

# NASIG NEWSLETTER

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## PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Connie Foster, NASIG President

*Chinese proverb: "When you draw water from a well, you can never forget the people who had drilled it."*

As I write this, I am looking forward to the Trinity conference which will be history by the time this issue goes to press. When Steve Savage recommended reducing the *Newsletter* from five to four per year, I quietly felt relief that I'd be writing one less time. Yet the final corner appeared all too quickly in many ways. Although I look forward to the role of Past President and Publicist before going to that yet-to-be-determined "retirement" home for ex-NASIG Board members, I know that my opportunities will be different in the next few years. And surely when I go to that "home" I'll take along a few friends—the outgoing Board members like Dan Tonkery (who probably ties Susan Davis for most years service), Gerry Williams (ever conscientious and astute about NASIG finances), Don Jaeger (forever positive about the value of NASIG to vendors and publishers), Fran Wilkinson (the spirited site selector), and already retired (only in the broadest sense of that word) Pat Wallace, who has dedicated valuable hours to Conference Planning assistance and guidance. Each of you has given significant years of service to NASIG and hopefully will continue to find additional roles in the future.

To those of you remaining "on board," Christa Easton, Donnice Cochenour, Meg Mering, and Anne McKee, I thank you for your astute observations, prompt actions,

and cooperative spirit. To incoming Board members and officers (Eleanor Cook, Denise Novak, Mary Page, Marilyn Geller, and Kevin Randall), we welcome your enthusiasm, willingness to lead, and commitment to NASIG. And, to Maggie Rioux, Madam President, I already know that you are quite ready and able to wield the symbolic gavel. We owe much to the true visionaries and founders of NASIG. Indeed the well is deep.

*In this issue*

The committee annual reports deserve careful reading. Much of the organization's glue is committee work. These narratives allow a glimpse into how much effort and accomplishment NASIG members generate. In the last issue you got a double dose of essential minutes. Through these documents you can note Board actions,

responses to member concerns, and committee items. The minutes provide a way for committee chairs to track decisions and serve as documentation for our history and our future. We feel that recognition at our business meeting is the proper forum to add an extra "thanks very much for a job well done."

*About the UKSG Conference*

One of the wonderful exchanges granted the NASIG President is attendance at the United Kingdom Serials Group Conference (UKSG). This year's site was Heriot-Watt University just outside Edinburgh. I welcomed the opportunity to bring NASIG greetings at the conference opening so as not to interrupt the dinner, Quiz, or dancing! People are interested in the ways NASIG and UKSG were alike and different. Several people expressed an interest in NASIG and the

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**August 1, 2001  
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conferences, so I gladly pulled our brochures and Trinity programs. The UKSG committee reports offer a sense of business similar to ours—a logo change to letters rather than a graphical representation, student grants for conference attendance and recently initiated awards to students in library and information studies who are writing dissertations on the graduate level.

A familiar face on the program was Steve Oberg who presented a workshop (3 times) on e-journals and library management systems. Chair Christine Fyfe and the executive officers, UKSG office administrators Alison Whithorne and Karen Sadler receive my sincere thank you and appreciation for a truly memorable program and wonderful hospitality. For reflections on issues covered over a decade of UKSG conferences, enjoy Ros Doig's excellent contribution: "Back Issues" in this *Newsletter*.

*Turning the corner*

*"Look at every path closely and deliberately, then ask yourself this crucial question: Does*

*this path have a heart? If it does, then the path is good. If it doesn't, it is of no use." (Carlos Castaneda)*

Each of us who experiences a willingness to hold office or serve on a committee or task force sees service in NASIG as a path with heart. Certainly my turn has been enjoyable, rewarding, and at times challenging to be responsive to the members yet empower committees to make the best decisions they can with the appropriate procedures and financial resources available.

I thank each of you for giving me the opportunity to serve NASIG as Vice-President, President and now Past President (and Secretary and Member-at-large). When I joined NASIG in 1986, I knew immediately that this organization provided a professional path with enormous heart and vast potential, a path full of opportunities, knowledge, and friendships. Our membership remains stable; we need others of you to choose the leadership path and share in an exciting journey. Have a great summer!

## **NASIG 2001 BOARD ELECTION RESULTS**

Sandy Folsom, Chair, Nominations & Elections Committee

The NASIG Nominations & Elections Committee is happy to announce the results of the 2001 election. These individuals will assume office immediately after the adjournment of NASIG's Annual Conference, to be held May 23-26, 2001. The Committee would like to extend warm congratulations to the candidates who were elected and sincere thanks all the candidates for their willingness to stand for office. Those elected to office are:

### **Vice President / President-Elect**

**ELEANOR I. COOK**  
Appalachian State University

### **Treasurer**

**DENISE D. NOVAK**  
Carnegie Mellon University

### **Members-at-Large**

**MARILYN GELLER**  
Information Management Consultant

**MARY PAGE**  
Rutgers University

**KEVIN M. RANDALL**  
Northwestern University

They will join NASIG's other previously elected officers on the 2001/2002 Board:

### **President**

**MARGARET (MAGGIE) RIOUX**  
MBL/WHOI Library

### **Past President**

**CONNIE FOSTER**  
Western Kentucky University

### **Secretary**

**MARGARET (MEG) MERING**  
University of Nebraska-Lincoln

### **Members-at-Large**

**ANNE MCKEE**  
Big 12 Plus Libraries Consortium

**DONNICE COCHENOUR**  
Colorado State University

**CHRISTA EASTON**  
Stanford University

# TREASURER'S REPORT

Gerald Williams  
April 24, 2001

The financial picture of NASIG has remained positive. To date, 1211 paid memberships have been received. Conference registrations are coming in at a steady rate. A one year \$29,000 Certificate of Deposit was purchased through Charles Schwab at a rate of 5.15%. The previous Certificate came due on March 8, 2001 with interest earned of \$1,834 on a one-year investment of \$28,000. Our balance sheet currently shows:

## ASSETS

Cash and Bank Accounts	
Charles Schwab-Cash	894.61
Checking-264	8,601.33
One year CD	29,000.00
Savings-267	116,059.31
TOTAL Cash and Bank Accounts	\$154,555.25
Investments	
Charles Schwab	22,662.41
TOTAL Investments	22,662.41
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>\$177,217.66</b>

## LIABILITIES & EQUITY

Liabilities	0.00
Equity	177,217.66
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES &amp; EQUITY</b>	<b>\$177,217.66</b>

Since the CD needed to be in even \$1,000 increments, the additional interest went into the Schwab money market fund where it will earn market rate. The Treasurer and the Finance Committee continue to monitor the mutual fund investment.

Our operating expenditures to date include:

Admin-Board Expenses	-3,970.85
Awards & Recognition	-2,446.86
Archives	-1,000.00
Continuing Education	-50.00
Conference Planning	-54.59
Conference Site 2002	-947.15
Electronic Communications	-2,545.90
Evaluation	-869.19
Finance	-1,520.23
Nominations & Elections	-1,330.30
Database & <i>Directory</i>	-309.63
<i>Newsletter</i>	-2002.10
<i>Proceedings</i>	-76.41
<b>OVERALL TOTAL</b>	<b>-17,123.21</b>

This is a small percentage of the budgeted amount since most expenses occur at conference time and after.

Conference income and expenses to date include:

## *2001 SAN ANTONIO CONFERENCE*

### INCOME

Conference Registration	96,437.50
Preconference Income	1,400.00
Conference Handouts	1,820.00
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>99,657.50</b>

### EXPENSES

Conference – Advertising	43.03
Conference – Brochure	1,875.00
Credit Card Charges	163.07
Conference – Postage	601.01
Conference Supplies	83.40
Conference – Refund	2,822.60
Conference – Prepayment	18,000.00
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>23,588.11</b>

**TOTAL INCOME – EXPENSES** **76,069.39**

It is still early, so the income and expenses are both on the low side for a conference. In summary, NASIG is still in a good financial position.

## ***REMINDER!***

Beginning with Vol. 17, no. 1,  
(March 2002)  
the

## *NASIG Newsletter*

will be available  
via online access, only,  
in both HTML  
and PDF formats

<http://www.nasig.org/newsletters/>

# NASIG COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORTS

## ARCHIVES

Marilyn P. Fletcher, NASIG Archivist

The NASIG archive now fills eight archival boxes. Over the year, several individuals sent their complete files from which materials to be added to the archive were selected. The final report on the Electronic Archiving Project was submitted on January 5, 2001 and was filed. The report recommended a close relationship between the NASIG Archivist, the Electronic Communications Committee, and Bee.net. The newly appointed Archivist, Holley R. Lange, at Colorado State University, will be responsible for maintaining contact with the two groups. Marilyn Fletcher and Holley Lange will meet sometime in the summer for the official transfer of the NASIG archives.

After much searching for a "Retention Record" policy, the following document was found in papers sent by Teresa Malinowski: "Report to the NASIG Board on the

Retention of NASIG Archives, Vancouver, British Columbia, June 1, 1994". A copy of the report was sent to Maggie Rioux for inclusion in the New Committee Chair orientation packet. I have also had a special folder made for this policy so it will be easily available in the future.

Bea Caraway asked for a list of former Local Arrangements Committee members in order to seek support for the Trinity Conference. Though we have complete files of the conferences, it was difficult to identify local arrangements folks. Most names were found through reports to the Executive Board. In the future, CPC chairs should be asked to provide a list of those serving on local arrangements groups. I know that they are recognized at the conference, but lists of names have not always been provided.

## BYLAWS COMMITTEE

Robert Cleary, Chair

Committee Members: Linda Hulbert, Sharon McCaslin, Alice J. Rhoades (Web Liaison), Peter Whiting, Donna Yanney, Robert Cleary (Chair), and Christa Easton, (Board Liaison).

I am pleased to submit the annual report of the Bylaws Committee for 2000/2001.

There were no proposed bylaws changes this past year.

The Committee revised its calendar to reflect changes in the archiving policy for the Committee's e-mail messages. The Committee reviewed and discussed the guidelines and procedures. One discussion involved language in the guidelines that stated that Article XII in the Bylaws defined our charge. After reviewing Article XII and agreeing that there was only an implied charge, rather than a clearly stated charge, this reference was omitted. Based on a policy change from the Executive Board, regarding the independent person who would count ballots, we added text to define this person as someone

who would not be a NASIG member. The Committee also requested minor changes to the Committee's charge.

At the request of the Board, the Committee produced a draft mailing procedure for the use of all NASIG committees, which was based on the Committee's procedures.

The Committee will meet at the Annual Conference in San Antonio on Friday, May 25th at 12:30 p.m.

Donna Yanney rotates off of the Committee this year. Robert Cleary will continue as Chair for 2001/2002 and has one more year to serve on the Committee.

I would like to thank the Committee and our Board Liaison, Christa Easton, for their helpful comments for our various revisions. A special thanks goes to Donna Yanney, who as past Chair was very helpful to me in the transition.

## CONTINUING EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Evelyn Council & Priscilla Shontz

Committee members are: Priscilla Shontz (Co-Chair), Evelyn Council (Co-Chair), Judy Irvin, Carole Bell, Birdie MacLennan, Lisa Furubotten, Cathy Kellum, Elizabeth Parang, Mary Williams, Patricia Loghry, Laura

Sill, Pat French, Deberah England, Maria Collins, Wenying Lu, Michael Arthur, Karen Harrell, Marsha Seamans, Don Jaeger (Board Liaison).

