Editor position was created in order to begin, with the June issue, including profiles of committee, board, and long-term members. The masthead moved to page two to comply with bulk mail regulations. The number of reports of non-

NASIG events decreased due to the Editor-in-Chief's inexperience with his new role and shortage of time.

### *Production*

We made many stylistic and formatting changes with both versions. A graphic design professional reviewed some print issues and offered several suggestions for improving readability. As a result, we changed font style, adjusted margins, and modified several design elements to more clearly reflect structure. We also thoroughly revised the graphic design of the online version. Regina began this process; Char completed it. We also redesigned the table of contents and article headers, and Char created an image map for article footers.

Steve created a style guide for the print version to formalize changes and assist with consistency. Most of the stylistic and formatting changes made in the print version also apply to the online version, so the style guide essentially serves both. This set of guidelines will also help in converting back issues to HTML.

We made several significant procedural improvements. As noted above, we now produce the two versions simultaneously. In addition to making the online version available at least 2 weeks prior to the print version, this also allows a cross-check proofing step.

The production processes now rely heavily on e-mail attachments. This allows the Editor-in-Chief and the Copy Editor to make many stylistic and formatting edits that the two Production Editors previously had to input. It also allows them to make minor changes during proof-reading, rather than sending longer lists of edits to the Production Editors. A final proof-reading of the print master by the Copy Editor was added as the last step in the process.

### *Publication Schedule*

Under routine conditions, and if all submissions are received on time, an issue would only take approximately 3 of the 4 weeks allocated for production of both versions. With all the changes this year, and external factors such as timing of submissions, however, none of the issues were blessed with either of these conditions. Nevertheless, we published the September and December issues on schedule. The print versions of the February and April issues were both late; in both cases, this was due to late receipt of critical articles. The online version of both these issues, however, was available on schedule, though not as early as desired. A new approach instituted last

summer suggested by Maggie, made this possible: after splitting the production processes among two staff members, we now produce the two versions simultaneously.

### *Personnel Changes*

For the first time in several years, the *Newsletter* staff was not affected by numerous changes of job or locale. As an unintentional substitute for this unholy situation, several people changed positions within the Editorial Board. In part to help minimize disruption from these transitions, a position description was developed for each Editorial Board position. These will be posted in NASIGWeb soon.

When Steve began as Editor-in-Chief in June, the copy editing tasks transferred to a new position, Copy Editor, which Maggie Horn graciously agreed to fill. Naomi Young transferred from the Print Production Editor position to be the first Profiles Editor, which is still in the process of being defined and implemented. With the December issue, Cecilia Sercan began as Print Production Editor and Charlene Simser began as Electronic Production Editor. All of these changes required months for the new positions to be clarified and developed and for the new people to settle into their roles. Fortunately, John Harrison continued as Distribution Editor, and Carol MacAdam continued as Columns Editor.

One of the goals for this year was to find procedural changes that would prevent any Editorial Board member (other than the Editor-in-Chief) to have to spend more than 8 hours' work on any issue. This has only been partially accomplished; efforts toward it will continue next year.

### *Budget*

The 1998 budget would have ended up precisely on target if the bill for the December issue had not been lost in the mail, delaying payment and thus ending the year with a surplus of about \$1,500 out of the original \$14,325 allocation. The same amount was allocated for 1999. At the current rate of expenditure, the account will probably have a small surplus this year.

The average length of each issue this year was 31 pages, down from 35.6 for the previous year, due to content changes noted above. This should reduce the annual expense by only a small amount (roughly \$500).

### *Gopher Conversion*

The process of converting back issues in gopher files to HTML began in late April, and will resume when the June issue is completed. All 1995 issues have now been converted. Step Schmitt of ECC tracked down even older issues in word processing files: Kathy Schmidt provided all issues from June 1990-Sept. 1992. These will eventually be converted to HTML and made available, along with the Dec. 1992-Dec.1994 issues.

### *Goals for the Rest of the Year and Next Year*

1. Continue to look for ways to make the production processes easier, more efficient, and less time consuming
2. Adjust procedures for the online version to take advantage of MS FrontPage
3. Assume ECC's previous responsibilities for indexing and maintaining links in related NASIGWeb pages
4. Finish converting gopher issues
5. Convert pre-gopher issues
6. Convert the 1998 survey report to HTML and make it available in NASIGWeb
7. Obtain a bulk mail permit
8. Implement Ann Ercelawn's suggestion of a "dynamic calendar" using the online calendar file of each current issue.
9. Work with the Archivist and the Executive Board to clarify the *Newsletter's* archival function.
10. Increase the number of reports about non-NASIG (particularly non-U.S.) events published in the *Newsletter*.

Finally, the Editor-in-Chief would like to offer his very heartfelt thanks to the members of the *Newsletter* Editorial Board. Everyone worked many, many hours on their *Newsletter* tasks, and their work has consistently been excellent. All have also been very easy and enjoyable to work. Given the number of personnel and procedural changes, this attests to their commitment, professionalism, and abilities. Maggie Horn, in particular, provided much-appreciated support and assistance to the new Editor-in-Chief, in addition to taking on the new role as Copy Editor. Steve Oberg has been an excellent Board Liaison, often anticipating issues and providing assistance with them before the Editor-in-Chief even knew they were coming. With this excellent group of people to work with, our *Newsletter* work during the coming year should be both productive and enjoyable.

## **NOMINATIONS & ELECTIONS COMMITTEE**

Bob Persing, Chair

With the recent announcement of the NASIG election results, the Nominations & Elections Committee completed its work for the year.

The Committee began its year's work by meeting at the Boulder Annual Conference. The initial Call for Nominations was included in the conference notebook distributed to attendees at Boulder. The Call was also issued in the *Newsletter*, and on NASIG-L on July 8.

For the first time this year, nominations could be made electronically, using a form on NASIGWeb. NASIG members responded by submitting 52 names for nomination. Of these, 2 were disqualified as not being current NASIG members. Each nominee was then contacted about his or her willingness to stand for office. The pool of those agreeing to run consisted of 5 candidates for Vice President/President Elect, 3 candidates for Treasurer, and 18 candidates for Member-at-Large. Each of these candidates submitted a profile form, indicating their NASIG experience and their reasons for running.

The Committee members then evaluated the completed profile forms to decide which potential candidates to place on the slate. This was a long and difficult process, as the Committee weighed NASIG-related activities, the need for balance in geography and type of work (library, vendor, publisher, etc.), and the position statements. Profile forms were mailed to the Committee members Dec. 1. Committee deliberations then continued on e-mail, interrupted somewhat by the Christmas and New Year's holidays. Consensus was reached, and the slate forwarded to the President for review and approval by the Executive Board on January 21. After the Board approved the proposed slate, the slated candidates were contacted, and letters were sent to the non-slated candidates.

Preparation of the ballot then began. Candidates were given the chance to revise their position statements if desired. Their biographical information and statements were then posted on NASIGWeb. To save paper (and thus postage), only some of the candidate information was printed and mailed with each ballot. 1,001 ballots were printed on NASIG letterhead and mailed on February 16, with a return deadline of March 15.

Four hundred ninety ballots were returned, for a return rate of 48.95%. Four returned ballots were disqualified for

being returned too late. This year's return rate was lower than last year (56%), but higher than 1997 (40%). The successfully elected candidates were as follows:

*Vice-President/President-Elect*

**CONNIE FOSTER**

Serials Coordinator, Western Kentucky University

*Treasurer*

**GERRY WILLIAMS**

(re-elected)

Systems Librarian, Northern Kentucky University

*Members-at-Large*

**DON JAEGER**

President and CEO, Alfred Jaeger Inc.

**PAT WALLACE**

Head, Serials Department,  
University of Colorado, Boulder

**FRAN WILKINSON**

(re-elected)

Acting Associate Dean of Library Sciences,  
University of New Mexico

In addition to the slated candidates, two other candidates received write-in votes for Member-at-Large.

The Chair notified all slated candidates of the election results during the week of March 29th. The election results were posted on NASIG-L and NASIGWeb April 7. This brought the Committee's work for the year to a successful conclusion.

There were only a few areas of concern for the Committee this year. The last few elections have noted a paucity of nominees from the vendor and publisher ranks. While this issue did come up again this year, we saw some improvement, with two of the ten slated candidates being vendors. Geographic diversity was not a problem this year, as the potential candidates tended to be spread across North America. No members outside North America chose to be considered, though, which might be an area to consider in the future.

Both the number of names submitted by the membership and the number of submitted people who agreed to be considered, were down this year. This is a source of concern, since NASIG's strength depends on having the highest quality of officers. This can only happen when there is a broad and diverse pool of potential nominees. I

want to urge NASIG members to be active in submitting nominations and to be open to the idea of running.

That being said, the Committee found it difficult in many cases to choose among the many qualified names submitted. For Member-at-Large in particular, we could easily have slated twice as many fine candidates.

As outgoing Chair, I would like to thank the wonderful members of the Committee: Sandy Folsom, Mary Greci, Joan Lamborn, Kat McGrath, Sharon Cline McKay and Joyce Tenney. They were a pleasure to work with and handled an arduous and time-sensitive process wonderfully. Special thanks are also due to Susan Davis, our Board Liaison, whose boundless knowledge of and dedication to NASIG made our task much easier this year. The Committee's work was also aided by the timely help of Step Schmitt of ECC, Meg Mering and Gerry Williams of the Executive Board, and Rose Robischon of D&D. They have all made this year's Committee work a smooth and enjoyable process.

**PROCEEDINGS EDITORS**

Beatrice L. Caraway, Co-Editor

The Editors for the *NASIG Thirteenth Annual Conference Proceedings* were Jeffrey S. Bullington, Beatrice L. Caraway, and Beverley Geer. All were at Trinity University, San Antonio, Texas, during the time that most of the work was underway. Jeffrey Bullington went to the University of Kansas at the beginning of January 1999, and Beverley Geer went to the University of Texas El Paso in April 1999. We benefited from the guidance and advice of two NASIG Board Liaisons, Eleanor Cook and Ann Ercelawn.

Haworth Press hosted the three Editors for a two-day visit to Binghamton, New York, in mid-April 1998. The Haworth staff welcomed us graciously, gave us tours of the main offices and production facility in Binghamton, and allowed plenty of time for us to meet with Helen Mallon, head of the Journal Division, and Nancy Deisroth, leader of the editorial team for the *NASIG Proceedings*. (The Journal Section is located across the state line in West Hazelton, Pennsylvania.) Our time together was used to establish deadlines for the year and to ask and answer questions about the process.

We posted announcements on NASIG-L inviting interested members to apply for positions as workshop and preconference recorders and as *Proceedings* Indexer. Although many members applied, we had to solicit several

more people from the list of conference registrants to record specific workshops. As always, NASIG appreciates members' willingness to invest their time and energy in these endeavors.

One plenary session was transcribed from the audiotape; two concurrent sessions were summarized by members who were submitting reports to the *Newsletter* for those same concurrent sessions; all other papers were written submissions from the speakers. We created a style sheet this year to help us ensure consistency in our editing, and we hope that future editors will use it and expand upon it. The level of editing for papers ranged from almost no editing to very extensive editing. We sent the manuscript to Haworth Press at the end of September. The Journals Division of Haworth Press shipped page proofs to Trinity University in mid-January 1999. Beverley Geer and Bea Caraway reviewed the page proofs, responded to editorial queries from the Haworth editor, and spot-checked for mistakes throughout the approximately 600 pages of text and figures. We shipped the corrected proofs back to Haworth at the end of January. Haworth Press was later than expected sending the *Proceedings* to the Indexer, then other unavoidable circumstances delayed the Indexer's work. As a result, the *Proceedings* are going to the print shop later than usual this year, and the Web version cannot be mounted until the manuscript goes into print production. This delay had an unexpected consequence, which was that we were able to insert a dedication to the late Elaine Rast. Jeffrey Bullington is ready to convert the file to HTML for the NASIG Web site as soon as he receives it. Despite these delays, we expect the *Proceedings* to be available for sale as usual at the upcoming conference.

