



NASIG Newsletter

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26th Conference (2011) Wrap Up

Report on the 2011 NASIG Award Winners

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During the 2011 conference in St. Louis, the Awards & Recognition Committee presented the following awards: four Student Grants, one Mexican Student Grant, two Fritz Schwartz Serials Education Scholarships, two Serials Specialist Awards, one Horizon Award for new serials professionals, and one Rose Robischon Scholarship for professionals needing financial assistance to attend the conference.

The award winners were asked to give feedback about their overall conference experience, and they were also given the opportunity to suggest improvements to the awards process. The responses to the Awards & Recognition Committee's survey are included below. The award winners shared many positive comments about their experience during the conference and how attending the conference benefitted them personally.

2011 NASIG Awards Winners' Survey

Conducted by Yümin Jiang

Do you feel it is worthwhile for newcomers to the field of serials and continuing resources to attend a NASIG conference? Please explain. If you are a Serials Specialist Award winner, do you feel it is worthwhile

for serials specialists to attend the conference? Please explain.

- Yes, I feel it is worthwhile for serials specialists to attend the NASIG conference. Specialists usually work directly with the serials librarians but often are excluded from being included on discussions, conferences, and events that allow the Specialist to see the larger picture of why the library is using a certain technology, programs, or implementing certain procedures. Attending the NASIG Conference allowed me to see how other libraries are dealing with technological changes and the products and solutions that are being used to address these changes. Most important was being able to discuss these issues with other serials librarians, students and professionals at the conference and take these new things back to my own library.
- Of course. It's a great effort to support the Library formation in Mexican students. We're grateful for this award and giving us the chance to take participation with you in this great event.
- YES absolutely. NASIG helped solidify my interest in serials and gave me a much needed sense of camaraderie. It was an invigorating experience and I took all of the positive energy from NASIG home and used it to help move my institution forward.
- For the newcomers to the field of serials, attending a NASIG conference is the best possible way to get acquainted with serials librarians from across the nation. First, the conference is very well organized. The venue of choice was amazing and the organizers were extremely organized, effective, and helpful beyond expectations. Second, the keynote speakers talked about cutting edge subjects and innovative ideas and approaches shaping the serials sector at global level. The sessions were diverse and

the ensuing discussions were informative and helpful for all who attended. Third, meeting and interacting with serials librarians from all over the country and from abroad was just one of the best ways to create new connections and make new friends. I am one of the Serials Specialist winners and I can say with absolute confidence that this was the most worthwhile experience I had as a paraprofessional librarian. This was the first chance to participate in a conference, and I couldn't have done it without the award. I benefited tremendously from the mentorship program, and I would like to give special thanks to Carol Ann Borchert for agreeing to be my mentor and for introducing me to so many wonderful people.

- Attending the NASIG conference was one of the most worthwhile experiences in my library career. I met dozens of people that I can now count on as colleagues, and have already benefited from the professional relationships with people who share my specific interests within library science. In addition, the conference taught me the value of professional development in a way that my library school education could not. I learned more in one week about the practical issues facing my profession than in many entire courses at the School of Information.
- Absolutely. By speaking to others in the serials field, newcomers will be able to network, speak with librarians about current issues, and have someone to turn to if they ever need help.
- Yes, I definitely feel that it's worthwhile for newcomers to the field of serials and continuing resources to attend a NASIG conference. As a MLS student who has experience with serials, I've realized that there is so much potential inherent in following a serials career and I did not fully realize this until the NASIG conference. It's also a wonderful venue in which to network and to meet other serials professionals with whom to connect.
- It is absolutely worthwhile for newcomers to attend NASIG—the conference affords us the opportunity to meet other people who work with the same issues in different ways. The sessions are a great tool for engaging new or different technologies and practices, and everyone was so friendly that it was easy to chat with strangers.

How did attending the conference benefit you personally?

- I was able to have a uniquely serials-based perspective of libraries which, coming from a law library atmosphere, was very beneficial because most of our events are law-specific. As much of what I do as a serials specialist is interchangeable between disciplines, it was very refreshing to have a conference dedicated to the serials functions of a library.
- The experience to stay in contact with the experts in serials was helpful. The conference was an opportunity to share experiences and ideas about libraries in both countries.
- I was able to talk about many issues with other professionals and librarians. I also gained a sense of perspective, not only for my own situation but for the greater whole. And I made lots of new friends who will be invaluable in helping my career advance.
- On a personal level, the conference provided the best opportunity for me to meet and interact with people from across the country and abroad, to be mentored by a wonderful serials librarian, and to enjoy the city of St. Louis with new friends.
- The greatest personal benefit to me was in the networking opportunity. Much of this would not have been possible without the mentoring program and the slightly embarrassing, but oh-so-effective, award winner ribbons. It let people know that I was new, and I was constantly being approached by individuals willing to share their wisdom and advice.
- Our library has recently been searching for a new link resolver—at the conference I was able to speak with people from other libraries and found out some pros/cons of the products we are considering. I would also feel comfortable contacting any NASIG member in the future.
- Personally, attending the conference made me look forward to becoming a professional librarian in general. I discovered that an environment full of hundreds of librarians gives off an exciting and creative energy and really made me look forward to future opportunities to surround myself with similar career-minded individuals.
- I met many wonderful, friendly people who were willing to tell their stories, to give advice, and to talk about how things are working in their libraries.