## REPORT ON ACTIVITIES, JANUARY TO MAY 2001

### *Library School Outreach*

Birdie MacLennan, Deberah England, and Judy Irvin worked on the outreach to library schools this year. They composed a letter that was sent to all the accredited schools listed with the American Library Association. In addition, they also translated the letter into Spanish and French for ALA-accredited programs that offer curriculum in Spanish (University of Puerto Rico) and in French (Université de Montréal). Lisa Furubotten helped with the Spanish, and Birdie worked with two French-speaking colleagues in Québec on the French (the French language membership brochure was very helpful).

One faculty member at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign replied: her concerns had more to do with NASIG's student scholarship applications and current topics to discuss in class. Deadlines for the awards applications were too early in the year for students who are at that time unsure of what area of library science they are interested in. Also she was unaware of the deadline for this year and, as a result, a viable candidate in her class was unable to apply.

### *Louisiana Users Conference*

In October a very successful LA-ACRL/LUC (Louisiana Users Conference) meeting included a NASIG-sponsored main speaker. Tom Sanville, the Director of OhioLINK, spoke about how Ohio is handling consortial purchasing and budgeting. The presentation was very successful and has had a far-reaching effect in how Louisiana plans to continue to do business in the state. Over 100 people attended the meeting. It was hailed as one of the best ever. We (NASIG) were given great publicity as an organization and many comments of appreciation for our participation.

### *Mentor Program*

So far this year, we have:

- Updated the information and forms for online registration for the Mentoring Program
- Contacted the Local Arrangements Committee in San Antonio to assure that information would go out to First-timers concerning the Reception. We also confirmed our requirements for the reception
- Sent e-mail via the NASIG listserv inviting people to volunteer to become mentors or mentees
- Created guidelines for both mentors and mentees
- Received applications
- Matched mentors and mentees
- Contacted participants
- Contacted all Board Members and Grant winners to assure they are signed up as mentors and mentees

### *Michigan Library Consortiums & South Dakota*

A special program on "Electronic Journals and Libraries" was held on April 26, 2001 in Lansing, MI. It was organized by Michigan Library Consortiums (MLC) and co-sponsored by MLC and NASIG. The keynote speaker was Tom Sanville from OhioLINK, who talked about "Out of the Madness: Providing Adequately for Journal Needs through a Consortium." Other speakers included Ed Pentz of Publishers International Linking Association, Inc. (on "CrossRef Service"), Colleen Way of OCLC (on "OCLC Electronic Collections Online"), and Gerry McKiernan of Iowa State University (on "The Once and Future [e-] Journal"). There was also a panel discussion. Ellen Seidel of Michigan Technological University, Kate Pittsley of Merit, and Mike Van Houten and Carolyn Gaswick of Albion College discussed how their libraries handled electronic journals.

Wen-ying Lu gave a 5-minute welcome and "sales" speech for NASIG before the program started. The NASIG banner was prominently displayed in front of the podium. A copy of the NASIG brochure was included in the program packet. A total of 72 people attended the program. When Lu asked how many in the audience knew what NASIG was, about one third of the people raised their hands. During the break, a couple of attendees asked for more information about the annual conference and about how to join.

NASIG also co-sponsored with MLC an Electronic Serials Cataloging Workshop in April. The instructor was Victor Liu, Director of Library Systems, Washtenaw Community College. The Workshop was offered under the auspices of the LC/CONSER Serials Cataloging Cooperative Training Program (SCCTP).

There is also a CONSER serials holdings workshop in the planning for South Dakota in fall.

### *Mississippi State University*

Mississippi State has agreed to host a continuing education session on e-journals to be held the second or fourth week of July. We are working on lining up speakers for this one-day session. We should soon have the exact date as well as a list of speakers. The one-day session will include various topics on e-journals that we hope will be of interest to everyone involved with serials including public and technical services. Right now we are looking for speakers on the following topics: licensing, collection management issues, statistics, and access to the public. We will promote this session to the various states around the region including Mississippi, Georgia, Tennessee, Alabama, and Louisiana. There will be a small registration fee to cover lunch and two breaks.

### *NASIG/Mexico Grant*

At the request of the NASIG board, Elizabeth Parang and Lisa Furubotten worked on developing a NASIG/Mexico Grant to sponsor a Mexican library school student to attend the 2001 NASIG Conference. They not only created guidelines and publicized this grant, but also worked with library school professors in Mexico to select the winner. Lisa is making the student's travel arrangements and will serve as the main host during the conference. The Board approved the idea of giving honorary NASIG memberships to the three Mexican library school professors as a thank-you gift for the work they did in selecting the winner.

Beverly Geer and Steve Oberg have volunteered to serve as mentors or help Lisa host the student in San Antonio. Joseph Hinger and Lisa have suggested the idea of offering a Networking Node for those interested in outreach to Mexico.

Elizabeth Parang sent an announcement for the Mexican student grant opportunity to NASIG-L, the *NMRT Newsletter* and other publicity venues. Because this is the first time this grant is being offered, Elizabeth and Lisa have put in an incredible amount of work and time making this happen.

### *New England Library Association*

We are in the process of developing a program with NELA (New England Library Association). The New England Technical Services Librarians (NETSL) will be sponsoring two programs at NELA, on Oct. 1, 2001, Burlington, Vt. Julie Gammon (U. Akron) will be presenting a morning session called "Scholarship as Commodity", which will explore collection development/acquisition-related issues resulting from the infusion of aggregated resources (such as e-journal packages), and/or other e-resources that the library doesn't necessarily own, into the library's collection.

We are also putting together an afternoon panel session, called "Budgeting for Electronic Resources." Peggy Johnson (U. Minnesota), Carol Fleishauer (MIT), and Kathryn Poliseno (NELINET Coordinator for Consortium Purchasing) have agreed to be panelists. Our thoughts, so far, are to have Peggy address theoretical aspects of the topic, while Carol would indicate how MIT is approaching the budgeting concerns. Kathryn will talk about consortial aspects. Also, Maggie Rioux has volunteered to come and do a session on EDI. NETSL can't sponsor this, but the NETSL folks are putting us in

touch with conference organizers to work toward finding a slot for Maggie.

### *North Carolina Serials Conference*

Although the "Snowstorm of the Century" was predicted, the Tenth N.C. Serials Conference was as successful as ever. NASIG sponsored Julia Gammon as one of the keynote speakers. Julia's presentation, "A Recipe for Negotiation: Measuring Your Negotiation Skills" dovetailed very well with the conference theme, "Food for Thought -- New Energy Sources For the 21<sup>st</sup> Century." Julia represented NASIG very well, as evidenced by her high marks on the evaluation forms. NASIG brochures and the banner were very much in evidence on the registration table, and the San Antonio conference was mentioned during the program. More information about the program can be obtained at the following North Carolina Central Library School Web site <http://www.slis.nccu.edu/serials2001.htm>.

### *OVGTSL Conference*

Planning for co-sponsorship of the OVGTSL (Ohio Valley Group of Technical Services Librarians) General Session (May 17, 2001) is underway. The speaker will be Chuck Hamaker on "Trends in Scholarly Publishing."

### *SCCTP Training, California*

The proposed workshop won't happen this year. We have put in a placeholder to offer the Advanced SCCTP training course in California. The course won't be available until next year when we'd like to reschedule it.

### *Web Site & Human Resource Directory*

Priscilla Shontz has updated the Mentor Program application and also posted "Guidelines for Mentors and Mentees," written by Carole Bell & Pat Loghry. She also posts Committee reports and other information on the Web site.

Additionally, Priscilla has been maintaining and updating the *Human Resources Directory*. Laura Sill sent out an announcement and invitation to NASIG members to submit their profiles for inclusion in the *HRD*: about five new or updated entries have been received. Priscilla is creating a template so that entries received by e-mail can be fairly easily loaded onto the Web site. A member suggested that we add a geographic index, which will be a future project for the *HRD*. Laura Sill sent an announcement about the *Directory* to NASIG-L and the *NASIG Newsletter*.

## CONCLUSION

Members leaving the committee this year are: Pat French, Judy Irvin, and Cathy Kellum.

From Evelyn Council: "As Co-Chairs of the CEC, Priscilla and I would like to thank the members of the 2000/2001 Committee who worked so diligently to achieve our goals, even though the budgeting and sometimes even the goals would take a new turn. Judy Irvin is truly a wonderful leader and gently guided the CEC during her Co-Chair term and beyond. Her forms and ideas are the backbone of the path the CEC is traveling. I am also especially grateful for the initiative and leadership that Priscilla Shontz has exhibited. She is the epitome of "Make it so!" whether correspondence or electronic implementation is needed. Pat French, Don Jaeger (Board Liaison), and Cathy Kellum will also be missed, and, along with Judy, wear big shoes. I am extending a special thank you to Birdie who has agreed to

assume Co-Chair duties and welcome aboard all the new members. We will have some wonderful things to plan."

From Priscilla Schontz wrote: "It has been my pleasure to serve as Co-Chair of this Committee for the past two years – last year with Judy Irvin and this year with Evelyn Council. I have learned a great deal and have been constantly amazed at all the ideas, initiatives and projects that our Committee members have come up with – and followed through on – during this time. We have moved into some exciting new directions (e.g. the NASIG/Mexico grant), have streamlined some procedures (e.g. the Mentor Program) as well as our budget, and put more of our activities and guidelines on the Web for future committees. I have especially appreciated the guidance of our Board Liaison, Don Jaeger, as well as the support of all the Board members. I will enjoy continuing to serve as a member on CEC next year under the energetic leadership of Evelyn Council and Birdie MacLennan."

## ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

Margi Mann and Beth Toren, Co-Chairs

Committee members are: Beth Jane Toren, Margi Mann, David Bynog, Anne Frohlich, Sarah George, Lorraine Hirning, Yumin Jiang, Eric Lease Morgan, Bob Persing, Jie Tian, Mitch Turitz, Mary Wilke, and Yvonne Zhang.

1. Lists. Currently, NASIG has 26 e-mail lists for use by working committees and task forces. The ECC has continued to make use of the Post.Office software offered by our ISP, BeeNet. The list for all NASIG members (NASIG-L) currently has 1309 subscribers. Margi Mann took over as listmanager in May 2000. Bob Persing took over as the backup in October 2000. List activity has been quite high this year. NASIG added three lists (Bilingual-L, Proceedings-L, and Theme-L) and disbanded one list (cedu-task-L), for a net gain of two lists. Another change in the lists this year was the decision to place the Conference Planning Committee list on a "rotating" schedule. In practice, there are two non-overlapping CPC lists: one for the current conference, and one for the next year's conference.

The other item of note with the lists is that the current year has seen a major upsurge in "spam" or junk mail posted to the lists. The Awards-L list, in particular, attracts a lot of spam. This has added to the time spent managing the lists, as each spam message must be reviewed, then rejected.

2. JobWeb. In September 2000 Yumin Jiang took over the management of the JobWeb, as well as trained her backup, Anne Frohlich. Anne & Yumin now manage the JobWeb on alternate months. Yumin also updated many broken links to other job resources on the job page, and made some adjustments in the format of job listings.

