

# NASIG Newsletter

Vol. 29, no. 3

September 2014

eISSN 1542-3417

## President's Corner

Steve Kelley

I would imagine that many people, if they've been in the workforce for a few years, have been in a job where the job description and/or job title didn't match what they actually did. When I started a paraprofessional job at UNC-Chapel Hill in 1994, my job description called for spending half of my time filing new cards in the card catalog, even though the card catalog was in the process of being dismantled and new cards had not been added to it in years. You could say that NASIG's vision and mission statements are sort of our organization's job description. As job descriptions, they're not as out of date as my card-filing job description was, but they could use a little freshening up. While NASIG remains very committed to serials, we are also quite involved with electronic resources, licensing issues, and scholarly communication issues that do not quite neatly fall under the term "serials." In short, we need to update our job description. To that end, earlier this year, the board appointed a task force to look at revising our vision and mission statements to better reflect where NASIG is and what our concerns are as an organization. The task force consists of experts in the field of continuing resources from both inside and outside NASIG, award-winning librarians, and many past presidents of NASIG. The chair of the task force is Steve Oberg, and the other members are Rick Anderson, Betsy Appleton, Patrick Carr, Lauren Corbett, Tina Feick and October Ivins. The plan is for them to have revised versions of the vision and mission statements ready for the membership to vote on (and hopefully adopt) at the business meeting at the 30<sup>th</sup> NASIG Conference in Washington, DC in May 2015.

That addresses updating our organizational job description, but what about our organizational title? There has been discussion among the membership for several years that the full name of our organization, the North American Serials Interest Group, is no longer apt. The term "interest group" seems to diminish the scope of our organization, and makes it sound like we are a smaller sub-group of a larger organization, when we are really an independent society. Also, the term "serials" in our name can be somewhat misleading. The truth is, when some people hear "serials" in our name, they think that we only deal with print serials, instead of the wide range of resources and issues that we deal with (electronic resources, licensing, scholarly communications, and, yes, print serials). The Executive Board would like to propose that we consider officially changing the name of our organization to just plain NASIG, without a meaning attached to the individual letters. This would mirror what our older sister organization UKSG did, as well as OCLC. There is brand equity built up in the name NASIG, so we would not want to abandon it entirely, but we think that the name North American Serials Interest Group may be losing its usefulness. The board has done some initial investigation, and the process of changing our name is quite simple from a legal point of view, and costs only a small filing fee. We invite the NASIG membership to discuss this issue over the coming months in any of the NASIG forums, especially NASIG-L. The board hopes to be able to ask the membership to consider a motion to officially change our name to NASIG at the business meeting at the 2015 conference, along with a motion to

adopt the new vision and mission statements. My hope is that we can get our job description and job title updated as we celebrate the previous 30 years of NASIG history and prepare for the next 30 years.

And while we're on the topic of celebrating 30 years of NASIG, it's not too early to start making plans to attend our 30<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference in Washington, DC, May 27 through May 30, 2015. If you've quickly consulted your 2015 conference schedule, you may have noticed that the conference does not fall in our normal Thursday to Sunday pattern, but rather runs from Wednesday to Saturday. That is because we will be having our first-ever joint conference programming with another organization. The 2015 NASIG Conference will begin on Wednesday, May 27, with joint programming with the Society for Scholarly Publishing (or SSP). There will be no extra fee in your NASIG registration for you to attend this special joint programming, and all conference attendees are invited. We have booked a large block of rooms for Tuesday, May 26, so you can fly in, get a good night's sleep and be ready for the joint programming on Wednesday morning. On Wednesday evening, we will have a regular opening of the NASIG Conference, and NASIG-only programming will begin on Thursday

morning. The conference will run until noon on Saturday. After the conference closing, we will have post-conference workshops available for the afternoon of Saturday, May 30 and the morning of Sunday, May 31, to take the place of our usual pre-conferences. Our Conference Planning Committee will also provide information about museums and Grayline tours for folks who want to stick around and check out the town after the conference. In addition, there will be an evening event celebrating NASIG's 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary on Friday, May 29, which you won't want to miss. We have a 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration Task Force that is cooking up something special.

Don't worry, you won't have to remember all that. It's just the first push in an ongoing campaign to let everybody know that the 2015 NASIG Conference will be a little bit different from previous conferences, and hopefully very memorable.

One last thing, if you have an idea for a presentation you'd like to give at the conference, keep an eye out for the Program Planning Committee's call for proposals, coming this fall.