The 1998 *Proceedings* include:

Preconference 1	1 report
Preconference 2	10 reports
Plenary Sessions	3 papers
Concurrent Sessions	20 papers
Workshops	20 reports

In March 1999, Beverley Geer updated the manual and sent it off, with best wishes, to the 1999 editorial team.

Jeffrey, Beverley, and I wish to thank Eleanor Cook and Ann Ercelawn for their able and good-natured assistance during the past year. We appreciate the help the Program Planning Committee gave us in obtaining papers from authors who missed the submission deadline. Thanks go to Steve Savage (*Newsletter* Editor-in-Chief) and his reporters for allowing us to use their *Newsletter* reports as a substitute for two concurrent session papers. In addition,

we are grateful to Nancy Deisroth for her patience with novices, for her complete understanding of the editorial process and willingness to share her knowledge, and for her unfailing sensitivity to any NASIG concern that we brought to her. She is an invaluable asset. Finally, we thank the NASIG Board for allowing us to serve the members of the organization by providing them with a record of the Thirteenth Annual NASIG Conference.

### ***PROGRAM PLANNING COMMITTEE***

Connie Foster, Co-Chair

The 1999 Program Planning Committee (PPC) retained the subcommittee structure successfully used in recent years. Jos Anemaet chaired the workshop subcommittee with Cameron Campbell, Jill Emery, Barbara Albee, and Hui-Yee Chang. Anne McKee and Connie Foster chaired the preconference, plenaries, issues subcommittee with Judy Luther, Phillip Wallas, Kathryn Ellis and Susan Markley. Dan Tonkery served as Board Liaison.

Once the 60 proposals were discussed for potential program offerings, each subcommittee spent an intense fall structuring and crafting the total program that would best support the conference theme of looking ahead and back to forge the future of serials. The plenary subgroup identified keynote speakers who would offer visions beyond the immediate workplace. The PPC Chairs attended the fall and midwinter Board meetings with several ideas and recommendations. The Board agreed to move the deadline for proposals to August 21 to allow more time for people to respond with proposals throughout the summer. We submitted a report after the midwinter meeting that contained recommendations about changes in types of sessions and scheduling that would offer variety from the traditional format and tracks. As a result, the new PPC Committee could consider such changes quite early in the planning process before proposals are reviewed. There simply was not enough time to inject some creative thinking and meet deadlines, even though we tried!

Extending an idea presented last year about scenario planning, we wanted to offer this concept as a preconference and also move the Electronic Communications Committee's proposal of a seminar on metadata to a preconference.

Each PPC member served as liaison for several speakers, thereby providing a single contact for information. This process still needs fine-tuning, but the liaison role is vital for committee involvement and program success. CPC's

excellent work made our detailed efforts easier for speakers' lodging, audiovisual needs, and presentation rooms. Thanks!

We also appreciate the fine work of all our Committee members, the timely discussions, feedback and Board responses. Attending the Board meetings was a huge boost in keeping everyone on the same page. We hope you enjoy NASIG 14!

### ***PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE***

Julia A. Gammon, Chair

The newly created NASIG Publications Committee has been in operation since late October 1998. The founding members of this hard working Committee are: Ladd Brown; Tina Chrzastowski; Jennifer Edwards; Beverley Geer; Doug LaFrenier; Pamela Matthews; and Julia Gammon (Chair). Steve Savage (*Newsletter* Editor-in-Chief) serves as an ex officio member, and Ann Ercelawn is Board liaison.

The Publications Committee is charged with serving in a proactive role to encourage publication of serials-related literature, whether for publication by NASIG itself or by an outside publishing agent. The Committee fulfills this role by establishing and maintaining guidelines for various aspects of the publication process, including: identification of needed publications, including solicitation and selection processes and choosing authors; content of submitted publications, such as appropriate topics and target audiences; choosing the medium or combination of media for publication; updating and maintaining electronic and/or print publications where appropriate, including intervals for new editions or online update; and channels for feedback and evaluation. The Committee serves in a mentoring and consulting capacity rather than as the initiator or author of publications, and works in close cooperation with the *Newsletter* Editorial Board, the Database & Directory Committee, the Electronic Communications Committee, the Continuing Education Committee, the Conference Planning Committee, Proceedings Editors, and the Program Planning Committee.

Defining the role of a new committee has consumed the first six months of the Committee's existence. It's not been an easy task. Things are beginning to come together, thanks to all that agreed to serve on the Committee.

What have we accomplished? Three Committee members, LaFrenier, Chrzastowski, and Matthews are completing the first membership survey on the organization's

publication needs. Special thanks to Doug LaFrenier for volunteering to tabulate those results. Geer and Edwards surveyed the current NASIG committee chairs to get their thoughts on how this Committee could benefit them. Their complete and well-organized report generated thoughtful discussion. Geer and Brown have been working closely with the 1999 Conference Planning Committee, so that the Publications Committee can assume the responsibility for gathering, collating, publishing and distributing the Conference Handout booklet. The overburdened Conference Planning Committee greeted the assumption of this duty by Brown and Geer with warm enthusiasm. Savage is investigating using the *NASIG Newsletter's* printer to produce and distribute the Conference Handout volume and the possibility of also printing the conference brochure.

Future tasks for the Publications Committee during 1999/2000 include ranking and prioritizing the results of the two surveys, as well as brainstorming where we are as a Committee and what we want to accomplish next. My special thanks to the Committee members and our liaison for helping this new NASIG Committee get started.

## ***REGIONAL COUNCILS & MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE***

Linda Smith Griffin, Chair

The members of the Regional Councils & Membership Committee for 1998/99 are as follows: Molly Brennan; Janet Essency; David Fritsch; Anne Frohlich; Joan Griffith; Don Jaeger; Rogelio Hinojosa; Lorraine Hirning; Judith Johnston (NASIG Publicist); Pamela Morgan; Kamala Narayanan; Ann Nez; Linda Smith Griffin (Chair); and Gayle Teaster-Woods. Board liaison: Ann Ercelawn.

The members of the Regional Councils & Membership Committee were very active this year. The Committee engaged in the following activities: recruiting and welcoming new and potential members; revising the duties and responsibilities of the state and provincial representatives; identifying all active state and provincial reps; compiling a list of state meetings; promoting NASIG through library school presentations and making students aware of the NASIG awards and scholarship programs; and promoting NASIG activities whenever possible.

The Committee continued its efforts to promote NASIG throughout the year by distributing membership brochures and conference brochures, contacting new recruits formally and informally and displaying the NASIG traveling banner and other promotional materials at local,

state, national and international conferences. This year Committee member Anne Frohlich sent 175 membership packets and conference brochures to the 1998 non-member NASIG conference attendees to encourage them to join. Of this group 66 joined. Three RC&M Committee members, Joan Griffith, Lorraine Hirning, and Marla Whitney did an outstanding job in distributing new member packets to new recruits. Packets were sent to Hungary, England, Taiwan and Hong Kong. Some discussion occurred on the RC&M discussion list concerning the amount of time it takes for Customs clearing of NASIG banners and other materials crossing borders. From the discussions it was decided that as non-US members rotate off the Committee the banners would be hand delivered and exchanged at meetings or conferences. Also, it was decided that all new member packets will be mailed from the US. This will ensure the timely arrival of the packets and their contents to new recruits.

Joan Griffith, the non-North-American rep, notified RC&M, the Board liaison, and Steve Oberg concerning the formation of a new serialist group in Germany (GeSIG).

With the help of the regional councils reps and Ann Ercelawn, Board liaison, the list of duties and responsibilities for state and provincial reps were revised and sent to the Electronic Communications Committee for mounting on the RC&M informational page on NASIGWeb. This listing along with other RC&M information will inform potential members and state and provincial reps of the types of activities that RC&M engages in throughout the year.

A new recruitment letter was created this year which targets potential recruits identified by discussion lists, e.g. SERIALST, AUTOCAT, etc., who have expressed interest in learning more about serials. Five individuals were sent letters and copies of membership brochures.

This year the Chair spent a considerable amount of time contacting and identifying all active state and provincial reps and reviewing their appointment terms. It was decided that all appointees will receive a two or three year term appointment with renewals at the discretion of the Chair. The two and three year appointments will prevent all terms from expiring simultaneously and provide some continuity among the state and provincial reps.

To help foster better communication among all members of the RC&M Committee, the discussion list has been expanded to include the state and provincial reps. This move will allow reps to share activities they are engaged in throughout the year among all members.



Judith Johnston, Publicist, worked with the Chair, the Board liaison, and others to accomplish numerous tasks. She is to be commended for a job well done. She ordered reprints of NASIG membership brochures and notepads, and mailed over 700 brochures (in English), 50 brochures (in French), and 100 brochures (in Spanish) to RC&M Committee members, the Board liaison, NASIG Secretary, and the President to be used in promoting NASIG activities at presentations and conferences. In November 1998, the following announcements were sent to the discussion lists: "1999 Fritz Schwartz Serials Education Scholarship Announcement;" "1999 NASIG Horizon Award Announcement;" And "1999 NASIG Student Grant Announcement." The Publicist submitted NASIG

1999 Annual Conference dates to the ALA Web calendar, the "Librarian's Datebook," and to the ALA Office requesting that it appear in the April issue of *American Libraries* on the "Datebook" page. She attempted to contact the moderator of PUBLIB discussion list in order to re-establish contact to send NASIG announcements. Finally, Judy sent announcements of the new NASIG Web site along with the Annual Conference Web site information and the NASIG election results to the discussion lists.

The Chair's goal for the remainder of this year is to continue to identify individuals to fill the vacant state and provincial representatives slots.

*Please be sure to meet these individuals at the conference and welcome them to NASIG!*

## **1999 NASIG CONFERENCE STUDENT GRANT RECIPIENTS**

*JENNIFER DEKKER*  
University of Toronto

*EDWARD W. MURPHY*  
University of South Florida

*SUSIE HUSTED*  
CUNY at Queens College

*MARIANNE ORME*  
Pratt Institute

*KATE M. MANUEL*  
Catholic University of America

*MICHELLE PEARSE*  
Simmons College

*KONSTANTINA MATSOUKAS*  
McGill University

*ANNE F. RASMUSSEN*  
Kent State University

*LAURENTIU MIRCEA STEFANCU*  
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

## **1999 FRITZ SCHWARTZ SERIALS EDUCATION SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT**

*DONNA M. VISCUGLIA*  
Simmons College

## **HORIZON AWARD RECIPIENTS' ESSAYS**

Pat Frade & Markel Tumlin, Co-Chairs, Awards & Recognition Committee

The 1998/99 Awards & Recognition Committee is pleased to award 3 Horizon grants for the 1999 Conference.

The Horizon Award (created in 1995 to commemorate the 10th Anniversary of the NASIG Conference) is open to all aspiring serialists who have less than three years experience in serials, have at least 50% of their job responsibility in some aspect of serials, and have never attended a NASIG conference. In addition to the application packet (which requires the Horizon application, current resume/vita, and a supervisor's recommendation), the applicants must also discuss the year's conference theme in an essay.

