
Report on the
2010 NASIG Award Winners
Chris Brady, Awards & Recognition Chair and Jessica Ireland, Awards & Recognition Vice Chair

Award winners’ survey conducted by Beth Weston; Photographs by Angela Dresselhaus.

For the conference this year in Palm Springs, the Awards & Recognition Committee was pleased to offer the following awards: six Student Award grants, one Horizon Award (for new serials professionals), one Fritz Schwarz Serials Education Scholarship, one Marcia Tuttle International Grant (for a research/scholarly project of an international nature in serials), one Serials Specialist Award (for paraprofessionals), and one Rose Robischon Serials Scholarship (for professionals with demonstrated financial need to attend the annual conference). In celebration of NASIG’s 25th Anniversary, the committee also offered one special Champion Award recognizing the impact, contributions, and leadership an individual has made for the serials profession.

First row: Sarah Razer Callahan, Ivey Glendon, Selden Durgom Lamoureux; Second row: Susan Davis, Char Simser, Ning Han; Third row: Pam Cipkowski, Janet Bassett, Zach Coble; Fourth row: Richard Rybak, Angela Black, Jennifer Sauer, Jessica Lewis
Champion Award, sponsored by Serials Solutions:
Susan Davis, SUNY University at Buffalo

John Merriman Joint NASIG/UKSG Award, sponsored by Taylor & Francis:
Selden Durgom Lamoureux, North Carolina State University (NASIG)
Mitchell Dunkley, De Montfort University (UKSG)

Rose Robischon Scholarship, sponsored by Swets:
Pam Cipkowski, Loyola University of Chicago Law School

Fritz Schwartz Serials Education Scholarship:
Ivey Glendon, Florida State University
Horizon Award:
Jennifer Sauer, Fort Hays State University

Marcia Tuttle International Award:
Charlene Simser, Kansas State University

Serials Specialist Award:
Janet Bassett, Salem Public Library (Oregon)

NASIG Conference Student Grant:
Zach Coble, University of Missouri-Columbia
Ning Han, Louisiana State University
Sarah Razer Carnahan, Texas Woman’s University
Richard Rybak, Dominican University
Angela Black, Florida State University
Jessica Lewis, SUNY University at Buffalo
One requirement of the student awards is to provide feedback about the conference experience. Below is a selection of their responses to the A&R committee's questionnaire. We received a very positive response overall for the awards and the conference. There are also some very insightful perspectives given on the state of our profession.

**Why do you feel it is worthwhile for newcomers to the field of serials to attend a NASIG conference?**

- As a newcomer, attending the NASIG conference was worthwhile because of the opportunity to meet and network with colleagues as well as to learn about peoples' experiences with solving problems related to serials work. I appreciated the opportunity to gain an understanding of the work publishers and vendors perform.
- I think it introduces them to the professionals who do this on a daily basis. Library school doesn't address issues in serials, and before you commit to a career as challenging as this, it's best if you are able to get perspective from the people actually working in the field.
- This conference is a great opportunity for newcomers to the field due to the welcoming, non-intimidating nature of the conference, but also due to the relationship the conference has with vendors and the heavy discussions on costs of services, etc. I think it is possible that those in library school or those new to the field do not have real opportunities to engage these issues, and I was pleased to see the vendor-client discourse present at the conference.
- Serials are changing all the time, not only print, but also electronic resources. New trends and issues with both print and electronic serials are emerging at every moment, which makes very hard for newcomers to keep track of everything. NASIG provides a great platform that serves this need. It also offers a great opportunity for newcomers to network with other serials or electronic resource librarians. I really enjoyed my first NASIG experience. It definitely a great conference tailored for people, both professional librarians and SLIS students who work with serials publications.
How did attending the conference benefit you personally?

- I got to network with other professionals in the industry, and hear about some of the current events going on in the field. I was able to present back to my library these experiences and represent my state and institution in a good light.
- I personally benefitted from the conference due to the fact that most of the emphasis in the sessions was on print and electronic journals — something I know little to nothing about. Since I work primarily with digital newspapers and newspapers on microfilm, the entire conference was a crash-course for me on the world of print and electronic serials; I went back to my job understanding much more the conversations that were going on regarding this area, and for this reason I feel grateful that I was able to attend the conference.
- This was my very first NASIG experience and I enjoyed it a lot. It benefited me in so many ways and it would be very hard for me to name them all. But, I do want to share some great experiences that this conference brought me: 1) Networking; I met many excellent and experienced people who have worked with serials for years. I even met the author of a book I’ve read recently. Most importantly, they not only shared their expert knowledge and insights in serials, but also gave me helpful guidance in professional development and career decision making. By chatting with them, I discovered that there were many other career options available. 2) Knowledge enhancement; I enjoyed most of the sessions offered by NASIG. They all touched those most current and highly debated topics which enhanced my knowledge in serials, as well as increased my interests in this field. Most of the sessions offered me “real” food for thought and I really enjoyed them.
- NASIG was the first national conference that I attended, and I enjoyed talking to librarians from around the country (and hemisphere!) about the issues they face in their libraries. I benefited from the “professional retreat” that the conference provided, where the sessions and networking allowed me to explore ideas I’ve had and to develop new ones about serials work and librarianship in general.

