



NASIG Newsletter

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Profile

Newsletter Editorial Board

Susan Davis, Profiles Editor

Board and attends the fall and midwinter board meetings.

The *Newsletter* Editorial Board consists of 7 members:

Angela Dresselhaus, Editor-in-Chief
 Kate B. Moore, PDF Production Editor
 Angela Rathmel, Copy Editor
 K.R. Roberto, Copy Editor
 Ning Han, Calendar/Conference Editor
 Kurt Blythe, Title Changes, Checking In and Citations columns editor
 Susan Davis, Profiles Editor
 Patrick Carr, Board Liaison

Kate: As the PDF Production editor, my role is working with the layout of each article and issue. With the change to the bepress platform, I create the layout for both individual articles as well as for the finished newsletter. The layout aspect involves making sure that all text has a certain style applied to it, adding and sizing graphics, and generally making sure that everything looks okay visually before publication. All of that is done in Microsoft Word. The final touch is creating the finished, static PDF.

There have been a number of changes in the composition of the board as Kathryn Wesley “retired” as Editor-in-Chief to move onto the Continuing Education Committee, and other new members have been appointed. We retired the blog edition and moved to the IR at Utah State for hosting the content. Even though I’ve been doing the profiles column for several years and was even once the Board liaison to the *Newsletter*, I really didn’t know exactly what the other members did. It seemed like the perfect time to learn what goes on behind the scenes to produce your *NASIG Newsletter*.

Angie R: I’m a copy-editor and I review and edit files so their content is in accordance with the *Chicago Manual of Style* and specific *Newsletter* style guidelines.

K.R.: I’m a new copy editor for the *Newsletter*. This means that I edit some *Newsletter* articles to comply with Chicago style and NASIG’s internal style guide.

What is your role and explain exactly what you do?

Angela: The Editor-in-Chief coordinates the efforts of the Editorial Board to publish the *Newsletter*. Lately this has involved training the editors on the new publication platform. The EiC also is an ex-officio member of the

Ning: Currently, I am holding the *NASIG Newsletter* Calendar/Conference editor position. Updating serials related event list on a weekly basis and working with conference recording volunteers to make sure their reports are ready for copy editing are my two major responsibilities. As the Calendar/Conference editor, I have to work very closely with our Editor-in-Chief, Angela Dresselhaus, in terms of soliciting conference recording volunteers, gathering those reports, and working with those reporters to produce copy editing ready reports. The overall mission for me is to work

closely with all members on the *Newsletter* Editorial Board to ensure the timely and effective production of every *NASIG Newsletter*.

Kurt: My role is to solicit and edit content for three columns, “Title Changes,” “Checking In,” and “Citations,” all of which, in the main, focus on keeping everyone in the organization aware of everyone else in the organization, to sort of give us a sense of community.

Susan: As Profiles Editor, I select individual NASIG members and committees or groups to profile in each issue. This column was started by Maggie Rioux, former *Newsletter* Editor-in-Chief and NASIG President. I have the freedom to select members using whatever criteria strikes me as I realize another deadline is approaching; although we do have a “regular” schedule to profile the new president for the September issue. I have been very fortunate with the individual profiles; we have such fascinating folks as members. They write their own story—I simply prod them for fodder.

Why were/are you interested in working on the Newsletter?

Angela: I enjoy writing and thought the *Newsletter* would be the best place for my talents for the organization.

Kate: Angela encouraged me to volunteer for the *Newsletter* as the PDF editor, but I was also always kind of interested in working as an editor before I chose librarianship as my profession. I like having a glimpse into what is involved in the editorial process (even though the *Newsletter* isn’t peer-reviewed so we don’t have to deal with those aspects) of a journal, both for professional reasons (i.e. how do these things that we pay for and provide as a service to our users work behind the scenes) and because I thought it would be engaging and kind of fun to be working with layout.

Angie R: I was interested in getting involved in the *Newsletter* as way to be involved more actively with

NASIG, but I also thought getting good practice in editing would help my own writing.

K.R.: I was feeling guilty about not being very involved in NASIG, and then I saw the call for an additional copy editor. I volunteered for the position because I edited a book and survived the process. This ain't my first time at the rodeo.

Ning: Indeed, I am newly appointed to this position. When I applied for this position, I wrote: “I am one of those student grant winners of the 25th NASIG annual conference. As a grant winner and annual conference attendee, I’ve already benefited a lot from NASIG. Now, I would like to contribute my services to make NASIG a better learning community for all serialists. Moreover, providing service on national level is also a part of my current job requirement. These are the two major reasons that drive me for this application.” I think the statement in my application package has answered this question perfectly. I am seriously hoping that I could become a good middleman for bridging librarians who are interested in serials and NASIG, one of the best professional associations for serials community.

Kurt: My interest in working on the *Newsletter* stemmed from a desire to meet people, basically. When I started I was pretty new to the profession and I thought working on the *Newsletter* would be a good way to get my name out and get to know people in the field; I was right.

Susan: Truthfully, I wasn’t looking for another NASIG assignment when I was approaching the end of my term on Awards & Recognition, but somehow I let Maggie Rioux twist my arm into taking it on at one of the dine-arounds in Louisville. I do enjoy learning about our individual members, but I confess I do not like having deadlines to meet.