The Horizon Award grants a scholarship to the year's NASIG conference, travel expenses, a recognition plaque, the opportunity to serve on a NASIG committee, and one year's annual NASIG membership fee. The NASIG Awards & Recognition Committee is pleased to present the 1999 Horizon Award recipients' essays.

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*JUNE RUTKOWSKI has been the Serials Cataloger at Harvard College Library since March 1998. She received her Master of Science degree with an Archives Management Concentration from Simmons College in*

*1997. June was a Bibliographic Assistant for several years prior to becoming the Serials Cataloger at Harvard.*

The theme of the 1999 NASIG Conference, "From Carnegie to Internet II: Forging the Serials Future," links the information past to the future. In it I see the connection between the democratic ideals of Andrew Carnegie's funding for public libraries a century ago and the current efforts to increase access to information via the Internet. The theme implies that the serials community has the power and the responsibility to shape the methods of production, distribution, and access to serial publications. It recognizes that the ongoing nature of serials will always require us to deal with past practices and that the practices we apply in the present must accommodate the future. The theme is also a reminder of how change is a constant in our work. In order to make advances in technology work for us, we must train staff to perform tasks in more efficient ways.

Just over a century ago the first Carnegie library opened and within thirty years more than 1,500 were built. Carnegie's philosophy that access to information should not be limited to the elite classes was progressive. One hundred years later we are still striving to make information accessible to all, through libraries and the Internet. The explosive growth of the Internet is similar to the thirty-year blitz of library construction one hundred years ago, in that both have sought to improve access to information and have had extensive influences upon society. Many of us working in the information community have faced the limits of the Internet. If we think of the Internet as the world's public library, then we cannot help but see that it is functioning beyond its capacity and is in need of expansion. In its current state the Internet is like the Carnegie libraries during the 1970s and 1980s: impossibly overcrowded. Hence the need for Internet II, the electronic equivalent of the public library's new wing, relatively speaking.

"Forging the Serials Future" is an apt subtitle for this conference. It creates an image of a mass of people -- members of the information community -- marching steadily forward, with purpose and determination, thoughtfully negotiating obstacles as they appear. We cannot race individually towards a finite goal because there is no finish, and because we need to work together, not compete against each other. People who work with serials understand that we are involved in ongoing processes that require frequent reexamination and discussion. The conference theme implies that we have the knowledge, ability, and responsibility to create solutions to the problems we face now. We also have a

historical foundation and are aware of the need to consider the past as we negotiate the future, so that we can build flexibility into our new strategies.

As a serials cataloger, I find that the past-to-future elements of the theme are relevant to my own work in practical ways. I am a new cataloger, but I know I cannot simply start from here and go forward. When I work on a title change of a long-running serial, I have to accommodate past cataloging practices. When I waded through catalog cards while working on a retrospective conversion project, I have to understand how the catalogers of the past were thinking. Understanding where serials cataloging has come from is necessary in order for me to perform well in the present. Further, I need to think about how what catalogers are doing now will function in the future. The need to understand the past is not limited to cataloging, but includes collection development, acquisitions, reference, bibliographic instruction, networking, circulation, access, etc. We cannot have one without the others.

As we seek faster, more efficient and cost effective ways to use technology to deliver information there are many important points to consider. One in which I am particularly interested is staff training in academic libraries. The pace of change is so fast that there is the possibility of decreased production as staff struggle to learn new programs and then new releases of those programs. An essential part of forging a plan for the future is ensuring that people are qualified to perform the tasks required to sustain it. New and experienced staff members will continue to need training in order to be flexible and resilient when faced with major changes to their institutions and jobs. The conference theme reminds me that this has always been the case in libraries and that throughout the past and future centuries of changes we have needed and always will need well-trained people if we are to succeed in our mission of service.

As my generation took public libraries for granted, younger generations take the Internet for granted. For good and bad, we have come to expect near-instant access to information via communications technology. In the course of the excitement generated by the possibilities of Internet II, it is wise for all of us working with serials to keep the past in mind as we endeavor to forge a future. We are uniquely qualified to deal with change and its far-flung consequences because of our understanding of and experience with those ever-changing, ever-challenging serial publications. With enthusiasm I look forward to attending my first NASIG conference this year, with the goal of participating in forging the serials future.

*P. MICHELLE FIANDER has been the Serials Cataloger/Reference Librarian at Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis since July 1998. She was the Serials and Monographs Cataloger/Reference Librarian at Mount Allison University from July 1996-1998. Michelle received her M.L.S. in 1996 from Dalhousie University. Michelle is part of the 1999 NASIG Conference Proceedings Editorial team.*

When Andrew Carnegie founded the Carnegie Technical Schools in 1900, he is believed to have "...rejected the idea of building a library [to support it] because he thought that the Carnegie Library was convenient enough."<sup>1</sup> Carnegie's idea of convenient access to research materials was, of course, reasonable at the turn of the century, but it is very different from the understanding today's researcher has of the same concept. While Carnegie considered the close proximity of buildings within a city sufficient to a scholar's or student's needs, today's researcher expects rapid desk-top access, measured in seconds and minutes, to journal articles, data banks, and indexes. These expectations have developed as rapidly as the medium promoting such expectations, namely, the Internet. In fact, the growth of Internet accessible resources has developed so quickly that second-wave mechanisms, such as Internet2, are under development as universities seek "...a return to dedicated bandwidth for academic and research use exclusively."<sup>2</sup> The implications of changing expectations are nowhere more apparent than in libraries, where the selection, purchase, and cataloging of electronic resources – especially serial publications – is forcing us to forge a new serials future.

The ways serials catalogers will have to forge this new future are varied. At present we provide access to electronic versions of print journals by using MARC 856. For publications available in electronic format only, CONSER "Module 31" provides guidelines for identifying and transcribing those bibliographic access points on which we rely to describe items in our catalogs. CONSER also defines terminology used within the electronic environment and presents guidelines for the use of single or multiple records. While these guidelines are a terrific help, they are often insufficient to satisfy library patrons and public service librarians whose needs fuel our work as catalogers. As testimony to the inadequacy of current serials cataloging rules to represent and promote access to electronic resources, consider that many libraries use Web sites, not the OPAC, to provide access to electronic journals. It seems to me that a major goal as we continue to work with electronic serials will be to create records, which provide access now and in the future.

Of course, in order to provide access to electronic materials catalogers must not only develop new cataloging strategies, they must also engage active support from the administration and other departments within the library. Dialog must be established among catalogers and reference staff, computer programmers, and digitization staff. Without the collaboration of "techies" and public service librarians with catalogers, the inadequate solution of unclassified, alphabetically organized Web sites may become the rule rather than the exception. As catalogers we must demonstrate that classification and standardized description of electronic materials will serve the institution in the long run. Having established the value of this approach to electronic materials, we must have the time and staff – professional and paraprofessional – to perform the work.

Technological innovations have yet to replicate the classification and descriptive work performed by catalogers. The shortcomings of the Internet are being addressed by Internet2, which should allow research and educational institutions faster connection times, and researchers convenient, desktop access to the information they need. Additionally, dedicated bandwidth of Internet2 may help solve the archiving problems plaguing those who deal with electronic publications. Despite the promise of Internet2, however, its commercialization and subsequent congestion may force us to confront problems similar to those we are presently experiencing. Regardless of the outcome, serials librarians need a forum in which to discuss specialized concerns; to make suggestions for improving current practice; and to find out how to implement change within individual libraries and standards-setting organizations such as CONSER and the Library of Congress. NASIG provides a venue for such discussion. Its focus on serials cataloging allows detailed ideas and information to be exchanged. As we forge our future, a venue such as NASIG is indispensable to individual catalogers and the profession as a whole.

<sup>1</sup> <http://www.library.cmu.edu/Libraries/sp.html> [accessed 12/4/98]

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.sunworld.com/swol-04-1998/swol-04-internet2.html> "What are the two major initiatives for decongesting the Internet? The Next Generation Internet and Internet2 are dissected," by Amy Finley, April 1998.

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*JONATHAN D. MAKEPEACE is also from Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis. He is responsible for cataloging of digital resources (mostly*

online serials and index/abstracts products) and print special collections serials. He also has collection development responsibilities for serials in the areas of hospitality and tourism management, military science, physical education, recreation, and sports. Jonathan received his M.L.S. in 1994 from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. Jonathan is currently serving on the Proceedings Editorial Team for this year's NASIG Conference.

Andrew Carnegie was a robber baron, but his philanthropy helped entrench two principles, that information should be freely accessible to the public and that libraries would be the place where it happened. Internet2 is the leading edge of a technological revolution that is continuing the geometric growth of human knowledge. Perhaps because of their place in validating this burgeoning universe of human knowledge, academic journals in particular are in the first wave of the leap from print to networked electronic formats. That quantum leap is wreaking havoc, requiring new infrastructures and standards, and, perhaps most importantly, challenging Carnegie's vision of information access for all.

Infrastructures for providing access to digital serials have grown up only in limited segments of the reading world, and the multiplicity of formats (e.g., CD-ROM's, Web access, different file structures and software, etc.) continues to detract from the advantages of digital media, rather like nineteenth century trains running on different gauges of track. Heck, we're not even sure they're trains anymore. Do we even know what a serial is these days? Networked knowledge challenges the very concept of seriality. Faced with article aggregations containing the

innards of thousands of serials, "successive parts" and "designations" become conceptual. Serials shift from being something you can hold in your hand to being editorial validations of information, from artifacts to seals of approval. How do you catalog and record holdings of these virtual serials, especially when they can appear or disappear as licenses are signed or expire?

As scientific knowledge explodes in volume, demand for core, prestige "seals of approval" has become price inelastic. STM journal prices have skyrocketed even as the number of subscribing institutions has fallen. Copyright laws and ILL run smack into licensing agreements with the shift away from paper. Document delivery seemed like an answer, but the same economic principles are putting that out of the reach of many. Will consortium pricing of digital formats save the day? What does collection development mean in the context? Where is the library as an institution in all of this? Should we care?

What do Andrew Carnegie, Internet2, and serials have to do with each other? You could say that we live in a new age of rapid technological change, robber barons, and information elites. Our whole profession has been thrown off balance, and there is no end in sight. It is an exciting time to be a new serialist, a time that cries out for creativity in what could otherwise be a rather dry profession. We are at the mercy of forces beyond our control, and we must be a voice of reason, showing our partners how we can help them better meet society's information needs. We must remind all that no society can prosper if it starves itself of information. Even a robber baron knows that.

## 1999 EXECUTIVE BOARD ELECTION RESULTS

*Congratulations to the following individuals who will assume office immediately after the 1999 Annual Conference:*

**VICE-PRESIDENT/PRESIDENT-ELECT**

CONNIE FOSTER, Western Kentucky University

**TREASURER**

GERRY WILLIAMS (re-elected), Northern Kentucky University

**MEMBERS-AT-LARGE**

DON JAEGER, Alfred Jaeger Inc.