3. NasigWeb activities. The primary NASIGWeb activities this year were maintenance, development, and support. Content maintenance included the annual updates to the NASIGWeb site forms, the Executive Board working calendar, lists of committees and Board members, and links to newly published *Newsletters*. Content development included a new page with a list of Past Presidents, and a new NASIG Committee Web. We also redesigned the job section into a sub Web. Transferring the job listings from a public folder to an individual sub-Web eliminated the need for ECC members maintaining the job list to access unrelated documents.

Much effort went into enabling NASIGWeb developers as part of the ECC's role as a supportive committee. There were some difficulties with the site being transferred to a different server at BeeNet while one of our best contacts there was out. This included contacting BeeNet for assistance with troubleshooting for the *Membership Directory*. We had to coordinate and educate all the people who were publishing on the site with new guidelines for using FrontPage 2000.

The FrontPage 2000 support we provided the NASIGWeb developers included phone and e-mail consulting, and the creation of two support pages on NASIGWeb including Guidelines and Use of FrontPage with NASIGWeb.

We coordinated funding for software purchases and upgrades to FrontPage 2000 for several NASIGWeb developers, enabling other committees to begin or continue developing their own sections of NASIGWeb.



We also coordinated creation of space and access for development of the 2001 Conference site at BeeNet. Finally, Yumin Jiang was designated as back up and incoming Webspinner. Recommendations for the 2001-2002 ECC include updating the past award winners list so latest appear at the top, archiving statistics on the first of each month and giving them to the NASIG Archivist, and what is most important, establishing frequent contact with committees' Web developers and continuing to provide support.

4. Chatroom proposal. At the Board's request, Margi Mann investigated the possibility of adding an electronic chatroom service for NASIG. BeeNet supplied 3 possible

options, with pricing. These were submitted to the Board. At the Fall Board meeting, Board members reviewed the proposal and decided not to add the chat room service at this time.

5. ISP review. In September 2000 Margi Mann and BeeNet reviewed the existing ISP contract to see if there were any changes or adjustments that needed to be made. As a result of this mutual review by NASIG and BeeNet, services were increased slightly (specifically, the MB storage capacity for the NasigWeb was increased slightly, and the Nominations & Elections Committee was allowed to attach files to their list messages) but the annual contract price remained the same.

## **EVALUATION AND ASSESSMENT COMMITTEE**

Diane Grover, Chair

The Evaluation and Assessment Committee is appointed and operates on a calendar year basis, rather than the fiscal year. Its primary responsibility is to conduct an evaluation of the Annual Conference, including production and dissemination of evaluation forms, and compilation and reporting of the results. An in-depth report of the NASIG 15th Annual Conference evaluation appeared in the *NASIG Newsletter*, v. 15 no. 4 (December 2000).

Members: Diane Grover (Chair 2000/01), Joan Stephens, David Winchester, Wendy Baia, Lillian DeBlois, Mary Greci, Tim Hagan, Beth Holley (Chair 2001/2002), Reba Leiding, Susan Markley, Catherine Nelson, Wendy Stewart. Board Liaison: Fran Wilkinson

Expenditures: \$198.19 for supplies, copying, postage \$672 for software upgrade

After the San Diego conference, members took on various tasks. Susan Markley created a summary report, which was distributed to Board and key Committee chairs just 2 weeks after the conference. Wendy Stewart, Tim Hagan, Reba Leiding, Catherine Nelson, and Joan Stephens compiled detailed tabulations. Susan Markley then word processed all the comments, to draw like topics together. Diane Grover merged all the separately keyed files to produce compiled reports. Catherine Nelson copied and distributed the 65 page reports. Lillian DeBlois took care

of notification and transmittal letters, to assure NASIG's confidentiality policies were observed.

Lillian DeBlois completed an article for the December 2000 *NASIG Newsletter* and Reba Leiding provided individual speakers with their results throughout the winter.

Two major policy changes were made this year: 1) In 2000 the Board requested a change in the distribution policy to allow the PPC co-chairs access to the full report, rather than the more limited speaker reports; 2) Following the 15th Annual Conference Evaluation cycle, Committee Chair Diane Grover recommended to the Board that separate evaluation numbers for speaker content and presentation be dropped in favor of one rating per speaker. This recommendation was accepted at the January Board meeting. Other changes have been made for the 2001 forms, which we hope will make the evaluations easier to complete.

The Committee also successfully recommended the purchase of a new version of the software used to conduct the evaluation, "Survey Pro" by Apian Software. The new software should be in use for the 16th Annual Conference Evaluation.

During the winter/spring of 2001, we have been working on task assignment and preparation of the evaluation forms that will be used for the 16th Annual Conference evaluation.

## **NASIG NEWSLETTER EDITORIAL BOARD**

Steve Savage, Editor-in-Chief

Current Board members: John Harrison (Distribution Editor), Maggie Horn (Copy Editor), Carol MacAdam (Columns Editor), Jim Michael (Print Production Editor),

Charlene Simser (Electronic Production Editor), Steve Savage (Editor-in-Chief), Connie Foster (Board Liaison).

As always, the *Newsletter* Editorial Board accomplished its primary goal: we produced each *Newsletter* issue accurately and on schedule. Though it was completed on time, the print version of the December issue was delivered later, presumably due to the holiday mail. The electronic versions of each issue were completed 2-3 weeks before the print version was put into the mail. This was better than the 1-2 week goal we had set for ourselves.

A little progress was made on manuals, but much remains to be done. Position descriptions were updated, as were the print production procedures and the style sheet. Submissions guidelines were compiled for use by the Submissions Editor position.

Throughout the past 8 years, sporadic efforts were made to obtain a bulk-mail permit for the *Newsletter*. Just as all relevant issues were finally resolved and we were ready to send off the forms, the Executive Board decided to eliminate the print version of the publication at the end of vol. 16 (2001). (There must be a Murphy's Law that applies here...) This change will not reduce the work of the Editorial Board because a print master will still be needed in order to continue to provide a .pdf version through the Web site, along with the .html version. It will save NASIG about \$14,000 per year, however, in printing and postage costs, and the *Newsletter's* Distribution Editor position will no longer be needed.

#### *Personnel*

As usual, personnel issues were the dominant factor for the Editorial Board during this year. Instead of numerous

changes of jobs and locales for Board members, however, this year changes of personnel were common. Jim Michael replaced Cecilia Sercan in the Print Production Editor position. Donnell Ruthenberg began as our first Submissions Editor in December but resigned due to a career change in February. Naomi Young left the Profiles Editor position. Both the Submissions Editor and Profiles Editor positions remain open.

After 9 years of service on the Editorial Board, Maggie Horn announced her resignation as Copy Editor, effective after the June 2001 issue is complete. (In addition to her current position, she also served as Distribution Editor and Production Editor, and served two terms as Editor-in-Chief.) Maggie very graciously offered to complete the work of coordinating, collecting, and editing this year's conference reports, and to assist with training the new Copy Editor. She has been an exceptional Board member and very fun to work with, too. She will be missed!

#### *Plans for Next Year*

1. Copy, Submissions, Profile Editor positions:
  - a. Compile or complete relevant sections of the manual
  - b. Find and train new volunteers to fill these positions.
  - c. Transfer the coordination and collecting of conference reports from the Copy Editor to the Submissions Editor.
2. Continue efforts to increase the number of non-NASIG, serials-related reports in each issue.
3. Continue efforts to increase the number of NASIG profiles in each issue.

## **NOMINATIONS & ELECTIONS COMMITTEE**

Sandy Folsom, Chair

Committee members: Sandy Folsom (Chair), Joe Badics, Carol Diedrichs, Ann Ercelawn, Rene Erlandson, Step Schmitt, Markel Tumlin and Dan Tonkery (Board Liaison).

#### *Nominations and Candidate Selection*

Fifty-two nominations representing 45 individual names were submitted for consideration as candidates. Seventeen of these individuals agreed to be considered for candidacy and submitted Nominee Profiles. Two candidates were slated for each open office. The Committee evaluated the nominees based on the profiles they submitted. Along with these evaluations, an effort was made to slate

candidates representing different geographic areas and different segments of the membership.

#### *Balloting*

The ballot was mailed Feb. 1st instead of the usual date of February 15th because of the early date of the conference this year. The postmark deadline for return was March 1. A total of 451 ballots were returned, out of 914 sent out. The Chair counted ballots, and Carol Diedrichs, a member of the Committee, verified the count. The Chair notified all candidates of the results by phone. Results were announced on NASIG-L, sent to the *Newsletter* and to the NASIG Publicist for dissemination outside NASIG.

*Election Results*

Vice-President/President-Elect  
*ELEANOR COOK*

Treasurer  
*DENISE NOVAK*

Members-a-Large  
*MARILYN GELLER*  
*MARY PAGE*  
*KEVIN RANDALL*

*Budget*

	Budgeted	Spent
Contracted Services	0	105.11
Temporary Help	75.00	0
Office Supplies	340.00	unknown since they were ordered from the secretary
Postage	380.00	330.01
Printing	640.00	362.52
TOTAL	1,435.00	797.64 +office supplies

*Electronic Communications*

Through the auspices of the Electronic Communications Committee, the capacity of the Nom-Elect discussion list

was expanded so that attachments may now be included with messages.

*Committee Guidelines*

The Committee completed work begun by the 1999/2000 N & E Committee to draft revisions to the Committee Guidelines. The guidelines revisions were submitted to the NASIG Executive Board for approval.

*Items Referred to the NASIG Executive Board*

Along with the guidelines revision, the Committee referred a number of other issues to the Executive Board for their consideration. These included the relatively low number of nominees who agree to be considered for candidacy, possible specific qualifications for Treasurer, need for guidance on vote tally dissemination, and exploration of the possibility of online balloting.

*Recognition*

I would like to recognize the entire committee for their hard work, dedication and patience throughout the year. Special thanks to our Board Liaison, Dan Tonkery and Committee volunteers Step Schmitt, who coordinated with the Electronic Communications Committee, and Carol Diedrichs, for verifying the ballot count. Thank you for the opportunity to serve as Chair.

**PROCEEDINGS EDITORIAL TEAM**

Michelle Fiander and Joseph Harmon, Co-Editors

The Editorial Team for the 15th Annual NASIG Conference *Proceedings, Making Waves: New Serials Landscapes in a Sea of Change*, consisted of Michelle Fiander and Joe Harmon. This was our second year editing the *Proceedings* and the experience was much the same as last year. The period from May to September, both before and after the conference, were times of concentrated activity involving organizing and editing the papers and recorded reports. In December we reviewed the page proofs from Haworth Press. This year the Web Editor, who is responsible for creating the electronic version of the *Proceedings*, is Lynne Griffin. As of the time of writing this report, Lynne had not received the files of the *Proceedings* from the publisher.

As was the case last year, this year's editorial duties involved soliciting recorders for conference sessions. The NASIG membership rose to the occasion and were very giving with their time. We had a terrific pool of applicants and extend our sincere thanks for their work. Unfortunately this year we made a mistake or two while making assignments and we would like to apologize sincerely to any NASIG members who bore the brunt of our befuddlement. The scheduling process of matching recorders to sessions tends to be challenging and mistakes happen. Communication with recorders and complete

records of correspondence are key to maintaining good relationships and ensuring the *Proceedings* are published on time and in good order. We think we did a good job, but again would like to apologize to any one of our recorder applicants who received conflicting information at any point.