What is the process for putting together an issue of the Newsletter?

A call for news submissions goes out one month before the publication deadline, which is one month before the issue is published. Once the editor-in-chief receives submissions from committees or the Board the documents are saved in a Word document and uploaded into the bepress EdiKit software. This software allows me to assign the copy editor to the document. The copy editor receives an email notification and begins work on the submission. Once the copy editor is finished the file is uploaded and the layout editor formats the visual aspects of the submission. Once she is finished with layout the editor-in-chief publishes the submission. This platform allows us to keep track of all revisions and allows us to communicate with each other. All communications are saved in context, with the document.

How did the move to the USU bepress platform come about? What are the advantages?

Angela: The idea originated during the month prior to the June conference. Kathryn Wesley solicited comments from the *Newsletter* Editorial Board to identify issues for the upcoming NASIG contingency planning session. Jennifer Duncan suggested the possibility of migrating from WordPress to an institutional repository. After a brief period researching options, we found Utah State University's offer to publish the *Newsletter* free of charge on the bepress software to be the most viable solution.

There are many advantages for both the end-user and the editorial staff. All of the backfiles are available and searchable in one location on the bepress site. Searching the entire backfiles of the *NASIG Newsletter* was previously impossible. The interface is easy to browse, and we have options for RSS feeds and BeAlerts. BeAlerts allows the user to set up an alert based on a set of keywords.

The Editorial Board enjoys the ability to track all changes in one system. Version control can become

very tricky as submissions are exchanged by email. EdiKit provides a clear history of each submission and provides communication tools that tie messages directly to a submission. As the Editor-in-Chief I find managing the workflow to be a breeze. I can check on the status of a submission at any time and send reminders if a submission becomes past due. Finally, I'm able to pull full-text download statistics to get a sense of how people are using the new site.

How do you see what you do on the Newsletter furthering NASIG's goals and presence in the serials community? What do see as the role and value of the NASIG Newsletter?

Kate: I think that the *Newsletter* provides a good in-depth view of what NASIG offers its members and what its and its members' accomplishments and achievements are. The *Newsletter* also provides a level of transparency about NASIG, with the publication of all board minutes, treasurer reports, etc. that isn't as readily available for other organizations. Kurt's columns "Checking In," "Title Changes," and "Citations" keep you up-to-date in your fellow NASIG members' professional lives (in case you missed their Facebook update). And I think the *Newsletter* provides an historical overview of what the organization has done in the past and can provide indicators for what it can do in the future.

Angie R: I quickly realized an unanticipated benefit of working on the *Newsletter*, which is that it reinforces the need for me to read what's going on in the serials community. I have been really grateful for this. It helps further NASIG's presence in my own community by giving me a better vantage point to promote and share ideas in my workplace, but also expands my presence beyond my community by being able to see people I could collaborate with on certain issues and research.

K.R.: I think the *NASIG Newsletter* is a good way to maintain the group's visibility in the serials community. I also think that the *Newsletter* following consistent style guidelines is important, if only so that readers can focus

on the content, instead of being distracted by a glaring punctuation error.

Ning: The primary goal for NASIG is to promote communication, information, and continuing education about serials and the broader issues of scholarly communication. And the *Newsletter* has already done an excellent job in serving as an all time platform to facilitate that communication, information exchange, and continuing education goal. It keeps members informed about the important messages and decisions from the executive team; it keeps the whole serials community updated with new events, progresses, and changes; most importantly, it offers annual conference reports for those who cannot make the conferences in person. All in all, what I do or what the whole *Newsletter* Editorial Board does are all about offering an alternative platform for communication and building the closer connections between NASIG and its members and the whole serials community.

Kurt: My work on the *Newsletter* is pretty light-hearted, but I like to think that it puts a little sense of “community” in the serials community.

Susan: I asked this question because I wondered what the group would say. I really liked having a print issue to read so I could keep up on what was going on. I sometimes feel (as an ex-President and long-time member) that I may be one of the few beyond the editor-in-chief and copy editors who reads most of the issues. I wish more members read the minutes of board meetings and conference calls, and naturally more of

my profiles. The “Title Changes” column has always been one of my favorites. I’m glad we include more than just the position and contact change. I like reading the personal notes too.

Is the Newsletter included in any online archive such as LOCKSS? Do we have a plan to preserve the content if NASIG ever went out of business?

Bepress provides an archival backup and is compliant with LOCKSS. We are not currently preserving the *Newsletter* in LOCKSS, but this is under consideration.

Future ideas and plans for the Newsletter?

Angela: Hopefully we will include videos and other media with the *Newsletter*. The new platform accommodates video, audio, PowerPoint, and other file types.

Tell us a bit about you outside the “newsroom.”

K.R. has six tattoos and dabbles in gay square dancing. (Editor’s note—Future CPCs take note—maybe a late night social opportunity?)

Kate has two cats; Susan has one; and based on her Facebook photo, Angela has at least one. K.R. adopted a kitty who looks a lot like mine. Ning was one of the student grant winners at the 25th anniversary conference and couldn’t wait to give back to the organization! Kurt succeeded Susan as the “Serials Spoken Here” column editor for *Serials Review*.