PAT WALLACE, University of Colorado, Boulder

FRAN WILKINSON (re-elected), University of New Mexico

*The recently elected individuals join the continuing members of the 1999/2000 NASIG Executive Board:*

**PRESIDENT**

DAN TONKERY

Information Quest

**PAST PRESIDENT**

STEVE OBERG, University of Chicago

**SECRETARY**

MEG MERING, University of Nebraska, Lincoln

**MEMBERS-AT-LARGE**

CAROL PITTS DIEDRICHS, Ohio State University

ANN ERCELAWN, Vanderbilt University

MAGGIE RIOUX, MBL/WHOI

## NASIG PROFILES: DAN TONKERY

Naomi Young

In the recent *Newsletter* survey, many of you said you wanted to hear more about NASIG members, officers, and committees. In this first profile we focus on Dan Tonkery, our incoming President.

When asked, "Why serials? What is the appeal?" Tonkery answered animatedly and with humor, "It's the complexity. It never ends. In the book business, you buy a book, put it on the shelf, and never see it again." But serials, with their subscriptions, claims, and title changes are another story. "Ten years later, it's as bad as it ever was." The ongoing nature of the challenge appeals to him.

Tonkery began his career in serials in 1970, as the Head of Acquisitions and Collection Development at the National Library of Medicine, where he pioneered library automation by designing an automated serials check-in system for them. He continued as an automator in his subsequent positions, creating the Orion system for the University of California, Los Angeles.

His success with Orion led indirectly to his leap into the business sector. Tonkery wanted to market Orion commercially, but UCLA wouldn't permit it. "I was headhunted," he recalled. "I wasn't looking, but the recruiter's call came at a time that I was blocked." Tonkery went to Faxon, then founded his own CD-ROM Company, Horizon, which provided the first CD-ROM version of the *Medline* database. The company was later bought by EBSCO. Coming full circle, he returned to Faxon's parent company, Dawson, as President and Chief Operating Officer of North American Subscription Operations in April 1996.

During his career, Tonkery has "seen all the changes" spanning from the all-print, manually indexed resources

he learned to use in library school to the ISDN line he uses for electronic communications today. Yet publishers still present many of the same challenges: late issues, title changes, and rising prices. Looking ahead, he foresees that commercial publishers will be increasingly marginalized as scholars take increasing control of their own research, using Web and e-mail based technologies. In this environment, he believes librarians will still be very necessary to help users find resources in a much larger mass of available material. Vendors still need to find a role and a position, using their strengths in consolidation and organization.

He is pleased to be leading NASIG in the coming year, describing it as the professional organization "most focused on a path to progress" and least affected by outside concerns and internal politics. He believes his background will allow him to make unique contributions to NASIG. As a vendor with a background in academic libraries, "I have a foot in both worlds, I know the pressures they face, and I see both viewpoints. I see with new eyes," he said.

He would like to see NASIG diversify, acknowledging that our specialized focus may make that more difficult, since special libraries and public libraries are less likely to have serials specialists than academic libraries. But he believes we can and should expand our membership to include more Canadian and Latin American members.

He also thinks NASIG has a valuable contribution to make in both the education of new serials specialists, and continuing education for practicing serialists. These efforts may be cooperative or solely our own and are a natural extension of the excellent programs we already have.

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## ABOUT NASIG MEMBERS

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### A TRIBUTE TO ELAINE RAST FROM HER COLLEAGUES

*Susan Davis*  
*University at Buffalo*

Dear Elaine,

I am writing to tell you how much your professional and personal friendship meant to me over my career. You

were a part of it for so long, gosh, nearly 20 years, that I can't remember when you weren't a part of it!

We met sometime during the early days of my first professional job at the Illinois Institute of Technology in Chicago; you were an experienced, savvy librarian out in the cornfields at Northern Illinois. It was probably at that

ILLINET program when I advised folks to hold off on implementing OCLC SCS until the claims module was up, and then I know we worked together at an Illinois Library Association registration desk. We taught some ILLINET training classes together -- me doing the OCLC Serials Control Subsystem, you hammering away at building the SILO (the Illinois Union List of Serials). Weren't those ILLINET sessions a hoot, especially when they just assumed you were available to teach any time with very little notice!

But the OCLC Serials Control Subsystem brought us together in some other unusual ways. Remember the infamous inaugural meeting to establish an OCLC SCS Users Group?? It must have been at ALA Midwinter 1984 in Washington DC. We were to meet a fellow named John Riddick at his hotel room in the Washington Hilton, Room 1113. And all of us had trouble finding it because we assumed it was on the 11th floor. Wasn't it you who reported that the concierge was going to come and investigate because all these women were trying to find this man's room??? We sure were up to some hanky panky that night, you, Ken, Minna, and I and other fun people.

Ironically enough, several of us ended up on the trip to the UKSG in April of that same year, which culminated in the establishment of NASIG. Unfortunately you were not part of that group, although I know you went to later UKSG conferences.

I moved on to Buffalo, but of course you and I still saw each other at ALA, NASIG, and the SCS Users Group meetings. We had fun running into each other at various vendor receptions at ALA; you were always with your colleague from Northern. And you would mention your plans to attend the local opera, symphony or ballet -- I envied your ability to find time for the cultural offerings, while the rest of us were fretting about going to meetings.

And how can we forget all the good times at NASIG? I recall that cold evening in Chicago at the new Comisky Park. How cold was it? How many innings did we sit through -- thirteen (why does that number keep coming up for us)? Then you and I finally agreed we should retire to the questionable warmth to be afforded back at the UIC dorms. What about the marathon board meeting in Toronto? Your husband Larry was there -- we always joked about whether or not he really existed. You talked about him a lot, and he accompanied you to a number of conferences, but I never seemed to be in the same place as he was, so I hadn't met him. I also remember your very professional and gracious speaker introductions at the Brown conference. You were part of the NASIG Tenth Anniversary Celebration Task Force, too -- what a

wonderful reception we had in the Gothic Reading Room at Duke. And the wonderful photographs you gathered in your role as Archivist! Everyone so enjoyed looking at them and reliving forgotten memories of conferences past.

Did we ever tell you the nickname we sometimes used for our post-ALA/NASIG group? Well, it is the "Good Eaters," and only those serial folks who truly appreciate a fine meal and each other's company are consistently invited on these sojourns. One of the most special occasions was after an ALA in San Francisco. You, Sylvia, Minna, Cindy, and I boarded a ferry to Tiburon. What a wonderful afternoon! It was a bit crisp and breezy on deck, but you seemed to thrive on it. As a sometime resident of the Windy City and with your general approach to life, it made perfect sense that you would enjoy the blustery conditions. You lived each day to its fullest, savoring each moment, even if it was a stiff breeze off San Francisco Bay! It was a glorious day -- browsing in some shops and then enjoying fabulous food and drink at Guaymas. Remember the salmon, the margaritas, and the sailboats on the bay? We also had some nice dinners at Scoma's on Fisherman's Wharf, but Tiburon was TOPS!

It was such a blow to learn about your cancer, especially since it caused you to break your streak of perfect attendance at NASIG conferences and miss my presidential appearance. (Not that you missed anything so great about me -- I just tried to have a good time in true NASIG informal spirit.) But I knew that you would have loved Boulder and all the activities and friends and fun that are so much a part of NASIG. Our paths did not cross at summer ALA, to my great chagrin. But we continued to communicate on e-mail and exchanged a card or two. I wrote you about my aunt who succumbed to the same cancer. Like her, you continued to live your life as though you were not sick -- we were so thrilled (and slightly envious) about your travels all over the world.

Our last real e-mail communication was about snow; again, a very fitting topic for inhabitants of Chicago and Buffalo (well, I actually live in Batavia, but it's close enough for the Weather Channel!). I was going on about the big storm, which came through right after the new year, noting that we'd gotten an extra day off because the university was closed. And you replied how marvelous it was and that you'd just had to go outside to experience it!

So Elaine, every time the Good Eaters return to Guaymas in Tiburon, we'll dedicate a round of margaritas to your indomitable spirit!

Love,  
Susan

And that, my fellow NASIGers, was the quintessential Elaine. Full of vim and vigor, not intimidated by anyone or anything, a warm and friendly human being with a great wit and quick mind. Much beloved by so many and deeply missed. I can't imagine what the upcoming conference will be like without her, and it will seem very strange not to see her at receptions this summer in New Orleans for ALA.

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*Ellen Finnie Duranceau*  
MIT

I met Elaine Rast when I joined the NASIG Board during my tenure as *NASIG Newsletter* Editor. I was new to serials, new to NASIG, and certainly new to the Board. Elaine was someone who was entirely approachable, always welcoming and friendly, and always had a pleasant smile to offer. I found myself gravitating to her as towards a safe harbor, and I enjoyed chatting with her about things serial and non-serial. I will always remember the stabilizing presence and calm, can-do approach she brought to the NASIG Board meetings.

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*Julie Gammon*  
University of Akron

I remember a bright, sunny day with Elaine when we were serving on the NASIG Board together. It was the 1994 Vancouver conference, at the University of British Columbia, and we had arrived early for the Board meeting the previous day. On Thursday, before the start of the conference, Elaine wanted to explore for a few hours, until we had to return to campus for the start of the conference. Connie Foster, Elaine, and I set off via bus to downtown Vancouver as Elaine had a mission to find a Tilley Hat. She had read about these hats for years in the *New Yorker* magazine and discovered that Vancouver had a Tilley Endurables store. The three of us boarded the bus, found the shop where Elaine purchased this hat she had been longing for, and returned back to the campus to begin our official conference duties. Later, I noticed an ad in the *New Yorker* for this special hat that Elaine had purchased and read the text which said: "The Tilley Hat blocks UV rays, repels rain, ties on, floats, won't shrink or mildew and comes in every size. Timeless and guaranteed for life." Elaine's personality was as timeless and enduring as that hat claimed to be, and I hope that Elaine got as much fun out of that Tilley Hat as we did shopping with her that day.

*Beverley Geer*  
University of Texas El Paso

For better or worse, Elaine is partly responsible for my being Chair-Elect of Serials Section! I met Elaine when I started going to NASIG in 1988. She treated me and all the other first-timers in that inimitable manner of hers, always gracious, always kind, always smiling. She amazed me with her ability to remember my name and details about my life and job. After the 1990 NASIG conference at Brock University, she and I ended up together on the Welland Canal tour, and we had a wonderful conversation about things other than serials work. I learned about her, her family, her life, and my love and respect for her doubled. In 1990/1991 when she was Chair-Elect of Serials Section, she gave me my first Serials Section appointment as an intern on the Education Committee. I last saw Elaine at the summer 1998 ALA meeting in Washington, DC. She again greeted me with her lovely smile, asking about me and my life. I never met such a selfless person. I will always be grateful to her, and I will never stop missing her.

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*Martin Gordon*  
Franklin & Marshall College

I recall way back in 1989 when I was sitting outside the hall where breakfast was to be served for those attending NASIG 4. Since it was freezing cold and no one had come to California expecting cold weather, Scripps, Harvey Mudd, and other Pomona College sweatshirts were all the rage. Despite the cold weather, nothing seemed to dampen the enthusiasm of those attending. Everyone's, perhaps, except mine.

I was trying to catch a hold of Elaine Rast, Bylaws Committee member, with whom I had served that past year. I was going to tell her that I had changed my mind and didn't have the gumption to accept her suggestion that I consider becoming N & E Chair the following year.

After rehearsing my alibis and excuses for the umpteenth time, I looked up to find her exiting the hall. As cheerily as I could under the circumstances, I said "Good morning, Elaine...", and then rattled off in one breath, "...there is something I need to tell you. I think that I have changed my mind about serving as N&E Chair. You know I come from a very small school, no one knows me well professionally, I am afraid that they wouldn't have confidence in me, if I made a mistake I'd be..."

