



NASIG Newsletter

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Profiles

Conference Proceedings Editors

Wm. Joseph Thomas

As we enter May, the *Conference Proceedings* Editors are already gearing up for a busy year. One new proceedings editor is selected each year for a two-year term, serving alongside a returning editor. *Proceedings* editors agree to serve these staggered two-year terms to fulfill their charge to prepare the annual conference proceedings for publication. A thirty-seven page manual guides their work and provides sample messages, timetable, and information about preferred formatting and working with the publisher. The editors must also be familiar with the Author Guidelines and the two publication agreements available to the authors of *Conference Proceedings* papers, and be able to coordinate the work of more than 30 authors.

Work for new conference editors begins in March, shortly after they are chosen. Arranging recorders and securing assurances from presenters who will write their own papers are important tasks ahead of the annual conference. At the conference, editors address the speakers and recorders to describe their expectations and timeframe. Immediately after the conference, work shifts into high gear for this team of two. Papers and publishing agreements will be sent to the editors, who will divide them up and begin editing. Each editor takes the lead on reading, editing, and working with more than 15 authors on their papers—a process that takes most of the fall semester. Editors then collaborate on final revisions for all papers. Completed manuscripts are uploaded to the publisher's system by a mutually agreed-upon deadline, often December. The Editors review the proofs in January and February, and await the publication of the *Proceedings*, an event often occurring in March or April.

NASIG's Conference Proceedings have been published as a special issue of *The Serials Librarian* since the very first conference (1986, published in [The Serials Librarian 11, nos. 3-4](#)). The Taylor & Francis production editor works with *NASIG's Conference Proceedings* Editors to establish due dates for completed manuscripts and access to the publisher's Central Article Tracking System (CATS) for uploading manuscripts and reviewing proofs. Taylor & Francis provides complimentary print copies for authors, the NASIG Archivist, and Board members, as well as electronic access to the *Proceedings* to all association members.

What are some of the benefits of serving as a *Conference Proceedings* Editor? Outgoing editor Sharon Dyas-Correia appreciates working as part of a team that includes “editors, production editors, the Program Planning Committee, recorders, presenters, and liaisons to create such a useful and interesting record of the many cutting edge ideas presented and discussed by [conference] participants.” Continuing editor Sara Bahnmaier appreciates the experience of “reading through manuscripts” and then having “the privilege of corresponding with the marvelous authors and helping them express their ideas.” *Proceedings* Editors also enjoy the sense of accomplishment in seeing the final product.

There were some drawbacks as well, primarily the amount of time and effort involved in editing. The editors are grateful that they don't have to tackle it alone, though, as sharing the burden makes it easier. Overall, the contacts they make with contributors, committee members, and NASIG Board members have made Sharon and Sara feel “respected and encouraged,” and they agree that “serving NASIG as conference proceedings editor has been an enriching

experience with benefits far outweighing any drawbacks.”

This year’s incoming editor is Kay Johnson, Head of Collection and Technical Services at the McConnell Library, Radford University. Kay’s prior service to NASIG includes the Awards and Recognitions, Continuing Education, Conference Planning, and Nominations and Elections Committees. She served as editor-in-chief of the *OLAC Newsletter* for six years and editor of the “Balance Point” column for *Serials Review* for eight years. After a couple of years off, Kay was ready (and eager! she writes) to tackle the *NASIG Conference Proceedings*. Much success to Kay!

All three editors agree on the importance of documenting NASIG’s annual conference, and hope that members will enjoy their time in Buffalo this June. Sara

writes “The proceedings are an official record, but it only captures part of what you can carry away from the experience of being at the conference.”

Your 2013 *Conference Proceedings* Editors are:

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