Unlike last year, when paper letters and snail mail were the primary forms of communication between Editors and authors, this year we relied almost exclusively on e-mail communication. We used a mailing list to send updates and instructions and to query authors on editorial changes. The electronic environment certainly eases communication. We hope all involved were satisfied with this form of dialogue.

In last year's report we detailed the process of trial and error with which we approached the *Proceedings*. This year we applied what we learned during this process. One major improvement was to edit papers immediately upon receipt, rather than waiting until we had them all in hand.

To conclude our report, we would like to thank a number of the NASIG members without whom editing the *Proceedings* would have been impossible. Thanks to Kathryn Wesley, our Indexer, Lynne Griffin, our Web

Editor, and Donnice Cochenour, our Liaison to the NASIG Board. Thanks to all the NASIG members who volunteered their time to record a session. Without you, there would be no *Proceedings*. Thanks to members of the 2000 Conference Planning Committee and the Conference Registrar, who provided much information necessary to our work. To all others who helped us by answering our

questions and sending us needed information, thank you! We'd also like to acknowledge the invaluable assistance of Nancy Deisroth at Haworth Press. The new *Proceedings* Editors will, we think, find Nancy wonderful to work with. Finally, thanks to the NASIG Board for giving us the opportunity to serve as Editors for a second year. We have enjoyed it.

## PUBLICIST

Anne E. McKee, Board Member-at-Large and Publicist

### *Publicist's Activities:*

- 1) Posting of 2002 Conference Call for Proposals
- 2) Negotiating and writing copy for *Library Journal* advertisement (i.e. Tuttle Award)
- 3) Sending out brochures to RC&M or CE Reps who requested them (including Mexico and Canada)
- 4) NYTSL Statement on NASIG (appended)
- 5) Submitted invited article for *IFLA Newsletter* (appended)
- 6) Submitted invited article for *D-Lib Electronic Newsletter* (appended)
- 7) Postings for NASIG committee announcements.

### *List Of Lists for NASIG Announcements*

ACQNET. Acquisitions issues

Address: ACQNET@LISTPROC.APPSTATE.EDU

ARL. Association of Research Libraries discussion group

Address: ARL-EJOURNAL@CNI.ORG

AUTOCAT. Library cataloging and authorities discussion group

Address: AUTOCAT@LISTSERV.ACSU.BUFFALO.EDU

BIBLIOMEX-L. Due to past difficulties, Rogelio Hinojosa (rhinojosa@tamiu.edu) has kindly volunteered to post NASIG messages to this list

COL-DEV. Collection Development:

Address: COLLDV-L@VM.USC.EDU

GOVDOC-L. Discussion of Government Documents issues

Address: GOVDOC-L@LISTS.PSU.EDU

ILL-L. Interlibrary Loan Discussion Group:

Address: ILL-L@LISTSERV.ACNS.NWU.EDU

LIBADMIN. Library Administration:

Address: LIBADMIN@UMARYLAND.EDU

LIBREF-L. Discussion of Reference Issues

Address: LIBREF-L@LISTSERV.KENT.EDU

LIBSUP. Library Support Staff

Address: LIBSUP-L@U.WASHINGTON.EDU

LIS-SERIALS-UK. Serials discussion group

Address: LIS-SERIALS@MAILBASE.AC.UK

MEDLIB-L. Medical Libraries Discussion Group

Address:

MEDLIB-L@LISTSERV.ACSU.BUFFALO.EDU

NASIG. North American Serials Interest Group

Address: NASIG-L@NASIG.ORG

PACS-L. Public Access Computer Systems Forum

Address: PACS-L@LISTSERV.UH.EDU

PUBLIB. Public Libraries

Address: PUBLIB@SUNSITE.BERKELEY.EDU

SERIALST. Serials in Libraries Discussion Group

Address: SERIALST@LIST.UVM.EDU

TSIG-L. Technical Services Interest Group of the Canadian Library Association

Address: TSIG-L@ACADIAU.CA

VPIEJ-L. Scholarly Communication

Address: VPIEJ-L@LISTSERV.VT.EDU

### *NYSTL Statement*

The North American Serials Interest Group (NASIG) is an independent organization promoting communication and sharing of ideas among all participants in the serials information chain—anyone working with or concerned about serial publications in any form. Through our annual conference, publications, awards, continuing education, and other avenues of growth, members promote learning and cooperation in a spirit of professional diversity, camaraderie and respectful discourse. For more

information, please point your browsers to [www.nasig.org](http://www.nasig.org).

#### *Article for IFLA Section Newsletter*

The North American Serials Interest Group, Inc. (NASIG) is an independent, all-volunteer organization promoting communication and sharing of ideas among all participants in the serials information chain—anyone working with or concerned about serial publications in any form. Our global membership includes serial publishers, librarians, subscription and system vendors, bibliographic utilities representatives, educators, database producers, binders, students and others who have selected NASIG as a key organization to address concerns that span diverse professional interests.

NASIG was founded in 1986 by a group of serialists who had attended one of the early United Kingdom Serials Group (UKSG) conferences. These forward thinking men and women realized the critical need for a North American organization focusing solely on serials. Membership in NASIG is a bargain at any price but for only \$25 U.S. annually, members receive a *Directory* and quarterly *Newsletter* plus access to NASIGWeb for a variety of resources. Due to the strong belief of inclusion rather than exclusion or more simply avoiding an “us versus them” mentality, NASIG does not accept institutional memberships, product demos or exhibits at its annual conferences. Instead, the conference encourages and supports an environment of openness, frankness, and breaking paradigms, fosters creativity, problem-solving and seeks ideas for “how can we improve the industry as a whole.”

The same year NASIG was founded, its first conference was held on the campus of Bryn Mawr College, Bryn Mawr, Pennsylvania, with a few hundred in attendance. Membership now approaches 1300. A conference has been held annually ever since. Half of the total membership attends the annual conference with participants from all over the world. NASIG’s conferences are vastly different from the usual library conferences. Each conference is held on a university or college campus to help contain costs and attract the greatest number of participants possible. Plenaries, issue sessions and workshops are offered at each conference. The plenaries and issues sessions discuss the “big picture” of current and future trends in serials while the workshops are a more “hands on” or “how we solved this problem.” Probably the biggest difference between a NASIG conference and any other library conference is the distinct lack of business attire! NASIG offers a very casual atmosphere where shorts, t-shirts, sandals and jeans are the norm at each conference. NASIG has certainly taken the notion of “Business Casual” to heart. We believe that casual dress offers a non-threatening, non-partisan

atmosphere where serialists all along the information chain can discuss issues frankly and boldly. The *Proceedings* of the annual conference are published as a monograph and as an issue of *The Serials Librarian* by Haworth Press.

The 2000 conference entitled: “Making Waves: New Serials Landscapes in a Sea of Change” was held June 22-25 at the University of California, San Diego. For the first time, NASIG will return to a site of a former conference for the 16<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference. The 2001 conference is being held at Trinity University, San Antonio, Texas, from May 23-26, 2001. Entitled: “NASIG 2001: A Serials Odyssey,” plenaries and issues sessions will discuss the future of serials and explore the essence of scholarly communication in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

NASIG has elected officers and an Executive Board comprised of: President, Vice-President/President-Elect, Secretary, Treasurer, Past President, and six Member-at-Large positions. Demonstrating the importance of diversity among the members of NASIG, the current Officers/Executive Board has representation from 8 different educational institutions, 2 vendors and one consortium officer. The true strength of NASIG, however, is the number of networking possibilities and volunteer efforts for our members. NASIG has 16 different committees in which members may be involved. Ten percent of the membership is represented at any one time on a NASIG committee and all committees show broad representation from the profit/non-profit sector. The Professional Liaison Committee is comprised of NASIG members who act as liaisons to other “peer” library groups. NASIG would be very pleased to have a liaison appointed from the IFLA Section on Serial Publications.

NASIG is particularly proud of its commitment to continuing education, scholarships and grants. We sponsor or co-sponsor numerous continuing education seminars or workshops across North America. We award conference grants to students in ALA-accredited programs in library and information science; sponsor conference attendance for those new to serials (librarian, publisher, vendor etc); provide graduate school scholarships to library and information science students with prior serials experience via the Fritz Schwartz Scholarship; and foster international communication in the serials world through the Marcia Tuttle International Grant. Further information on any or all of these grants/scholarships may be obtained through the NASIG Web site.

NASIG thanks the IFLA Section on Serials for providing us the opportunity to discuss NASIG and what we believe is a dynamic organization. If you would like more information on joining NASIG or finding out more about

NASIG's programs and conferences, please point your browser to: <http://www.nasig.org>.

#### *D-LIB Article*

The North American Serials Interest Group, Inc (NASIG) is an independent organization promoting communication and sharing of ideas among all participants in the serials information chain. Our global membership includes serial publishers, librarians, subscription and systems vendors, bibliographic utilities representatives, educators, database producers, binders, students, and others who have selected NASIG as a key organization to address concerns that span diverse professional interests. Through our annual conference, electronic discussions, publications, awards, continuing education, and other avenues of growth, NASIG members do much to promote learning and cooperation in a spirit of professional diversity, camaraderie and respectful discourse.

NASIG holds an annual conference each on a different college or university campus, where the various segments of the serials community meet in an informal setting to network and share information. The conference includes the presentation of papers, panels, workshops, tours, and

social events. NASIG is currently seeking candidates for student grants to attend the Sixteenth Annual Conference to be held at Trinity University in San Antonio, Texas on May 23-26, 2001. Through the granting of these awards, NASIG desires to encourage participation in the serials information chain by students who are interested in pursuing some aspect of serials work upon completion of their professional degrees.

NASIG is also seeking applicants for the Fritz Schwartz Serials Education Scholarship, which is co-sponsored by NASIG and SISAC. This scholarship will award a \$2500 scholarship to a library science graduate student who demonstrates excellence in scholarship and the potential for accomplishment in a serials career. The purpose of the scholarship is to advance the serials profession by providing an aspiring library student who has prior serials experience, with enhanced educational opportunities. This award will also grant the scholarship recipient all expenses paid attendance at the annual Sixteenth Annual Conference. For further information on these awards including eligibility requirements or to learn more about NASIG, please point your browser to:

<http://www.nasig.org>

## **REGIONAL COUNCILS AND MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE**

Linda Smith Griffin, Chair

The members of the Regional Councils and Membership Committee for 2000/2001 are as follows: Molly Brennan Cox, Deborah Broadwater, Janet Essency, Peter Glenister, Linda Smith Griffin (Chair), Richard Hodson, Marcella Leshner, Mike Markwith, Karen Morgenroth, Kamala Narayanan, Julie Su, Paula Sullenger, Laurie Sutherland, Jose Orozco-Tenorio, Anne McKee (Board Liaison).