Elaine listened to my fears, but finally interrupted me and said in an encouraging voice... "Marty, I guess if that happens, you'll just have to get back up on your horse and be brave." And with a merry wave, she continued on her way.

Well, I was appointed N&E Committee chair, and the sky didn't cave in after all. I guess I should have brushed up on my Lewis Carroll and the story of the White Knight. Thanks, Elaine. You were, of course, quite right.

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*Cindy Hepfer*  
*SUNY Buffalo*

I don't recall now whether I met Elaine at an ALA conference or at NASIG, but we shared many a bathroom at NASIG conferences... Bryn Mawr, San Antonio, and Chicago come readily to mind. No matter the time of day, or the state of attire we were in (or not in), Elaine was cheerful -- she always had something bright, happy, and interesting to share. She was just that kind of person. And being that kind of person, Elaine was also the consummate mentor. She cared about people who were new to librarianship, and I saw her reach out -- as she had to me when I was still a fairly new professional -- over and over. When she was Chair of the ALA Serials Section, she made an effort to appoint as many young professionals as possible to committees -- to give them chances to get "a foot in the door." I was amazed at her ability to be everywhere at once that year -- somehow, despite how spread out ALA can be, she attended every Serials Section committee meeting. And when I'd run into her in the evenings, she'd either be coming or going to or from a museum, concert, or tour. How DID she do it?!

Elaine was a member of the first NASIG Board, and after she retired from the Board she assumed responsibility for developing the NASIG archives. This was no small task, as the organization had accumulated a good deal of documentation in a few short years. But typical of Elaine, she dived right in, and with the help of a graduate assistant, organized the information.

I did a few post-ALA tours with Elaine, Minna, Susan, Sylvia and others -- site-seeing and dining out in New Orleans and San Francisco particularly stand out in my memory. Elaine was an essentially good person who loved life and living well and who enjoyed people. I miss her.

*Judith Hopkins*  
*State University of NY at Buffalo*

I'll always remember the last time I saw Elaine. It was at ALA Midwinter in New Orleans, January 1998. My roommate and I were walking down the street on the way to a traditional New Orleans' breakfast at Mother's when we met Elaine going in the opposite direction to a breakfast somewhere else. We persuaded her to turn around and join us. We didn't talk about anything special, just the usual ALA conversation (the meetings we'd been at, the restaurants we'd eaten at, what we were doing at home in our libraries, special vacation plans, etc.) but it was light-hearted and I remember we laughed a lot. I'll hold on to that memory.

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*Don Jaeger*  
*Alfred Jaeger Inc.*

I remember Elaine well from all the NASIG meetings we attended together. She was very dedicated to the organization from the beginning but better than that, you always wanted to see her there because she was upbeat and personable. She had a great sense of humor too.

My most recent remembrance of Elaine was at Midwinter meeting ALA in New Orleans in 1998. She was retired from her position at Northern Illinois and stopped by the booth to say hello to me and my staff. During the conversation we asked her to join us for dinner to which she replied in typical Elaine fashion, "Why me, when I'm retired and can't give you any business?" We soon convinced her to join us, and she was a delightful addition to our small party of eight that night. I can't remember when I was able to have dinner or a meal with Elaine before that, as she was always so busy. She spoke of her retirement and how she and her husband were now able to travel a bit. I had the pleasure of meeting Larry that summer at ALA. Elaine also mentioned selling their home and buying an apartment in Chicago so they could be close to the arts and culture of the city. Elaine was a unique and warm individual who was missed at the Boulder meeting, and there will be a void created by her loss at future conferences, for those of us touched by her.



*Kit Kennedy*  
*Blackwell's Information Services*

I met Elaine Rast, as many of us have, at one of the early NASIG conferences and got to know her better through committee work. But that's not how I got to really know Elaine. One Sunday at ALA (I believe in San Francisco), we noticed each other at an Episcopal Church service. Both very practical women, we decided to grab some lunch before heading back to the conference. We soon discovered we had a shared interest in food, church music, and incense among other things. From then on, we planned on attending "the highest church possible" on the Sunday of ALA, and when schedules permitted, brunch followed. It became our Sunday standing committee. Without this very special chairperson, this standing committee no longer exists.

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*Shawn King*  
*North Central College*

I met Elaine while I was at Rosary/Dominican working on my Masters degree. She taught the basic cataloging class as an adjunct. Most library students didn't particularly enjoy that class, but I found it to be challenging. In fact, it was due to her orientation of cataloging in that class that I switched from being a reference librarian to being a technical services librarian. She is always one of the people I remember fondly from my library school days. I also ran into her at my first NASIG conference in Ann Arbor. It was so great to see a familiar face at NASIG where I felt like a small fish in a big sea. She will be greatly missed.

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*Kenneth L. Kirkland*  
*DePaul University*

I remember my first encounter with Elaine vividly -- it was close to thirty years ago. Elaine was the speaker at a small group session on serials cataloging held at DePaul, where I worked. It was probably about the "new" AACR2 or the "new" serials exceptions to it. She was the kind of person of talent and kindness who must have inspired her students as well as her colleagues all these years. Even though our first meeting was so very long ago, I still recall how interesting she made the talk, how insightful it was, and how she responded warmly to all exchanges with the audience. Little did I know that Elaine would become a good personal friend and colleague for decades.

Elaine and I became travel companions over the years, and many of my fondest recollections are of these times we spent together. Elaine, Arlene Sievers, and I were all part of Marcia Tuttle's post-UKSG tour to Scotland in the mid-1980s. Arlene and I recently commiserated on the news of Elaine's passing, recalling the trek the three of us made to a prehistoric trench dwelling. It was a cold rainy day, "dreigh" as the Scots say, and only we three were fool enough to get off the tour bus to hike down a slippery mud trail between cowsheds to a farmer's field where the trench lay. The cows peered out at us from their comfortable dry stalls with looks of wonderment at the three lunatics in the light cold rain.

Water was a theme, I think, for some of our travels. Elaine, Minna Saxe, Virginia Reed, and I enjoyed a boat ride on the Maid of the Mist at Niagara Falls, when NASIG was at St. Catherine's. Yet another drenching occasion was on the San Antonio River. Elaine, Arlene, and I, along with many others, were on a tour boat that took refuge from a sudden downpour under a bridge. The water was rising fast, overwhelming the drainage system and running over the sidewalks. The captain asked us if we'd rather wait or make a run for it. We made a run for it and ended up much more bedraggled than we had at Niagara Falls. Elaine was ever the good sport.

A couple of times Elaine and I rented a car after ALA, NASIG or even UKSG festivities, to manage a "cheap day return" of our own. One time, again in San Antonio, the car I had reserved was not available, so the two of us sallied forth in a Chrysler Imperial, an upgrade. (I was treated with unaccustomed extra respect at the gas station). We drove to Rockport, Texas, to take a bay cruise to see the whooping cranes. Elaine was a confirmed bird watcher. Another time we had gone with Minna to Port Aransas, where the whooping cranes spend the winter but had seen only a sleeping armadillo. The three of us had a most memorable dinner on Padre Island, just outside Corpus Christi, in a restaurant that had oil cloths on cable drums, and they dumped a bag of boiled seafood right on top, including corn, with no plates or utensils. (Not that any were needed).

Elaine and I drove back to Chicago after the NASIG in St. Catherine's, following the shoreline of Lakes Ontario and Erie, staying on scenic back roads as much as possible. In Scotland, Elaine and I rented a car to drive up the west coast from Oban to Inverness. In Oban we had the best salmon on earth -- just happening into a restaurant that looked promising. Half way to Inverness, we got off the road slightly and serendipitously found a small wayside park with a view of the moors that we knew nobody else ever could have enjoyed as much as we did. The last e-

mail message that I sent to Elaine recalled that Scottish vista. Perhaps having had Elaine as a friend and colleague was the greatest serendipity of all.

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*Bill Leazer*  
*EBSCO*

Elaine Rast was a dynamo lady ... tiny, but full of energy. And she was always the kind of person who devoted her full attention to whomever she was speaking. She had a wonderful sense of humor and an innate understanding of the needs of others. She was always generous with her time and willing to help anyone who came to her for assistance. Elaine never lost sight of the business at hand, keeping things on an even course. She was intelligent and her interests were varied, so she could talk about almost anything with some authority. We developed a great friendship, and I always looked forward to seeing her at NASIG meetings. We will miss her at the conferences, but her spiritual presence will continue to inspire all of us who knew her. I am proud that the Pittsburgh meeting will be dedicated to her memory.

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*Carol Magenau*  
*Dartmouth College*

I want to share a memory of Elaine Rast that is on the less serious side. I got to know Elaine on one of "Tuttle's Tours," that went to Scotland after the 10th UKSG celebration. I wish I could remember where this took place -- it was a long time ago, and most likely Edinburgh. Elaine and I saw a notice about a dog show, and thought it would be a fun thing to go to. Well, it took us hours to get there by public transportation, and by the time we arrived the show was winding down... and it turned out to be trials for only one type of dog, I can't even remember which... and it was gently raining and the ground was squishy. All in all, the afternoon was a real bust. We walked around at the dog show for just a few minutes, then headed back to wherever we were staying, starving, tired, and disappointed. But we had had an adventure, which was part of the point, and for years afterwards we would refer to that dog show with wry amusement. I really enjoyed Elaine's company, and we shared a love of music and travel. She had an uncommon enthusiasm and generosity of spirit. I am so sorry that she will not get to enjoy the years she should have had before her.

*Birdie MacLennan*  
*University of Vermont*

I was truly saddened to read of Elaine Rast's passing on NASIG-L. It's hard to imagine attending NASIG or ALA without having the chance to meet with or run into Elaine, to sit down and chat with her over a cup of tea. I remember her from the early days of NASIG, first as a Board member, then as Archivist. Our collaborations were always a pleasant mixture of business, news, and practical advice about projects, teaching, and discovering new ways to accomplish goals and objectives -- both organizational (for NASIG) and personal. Despite her busy schedule, Elaine always seemed available to offer support, kind words, and good, practical advice to advance the work of others. She was a mentor and role model. She will be missed.

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*Teresa Malinowski*  
*California State University, Fullerton*

Elaine was a leader, mentor and dear friend. When I think of her, two phrases come to mind, "why not?" and "can do." Elaine and I served together on the Executive Board and she often asked "why not?" when new ideas were discussed and new strategies proposed. On more than one occasion she mentored me using the same words, "why not," when I was hesitant and unsure. I will remember her kindness and courageous spirit. For Elaine, "can do" became will do and then a job well done. Her contributions to creating and maintaining the NASIG bylaws are but one example. Yes, she understood their importance and enjoyed this task!

My favorite personal memory goes back to one of the early Executive Board meetings. In an effort to economize, the Board decided to meet immediately after the Charleston Conference that most of the Board members were attending. That particular Charleston Conference was held shortly after a major hurricane and Charleston was still recovering from the devastation. Elaine and I shared a room in an elegant historical hotel, but we spent the first evening chasing and eliminating the huge palmetto bugs that invaded our room and many of the hotels after the hurricane. Elaine appeared to enjoy the late night challenge of swatting with her shoe bugs that refused to die. I remember when she announced with great delight and satisfaction, "I got two of 'em!"

*Sylvia Martin*  
*Vanderbilt University*

There have already been many fine tributes to Elaine Rast that have noted her many contributions to the library profession. I, too, recognize these contributions, but as I reminisce about Elaine, I remember her in a different light. The image of a very special lady comes to mind -- a devoted wife, mother, grandmother, and a true friend.