Did attending the conference influence your career plans? If so, how?

- I actually got a job offer for a serials librarian position before I attended NASIG. Before that, I worked at a cataloging department in an academic library for almost two years. I knew that serials publication and electronic resources is a black hole, but I really want to dig it on my own to see how deep the hole is. I already had very strong interests in serials even before I attended NASIG. But after attending the conference, my desire to dig into the black hole is even stronger. Besides print serials, I got to know more about electronic serials by attending this conference. I think in the future I will pay more attention to that for my research.
- The NASIG conference reemphasized the importance of serials in academic libraries, and particularly electronic serials. Sessions such as Sara Sutton’s Core Competencies for Electronic Resources Librarians gave me an idea of the skills I need to possess upon graduating to be competitive in the job market.
- My experience at the conference made me reconsider seeking a career in serials. To be honest, most of the people I talked to seemed very frustrated with the profession. Burnout was high, as most who had been there long enough were just waiting to retire. The other professionals, the younger ones, were waiting for the others to retire before they could implement the changes they wanted. There’s a lot of generational friction in this field, and I think that’s because it’s changing so rapidly. But the prevailing sentiment, honestly, was that it was only going to get worse for serials professionals. As publishers raise their prices, collections are being downsized and so are staff. People are doing more with less. The future looks bleak, to be honest. And though e-resource librarians are being hired, they seem to be saddled with a whole host of duties that they themselves don’t understand. A lot of the new professionals seemed to say, “I’m not really sure what it is I’m supposed to do. Half the time I feel like they expect me to be a rocket scientist; the other half of the time, I am little more than a trained monkey.” I feel the same way now at my current job, and it looks like being a professional probably won’t change that. I’ve been in serials for six years, and I’ve never seen so much pessimism and bitterness. So, maybe I should go into reference or something instead.
• I don’t think the conference has influenced my career plans in a specific way (i.e., looking for a job as a serials cataloger), but attending the conference has influenced me to seek out other library conference opportunities in order to meet others in the field.

What could NASIG and/or the Awards & Recognition Committee do to improve your conference experience?

• Nothing, it was awesome. Thank you so much for doing this. I had a blast.
• I don't really know. I had a great time and met a lot of cool people.
• My conference experience was very enjoyable. From the beginning, at the First-Timers/Mentoring Reception, I felt welcome and comfortable (except for the heat!).
• I think NASIG has already done a wonderful job in assuring award winners a pleasant conference experience. Personally, I love the place we stayed and the food we had. The Awards & Recognition Committee did a great job in helping me book my flight and other requests. I especially like the breakfast event that was held on Sunday morning. It would be even greater if we could have a small dinner or meeting session for all award winners. I also enjoyed the first timers session and award recognition session. Everything just went so smooth and I enjoyed a lot.

Do you have any other suggestions or comments? Please tell us about them here.

• Everything seemed to be fairly good for me this time, from both an award winner and a conference attendee perspective. I think I will stay with NASIG and try to volunteer for some projects next time. I probably will have some suggestions or comments to make by then.
• Telling folks where the CVS pharmacy was located would've been a good idea.

How/where did you learn about NASIG’s awards?

• Serialslistserv.
• I learned of the NASIG awards through a listserv email circulated by the LIS School at Florida State University.
• I learned about NASIG from my supervisor at work, who is a very active NASIG member.
• University of Missouri’s LIS listserv.

Where should NASIG be promoting awards?

• Library schools. I heard nothing from my college and figured they would want their students to win grants and attend conferences while they are still students. Chances dwindle once you start being a librarian and people expect your institution to pay. But few libraries have money for travel anymore, at least the academic ones.
• I was somewhat surprised to find that NASIG’s Facebook group isn’t as active as I thought it would be (many of the wall posts are well over a year old). Additionally, I would recommend converting from a group to a fan page so that its updates will show up in its followers friend feed – that way NASIG would have an ongoing, active presence and could easily promote awards.
• Library and Information Schools. Many SLIS students actually are interested in serials work and electronic resources, but there only are very few related courses available through most SLIS programs. I think it is a good place for NASIG to promote all the awards, especially the student grant. Students definitely want to take the advantages to learn things they can never get from the program they are in.
• I think LIS schools’ listservs would be pretty effective. ALA has a student member blog: http://www.americanlibrariesmagazine.org/student-member-blog