The members of the Regional Councils and Membership Committee continued to be active in their recruitment and promotion of NASIG this year. The Committee engaged in the following activities: recruiting and welcoming new and potential members to NASIG; assisting the Chair in recruiting new state reps to fill past vacancies and vacancies created by state reps accepting jobs outside of the serial chain; promoting NASIG through library school presentations; and attending fall and spring semester welcome receptions hosted by various library schools. Several state and regional reps had the opportunity to encourage graduate students and other library support staff to join NASIG. Students were invited to apply for the various scholarships NASIG offer each year. The traveling displays, along with the distribution of membership brochures, were used throughout the year at various state, national, regional, and international conferences to promote and recruit new and interested members to NASIG.

This year the Regional Councils and Membership Committee revised its charge to remove the components related to the printing and distribution of brochures that are now the duties of the Publicist. The NASIG Board approved the revised charge during its November meeting (see NASIGWeb for current RC&M Committee charge). Additionally, the Committee revised and corrected the "Membership Regions Listing" to include the state of Montana, which had been inadvertently omitted during the previous update in 1998. The Committee distributed 174 membership packets to the 2000 non-NASIG Conference attendees, and approximately 120 new membership packets were sent to new recruits.

To facilitate more communications between the regional representatives and their respective state and provincial representatives, the Chair began forwarding the listing of all new recruits received from the Database and *Directory* Committee to the regional representatives instead of posting the entire list to REGIONAL-L. The previous procedure eliminated the opportunity for the regional reps to interact directly with his/her state and provincial reps.

The task of filling all vacant slots has not been realized. As of April 2001, the following states remain vacant: Delaware, Wyoming, South Dakota, California (north),

Rhode Island, and Hawaii. The chair is still committed to having all slots filled by the 2001 annual conference. The Chair wishes to thank Anne McKee and the other regional reps for their efforts in identifying potential state reps.

Finally, the Chair would like to thank all of the regional, state and provincial reps for doing an excellent job once again this year in recruiting and promoting NASIG whenever possible. Linda Pitts, Jane Qualls, Paula Sullenger and Molly Brennan Cox are to be commended for distributing all of the new member packets for the

2000/2001 year. The Chair also expresses her sincere appreciation to Anne McKee, the Committee's Board Liaison for keeping us informed of the Board's decisions and how they impact RC&M.

The Chair's goal for the remainder of this year is to prepare all RC&M Committee documentation to forward to the new Chair prior to the 2001 NASIG conference in San Antonio and work toward filling the remaining vacant state rep positions.

## **SITE SELECTION COMMITTEE**

Fran Wilkinson, Chair

The Site Selection Committee enjoyed another very productive year. The 17th Annual North American Serials Interest Group (NASIG) Conference will be held at the College of William and Mary in Williamsburg, VA, from June 20-23, 2002. Please note that in 2002 the NASIG Conference is returning to its usual schedule of Thursday-Sunday. The conference theme is "Transforming Serials: The Revolution Continues." Conference Planning Committee Co-Chairs, Stephen Clark and Joyce Tenney, are already hard at work to plan a conference which promises to be a revolutionary experience!

The "NASIG Annual Conference On-Site Checklist," developed two years ago, was slightly modified and used for the College of William and Mary site visit. Fran Wilkinson and Maggie Rioux visited the site in January 2001 and presented an extensive report to the NASIG Executive Board. The College of William and Mary was enthusiastically selected by the Board! Other sites that were considered for the 2002 Conference, which were not selected for various reasons included campuses in

Canada, Delaware, Florida, Maryland, Massachusetts, Vermont, and Virginia. Special thanks go to Joyce Tenney for her tireless assistance to identify potential conference sites in the east.

The Site Selection Committee Board Liaison received a proposal from Pat Frade to hold the 2003 NASIG Conference at the University of Utah. The NASIG Executive Board discussed the proposal and agreed that Fran Wilkinson and Anne McKee should visit the site in May 2001 and report the results to the Board at its May 2001 meeting.

Anyone interested in submitting their campus for consideration as a future NASIG conference site is invited to contact Anne E. McKee, incoming NASIG Site Selection Committee Board Liaison, via e-mail at: [site-select@nasig.org](mailto:site-select@nasig.org), or to complete the "Preliminary Site Selection Form" which can be found at:

<http://www.nasig.org/public/forms/siteselection.html>

## **NASIG AWARDS**

### **2001 AWARD WINNERS**

Kay Johnson and Claire Dygert, Co-Chairs, NASIG Awards & Recognition Committee

The NASIG Awards & Recognition Committee is pleased to announce the recipients of the 2001 Horizon Awards, Student Grants, and Fritz Schwartz Serials Education Scholarship. All of the winners will receive a trip to the upcoming conference at Trinity University in San Antonio. The A&R Committee was pleased to receive a large number of outstanding applicants. It was a tough job, but we feel strongly that all of the winners are extremely deserving of the NASIG awards. We hope that all NASIG members attending this year's conference will

take the time to congratulate the award recipients and welcome them to the serials profession.

The Horizon Awards are given out each year to advance the serials profession by providing promising new serialists with the opportunity to accelerate their knowledge and understanding of serials by networking and interacting with a wide range of dedicated professionals working in all segments of the serials information chain. This year's winners are:

*JEFF SLAGELL*  
Head of Serials/ILL,  
Delta State University

*SANDHYA DEVI SRIVASTAVA*  
Serials Acquisitions Librarian,  
Long Island University,  
Brooklyn Campus

*MERLE STEEVES*  
Serials and Digital  
Resources Cataloger,  
University of Chicago

NASIG Student Grants are given as an encouragement to students who are interested in pursuing some aspect of serials work upon completion of their professional degrees. There were a total of seven Student Grant recipients this year:

*LILA FAULKNER*  
University of Maryland

*YASMIN B. JAMAL*  
University of British Columbia

*ELIZABETH ROSE FOGLER*  
University of Kentucky

*KAREN MUNRO*  
University of British Columbia

*CHRISTINA L. HENNESSEY*  
University of California, Los Angeles

*LISA SANDERS*  
University of Washington

*PAULA SEEGER*  
University of Wisconsin, Madison

Finally, this year's Fritz Schwartz Serials Education Scholarship recipient is:

*PHILIP A. HOMAN*  
St. John's University

In addition to a trip to the upcoming conference, Philip will receive a scholarship for \$2500. Awarded in conjunction with SISAC, the Fritz Schwartz Serials Education Scholarship is awarded to a student with outstanding serials potential.

We thank the Awards & Recognition Committee for their hard work and outstanding judgment in assessing all of this year's applications. They did a fantastic job under challenging time constraints.

## **2001 NASIG HORIZON AWARDS WINNERS' ESSAYS**

### *NASIG 2001: A SERIALS ODYSSEY*

Jeff Slagell, Head of Serials/ILL, Delta State University

Anyone involved in the processing or management of serials has felt more than once that their professional existence was the epitome of an odyssey. A varied and difficult journey that could be considered the library profession's equivalent to Odysseus' ancient tale. However, I don't think even the epic poet Homer could have envisioned the challenges of journal aggregators, electronic formats, content licensing, and archival issues.

The old adage that "the only thing constant is change" seems even more relevant today. No facet of our society has been affected more by the dramatic evolution of technology than the information community. The Internet and the World Wide Web (WWW) have provided exciting new opportunities for the creation and delivery of scholarly material. Yet, along with these benefits, come heightened responsibilities and expectations.

Today's information consumer is increasingly sophisticated, and demands the efficient usage of what the electronic environment has to offer. The academic library is no longer considered a sacred entity by students, faculty, and administrators. At the same time, commercial services and aggregators are realizing the profitability of marketing directly to the end-user. All of these factors create a digital landscape that is having a profound effect on many aspects of librarianship.

While the serialist is certainly no stranger to change, even this historically evolving role is being required to face entirely new obstacles. The advent of the electronic journal has opened a Pandora's box for the serials profession. In some ways, the electronic format has been beneficial in providing nontraditional publishers and projects such as SPARC the means to combat the inflation of journal prices. However, it is also this publishing freedom that questions the very viability of traditional serial models. Article-by-article publishing and e-prints



are problematic for the serialist attempting to integrate new formats into familiar modes of organization.

It's apparent that there are no simple solutions. As an individual trying to establish himself in the field, I believe it is more a matter of attitude than prescribed answers. A person's ability to remain adaptable and nurture creativity both inside and outside the profession is paramount. Librarianship no longer resides in a vacuum, and increasingly our professional journey will depend upon allied fields. The importance of awareness in technology, communications, and the commercial sector cannot be overstated. Ultimately, I feel it will be continuing education that will empower our involvement in the evolution of information resources. The sirens of technology will always be calling to the wayward researcher, and it will be our challenge to provide a steady course.

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### *NASIG 2001: A SERIALS ODYSSEY*

Sandhya Devi Srivastava, Serials Acquisitions Librarian,  
Long Island University, Brooklyn Campus

*The Webster's Collegiate Dictionary* defines odyssey as "a long wandering or voyage usually marked by many changes of fortune." The NASIG Conference is appropriately named "NASIG 2001: A Serials Odyssey." We are now in the twenty-first century, and we should focus on where we have come from and where we are going. We need to look at our accomplishments and forge ahead with bright ideas for the future.

I define the serials odyssey to mean the evolution of the serials format from paper to microform to electronic to whatever digital format the future brings. Information dissemination will change once the tools we use to disseminate the information and technology changes. With the advent of the Internet, the future of electronic format hit us quickly in the 1990s. The information community used to be limited to only those who could access the information through a library or other institution that had the physical format, i.e. paper, microform, cd-rom, ftp files, etc. The information community has to be redefined to include anyone with Internet access. Now that we recognize the new definition of information community, we can forge ahead with the new dissemination of information in the technology age. With the Internet access now available to more users than ever before, the new technology is the Pentium 4 computer, and the new serials format is the electronic journal. The electronic journal is here to stay. Its future is foretold by the fact that more people are looking towards technology to give them answers to real questions.

The electronic journal as a format allows for ease of use and access for anyone in need of information. Universities and colleges now have the opportunity to teach through the Internet and also through videoconferencing. The new key words in librarianship are "distance learning" and "remote access." With academia now trying to reach more students than ever before, the Internet has become the new research and education tool. By providing students with the ability to do research on college library Web sites, distance learning will be the future for many universities. Electronic journals and databases will allow students the ability to do research without having to resort to physically being at the institution's library. The ease of access with the Internet is opening a new world of research for those who would otherwise not have access due to time limitations and institution hours.

The new technology brings with it the continuing problems of the old. Serials and Acquisitions librarians are still hounded by material format price increases each year. The electronic journal format is a daunting enterprise for libraries because of the costs of not only the initial subscription rates but also by the price increases from year to year. Consortia-based pricing for many of the databases is helpful, but the pricing does fluctuate depending on the number of libraries within the consortia from year to year. Every year the prices do increase due to inflation, and also the number of subscriptions actually being bought decreases. With library budgets being decreased across the board, the demand is there but not enough libraries are buying the subscriptions; therefore, in order to meet costs of publishing and issue, publishers have to charge a higher price. Publishers have not been able to rectify this problem with the electronic format. The issues of access, availability, and copyright laws are also affected by each change in format.