I first met Elaine in 1985 at NASIG's inaugural meeting at Bryn Mawr. She was in a room down the hall from me, and we frequently exchanged greetings in passing. Before the end of the conference, a friendship was in the making. Two years later, I made arrangements to take one of Tuttle's Tours through Scotland after the UKSG conference. I wanted to spend some time in London before the conference. Marcia put me in touch with Elaine who was also going to be in London and on the Scotland tour. Elaine, seasoned traveler that she was, recommended a charming London B & B to me where she, too, would be staying in advance of the UK meeting. A true and lasting friendship took hold as we traipsed through London, visiting the British Museum, enjoying a concert at Royal Albert Hall, and listening to the Evensong of the Boys' Choirs at both Westminster Abbey and St. Paul's Cathedral. It was during this time that I got a glimpse of Elaine's great appreciation of music and of her love for the arts. I also became aware of her strong faith, and what an important part it played in her life.

Elaine and I kept in close touch over the ensuing years. We always arranged for time together at conferences when we could compare notes about our jobs, our families, and especially about our grandchildren. Elaine had four special little ones in her life of whom she was so proud. We would bring the latest photos of our grandchildren, and guiltlessly brag to each other about their brilliant accomplishments since both of us recognized that this was not just a privilege, but a right, of dutiful grandmothers!

Before the NASIG conference in Albuquerque, Elaine and I spent three days sightseeing together in New Mexico. We browsed through the museums and shops in Santa Fe and Taos. We toured the Acoma Pueblo and visited Los Alamos. We enjoyed an elegant twilight dinner outdoors on the banks of the Rio Grande somewhere between Taos and Espanola. One of the most memorable moments of our trip occurred during our drive to Los Alamos. We were in some remote area of the mountains and had pulled off the road to take in the beautiful scenery. Elaine wandered off to take pictures. As I got out of the car a few moments later, I senselessly locked the only set of keys in our rented car. My first thought was of how to break this

news to Elaine! I dashed to a small tourist shop across the road where the clerk managed to find one metal coat hanger. As I saw Elaine returning to the car, I decided I'd begin by letting her know just how smart I was to retrieve this metal hanger. Elaine remained her calm, collected self as I spilled out my story. With a little smile, she took the hanger from me, walked around the car to a window which was cracked open (I hadn't even noticed!), and maneuvered the hanger inside the window to pull up the door lock. Nothing to it! Elaine suggested that we keep this little episode a secret. I think she wanted to keep others from knowing of my foolish act. But I wanted to brag about her prowess in getting into locked cars! However, I deferred to her wishes. Forgive me, Elaine, for now telling this story.

I last saw Elaine at the ALA conference in Washington DC. in the summer of 1998. Although her condition had already been diagnosed, she was upbeat and hopeful. Only once, as she spoke of Larry, her beloved husband, did her eyes fill with tears. She remained optimistic throughout the fall, even taking a trip to Kiev to visit her daughter and husband who were on duty there. I spoke to Elaine shortly after Christmas when she told me how much she had enjoyed getting outside to revel in the beauty of new fallen snow. A few short weeks later, Larry called to say that Elaine had peacefully passed away.

My fourteen-year friendship with Elaine was relatively short in the overall scheme of things, but it was such a meaningful one. In those years, we shared both the happy and the sad moments of our individual lives, including the birth of grandchildren and the passing of loved ones. Every now and then, someone comes along with whom you feel a real kindred spirit. Elaine was such a person in my life. I shall miss her greatly.

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*Steve Oberg*  
*University of Chicago*

Elaine was definitely a special person. 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 literally one of the first people I saw when I arrived at the conference site (Trinity University in San Antonio, TX). I felt awkward, unsure of what to expect at my first conference, not knowing anyone there. She made me feel at home from the outset. Each year I would look forward to seeing her at NASIG and ALA, to exchange greetings and to catch up on what was going on in her life, and to share news about mine. I should also mention

that she was the introducer for my first NASIG workshop presentation, at Duke University. Her calm assurance helped to settle my nerves.

Interestingly enough, we shared many acquaintances. For example, a close friend of mine from Brunei who was the one who first encouraged me to go to library school, started her life in this country at Northern Illinois University. While pursuing her master's degree, my friend worked as a student assistant for Elaine. Another friend came to work in my department after working for Elaine at NIU for several years. Each of these acquaintances thought the world of Elaine.

At her last ALA conference, ALA annual in Washington, D.C., Elaine was the first person I saw when I walked in to the registration area to register for the conference. As always, it was a real treat to see her, even more so this time as I knew that she was in pain and already suffering the effects of cancer. Yet she never once complained, and looked as bright-eyed and humorous as ever. While waiting at Washington Ronald Reagan Airport for my flight back to Chicago at the end of the conference, whom should I see sitting in the same concourse but Elaine. We chatted about her family and her many plans for the next several months while she waited for her delayed flight to arrive. It was the last time I saw her.

Elaine 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.

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*Roger Presley  
Georgia State*

The things that I remember most about Elaine were her grace, dignity and poise. She was one classy lady. I knew Elaine most closely through NASIG. During the three years that I served as NASIG's Vice President and then President, Elaine also was also serving on the NASIG Executive Board. She was always a calm and rational voice during those early years as we struggled through our growing pains and was an invaluable source of knowledge and personal strength for me.

Following our serving together on the Board, she became the official NASIG Archivist and plagued me for four years to send my personal NASIG files to her. Finally at one ALA Midwinter conference, I ran into Elaine and apologized profusely that she had received nothing from

me yet. She said that Tina Feick and I were her last hold outs and that she didn't care how long it had been if I would just get them to her, she would hold no grudge. She was patient, but persistent. Elaine was always giving of her self and was a totally selfless person. She was never too busy to respond to the most trivial request from me although I had kept her waiting four years for archival papers.

I remember when ALA was in Chicago in the summer of 1995, I wrote her an e-mail message and asked her if she knew anything about a hotel I had found on the Web that sounded very good and was only a block from Michigan Avenue. She wrote me back the following week and said that she and her husband had driven by the hotel on the weekend to check it out for me and that she didn't feel she could recommend my staying there. I never expected her to go out of her way to check this place out if she didn't already know about it. It was just one small personal thing she did. And, she was always doing one small personal thing for almost everyone she met. So, goodbye Elaine. Thanks for being part of our lives. You will always be in her hearts and memories.

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*Rose Robischon  
US Military Academy Library*

The first time that I met Elaine was at the Ogelthorpe University in Atlanta, GA in 1988. She was one of those people who you would look for at the NASIG conference in order to catch-up on news from the past year. Elaine was always pleasant, upbeat, and informative.

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*Marla Schwartz  
American University Law Library*

When I think of Elaine I think of a couple of things. She was Chair of the Serials Section Education Committee when I was an intern -- 1987 I believe. It was my first committee assignment in ALA and I had no idea what I was doing, and the committee was "under review." We ended up being combined with another committee (probably regional workshops) and because of that I was an intern for three years! Eventually I ended up chair of the committee. I was reappointed because Elaine knew about my committee service and cared enough to ask me at the MidWinter meeting whether I wanted to continue, because she hadn't received a volunteer form from me. That was how I learned that committee members should keep filling out those volunteer forms, even if we were

already on a committee -- a bit of ALA knowledge that I have passed on to others.

I also remember Elaine selling tickets to the baseball game at the NASIG conference in Chicago in 1992. I bought one from her, went to the game, and had a great time freezing in the stands along with everyone else.

From 1987 on, whenever I saw Elaine at ALA or NASIG she never failed to address me by name and inquire how I was doing. She had a talent for keeping faces and names together. She was truly a mentor who will be remembered with great fondness.

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*Minna Saxe*  
*City University of New York Graduate School*

I don't remember where or when I first met Elaine, but I'm sure it was a long time ago and most likely at an ALA conference. I only know that by the first NASIG conference, I was already a friend of Elaine's. I certainly remember rooming across the hall from Elaine and Sylvia Martin at that conference, at Bryn Mawr College.

At that conference, Elaine and I strolled around the beautiful campus and found out -- much to our mutual amazement -- that we had more than we initially thought in common. Elaine had arranged to visit her brother-in-law and his family for a few days in between conferences (NASIG at Bryn Mawr and ALA in New York City). As she described her plans to me, we discovered that she was going to the town where my cousin lived, then to the same street, and finally to the house next door!

As so many good friends of ours faithfully attended the NASIG conferences, we soon began taking short trips following NASIG. One of our first such trips was in Canada, after the Brock conference. Elaine, Virginia Reed, Ken Kirkland, and I visited Toronto and its environs. I especially remember the wonderful time we had at the Royal Botanical Gardens in Hamilton; the irises were in full bloom and we were overwhelmed by their beauty. Needless to say, this trip and those that followed were important opportunities for us to explore various local cuisines!

Elaine was always eager to join us in our culinary pursuits, even when we chose restaurants she might not ordinarily have selected. For instance, Elaine was part of a small group that breakfasted at Mother's on the Wednesday following the 1998 ALA MidWinter conference in New Orleans. (Mother's does not have the

most refined ambiance, and the portions are large and hearty -- not necessarily Elaine's type of place.) She willingly joined us, however, but ate sparingly, unlike myself. Elaine enjoyed the camaraderie and was willing to put up with an odd restaurant choice here and there.

Yes, Elaine was a good sport! While touring Texas, after the NASIG conference at Trinity, I insisted that Ken Kirkland play his Kinky Friedman tapes. Elaine tolerated my indulgence; or maybe she didn't listen to the tapes after all but just concentrated on the beautiful scenery as we drove through a bird sanctuary and onto Padre Island.

Elaine enjoyed being with friends, regardless of such inconveniences as poor ambiances and irreverent lyrics. She certainly enjoyed traveling, and we visited to many beautiful and scenic places. My friends and I all enjoyed being and traveling with Elaine.

I will be thinking of Elaine the next time I drag some unsuspecting companion into Mother's or force someone unfamiliar with Kinky Friedman to listen to his music!

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*Joyce Tenney*  
*University of Maryland, Baltimore County*

My most memorable NASIG story about Elaine Rast is the San Antonio boat ride on Riverwalk, the night when the skies opened up and the rains came. Elaine was in one of the riverboats, and everyone in her boat got drenched. Some of us watched from the flooding sidewalk as those poor folks were steadily trying to get to the landing. Elaine got out of the boat chuckling and squishing in her shoes. She never missed a beat -- borrowed an umbrella and walked to the bus back to Trinity. We teased her for years after that about taking her back to San Antonio for another bath, she always laughed and said that NASIG was always an adventure.

Elaine will be greatly missed by many of us. She was always gracious and kind to those around her.

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*Mary Wilke*  
*Center for Research Libraries*

My interactions with Elaine were brief and periodic. As brief as our encounters were, they were always memorable because of Elaine. I first met Elaine Rast at the NASIG conference held in Chicago in 1992. We worked the registration desk together. Almost a year later in 1993, I was fortunate to have her as an instructor for a class at

Rosary College. She was a wonderful instructor. Knowledgeable, humorous, and spirited, Elaine made that class memorable to all in it. After Rosary, I would see her at the annual NASIG conferences and briefly catch up on things with her. As I live in Chicago, I was able to attend the memorial service for Elaine. The major theme of the

memorial was of Elaine's kindness to so many people. One knew from the way he spoke of Elaine that the priest knew her well and would miss her greatly. She touched the lives of so many individuals, who I am sure feel the way I do. I am a better person for having known her, even briefly.