Did attending the conference influence your career plans? If so, how?

- No. I always knew I was going to go to library school.
- In my case, I choose to do a dissertation about bibliometrics, so I'll work in the Web of Science, analyzing the publication of mainstream titles. Basically serials.
- Yes, it made me realize that there is still a great amount of work to be done in serials and that we are working in one of the most dynamic times in library history. As is such, the sky is the limit and the problems we are facing now, are in need of creative and innovative solutions. That's a pretty exciting thought! So in short I guess I could say that NASIG made me realize that a career in serials could be a very exciting thing.
- Yes. I will become a serials librarian when I receive my MLIS (2013).
- The conference has inspired me to continue pursuing publication opportunities. I benefited so much from the presenters at the conference that I want to give back to the profession by sharing what I've learned as well.
- Attending did not influence my career plans—but it did make me realize that I had chosen a career that is perfect for me.
- In many ways, attending NASIG caused me to confirm my desire to work with e-resources in the future. Attending various sessions that touched on or focused on e-resource-related issues allowed me fully realize that there actually are many various positions out there that work with e-resources in different ways and also made me feel more confident that I'd be able to follow such a career path.
- Yes, it renewed my willingness to work with such smart and friendly people. I've found that people who work on serials are nearly always friendly and willing to share their experiences to the benefit of others.

What can NASIG and/or the Awards & Recognition Committee do to improve the NASIG Awards program?

- Hmm...not much, I don't think. I was very impressed with the hospitality, communication, and the awards recognition and program.

- Give the chance of participation to more Mexican students and provide opportunities for previous award winners to return to the conference.
- I have no suggestions.
- You are amazing! Keep doing the same great job in the future!
- The program is excellent. I only wish more people were aware of it. Advertising on SERIALST and other professional venues is great, but you should consider advertising through library schools. Many people who would benefit greatly from a conference like NASIG simply don't know about it yet.
- I am not sure if this is a requirement of winning an award, but it would be beneficial to all award winners to attend the Mentor/Mentee session at the start of the conference.
- Currently, I have no issues with the NASIG awards program.
- Nothing, I thought it was great!

What could NASIG and/or the Awards & Recognition Committee do to improve your conference experience?

- Nothing.
- It was excellent experience. I love NASIG.
- They did a great job and I have no suggestions.
- NASIG conference experience receives an A+ from me. I was very happy with the accommodations, with the speakers, with all the people I met!
- It's hard to say, because they did such a fantastic job! It might be nice to have a more social event for the award winners earlier in the conference. Maybe the breakfast on the last day could be moved to the first.
- Nothing! Loved every minute of it.
- Overall, my conference experience was phenomenal. While I enjoyed the first-timers reception, I think I would have preferred to meet the other award winners in a smaller, more structured environment...I would have liked more of an opportunity to further meet with them.
- I would have liked some scheduled time to chat with the other awards winners—we all sat together at the opening session, but having some organized time to network would have been helpful.

Do you have any other suggestions or comments?

Please tell us about them here.

- No more, thank you.
- Nope! Thank you so much!!
- Thank you, so much, for granting me the award and for giving me the opportunity to attend a NASIG conference...I plan on attending next year's conference and am looking forward to it already!

How/where did you learn about NASIG's awards?

- My co-workers and fellow serials librarians have been members in the past.
- By the call for applicant published in my school and the Asociación Mexicana de Bibliotecarios (AMBAC), in which a lot of my school professors are members.
- ERIL listserv, lib-license listserv, NASIG members
- One of my colleagues suggested that I apply for the award.
- My supervisor encouraged me to apply for the award. I also saw the posting on SERIALST.
- From my supervisor.
- I learned about the awards via SLIS' listserv.
- I saw it on a listserv.

Where should NASIG promote its awards?

- Keep doing in the same way. Works perfectly.
- Listservs, library schools
- Major library publications.
- I think it would be great if you tried to promote through library schools, especially for the student conference grant. Perhaps you could ask members to send the posting to their alma maters to be included in library school listservs and the like.
- Facebook, Twitter, serials blogs, forums, and emails.
- I think that promotion through LIS programs is definitely an effective promotion tactic, as students are constantly looking for ways to get more involved with their future careers and for financial help with their programs.
- My library school program has a forum where they post scholarship promotions—going straight to the library schools might be a good idea. Also, state library association lists.