



# NASIG Newsletter

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## Columns

### Checking In

Kurt Blythe, Column Editor

[Note: Please report promotions, awards, new degrees, new positions, and other significant professional milestones. You may submit items about yourself or other members to Kurt Blythe at [kcbythe@email.unc.edu](mailto:kcbythe@email.unc.edu). 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.]

NASIG welcomes five new friends to the fold this quarter, and this column is pleased to publish accounts of their respective paths to life as serialists in their own words, beginning with:

**STEVE BROWN**, who started at George Washington University Medical Center's Himmelfarb Library in July 2009 as the serials and systems librarian.

Before that, I was a technical services specialist at the U.S. Department of the Interior Library for ten years. Long ago, I worked at the Penn State Interlibrary Loan office as a work study student, which is where I got my start in libraries (if you don't count working at the library in middle school). I graduated from the University of Alabama with an MLIS in 2009, where I got my first taste of medical librarianship (under the guidance of Library Journal 2010 Teaching Award recipient Steven MacCall). Away from serials, I said "I do" to my wonderful wife at the Baltimore Zoo in spring 2010 and am a new father to two mostly well-behaved kittens. I look forward to meeting everyone in St. Louis at my first NASIG conference.

**MICHAEL CERBO** writes that: "While not new to librarianship, I am new to NASIG and serials in general. As the bibliographic access and resource management librarian at the University

of Rhode Island my duties include electronic resources and databases, cataloging and serials. In this changing environment that librarians find themselves in, it is exciting to be a part of that change, helping to direct our services to better serve our constituents. I hold a Masters degree in Political Science and an MLS in Library Science. I joined NASIG to continue my professional development, learn from others, and contribute to the overall growth of libraries and librarianship."

**RENETTE DAVIS** got into serials librarianship by accident.

When my late husband and I entered voluntary service in the late '60s, we were sent to a Navajo school in New Mexico. They needed a librarian, and even though I had no training, I agreed to give it a try. I really enjoyed it. So when we went back home to Illinois, I decided to try to get a job at the University of Illinois Library. I just happened to get a job in the Serials Department and I loved it. When we moved to Chicago, I decided to try to get a job at The University of Chicago Library, and this time I expressed a preference for serials, so again I ended up in the Serials Department. I then went to library school and spent the next forty years working in serials cataloging.

**KATHY FOWLER** first started work as a librarian in 1995, as a special librarian working in a high tech consortium then in a law firm.

In both places, of course, I handled journal subscriptions. When I came to Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary in 2002, I started as a technical services librarian, working part-time. I took over managing the serials in 2005 after the paraprofessional who had managed them for years retired. I can't remember how I learned about NASIG (I think I serendipitously came

across a mention of the group somewhere online), but I looked at some of the topics covered at your annual conference and decided that, considering the current sea-change that serials are undergoing from print to online format, I could learn a lot from the organization and that it might help my library make the inevitable transition to e-journals.

And, back in 1989, **PETER MCKAY** found himself in Claremont, CA at Scripps College as a first time attendee of a NASIG annual conference.

Twelve months earlier I had been appointed the director of sales & marketing for Academic Press and I was on a voyage of discovery. I wanted to try and get a real understanding of who serials librarians were, what they did, and what mattered to them. My journey continued at Brock in '90, Trinity in '91, Illinois in '92, OBC in '94 and Duke in '95. In between these meetings I also participated in UKSG meetings and found myself, for a while, chair of the Library Relations Committee of the STM Publishers Association. In 1996, I moved to Thomson Science & Technology, my career moved me into General Management, and I found it harder to get to the meetings. In the last twelve months, I have returned to the frontline of scholarly publishing, but now as a consultant, and I knew of no better way of making sure I was fully involved in this world than to rejoin NASIG (and UKSG); I have every intention of getting to St Louis next June.