## ***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!*

From **Patricia Banach** we learn: "Effective December 27, 1998 my title changed from Acting Coordinator for Technical Services to Associate Director for Collection Management here at the Du Bois Library of the University of Massachusetts Amherst. I haven't been able to attend NASIG recently, but I have not forgotten my serials roots! "Pat's addresses remain the same.

**Mariya Barash** has left her position as Library Technician at University of Detroit Mercy to join the Technical Services Department staff at Detroit Public Library. She writes, "My recent move to the Detroit Public Library has essentially shifted my professional career into a higher gear. The University of Detroit Mercy, which pioneered the use of Horizon within the DALNET Consortium, has given valuable experience to me. (DPL is following the UDM and Wayne State University in transition to Horizon). Combined with my newly earned Master of Library and Information Science, I feel that I can fully utilize my expertise in the environment of DPL." Mariya's new addresses are:

Detroit Public Library  
5201 Woodward Avenue  
Detroit, MI 48202  
Phone: (313) 833-1015  
E-mail: MBARASH@DETROIT.LIB.MI.US

NASIG member **Sandra Barstow**, Head of Acquisitions at the University of Wyoming Libraries, received the Agnes Milstead Distinguished Librarianship Award at the University of Wyoming. The award is given to individuals

who have made a significant contribution to the University of Wyoming Libraries and is the highest honor bestowed on a librarian at the University. Sandy was selected for the award "for the leadership she demonstrates and for all the contributions she has made to the UW Libraries and to furthering librarianship." Sandy has published and presented at conferences (including NASIG), taught a freshman orientation course for a couple of years (not just library skills -- this was a full-blown, semester-long course), and extended her professional experience by volunteering to work on the reference desk in the main library. Sandy says, "This has allowed me to learn new skills and interact with the great students and faculty we have here at UW."

**Edward Bergin** sent word of his new job as Administrative Librarian for Cataloging: "I started working at Southwest Texas State University on October 5, 1998, so I have been here 5 months. It was an auspicious start. We had a 100-year flood the second week that I was here. The next month we had to undergo a rigorous records retention re-certification process. I could go on and on. Although it has been an adjustment becoming an administrator, I love it. I left my previous position at Rice University in September 1998. At SWTSU we are embarking on a bunch of new projects, installing new Dell workstations, planning a migration to an alternative access to OCLC, planning for Y2K, etc. We just created our Cataloging Home page that we are excited about. In short, it is a great bunch of people committed to total quality management. After recently finishing my 30th year in libraries, having worked at MIT, Harvard, Brandeis, the International Monetary Fund, and the Library of Congress and Rice University where I have memorable experiences, I believe that I have finally found my home here." There is a correction to Ed's e-mail:

Southwest Texas State University  
222 Alkek Library  
San Marcos, TX 78666  
Phone: (512)-245-3005 work  
E-mail: EB13@SWT.EDU

**Carol Pitts Diedrichs**, Assistant Director of Technical Services at Ohio State University Libraries, has been named recipient of the *Leadership in Library Acquisitions Award* presented by the ALCTS Acquisitions Section. The award, a citation and a \$1,500 grant donated by Harrassowitz, is given to recognize the contributions by and outstanding leadership of an individual to the field of acquisitions librarianship. "The contributions of Carol Pitts Diedrichs to this special area of librarianship have been varied and dynamic. She is Editor-in-Chief of the professional journal *Library Collections, Acquisitions, and Technical Services*, a leader in OhioLINK, active in NASIG and several ALA committees. Diedrichs is cited for bringing vision and focus to groups she led and for her individual contributions at all levels," said Dorothy Marcinko, chair of the Leadership in Library Acquisitions Award Committee. "As a mentor of new professional librarians and as a leader and sponsor of seminars and workshops on library acquisitions, she has made a lasting impact on those entering and working in this specialized field of her profession." The award will be presented on Monday, June 28, at the ALCTS Membership Meeting and President's Program during ALA Annual Conference in New Orleans.

**Beverley Geer** writes: "Greetings from West Texas! One day last fall Jimmie Dale looked at me and said, 'Beverley, it's time you moved up and out in this world.' He claimed that all that work I had been doing entitled me to a promotion and a raise. Actually, he just wanted better digs and more food. Anyway, at his urging I cast about for such a job and found it! As of 12 April 1999 I am the Associate University Librarian for Technical Services (you know how it is in academia, they love big titles) at the University of Texas at El Paso. I am responsible for acquisitions (serials and monographs), cataloging, and the current periodicals room. One day soon I'll get a collection development assignment (I hope my topics are Texas music and beer). West Texas is a purely beautiful place full of nice people and good food. And I hear the golfing is pretty good (are you reading this, Dan and Mike?) Come on out and visit because *mi casa es su casa* (I'm learning Spanish; not bad, eh?)." Beverley's new addresses are:

University of Texas  
Library  
El Paso, TX 79968-0582  
Phone: (915) 747-8939  
Fax: (915) 747-5345  
E-mail: BGEER@LIBR.UTEP.EDU

From **Steve Murden** we have this news: "I'm currently doing a part-time, temporary stint in a public relations

position for the library at Virginia Commonwealth University. Last year, for 10 months, I did collection management for the arts and humanities, also at VCU. This was after leaving my job there as the Serials Librarian in 1997. They keep finding work for me and I continue to feel the need to pay the mortgage. Unlike many people who start their careers in the mail room, I may well end mine there, at the rate I'm going." Steve may be reached at: [stevemurden@mindspring.com](mailto:stevemurden@mindspring.com)

**Regina Romano Reynolds**, Head of the National Serials Data Program, Library of Congress, is the 1999 recipient of the *Bowker/Ulrich's Serials Librarianship Award* presented by the Association for Library Collections & Technical Services (ALCTS) Serials Section. The award is presented for distinguished contributions to serials librarianship. Regina is being recognized for her "impact on all constituencies in the serials industry, particularly her work with the ISSN program," said Lisa Macklin, Chair, Bowker/Ulrich's Serials Librarianship Award Committee. "Regina's work with the ISSN program has had an international scope, impacting publishers, subscription agencies, abstracting and indexing services, and libraries. She is a leader in the development and promotion of serials standards and bibliographic control, including electronic serials, and the harmonization of ISSN rules with electronic publications and other cataloging standards." She has given numerous well-received presentations, including "Cataloging or Metaloging: Emerging and Evolving Standards for the Identification and Description of Digital Resources," presented at the "Jump Start: Theory and Practice for Cataloging Electronic Serials" preconference to the ALA Annual Conference in June 1998. Her international impact includes a presentation entitled "ISSN and Seriality" at the 23rd meeting of Directors of ISSN Centres in Brussels, September 1998. She authored a preconference booklet for the International Conference on National Bibliographic Services, IFLA Universal Bibliographic Control and International Marc Core Programme in November 1998 entitled "Harmonizing Bibliographic Control of Serials in the Digital Age." Regina's outstanding knowledge of the issues in the bibliographic control of serials is evidenced by her activities in the CONSER program, including presenting at CONSER meetings and working on AACR revisions. She is a contributor to SISAC News and is a member of the editorial boards of *Serials Review* and *Annals of Improbable Research*. She has worked at the Library of Congress since 1976, where she received the Library of Congress Special Achievement Award in 1998 and the Library of Congress Meritorious Service Award in 1979 and 1980. The award will be presented on Monday,

June 28 at 9:30 at the ALCTS Membership Meeting and President's Program during the American Library Association (ALA) Annual Conference, June 24-30, in New Orleans.

**Virginia Taffurelli** writes: "In February 1999, I began a new position as Head of Technical Processing at the Science, Industry and Business Library of New York Public Library. Prior to this, I was the Serial/Catalog Librarian at SUNY Health Science Center of Brooklyn where I was mainly responsible for all copy and original cataloging of materials in all formats with little time to devote to serials management. Now at SIBL, I can concentrate serials management, which is my true passion. The Science, Industry and Business Library is the

world's largest public library devoted to science, technology, economics and business. The collection includes more than 10,000 current periodicals as well as a large government documents collection. Technical processing is responsible for checking in, claiming and bindery processing for current titles as well a catalog maintenance using Innovative Interfaces system."

Virginia's new addresses are:

New York Public Library  
Science, Business and Industry Library  
188 Madison Avenue  
New York, NY 10016-4314  
Phone: (212) 592-7234  
Fax: (212) 592-7233  
E-mail: VTAFFURELLI@NYPL.ORG

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## SERIALS-RELATED REPORTS

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### LOUISIANA LIBRARY ASSOCIATION PRECONFERENCE

*"Electronic License Agreement"*

Baton Rouge, Louisiana, March 16, 1999

Fred Hamilton

This pre-conference workshop was co-sponsored by NASIG and the Louisiana Library Association's Serials Interest Group. The speaker was Julia Gammon, Head, Acquisitions Department, University of Akron, Ohio, and former NASIG President. Attendees included approximately 50 academic, school, public, and special librarians, along with students from LSU's School of Library and Information Science.

The workshop consisted of an introduction and overview followed by a discussion on the legal foundation and terms we need to be aware of before signing an electronic license agreement. After a short break, Gammon discussed the licensing process and management and ended with examples of case studies and tips on negotiating licenses.

Gammon defined a license as "permission from the copyright owner to use all or a portion of a copyrighted work for a particular purpose during a specific period of time." This is a legal contract that is signed for the institution, not just the library. Publishers need to know who has the authority to sign the agreement. The four basic types of licenses are: 1) shrink-wrap licenses, 2) standard form or "boiler plate" licenses, 3) individually

tailored licenses, and 4) exclusive vs. non-exclusive licenses.

Shrink-wrap licenses are those printed on the wrapping of software purchases and are not negotiable. Standard form licenses are ones vendors typically draft and provide to the user. They are often somewhat negotiable. Individually tailored licenses are specifically negotiated between the vendor (licensor) and user (licensee). They usually apply to specially designed software, databases, or to very large contracts. Exclusive licenses are ones in which the vendor (licensor) agrees not to give any of the same rights to use the licensed materials to anyone else. Non-exclusive licenses are those in which the vendor (licensor) is free to grant the same rights to others.

The thrust of Gammon's talk centered on the fact that "a license is an agreement is a contract". She stressed that we need to be careful before signing any license agreements. These should be read carefully; if there are things in the license agreement that are unacceptable to your institution or things that you don't feel your institution can enforce, talk to the vendor (licensor) and see if you can negotiate these areas that might trouble you. She noted that her institution, along with many others, has a lawyer who can read the license agreement and help with negotiations if necessary.

The program was excellent. NASIG and the Serials Interest Group of the Louisiana Library Association are to be commended for presenting such a timely workshop.



## 1999 North Carolina Serials Conference

*“Proving Our Worth”*

Mary Ellen Majors

The Eighth Annual North Carolina Serials Conference was held March 4-5, 1999, at The William and Ida Friday Center for Continuing Education near the campus of the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill. The Conference Planning Committee, chaired by Evelyn Council, Fayetteville State University, hosted 91 participants, most of whom represented academic libraries. North Carolina Central University (Raleigh, NC) sponsored the conference.

Donald J. Waters, Director, Digital Library Federation, Council on Library and Information Resources, and Associate Librarian, Yale University, gave the keynote address, speaking to the conference’s theme of “Proving Our Worth.” As Waters so succinctly put it, how will we, as librarians, and as publishers and vendors, approach and resolve the vexing problems of finding “coherence out of chaos?”