With paper and microform formats, libraries have been able to provide statistics for usage of material. Serials librarians usually use this data as part of their serial cancellation and weeding projects. With the electronic databases, it is very hard to get usage statistics on what journals are actually being used. The electronic database usage reports do not provide proper title usage information. They provide the date and time the database was used but not what specific title was used. This is very important for collection development of the electronic format. Librarians should be able to choose the databases that best suit their institution's curriculum. It is very hard to judge what database is better without usage title statistics. One future problem with the electronic databases is whether or not a library has the right to retain the older material if it cancels the subscription. Publishers are currently allowing access to electronic format as long as the print subscription is kept. The fear is that if the title

that is only in electronic format is cancelled, there is no print backlog to refer to older issues. Some publishers such as Elsevier Science have assured libraries that they will be able to retain the older issues in a backup file in electronic form. As we get used to the electronic format as the one and only format to have, I believe publishers and users will find a useful means of providing the back issues already paid for by the user.

The library profession as well has been affected by this new format. The acquisitions process is the field of study that is most affected. The new field of electronic serials calls for an Electronic Services Librarian to become a part of the Acquisitions Department. This librarian is an expert at negotiating and at reading contracts. This librarian must understand the format and understand the needs of their users within their institution. The position also calls for an understanding of serials and acquisitions. An inherent role of this job is to establish vendor relations and understand accounting and cost issues. A major focus and role played in this position is to acknowledge all serials formats and to know when the library would be better off with a change from a paper format cost into an electronic or microform cost.

I believe that the pool of applicants for these positions will be serials and acquisitions librarians. Although many in the profession believe that anyone can jump in and play this role, I believe the best applicants are ones who are already suited to the role. Acquisitions and serials librarians have been negotiating contracts for book buying and serials acquisitions from the beginning. I believe that the Electronic Services Librarian should be a part of the collection development committees in all institutions so that discussions of what materials and titles are necessary and needed can take place. However, I believe it is the role of the Electronic Services Librarian to pursue contracts and license agreements. This librarian should be in contact with administrators who would need to define how far the librarian can pursue signing of licenses, etc. This librarian is the future Digital Services Librarian who not only looks at electronic formats but also looks at how to service the user by providing digital online serials access at your fingertips.

With the changing and evolution of the serials format, with the Internet access boom, and with the technology age which is at its highest level, the role of the libraries will change. I see the future of libraries providing a nurturing atmosphere for learning all the skills necessary to understand the value of information and how to do research. People may now access information but many have no idea how to decipher if it is good or bad information. Libraries will always be there to provide research education and tools of study to show users how to decipher what they want.

In the future, there will always be a need for librarians. We are the information specialists and knowledge managers. The cataloger will always have something to catalog. Whether in physical or electronic format, it is necessary to have a catalog users can access. The reference librarian will always have bibliographic instruction and research. It is the role of acquisitions that will be evolving with the role of the new format changes in serials and in books and in the way the collections will be developed. With each new format, the necessary adjustments have been made to judge use, availability, access, needs, and cost.

Since the beginning of my career in serials, I have always been interested in its volatile nature. This area of librarianship will always have the most changes and will always institute change in the profession. It is the nature of change that makes serials my forte. I see myself as being a part of this change. My future role in serials will be to either become head of a serials department or an Electronic Services Librarian. In either role, I will always maintain my enthusiasm for the format I respect for its constant changing nature. For whatever format or change in serials that comes next, I will be ready to face it with the experience of the past and the promise of the future.

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### *NASIG 2001: A SERIALS ODYSSEY*

Merle Steeves, Serials and Digital Resources Cataloger,  
University of Chicago

“NASIG 2001: A Serials Odyssey” brings two images to mind, Stanley Kubrick's movie *2001: A Space Odyssey* and Homer's epic poem the *Odyssey*. Both of these stories—one a modern film; the other an ancient poem—have interesting analogies to serials librarianship and information science in general.

As we enter the 21st century, serials are changing along with the rest of the information universe. Like Kubrick's bewildering movie, serials are appearing in a number of new and challenging formats and by new delivery methods. Serials are increasingly moving away from print forms, and even the early e-serials, which were mere scanned print themselves, are becoming less common. Today aggregator databases, in which specific titles are almost inseparable from the vast array contained in them, pose significant challenges to the information community. Being a serials cataloger, I am particularly interested in finding ways to inform users what is contained in these aggregator databases through innovative cataloging practices. These types of resources can truly be considered the "monoliths" of the information age.

Serials today are like an odyssey in themselves, they are a journey which can be exciting and at times challenging.

Exciting in the way they reinvent themselves, especially on the Web. Many electronic publications now have a look and feel that is far removed from their print ancestors. Some appear to combine the attributes of both monographs and serials, or those of a database in which articles are simply added as they are received. Others combine traditional print formats with electronic supplements and/or components. Challenges can take the form of serials which do not provide access to past issues, or which suddenly disappear without a trace. The journey for myself is both forward and backward looking. I must be aware of the cataloging rules of the past in order to update and interpret existing records and be perceptive of forthcoming changes and advances in cataloging practice in order to cope with new formats. As new methods of

cataloging appear in the form of metadata schemes, such as the Dublin Core, rules must be revised and updated to accommodate them and the new serials themselves.

The odyssey I see for myself is in keeping abreast of these new types of serials and actively participating in developing ways to describe them as a cataloger and an information professional. The NASIG conference would be an important part of this development, through presentations and discussions on serials issues from colleagues around North America and the chance to interact with other people in serials work. For finding a serial today can sometimes be an odyssey in itself for anyone, novice or experienced.

### **SPECIAL STUDENT GRANT AWARDED**

Anne McKee, NASIG Publicist

NASIG is very pleased to announce the recipient of a special 2001 Student Grant: The NASIG-Mexico Conference Grant, to **Viviano Milan Martinez**. This grant was created pursuant to NASIG's strategic interest in furthering opportunities for participation in our organization by Mexican colleagues.

Viviano is a student at the Colegio de Bibliotecología de la Facultad de Filosofía y Letras de la Universidad Autónoma de Nuevo León (School of Library Science/ Faculty of Philosophy and Letters/ Autonomous State University of Nuevo Leon /Monterrey, Nuevo Leon). Viviano will receive a trip to this summer's conference at Trinity University in San Antonio.

The NASIG Continuing Education Committee co-coordinated this award with the assistance of:

**MARIO DELGADO**

Head, Science and Technology  
Library Association of Mexico and  
Professor at UNAM

**DR. FELIPE MARTINEZ**

Coordinator of the Library School  
at UNAM and Vice President of the  
Mexican Library Association

**LOURDES ROVALO**

Head of Serials at UNAM and in  
charge of serials training and  
standardization.

The committee was pleased to receive a number of outstanding applications and feels strongly that all the applicants are very deserving and talented individuals. We hope that all NASIG members attending this year's conference will take the time to congratulate our winner and give him a *warm* welcome to the serials profession.

NASIG Student Grants are given out to encourage students who are interested in pursuing some aspect of serials work after graduation.

### **TITLE CHANGES**

[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.]

**Robert Alan** is now Head of the Serials Services Department at Pennsylvania State University Libraries. He was previously Head of Catalog, Serials and Preservation Departments at the University of California at Davis. Robert's new addresses are:

126R Paterno Library  
University Park, PA 16802-1805  
Phone: (814) 865-9915  
E-mail: roal@psulias.psu.edu

**Rick Anderson** has a new position as Electronic Resources/Serials Coordinator in the University Libraries of the University of Nevada-Reno. Rick was previously Head of Acquisitions at University of North Carolina, Greensboro. Rick's new addresses are:

University Libraries  
University of Nevada - Reno  
1664 North Virginia Street  
Reno, NV 89557

Phone: (775) 784-6500 x273  
Fax: (775) 784-1328  
E-mail: rickand@unr.edu

**David Bigwood** writes that he has been promoted from Librarian to Assistant Manager of Library Services at the Lunar and Planetary Institute. David's addresses remain the same.

From **Nancy Chaffin** we have news of her new position. She writes: "I left my position as Serials Librarian at Arizona State University West and became the Metadata Librarian here at Colorado State University Libraries beginning Feb. 1, 2001. I am really excited about returning to cataloging and bibliographic control and am looking forward to working with metadata standards and development." Nancy's new addresses are:

Colorado State University Libraries  
Ft. Collins, CO 80523-1019  
Phone: (970) 491-1847  
Fax: (970) 491-4661  
E-mail: nchaffin@manta.colostate.edu

We have this news from **Tracey Clarke** of Absolute Backorder Service, Inc.: "We have moved to a new location as of April 2, 2001. The new addresses are:

475 Washington Street  
Wrentham, MA 02093  
Phone: (508) 384-0122  
Fax: (508) 384-0097  
E-mail: jaeger@absolute-inc.com

**Katie Ellis** sends this news: "I have left my position as Serials Coordinator and Systems Librarian for Technical Services at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville, in order to move back to my native New Hampshire. For the moment, I am staying home and taking care of my first baby, Gwyneth, born on Thanksgiving 2000. I expect to return to work sometime in the next year and will keep you posted!" Katie's new addresses are:

336 Lilac Lane  
Dover, NH 03820  
Phone: (603) 749-9610  
E-mail: fiberhabit@yahoo.com

**David Fritsch** has a new position as Vice President for Sales for TDNet, Inc. David started his new job April 16, 2001. He will be responsible for initiating sales programs in North America, focusing on the academic, public, and medical markets. David was formerly Director of Business Development for Faxon. David's new addresses are:

1295 King George Boulevard  
Ann Arbor, MI 48108

Phone: (734) 677-3530  
Fax: (734) 677-0955  
E-mail: david@tdnet.teldan.com

**Beverly Geer** is now Metadata Librarian for Serials at Questia Media, Inc. She was previously Project Manager for Endeavor Information Systems in Illinois. Beverly's new addresses are:

Questia Media, Inc.  
Three Greenway Plaza - Suite 1700  
Houston, TX 77046  
Phone: (713) 358-2862  
Fax: (713) 358-2992  
E-mail: b\_geer@yahoo.com

**Maureen E. Hady** now works at the Library of Virginia, a change from being Serials Acquisitions Librarian at the University of Kentucky. Maureen's new addresses are:

800 East Broad Street  
Richmond, VA 23219  
Phone: (804) 692-3507  
Fax: (804) 692-3736  
E-mail: mhady@lva.lib.va.us

**Vinh-The Lam** is the Head, Technical Services Division, University of Saskatchewan Libraries. He is the new Convenor of the Canadian Library Association's Serials Interest Group, replacing Kewal Krishan, who retired from Saskatchewan last June. He will serve as the liaison between CLA SIG and NASIG. Lam's addresses are:

University of Saskatchewan Libraries  
Main Library/Murray Building  
3 Campus Drive  
Saskatoon, SK S7N 5A4  
Phone: (306) 966-5949  
Fax: (306) 966-5919

**Michael Markwith** has been appointed President of TDNet, Inc. in their newly established North American office. Michael's new position began February 26, 2001. He was previously Vice President for Sales at Swets Blackwell in the US. Michael's new addresses are:

PO Box 38  
West Chester, PA 19381  
Phone: (888) 705-3582; (610) 738-0280  
Fax: (610) 738-9124  
E-mail: michael@tdnet.teldan.com

We received this news from **Sharon Cline McKay**: "I became Vice President of Sales and Marketing for MARC Link Corporation on February 26. MARC Link performs retrospective conversion, database conversion, MARC upgrading, authority control, reclassification,

and on-going cataloging through Marcadia (R). My responsibilities include directing worldwide sales and handling marketing activities. This job builds on my experience in selling library automation systems, and it helps that I have a bit of knowledge about the MARC format, especially serials. It allows me to grow in my management abilities and expand my marketing skills. I'm happy to be traveling less and working for a Utah-based company, and am looking forward to seeing everyone in San Antonio." Sharon's new addresses are:

MARC Link Corporation  
175 North Freedom Boulevard, Suite 100  
Provo, UT 84601  
Phone: (800) 288-1265 ext. 27;  
or: (801) 356-1852 ext. 27

Fax: (801) 356-8220  
E-mail: smckay@marclink.com

**Stephanie Schmitt** reports that she has returned to Serials, and that she is still at Yale. Her new position is Manager of Serials Services in the Lillian Goldman Law Library. Stephanie's addresses are:

Yale Law School  
P.O. Box 208326  
127 Wall Street  
New Haven, CT 06520-8326  
Phone: (203) 432.7440  
Fax: (203) 432.7940  
E-mail: stephanie.schmitt@yale.edu

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

I am writing this letter to express my concern about NASIG as an organization—its ability to represent fully the ideas, concerns, innovations, and goals of all members of the serial professions. The mission statement for NASIG is clearly stated on our Web site's splash page:

The North American Serials Interest Group, Inc. (NASIG) is an independent organization that promotes communication and sharing of ideas among all members of the serials chain—anyone working with or concerned about serial publications.

