



NASIG Newsletter

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President's Corner

Steve Shadle, NASIG President

For those of you living through a summer of record-breaking heat, my commiserations. Come to Seattle, where the thermometer struggled to reach 84° on July 6th (before dropping back to 67° the next day) and it has rained 11 out of the last 19 days. As a long-time resident of the Pacific Northwest, I've learned to get my sunshine from other sources (such as NASIG conferences in locations like St. Louis and Palm Springs). Thinking back through all the NASIG conferences I've attended, there have only been a few with anything other than sunny days (the icy sleet and hail at Red Rocks outside of Denver stands out as a weather low-point in NASIG conference history).

Those of you who weren't able to attend the conference in St. Louis this year missed a great meeting. Conference Planning (under the leadership of Shana McDanold and Karen Darling) was fabulous with great local events ("*OhMyGodAmIReallyGoingDownThisTenStorySlide...WHEEEE!*") and food (to paraphrase Homer Simpson: "*Goopy butter cakes. Is there anything they can't do?*"). Program Planning (with chairs Anne Mitchell and Michael Hanson) did a superb job this year with thought-provoking vision presentations by Adam Bly and Paul Duguid and a good mix of strategy and tactics sessions. I know some catalogers felt they got the short end of the programming stick this year, but with an RDA preconference by Judy Kuhagen and sessions that included Regina Reynolds (and others), cataloging was amply represented in quality, if not quantity. As a cataloger, I do have to be occasionally reminded I am not the center of the universe...Hey, if

you catalogers want more conference presentations, submit proposals to Program Planning.

In this issue of the *Newsletter*, you will find reports of every conference program. As an active NASIG member, I always scan the current newsletter when it hits my inbox, but I read the September issue cover-to-cover to see what I missed at the conference. For those who want more information about a particular program, the presentation files for most of the programs are available in the "Conference Handouts" portion of the conference website. I would like to extend a big "Thank You" to all the conference reporters, *Newsletter* staff and Program Planning volunteers who make these resources available.

I would also like to comment on the brainstorming session this year. As we all adapt to a changing information landscape ("*Evolve or Die*"), NASIG also needs to adapt and evolve. Those of us in the serials community know the full extent of our work and that the word "serial" does not necessarily embody it. Yet, the name NASIG has brand recognition. Personally, I was pleased to hear a consensus that we should retain NASIG as the name of the organization, but we need to investigate ways to more clearly articulate our role in this evolving landscape. I think Bob Boissy's tagline ("*NASIG: 80% of Your Library's Materials Budget*") was most humorous and to the point, but I think each of us can imagine how NASIG can better help us through continuing education, networking, mentoring and open communication. The Executive Board will be reviewing

the notes from the brainstorming session with an eye towards next steps we can take in this evolution.

On a related note, I am also pleased to highlight the appointment of the Core Competencies Task Force whose charge is “to develop a statement for NASIG's endorsement that describes core competencies for serials and electronic resources librarians.” With this kind of statement, I hope we as a community can more clearly articulate our value and, as an organization, can develop resources and services that will help you in your day-to-day work. A draft report from the task force will be to the Board this fall with a final draft to the membership in the spring.

A reminder. The call for nominations for vice president/president-elect, secretary, and three members at large has been issued. The Nominations & Elections Committee will receive your nominations until October 17th. Nominations are anonymous, and you may submit multiple names for one office. As always, self-nominations are welcome!

And finally, every new President gets asked the questions: “What’s on your agenda? What do you hope to accomplish?” On my most insecure days, it’s nothing more than making sure NASIG doesn’t go bankrupt while I’m in office (I assume most presidents have the occasional “Oh crap, what am I doing here?” moment). However, on *most* days it’s about bringing value to your NASIG membership. We’ve made good progress by negotiating discounted registration for NISO webinars and other NASIG-sponsored continuing education, and also by negotiating a greatly discounted subscription to *Serials Librarian*. Since the conference is our signature activity, I would like to see us leverage the conference in new ways. One possibility is to take the “best of the best” of conference presentations and make those presentations more widely available to membership through affordable online conferencing and regional continuing education events. If you have any additional ideas on how we can add value to your membership, please let me know.

Thanks to all of you for making this a great organization.
--Steve