These are indeed flush times for the information industry and especially for those packaging, organizing, and retrieving that information. Many new products are becoming available in new formats (e.g. digital), yet these formats do not lend themselves to our traditional access mechanisms. How will we, *and our users*, continue to get to the information, and will we be worthy of our users’ trust? This writer was reminded of the puzzle where we are asked to connect nine dots using four straight lines. Try it.



This theme of accommodating our users and the need for standards, and thus “proving our worth,” was repeated in presentations given by Cecilia Leathem, University of Miami, FL, who will be remembered as the zip-lock baggie woman (Hey, what can I say, you had to be there!); Stephanie Schmitt, Yale University, whose “Serious Serials Webmastering” could have been subtitled “Know Your Users;” and Nancy Newsome and Jill Ellern, Western Carolina University, who reported on an on-going user study of the state’s NCLIVE electronic resource base. (This workshop will be repeated at the 14<sup>th</sup> Annual NASIG Conference in Pittsburgh.) Other workshops discussed strategies for harnessing the Web and adapting MARC records.

North Carolina’s own Chuck Hamaker, UNC-Charlotte, asked the pivotal question, “What is a Serialist?” He pointed out that formats and our approaches to them are no longer just a technical services issue. We all need to work collaboratively on projects to ensure that we do not lose sight of the bigger picture -- customer service. Again, what was stressed is the need for standardization and a new way of thinking. (Have you connected the dots above yet? Remember, you can only use four *straight* lines.\*)

Publishers and vendors got into the mix. Jeri Van Goethem, Duke University (and Planning Committee member) challenged Carol MacAdam (JSTOR), Mark Taylor (Elsevier Science), and Mike Spinella (American Association of the Advancement of Science) on the issues of licensing, pricing, and delivery. They spoke to how the product development side of the information industry is listening to librarians while dealing with rapid changes in their disciplines. We are indeed all searching for good value and good return on our investments.

Breakout sessions later emphasized the need for standardization in licensing, if licensing is even necessary, guarantees for perpetual access, and realistic, stable pricing models (and not so many of them!). And, while we did not solve all of our concerns, we shared ideas and hopefully will now think of how to stretch our lines of communication and access (hint, hint) beyond the boundaries we have been using up to now. To paraphrase Waters, measuring our worth is a matter of striking a balance between our commitment to the quality of work as we now know it and being willing to shift our frame of reference and subordinate our current values to some larger standard.

The Ninth Annual North Carolina Serials Conference will be held March 16-17, 2000, in Chapel Hill.

\* You have to extend the four straight lines beyond the pattern of dots.

## UKSG 22nd ANNUAL CONFERENCE/ 4th EUROPEAN SERIALS CONFERENCE

Ros Doig

This is the second time the UKSG conference has visited UMIST (University of Manchester Institute of Science and Technology) in Manchester, but sadly the weather was somewhat wetter and more blustery than last time in 1994.

However, there was no sign of lack of enthusiasm amongst the delegates as a result! Although billing itself as a European conference, it also drew from the international community. Some twelve European countries were represented as well as the USA, Canada, Australia, Kenya, and South Africa. As expected, papers and workshops focused heavily on electronic journals and resources.

For me, the keynote paper was the backdrop to all that followed and my own impressions of the conference are set in this context. It was entitled "The Changing Landscape for the Information Professional" and given by Mark Clark, University of Salford. He compared the slowness of the evolution in the dissemination of information in the past with the information explosion we are experiencing today. Predictions of technological achievements tend to be over-estimated for two years hence and under-estimated for ten years. Developments in television and other media have led to the rise of what he termed "edutainment." There has been a rapid rise in e-commerce and the global industries of health and education. With this change has also come the move from paper-based information and communication to electronic information, etc. As far as serials are concerned, much of this has been driven by the growing costs of print on paper.

In the library world, customer perceptions are changing in line with the technology. Once they were only in the library; now, with the pervasiveness of PCs and the Internet, they want 24-hour access from wherever they happen to be. Resource collections are no longer confined to a physical location. To support learning it will be necessary to develop teams of "content developers and knowledge mediation." We are in the age of "martini" learning -- any time, any place, anywhere!

It seems to me that as this is the current and continuing context for the library and information profession, we are having to re-think, adapt, change, create, and generally re-invent ourselves and our approach. Other papers and workshops featured ways in which this was happening. We heard about electronic copyright and archiving and legal deposit of electronic media – based in principle on what currently happens to print material but with different practical implications and consequences. We discussed access and authentication, licences, and publishers' Web sites. We talked about the organisation of electronic material and the use of metadata (a sort of alternative cataloguing for the Web). New versions of old concepts are emerging to deal with collection development and

management. We covered human resources, performance indicators, and the promotion and effective use of electronic materials. The many and varied aspects of electronic journal pricing (including consortial buying) were gathered together in a paper towards the end of the conference.

New jargon is inevitable. I list a few of the words and phrases I heard mentioned: knowledge management and mediation, metadata, digital object identifier, access "catalogues," access development policy, access management, access rights, rights management, bundling, archive policy, content infrastructure, article discovery, lifespan and workspace – the list goes on. I suspect in time some of these will win over others, but undoubtedly, the language of the information professional (are librarians becoming extinct?) is changing to meet the needs of "electronic customers" in a global/virtual environment.

In general, all libraries everywhere are undergoing the same changes as we are. The European experience was covered in papers on the European Digital Library for Economics and on e-journals in Germany. A couple of workshops featured human resource management in the Technical Knowledge Centre in Denmark and serials management software led by a Dutch information consultancy.

As usual, the conference was well supported with an exhibition of products and services from suppliers, agents, and publishers. This always provides an excellent opportunity to discuss business and see demonstrations of the latest electronic packages – sometimes before they are actually available.

The social aspects of the conference give folks a chance to relax and enjoy themselves, to meet and talk with other colleagues on topics of mutual interest. We laughed over a quiz that covered questions of universal trivia; we dined in the magnificent Gothic surroundings of Manchester Town Hall; and those with lots of energy reveled in a late night disco. The atmosphere was excellent. I happened to be standing with the Chairman of the Group at one of the discos, and he was saying how much pleasure it gave him to see so many people enjoying themselves. It was a sincere and deeply felt sentiment. It was so true – it was a real community occasion with an atmosphere to match. And this in essence is what the UK Serials Group is all about -- a gathering of people and organisations with a common focus.

## 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](mailto:clm@jstor.org)]

June 10-13, 1999

*14th NASIG Conference*

"From Carnegie to Internet II"

Carnegie Mellon University

Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

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

August 11-13, 1999

*Pacific Northwest Library Association*

Annual Conference

"Common Ground"

Calgary, Alberta

Contact: Karen Labuik, e-mail: [klabuik@nucleus.com](mailto:klabuik@nucleus.com)

June 13-16, 1999

*Montana Library Association/Mountain Plains Library*

Association Joint Conference

"Making Certain It Goes On"

Big Sky Resort, Montana

<http://www.mtlib.org/Big%20Sky%20folder/>

[Making\\_Certain\\_Home.html](http://www.mtlib.org/Big%20Sky%20folder/Making_Certain_Home.html)

August 20-28, 1999

*International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA)*

65th Council and General Conference

Bangkok, Thailand

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

June 16-20, 1999

*Canadian Library Association*

54th Annual Conference

"Facing the Challenge: a Practical Survival Guide"

Toronto, Ontario

<http://www.cla.amlib.ca/events.htm>

September 21-24, 1999

*North Carolina Library Association*

Winston-Salem, North Carolina

<http://www4.ncsu.edu/~bcchang/ncla/html>

September 22-25, 1999

*North Dakota Library Association*

Annual Conference

Fargo, North Dakota

<http://ndsl.lib.state.nd.us/ndla/conferen.htm>

June 18, 1999

*Canadian Library Association*, Serials Interest Group  
Workshop

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

Toronto, Ontario

September 29 - October 1, 1999

*Minnesota Library Association*

Annual Conference

Duluth, Minnesota

<http://www.lib.mankato.msus.edu:2000/mla/99conf99info.html>

June 24 - July 1, 1999

*American Library Association*

Annual Conference

New Orleans, Louisiana

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

September 29 - October 1, 1999

*Ohio Library Council*

Annual Conference

"Leaders for a New Century"

Dayton, Ohio

<http://www.olc.org/olc/conference99.html>

July 17-22, 1999

*American Association of Law Libraries*

Annual Meeting

Washington, District of Columbia

July 19 - August 8, 1999

*Summer Institute on Leadership and Change in an  
Information Society*

Syracuse, New York

<http://istweb.syr.edu/design/academic/summer/>

September 30 - October 1, 1999

*Society for Scholarly Publishing*

Top Management Roundtable

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

<http://www.sspnet.org>

October 6-9, 1999  
*Idaho Library Association*  
Annual Conference  
Boise, Idaho  
[http://www.idaholibraries.org/annual\\_conferences.htm](http://www.idaholibraries.org/annual_conferences.htm)

October 6-9, 1999  
*South Dakota Library Association*  
Annual Conference  
Watertown, South Dakota  
<http://www.sdln.net/libs/sdla/confer.html>.

October 9-12, 1999  
*Arkansas Library Association*  
Annual Conference  
"Celebrating Our Past, Embracing Our Future"  
Little Rock, Arkansas

October 13-15, 1999  
*Missouri Library Association*  
Annual Conference  
St. Louis, Missouri  
<http://www.mlnc.com/~mla/page19.htm>

October 13-15, 1999  
*Kentucky Library Association*  
Annual Conference  
"Kentucky Libraries: Virtually Speaking"  
Louisville, Kentucky  
<http://www.kylibasn.org/fallconference.htm>

October 16-19, 1999  
*Illinois Library Association*  
Annual Conference  
Chicago, Illinois

October 19-22, 1999  
*Wisconsin Library Association*  
Annual Conference  
La Crosse, Wisconsin  
<http://www.wla.lib.wi.us/fall99/conference99.html>

October 20-22, 1999  
*Georgia Library Association*  
Annual Conference  
Jekyll Island, Georgia  
<http://wwwlib.gsu.edu/gla/events/events.htm>

October 27-31, 1999  
*New York Library Association*  
Annual Conference  
Buffalo, New York

November 1-4, 1999  
*American Society for Information Science*  
Annual Conference  
"Knowledge: Creation, Organization, Use"  
Washington, District of Columbia

November 2-5, 1999  
*Michigan Library Association*  
Annual Conference  
Dearborn, Michigan

November 4-6, 1999  
*19th Annual Charleston Conference on Issues in Book and Serial Acquisitions*  
Charleston, South Carolina

November 5-7, 1999  
*Library and Information Technology Association National Forum*  
"Top Technology Trends"  
Raleigh, North Carolina  
<http://www.lita.org/forum99/index.htm>

November 8-10, 1999  
*Internet Librarian '99*  
San Diego, California

November 10-14, 1999  
*American Association of School Librarians National Conference*  
Birmingham, Alabama

November 12-13, 1999  
*Hawaii Library Association Annual Conference*  
Royal Waikoloan Hotel, Island of Hawaii  
<http://hypatia.slis.hawaii.edu/~hlaconf/1999/welcome.html>

January 14-19, 2000  
*American Library Association*  
Midwinter Meeting  
San Antonio, Texas

March 15-17, 2000  
*Computers in Libraries*  
Washington, District of Columbia

May 16-18, 2000  
*National Online Meeting*  
New York, New York

March 15-18, 2001  
*Association of College and Research Libraries National Conference*  
Denver, Colorado

