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Essay for the 2014 NASIG Horizon Award

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2014 NASIG Horizon Award: What It Means to Me

Recognition, whether in the workplace or within the profession, is certainly very satisfying. For someone like me, who is just beginning in the profession, it was very meaningful when I learned I was the recipient of the 2014 NASIG Horizon Award sponsored by EBSCO. Not only did it mean that, yes, I was able to write up a good essay on the current state of electronic resource management and where it's headed and why it's important to stay abreast, it also means that I have chosen the right path in a highly specialized library science field. Having just arrived back home from Fort Worth, Texas, where the conference was held, I now get to sit back in my office chair and absorb the experience.

I greatly admired the friendliness of the NASIG community. To my advantage and surprise, the first person that I spoke to soon after arriving was Steve Kelley, now President of NASIG for 2014/2015, who was walking alongside me to hop on the shuttle to Billy Bob's, where the opening reception was held. When I told him my mentor was Leigh Ann DePope, he made it a point to search for her to introduce me. After meeting both of them initially, I knew that my experience as a first-time attendee would be memorable and very welcoming. Leigh Ann then introduced me to Dana Whitmire, who handled all the travel arrangements of the award winners. We were all then cheerfully led to the opening session area to prepare for the awards portion of the session. It was a privilege meeting and



getting to know the other award winners, like David Walters, Angel Guzman-Contreras, Yayo Umetsubo, Stephanie Rosenblatt, Emily Cable, and Jamie Carlstone, many of whom are from other countries. The remainder of the night was much fun--the Marshall's enthusiastic storytelling of the beginnings of Fort Worth, coupled with the delicious Southern-inspired food--really helped to set the tone for what the remainder of the conference would be like.

During the conference the next day, someone recognized me as an award winner and congratulated me, asking if it made me feel uncomfortable that my picture, along with the other award winners, was being projected ahead of the first vision sessions. I said no, and explained that although I was not used to having that much attention, as I had never won an award before, it was actually nice because it made networking a tad easier!

The sessions I attended were excellent, and the speakers were clearly experts in their fields. The vision sessions gave me much to think about and learn, from web archiving and trends in scholarly publishing and open access, to the importance of developing outreach skills in order to better communicate what we do and why we do it. It is overwhelming, yet exciting, to see where we are headed in the digital environment. I appreciated that there were enough sessions to choose from each time slot. Although there were few sessions on cataloging itself, as a serials cataloger and someone who works very closely with the electronic resource management team, choosing a relevant topic for a session was not a difficult decision. All of the attendees I met were also from academic libraries, which made it very easy to discuss common practices and to share thoughts and ideas.

I look forward to becoming a NASIG member and interacting with the serials community. I now have to think about what skills sets I have that (as suggested by now Past President, Joyce Tenney) I can share, as well as gain, by volunteering with NASIG! Thanks again NASIG for selecting me for the award. My experience there was terrific, and I can now tell my boss, who had been encouraging me to attend, that she was right -- it's a highly valuable conference and organization to participate in.