This is a very noble and worthwhile goal. But the question remains: Are we representing all viewpoints, if not equitably then at least proportionately? Is the membership ensuring communication remains viable and productive? Is the membership committed to promoting the exchange of ideas related to serial publications? If so, how is the membership supporting these initiatives?

NASIG's membership includes a variety of professions from across the serials chain. The vast majority of the membership, more than 80%, consists of librarians—librarians from university, college and public libraries, from special libraries and state libraries. Less than 8% of our membership identifies themselves as publishers or database producers. Subscription agents or vendors comprise less than 9% of our total membership. We are, in many ways, an amazing and diverse organization. However, it seems to me and to many NASIG colleagues that our entire membership is not fully represented, especially on the Executive Board and the standing committees.

If we want to ensure our viability as an organization dedicated to free, open and honest discussion of topics about serial publications, this issue, then, needs to be addressed. As a NASIG member, I have had the opportunity to serve on a number of committees, including the Nominations & Elections Committee and the Program Planning Committee, and I have attended many annual conferences. I am concerned about the results of our recent elections. Danny Jones was not elected Member-at-Large. (Neither was I, but that is another sob story altogether.) Dan Tonkery and Don Jaeger will cycle off of the Board at the next annual conference. Anne McKee and Marilyn Geller will be the lone representatives from non-academic, non-library sites. The committee list for 2001/2002 has a preponderance of representatives from the academic community and sparse representation from the publisher and vendor communities. Indeed, of the more than 125 appointments to committees, less than 10 (!) are identified as independent consultants, publishers or subscription agents. How do we as an organization respond to this?

There is precedence for allocating offices for specific segments of the serials community. For instance, the United Kingdom Serials Group reserves one of its Executive Board positions for a publisher or vendor. We might consider proportional representation on such committees as the Program Planning Committee and the Continuing Education Committee. These are only two possible scenarios. I do not know how many other people in NASIG are concerned about this issue, but I certainly would appreciate sharing some ideas about how to promote all perspectives across the serial chain.

Thank you. Sincerely,  
Michael Somers

## OTHER SERIALS NEWS

### BACK ISSUES—A GLIMPSE AT PAST UKSG CONFERENCES

Ros Doig

I have been reporting on the UKSG conference for many years and rather than do a formal conference report, I thought I would look back over my past reports and take you back to the future. But before the main event begins, I will mention here some of the enjoyable distractions that provided lighter moments. There were visits to grand houses, grand libraries, and historic harbours. There were dinners in great town halls and museums. We have line danced, clog danced, danced nimbly with the Irish, and had a fling with the Highlanders. We have dug deep into our collective memory to win wooden spoons. We have disco'd till late and drunk till dawn (well, nearly). Above all we have made friendships and had fun.

So now it's time to fasten your seat belts and return to 1992. (Sadly my machine won't allow a visit to 1989, my first conference, nor 1990 or 1991 – the files have been deleted.)

1992

We're already talking about print *v* *electronic* and the instant accessibility of the electronic version. There is a hint of a suggestion that the library as we know is soon to become a thing of the past—we will all stay at home and have access there.

Networking and CD-ROMs are topical subjects—document delivery is on the agenda but very much in paper form. Hefty copyright fees will support electronic publications.

Subscription agents are offering on-line services through non-web interfaces. In 1992 at my university we didn't all have ready access to the Internet (such as it was) and so on-line links to agents weren't possible for us. I longed for the day when access was straightforward.

1993

I mention in my conference report a session of product reviews—seven participants. (In 2001 the exhibitors now number 41 and 29 of them gave 5-minute reviews in two sessions.) The theme of the conference centres on electronic means of delivering documents and information. The focus is shifting from holding strategies to access strategies—“just in case” rather than “just in time.” The growth in electronic information is outstripping the growth in library budgets. I note that publishers seem cautious about electronic document delivery. I refer to this as EDS (electronic document supply), but this doesn't seem to have caught on as a

piece of jargon. A speaker comments that publishers, librarians and commercial services should work more closely together! Fax is used heavily for rapid document delivery particularly in the States.

The telecommunications infrastructure seems to consist of many computer systems that cannot talk to each other, so a plea for more standardisation goes out.

The visionaries present us with the 21<sup>st</sup> Century future—interactive multi-media, palm top computers, CD players the size of Walkmans, information electronically delivered, paid for by credit card on-line. The electronic information business will have a greater output than print, and fax machines will have screens adapted to the use of light pens for scrawling messages.

Librarians are to be key players, but we will need training in networking, document delivery, standards (!) and in writing manuals. There will be a real possibility that certain end-users will by-pass libraries altogether. There is a proposal for local schemes of co-operative subscription cancellations for print and greater provision of document delivery.

Copyright is the legal flavour of the month for librarians, but I make no mention of the issues involved.

1994

The conference this year reflects themes from the Follett report on libraries in higher education. Topics included collection management and document acquisitions, going out to tender, and current alerting services. Then picking up one of the Follett themes on the impact of technology, the subject turns inevitably to the electronic environment. EDI and serials is on the agenda, as is electronic publishing by researchers rather than publishers. Also featured are campus wide information services and—guess what—electronic libraries. I noted that “the potential of electronic communication is quite extraordinary and sometimes seems to dwell in the realm of science fiction for us more ‘down to earth’ types.” I know at my library we weren't really part of this brave new world but if I could be allowed to mix my metaphors, we had perhaps dipped a toe in the water....

1995

We're now heavily into electronic publishing. Copyright legislation seems to be the thing of the moment. Access *v* *holdings* is still very relevant set against a backdrop of

declining budgets. Electronic copying/ digitising as a means of conservation/preservation is a new subject this year.

I obviously felt we were re-visiting familiar ground rather than raising burning issues and visions of new technology most of us hadn't dreamt of.

*1996*

Conference reports are beginning to get hard. Speakers have caught up with the technology and are using it to good effect in their presentations.

Thorny problems are appearing. How do you catalogue e-journals? How do you set up Web pages? What serial sources are out there on the Internet? What about subscription prices?

The academic user at least is looking for quality gateways and better search engines. Teaching strategies are shifting to learning strategies. "Just in case" is losing out to "just in time."

The Pilot Site License Initiative (PSLI) is introduced in 1996. E-versions come with print by arrangement with the HEFCE (Higher Education Funding Council for England) and certain publishers. There are cautionary notes and the magic word "license" has been spoken but copyright and intellectual property is still a hot topic.

We are introduced to the e-Lib programme—several e-projects in various areas funded with money awarded after the Follett review (see 1994). A relevant comment strikes home—"the network is NOT the library." This is as true in 2001 as it was in 1996, but you try telling students!

*1997*

Licensing has taken over from copyright as the legal hot topic! And hand in hand with it, is consortia purchasing. Other topics seem to reflect the extent of what's available in various electronic formats and the evaluation of same. There is another plea for standardisation and more communication between publisher and librarian.

Electronic intermediaries of all kinds are beginning to emerge, all offering us access to e-publications. Archiving is becoming a concern in the e-environment.

My own cautionary comments run through reports of the last few years. We shouldn't let IT developments run away with us to the exclusion of all else. But the Internet and its facilities are very seductive, and I for one enjoy its charms!

*1998*

Now that e-journals are here to stay the emphasis this year seems to be on various aspects of managing electronic information. Emerging models of print and electronic, digitisation, e-journal projects, licensing, electronic copyright, and tendering are just some of the topics covered.

*1999*

Electronic information is now beginning to dominate—we are in the age of Martini learning—any time, any place, anywhere. As a profession, librarians are having to re-think, adapt, change and generally re-invent themselves and their approach—probably as legal-eagles if my experience is anything to go by!

Electronic copyright is alive and well, as is archiving, and consortia purchasing. Old topics in new robes are here too—collection development, collection management and serials pricing. A new topic was given an outing—electronic legal deposit. I suspect we'll hear more about this in the future. The technical jargon abounds and I list a few—knowledge management and mediation, access management, access rights, rights management, bundling, archive policy, content infrastructure, article discovery, lifespace and workspace. Some will stick and others will disappear as the technological environment evolves.

*2000*

This year I felt that we looked at where we are and reflected on it—not "what do we want?" but "how do we deal with it?"

The electronic environment has changed patterns of work and learning, and the technology itself is perhaps not so important as understanding its development and application. Electronic communities are developing on the web. So too is commerce. We can customise and personalise what we look at. It's about power to the consumer—the Internet at his command when and where he wants it. He/she is looking for a one-stop shop with a single point of access. "Branded portals" which signify trust and authority are emerging; e.g. UnCover, Ingenta, ISI. Librarians are becoming managers of different kinds of systems. Knowledge management is a recognised discipline.

Explicit knowledge as in formal training is giving way to tacit knowledge—knowledge that is acquired informally through experience and is not necessarily written down. Management is beginning to realise the potential of this knowledge and now uses "story-telling" in the context of community to pass it on.

Distributed learning is about distributed resources. Users use what's relevant, which isn't always found in the

nearest library. People look for learning opportunities at times appropriate for them and with materials appropriate for them. “Learning centres” are being created and these don’t have to be libraries; e.g. at my university we have our centres in a pub/bar and a converted shop. Regional co-operation may re-emerge in the construction of, for example, local digital libraries.

Of course licensing dominates the electronic scene and model licences now exist to help the unwary through the maze (or jungle depending on your point of view).

One of the most exciting developments is in linking to other full text articles on the Web, and I found the talk on the new organisation PILA (Publishers’ International Linking Association), otherwise known as CrossRef, far-reaching in its concepts. Publishers are co-operating to put in links to other subjects, works by the same authors, and so on in each other’s electronic publications. Brilliant! And all based on metadata.

2001

Our keynote speakers this year turned to literature for their inspiration. Bernard Naylor, President of the Library Association, took as his theme “the king is in the altogether...” where the king is the journal and the courtiers are those who clothe it in magic garments because what is published therein is still of prime importance for research assessment exercises.

