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 kcblythe@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.]

Readers, while few of us are changing positions, many of us are new to the organization: Very exciting!

Please extend a warm welcome to:

Calida Barboza, who writes:

During my time as the electronic resources/systems librarian at King’s College in Wilkes-Barre, PA, I collaborated with the librarians there to transition a predominantly print journal collection to an electronic collection in order to free up space to be repurposed. Although my involvement with serials has diminished since I accepted the electronic resources librarian position at Ithaca College in August 2011, I remain interested in serials issues, especially the effect of budget structures and licensing agreements on their acquisition. I look forward to discussing these and other serials issues with the NASIG membership at this year’s conference.

Marcia Adamy Butler returned to academic libraries in January 2012 as the Copy Cataloging Unit head in the Technical Services Department at the University of Wyoming Libraries after seven years cataloging for a vendor. Marcia holds an MFA in Painting from Savannah College of Art & Design and an MS in Information Science from University of Tennessee, Knoxville (UTK). So, it is not surprising that her background is predominantly in technical services in academic art libraries and other small specialized libraries.

Coe Library of the University of Wyoming is the largest library that I have worked in except for Hodges Library at UTK, where I worked as a graduate student while attending library school.

While I have held Serials Department responsibilities at other institutions, I am new to NASIG. NASIG 2013 in Buffalo will be my first NASIG Conference. I am looking forward not only to the RDA preconference and learning how other institutions are handling the change in rules, but also to learning how other institutions are organizing serials in general in this world where the tasks are changing drastically, print is disappearing, and e-journals are the norm for most areas of study.

University of Wyoming serials responsibilities are spread over three units within the library. My unit is responsible for serials cataloging, another unit within Technical Services is responsible for serials acquisitions and check-in, and the electronic resources librarians are part of the Collection Development Office. Part of what I hope to accomplish this year is to clarify how these units work together now and how we need to plan for the future.

Jamie Carlstone is in her first year of the MLS program at Dominican University in River Forest, Illinois.
I’ve been working in libraries since I was an undergraduate at DePaul University, but I’ve only started working with serials since the beginning of 2012 when I was a part-time assistant at the Center for Research Libraries on the JSTOR print archives project. It was in this position that I realized how much I enjoy working in technical services, particularly with serials cataloging. At the same time, I was also working part-time as a supervisor in circulation at the University of Chicago Library. In March, I was promoted at UC to supervisor for Continuing Resources Orders and Cataloging, which means I now get to work with serials full-time. I am excited about joining NASIG and I look forward to becoming involved in the community and the opportunity to learn more about serials.

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Katy DiVittorio started April 2 as the serials acquisitions specialist at the University of Colorado, Denver (UCD).

This is a new position at UCD. I previously worked in ILL at Lewis & Clark Law School in Portland, OR. While working at L&C I took every opportunity to help out in the serials department. It is an area I greatly enjoy and am thrilled to now be working in full time. I am receiving my MLIS from San Jose State University in May 2012. I am happy to be joining NASIG and look forward to the networking opportunities the organization offers.

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Karen Harmon is a Master of Library and Information Studies student at the University of Oklahoma and a serials technician at the Schusterman Library on the OU-Tulsa campus.

As one of the 2012 John Riddick Student Grant recipients, I greatly appreciate the opportunity to attend my first NASIG Conference. As I reviewed the conference sessions I had fun choosing a tentative schedule from the wide variety of excellent choices available. I am reassured this conference is going to be a great experience by the friendliness of those who have been in contact with me.

This will be my first national conference experience and I look forward to discussions of the issues facing serials librarians today and being able to apply what I learn to my remaining classes and my work now and in the future. I believe this will be an enriching experience for someone who is looking forward to becoming a professional librarian.

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Mark Hemhauser writes that he’s late coming to NASIG.

I began my serials career in 1994 as the serials coordinator at American University Library. I managed the day-to-day operations of print serials. Save for Dialog, a single Lexis-Nexis connection, and a few CD-ROMs everything we had was print then. It was chance that landed me in that position, but I found that the chaos, ever-changing nature of serials management, the projects and planning, details, and budget management suited me. In 2007 I moved to the University of Maryland (College Park) for a professional, non-librarian position and earned my MLS in 2011.

I am now a systems librarian responsible for managing the Acquisitions and Serials modules of Aleph for the University System of Maryland and Affiliated Institutions. This position has been great
for exposing me to a wider pool of librarians and their information needs related to collection management and all areas of acquisitions. I’ve also become involved with the Kuali OLE (Open Library Environment) project, serving on the team that is drafting the specifications for e-Acquisitions. It has been a great experience working with colleagues at UPenn, UChicago, North Carolina State, Duke, Indiana and Lehigh on issues of e-resource management that have long vexed us all. I’m looking forward to expanding my professional contacts with my new membership in NASIG.

For fun I sing choral music and race bicycles.

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Melissa Johnson is the new electronic resources and serials librarian at Georgia Regents University, Summerville Campus - formerly Augusta State University (ASU).

I was employed in one of the academic departments at ASU while working on my Master of Library and Information Science degree from Valdosta State University. During my last year of grad school, I interned in the Technical Services Department of the library working with the Electronic Resources and Serials. I really enjoyed learning about the whole serials process. I moved into the position of serials assistant and, upon completion of my degree, was able to apply for the librarian position when it became open in December. I am excited to join NASIG and look forward to the wonderful networking and informational opportunities it provides.

Steve Oberg recently re-joined NASIG after a hiatus of several years and is very happy to be back. Even more recently I left the corporate world and rejoined academia when I accepted a job offer from Wheaton College in Wheaton, Illinois at the beginning of November. My job is to manage Wheaton’s electronic resources and serials, among other things. It has long been a dream to work at Wheaton and I feel blessed.

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Julia Proctor is a new electronic resources librarian at the University of Wyoming (UW).

Prior to joining UW Libraries I was the public policy and government information librarian at the University of Michigan. I joined NASIG in the hopes of gaining knowledge that will help me in my new field of librarianship and connecting with new colleagues.

Charlie Remy, electronic resources and serials librarian/assistant professor at the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga (UTC) recently joined NASIG so he could attend his first NASIG annual conference in Buffalo. He prefers to attend conferences that are tightly focused on his area of librarianship and looks forward to meeting colleagues from around the country and the world.

He has been in his current position at UTC since October 2011. Before that he worked as an electronic resources librarian at Western State Colorado University. He has an MS in Library and Information Science from Simmons College in Boston, MA and a BA in Spanish and Gender Studies from Elon University in North Carolina.

In his spare time Charlie enjoys speaking Spanish, consuming all kinds of news, reading, walking, and biking.