

NASIG Newsletter

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Committee Reports

2014 Mentoring Group Annual Report

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Continuing Activities

With the departure of the past chair and resignation of the in-coming chair from the committee, all current Mentoring Group members are new. However, we managed to quickly learn our responsibilities and continue the committee activities in an orderly fashion. A third member was added this year, which will help add continuity to future committees and will provide valuable assistance as needed, especially during the planning and coordination of the first-timers reception.

Completed Activities

Overall, the Mentoring Program at the 2014 Conference was a success. Thirty-one mentor/mentee pairs were matched prior to the conference, and additional pairs were matched during the First Timers/Mentoring Reception on the first day of the conference.

For the first time, the first-timers reception was held at a location other than the conference hotel. There was some concern regarding the meeting, organizing and proper transportation of mentors and mentees to Billy Bob's Texas Club. Mentors and mentees met in the conference hotel lobby and suitable transportation to the reception was provided.

The First Timers/Mentoring Reception was well attended not only by pairs of mentors and mentees, but also by first-time attendees who had not registered as mentees before the conference. With the help of some experienced NASIG members at the reception, mentees were matched with mentors on-the-spot. In the future, we will continue to send out a call to those experienced NASIG conference attendees and invite them to attend the reception, even if they are not paired with a mentee prior to the conference.

Our thanks goes to those NASIG conference attendees who did attend the 2014 reception (including several Board members and volunteers from the Continuing Education committee) and were gracious enough to step in as mentors at the last minute.

After the 2014 conference, the Mentoring Group conducted a survey of 2014 mentors and mentees about their experience. The survey was conducted via the NASIG Admin website and we received a total of thirty-two responses, which represents a 51.6% response rate. The response rate is lower than in previous years and is likely due in part to the survey being administered a month after the conference closed.

instead of shortly after the conference. The unexpected resignation of the incoming chair impacted this year's survey process, but we expect a more timely feedback process for 2015.

A summary of responses to the 2014 Mentoring program evaluation survey is provided below:

- Eighteen mentors and fourteen mentees responded to the survey.
- In answer to the question "What was your favorite part of the experience?" mentors reported:
 - Meeting a new person
 - Sharing knowledge and experience, and learning more about their mentee
 - Helping or guiding someone new to NASIG; making first-timers feel more comfortable and answering their questions
 - "The chance to talk while taking the bus to our opening night, and also at the first timer's reception."
- In answer to same question, "What was your favorite part of the experience?", mentees reported:
 - Being able to network and talk one-on-one with experienced librarians
 - Being introduced to other NASIG members and receiving information about the conference
 - "I met several people while waiting for our mentors in the lobby. That alone was valuable, but having someone to guide me was invaluable."
 - "Had time to talk to my mentor about my career plan and obtained advice and information."
 - "I had no mentor-relationship experiences at all; I did not have a favorite experience on which to comment."
- First Timers were also asked if the program was of value to them, and if the answer was positive or not, they were asked to comment why.
 - The program helped new comers to feel welcome, network, get answers to their questions before coming to conference, become comfortable ("It can be intimidating to attend a conference for the first time") and even get involved during the conference.
- The opportunity to discuss with experienced serials librarians was also mentioned
- In answer to the question "Have you suggestions for improving the program?" mentors reported:
 - "It was really difficult for my mentee and I to talk because it was so noisy. I would much prefer a separate event, in a location where conversation is actually possible."
 - "The method for meeting and matching up needs to be communicated beforehand. (If it was, I don't remember it)."
 - "Meeting up with the mentees in the hotel lobby was not very organized. After waiting around a while and not finding my mentee, I got on the bus and accidentally sat down next to him."
 - "Probably a short speech of welcome from one of the Executive Board Officers would be nice. Nothing long, but maybe a few words about NASIG and a few words of Welcome."
 - "I would like to be paired with someone in my contiguous region so there is the possibility to meet in person before the conference."
- In answer to the same question, "Have you suggestions for improving the program?", mentees reported:
 - Reception held in a quieter place; due to loud music and noise - it was hard to have conversations with mentors and other mentees
 - "Giving a drink coupon to mentors would be really nice, since they put their time in initiating new conference members and make them feel at ease."
 - "Have a back-up plan in place if a mentor or mentee has to drop out for any reason."
 - "Nope. I thought it was very well-organized from my perspective."
- 90.6% (29) respondents confirmed they would participate in the Mentoring program again, while 9.4% (3) provided no response to this question. This may indicate that most mentors/mentees had a good experience, and it was gratifying to see that

no respondent had a “poor” experience during the 2014 Mentoring program/reception.

There were few other comments, noting that the NASIG community was very friendly and “everyone seemed quick to want to assist and guide first-timers.” Both mentors and mentees seemed to value the Mentoring program and suggestions made to improve the program were valuable. These suggestions will be carefully analyzed and considered by committee members for next year’s conference.

The outgoing chair, incoming chair, vice-chair, new member and board liaison met during the conference to briefly discuss committee members’ roles and activities for the upcoming year. These included conducting and analyzing the Mentoring Post-Conference Survey, and writing the group’s annual report.

Budget

The Mentoring Group does not require funding for its activities for 2014/15.

Submitted on: August 18, 2014