Martin White from Intranet Focus Ltd quoted Dante’s *Divine Comedy*—“In the middle of the journey of our life, I found myself in the middle of a dark wood where the straight path was lost.” A sentiment I’m sure most of us agreed with. Martin suggested that the serials industry needs to look carefully at e-business models and apply them to serials production rather than simply translating print on paper into electronic versions.

Currently there seem to be more questions than answers. E-journals have progressed very quickly. How can we meaningfully assess their value? It’s relatively easy to gather usage statistics for online journals but difficult to interpret them. We need to establish benchmarks for e-journals.

What do readers want? A wry observation from one speaker put it like this—“online is where you find it—print is where you read it.” How online material is used is becoming more important. Every part of the publishing process needs to work towards getting the right article in front of the right reader. Who are the readers? Where are they located? Some learned society publishers are building communities around particular journals and in

turn the potential of the Web environment is leading to multi-media e-only journals (which strangely still adhere to the volume and issue format!)

Are we successfully managing our journals—do our library systems really cater for them? Do we catalogue them? Do we check them in? Renewals can be problematical—access can suddenly expire with the subscription. Is the IT appropriate? Do we have the right technological specifications? Can the infrastructure cope? Who provides support? What about archiving? The list goes on.

But despite all this we are, I feel, moving forward. Model licences now exist and are being adopted. Remote access is now offered by many suppliers/publishers as standard (though methodology still varies). Common systems of authentication are also being widely used (at least in the UK) and more sophisticated software is being developed in this area. This also applies to article description with DOI’s and linking. The CrossRef linking is being taken up by more publishers and affiliated organisations, and a complementary project, the Open Archives initiative is making good progress. (With CrossRef, publishers send in the information; Open Archives “harvests” references from the “deep Web.”)

The process is an evolutionary one and as another speaker said—no risks brings no reward. We need to develop, adapt and experiment. What works and has universal application will succeed, the rest will simply fade. What is certain is that we cannot stand still. The odyssey continues.

*Postscript*

When my mother died three years ago we found amongst the book collection at the family home a gem of a book written in 1945 and published by Aslib called *Manual of Special Library Technique*. It had been given to my father (an electrical engineer) in 1945 by J.E. Wright, the then librarian of the Engineer’s-in-Chief’s Office Library at the General Post Office at Dollis Hill in London. So for all of you out there who long for the good old days and for those of you who never knew them, I indulge in a moment of sheer nostalgia.

I quote, “...there are equally good arguments against circulating periodicals. In the first place, it is generally recognised that a certain amount of browsing in a library is useful and worth encouraging. Secondly, the tendency to use a library from a distance, by writing or telephonic enquiries for loans, and by reading the circulated literature, is not the way to obtain the best service, and is to be discouraged.” (p. 58)



Mr. Wright then continues with other reasons and comments on them. He writes in his concluding paragraph in this section,

Some circulation of periodicals must be undertaken, but it should be restricted to those, who, owing to their distance from the library, are unable to visit it regularly. An exception may reasonably be made in the case of any periodicals which are only of interest to a few specialists on the staff. The author is of the

opinion that the number of periodicals circulated should be restricted, but that abstract journals should be widely circulated unless a "library circular" is issued. An alternative, and probably the best method, if the expenditure can be justified, is to have an entirely separate supply of periodicals for circulation. (p. 59)

I leave you to work out what effect the electronic environment has had on this kind of scenario.

## CALENDAR

Char Simser

[Please submit announcements for upcoming meetings, conferences, workshops and other events of interest to your NASIG colleagues to Char Simser. Contents of the calendar are continuously updated.

]

June 6-8, 2001

*Society of Scholarly Publishing*

Annual Meeting

San Francisco, California

Contact: Janet Fisher, [jfisher@mit.edu](mailto:jfisher@mit.edu)

June 9-14, 2001

*Special Libraries Association*

92nd Annual Conference

"An Information Odyssey: Seizing the Competitive Advantage"

San Antonio, Texas

URL: <http://www.sla.org/conf/2001conf/index.html>

June 14-20 2001

*American Library Association*

Annual Conference

San Francisco, California

URL: <http://www.ala.org/events/ac2001/index.html>

July 13, 2001

*Iowa Library Association/GODORT Workshop*

Iowa City, Iowa

July 14-19, 2001

*American Association of Law Libraries*

94th Annual Meeting

Minneapolis, Minnesota

URL: [HTTP://www.aallnet.org/events/](http://www.aallnet.org/events/)

August 6-10, 2001

*Palmer School of Long Island University*

"Selecting, Managing, and Organizing Electronic Resources for Your Library"

Contact: Evangeline Booth

Palmer School of Library and Information Science

E-mail: [ebooth@liu.edu](mailto:ebooth@liu.edu)

Phone: (212) 998-2680

August 16-17, 2001

*Association for Library Collections and Technical Services (ALCTS)*

"AACR2 and Metadata Institute"

Natwick, Massachusetts

URL: <http://www.ala.org/alcts/now/metadata.html>

August 16-25, 2001

*International Federation of Library Associations*

67th Council and General Conference

Boston, Massachusetts

URL <http://www.ifla.org/IV/ifla67/index.htm>

October 10-12, 2001

*Iowa Library Association*

Annual Conference

Davenport, Iowa

URL: <http://www.iren.net/ila/web/01conf.htm>

November 14-15, 2001

*Information Strategies 2001*

URL: [http://library.fgcu.edu/](http://library.fgcu.edu/Conferences/infostrategies/index.html)

[Conferences/infostrategies/index.html](http://library.fgcu.edu/Conferences/infostrategies/index.html)

Sponsored by the State University System Libraries of Florida, and hosted by Florida Gulf Coast University

Contact: (941) 590-7600

E-mail: [infostra@fgcu.edu](mailto:infostra@fgcu.edu)

See also the American Libraries *Datebook*.

## CALL FOR PAPERS

17TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE, JUNE 20-23, 2002

(<http://www.nasig.org/public/NASIG2002.html>)

### *TRANSFORMING SERIALS: THE REVOLUTION CONTINUES*

The 17th annual conference of the North American Serials Interest Group (NASIG) will be held at the College of William & Mary in Williamsburg, Virginia, June 20-23, 2002. William & Mary is the second oldest college in the United States and is located in the former colonial capital of Virginia. A small, state-assisted institution with 7,500 students, the college has received consistently high rankings in *U.S. News & World Report's* surveys and in other guidebooks that rank colleges and universities. Although the school is primarily liberal arts in focus, it also has a well-respected law school, business school, and the Virginia Institute of Marine Science to round out its academic offerings. The college rests on 1200 acres, part of which contains the "Old Campus" which has been restored to 18<sup>th</sup>-century appearance, and adjoins historic Colonial Williamsburg, a living history museum dedicated to late 1700 Virginia life. Former Chief Justice Warren Burger once said of William & Mary, "Harvard is a pretty good school, too, but you've got to go a long way to find a school as good as this one." Williamsburg and the College of William & Mary are wonderful places. Start planning now to attend this conference for a revolutionary experience.

NASIG's annual conference provides participants with an open and collegial forum to discuss current and relevant issues and to meet their colleagues who are involved in various aspects of the serials chain—from publication to presentation, from promotion to preservation. The conference is an opportunity for participants to exchange information about serials publications, trends, issues, innovations and other related topics. The conference *Proceedings* are published in both electronic and print formats. The electronic version is made available to all NASIG members at NASIG's Web site at <http://www.nasig.org>.

The 2002 Program Planning Committee invites proposals for pre-conference, plenary, issue (concurrent) and workshop sessions that support this year's conference theme—"Transforming Serials: The Revolution Continues." [NOTE: A call for Poster Sessions will be issued separately at a later date.] This year's theme underscores the ongoing effects technology has on scholarly communications and serial publications; the rapid changes in presentation of information and seamless interfaces; the evolving skills publishers, vendors and librarians need to meet the needs of information seekers; and the need for cooperation and communication among publishers, vendors and librarians.

#### **PLENARY PAPERS AND ISSUES (CONCURRENT) SESSIONS**

The Committee seeks proposals for plenary papers and concurrent sessions that are visionary or comprehensive. These sessions should provide conference participants with the conceptual framework of new trends, the intellectual underpinnings for reconsidering information delivery models, the effects the restructuring of the serial publications industries has on scholarly communication and intellectual property rights, or any other presentation of "big picture" issues. Sessions also may focus on analyses of trends, historical perspectives and their influence on current economic models, the future of the serials industry and libraries, among other possibilities.

Those submitting proposals for plenary and/or concurrent sessions may want to consider the following questions:

- What technologies will be incorporated to improve access to serial information?
- What role will publishers, vendors and librarians have in the production and dissemination of future serial publications?
- What effect will new technologies have on "best practices" and "core competencies"?
- What does it mean to "redefine serials" and what effect will it have on information users and information practitioners?

Other additional suggestions to spark ideas include but certainly are not limited to:

- Transforming libraries and user needs
- Transforming serials production and presentation
- Distance education and distributed learning
- Knowledge management, skills and tools
- Preservation models and "refreshing" technologies
- Digital and virtual "libraries"
- Distribution models and personalized information requirements

## WORKSHOPS AND PRE-CONFERENCE SESSIONS

The Committee invites proposals for workshops and pre-conference sessions that provide practical information about implementing change, restructuring procedures, managing serials within a rapidly evolving work and business environment, promoting positive reassignments of duties, and developing new skill sets. Typically, pre-conference coordinators provide a hands-on demonstration and learning environment. Workshop leaders provide collegial support and facilitate discussion with participants. Such sessions are designed to impart and share information regarding local processes, procedures, and practices.

Some suggested topics to spark ideas include but certainly are not limited to:

- Evaluating, acquiring, managing and accessing electronic journals and gateways
- Assessing and managing electronic journal publishers and aggregators
- New roles for publishers, vendors, or librarians
- Forging new partnerships and relationships
- Intellectual property rights and copyright management
- Managing change while managing staff
- Developing new partnerships and new business models
- Metadata management
- XML, ONIX, and implementing other new standards
- Outreach and strategic planning-identifying information users and their needs
- Re-evaluating traditional practices

NASIG's 2002 Program Planning Committee invites members of the information community to submit proposals and to suggest topics or speakers. Since the Committee reviews all submitted proposals for their content, timeliness, and relevance to the conference theme, the Committee reserves the right to combine, blend, or refocus proposals to maximize their relevance. The Committee also welcomes proposal suggestions from teams of three or more people; however, the Committee requests the team identify no more than two co-presenters.

When submitting a proposal, please include ALL of the following information:

1. Name
2. Mailing address
3. Telephone number, fax number, and e-mail address
4. Program title
5. Program type (plenary, concurrent, workshop or pre-conference)
6. A 200-300 word abstract, which clearly states the proposal topic, its relationship to the conference theme, and its relevance for conference attendees

Proposals should be submitted (via e-mail, if possible) no later than: **AUGUST 1, 2001** to

Meg Mering, NASIG Secretary  
Principal Serials Cataloger  
N209 Love Library  
University of Nebraska-Lincoln  
Lincoln, NE 68588-0410  
Phone: (402).472-3545  
Fax: (402).472-2534  
E-mail: mmering1@unl.edu