

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 kblythe@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.]

Whereas serialists making moves either within their institutions or from one to another has been the path less taken this summer, that leading to a life as a serialist is as busy as ever:

Benjamin Heet has just finished his first year as Electronic Resources Librarian at North Carolina State University. In his own words:

I have spent the last three years deeply involved in the development of an open source ERMS, CORAL. That project has provided me the opportunity to work on the challenges of serials and electronic resources management with colleagues from around the world. The camaraderie gained from working on common problems and shared solutions has been exceptionally rewarding. I joined NASIG this year because it is a community working together on these same issues and offers the opportunity to learn from colleagues' shared experiences.

Peter Koonz, Library Director for The College of Saint Rose, writes: The rather unorthodox path I took into serials librarianship began with my first position at The College of Saint Rose (Albany, NY) as systems and

reference librarian in 1991. I transitioned into the director's office and have served as library director for 16 years. I have requested a move back to the library faculty, effective when a new director is hired, and I will be working in a newly configured position as Serials and Electronic Resources Librarian. I plan on being totally happy substituting the nature of the crises I will need to deal with – from dealing with broken toilets in the library to dealing with broken journal links!

Judith Koveleskie lets us know: I have been the Periodicals Librarian at Seton Hill for a number of years and was a member of NASIG when it was mostly concerned with print resources. As we moved to online resources, I was ordering, but someone else handled managing the online titles, so I let my membership lapse. Now I am handling everything and I was given an opportunity to attend the conference in Buffalo through a grant, so I decided to rejoin because I have a lot to learn. I always thought NASIG was one of the best organizations because the folks are very friendly and educational opportunities are right on target, no fluff. It's good to be back.

Laura Newton Miller writes: I've worked at Carleton University Library (Ottawa, Canada) since 2003. Until August 2012, I was a Science & Engineering Reference Librarian, and since 2009 was actively involved in scholarly communication activities. In September 2012, I became Collections Assessment Librarian, a new position in Technical Services (specifically in the Collections, E-Resources & Serials Department). This is a whole new world for me and I am eagerly soaking up

everything I can. I am very interested in evidence-based library and information practice and I believe this goes hand in hand with my work in assessment. I hope that my work will help the library make better-informed decisions about the collection. I'm very happy to have discovered NASIG and look forward to learning as much as I can about what goes on "behind the scenes".

Tessa Minchew notes:

I dabbled in serials when I began my technical services career as Documents Cataloging Specialist at the University of Southern Mississippi. My focus began to slant more heavily towards monographic and non-print cataloging following my move to Atlanta where I began work as a Catalog Librarian for Georgia Perimeter College. Over the years, my duties at GPC continued to evolve and I eventually became the Systems & Electronic Content Librarian for the college.

I returned to the serials fold in March 2013 as an Electronic Resources Librarian at North Carolina State University Libraries. In my new position, I will take a lead role in acquiring, licensing, describing, and providing access to electronic journals and databases. In addition, I will be managing projects, training staff, and developing workflows. I am very excited to begin this next stage of my career in the state-of-the-art James B. Hunt Jr. Library, working with an assembly of inspiring and talented people. I joined NASIG in June in an effort to further my understanding of serials work and broaden my professional contacts within the discipline; and I hope to be able to attend next year's conference in Fort Worth, Texas.

When not at Hunt, I can be found wandering around the State Farmers Market, eating scones and planning menus. Being an Atlanta expat, you will also frequently see me in downtown Raleigh, marveling over the wonders of free parking after 5:00 p.m.

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Lydia Pybum writes:

I have worked in libraries most of my life starting in fifth grade when I was a student helper in our school library. Over the years I have had a few jobs, but nothing felt as good as working in a library. I shifted to serials last year because I wanted to gain experience beyond circulation duties and to become a well-rounded librarian.

Currently I'm a Serials Acquisitions Assistant at the University of Texas at Arlington, but as my library is going through a reorganization, I'll be the Off-Campus Services Librarian starting in the fall. Though my work with serials will be scaled back, I plan on continuing to learn and volunteer with the department. I came to join NASIG as one of my colleagues would not be working with serials after the reorganization and would be vacating his seat on the planning committee for the next conference. I was hesitant to join, but my former department head said this is the only organization he has continued his membership over the years since he was a student. With those words, I was sold.

Welcome! One and all.