Post Conference Wrap-up

Report on the 2014 NASIG Award Winners

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During the 2014 conference in Fort Worth, the Awards & Recognition Committee presented the following awards: Fritz Swartz Serials Scholarship; John Riddick Student Grant; Serials Specialist Award; Horizon Award; Rose Robischon Scholarship; and the John Merriman Joint NASIG/UKSG Award.

As with past years, all awards winners were asked to complete a survey after NASIG conference. The committee asks for comments, suggestions, and any feedback the current award winners are willing to share. The responses to the Awards & Recognition Committee survey are included below.

2014 NASIG Award Winners Survey
Conducted by Michael Arthur

Why do you feel it is worthwhile for newcomers to the field of serials to attend a NASIG conference?

- Attending this conference is very important because students have different opportunities. Students can: 1) have a chance to talk to different serial/e-resources librarians (how they obtained their current positions, what kind of backgrounds they had had before their current jobs, the responsibilities of their positions, and what kind of qualifications and skills the jobs require); 2) obtain better ideas about how to frame their future career perspectives. The MLIS program does not always teach them practical information while the conference focuses on current issues, challenges,

and opportunities; 3) learn about professional services and research activities in support of promotion and tenure requirements.

- It was a worthwhile introduction to all the current issues with serials. It was also a great way to meet other serials people.
- It's the only conference I've been to that gives information specifically tailored to the work we do with ER and serials.
- The quality and variety of sessions makes it worth it. Every attendee is usually an experienced serials librarian so networking is highly beneficial.

How did attending the conference benefit you personally?

- Before the conference, I was not sure to what extent that I needed to develop my skills to meet the job requirements as a serial/e-resources librarian. The different sessions in the conference gave me the confidence to recognize that my skills are of a high enough quality to serve. However, I need practical experience to transfer my skills to my specific job area.
- I made friends at the conference, and I learned a lot in the sessions.
- Learned new things about stats, etc. and made new contacts
- I took a lot from the vision sessions and from other people I met. It made me be more aware of the issues facing all serialists.

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

- Yes. Since the conference, I have found the area of serial/e-resources very interesting. For example, I would like to know more about the relationship between vendors/publishers and librarians, as well

as issues and opportunities that pertain to open access.

- I work mostly with print materials, and the conference made me consider how I might want to work with electronic resources in the future.
- No
- In a way I suppose I considered the possibility of working as an ER librarian or at least collaborating on projects with one.

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

- Librarians with whom I spoke mentioned that they acquired the skills necessary for their positions only after they had been hired. But currently, there is no entry-level position for serial/e-resources librarians. As far as I know, my MLIS program does not encompass direct skills necessary to apply for these positions. Job descriptions include: - Experience with acquisition and management of electronic resources, including E-Resource Management Systems (ERMs); Familiarity with current and emerging content-linking and authentication standards, including: Z39.50, EZProxy. Therefore, I would appreciate the opportunity to take part in hands-on workshops for us to learn more about these areas.
- Everyone was very friendly and approachable. They were able to guide us newcomers very well.

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

- I really enjoyed my conference experience and my mentor kindly and effectively facilitated my experience at the conference.
- It was a great experience! I am very grateful for the award. I can't think of anything that would make it better.

Do you have any other suggestions or comments? Please tell us about them here.

- It would be great if NASIG members could visit MLIS programs and provide their presentations.
- Some of the application requirements on the webpage were unclear, so it might be good to review the wording of the applications before next year. I also applied for multiple awards, so I had to fill out a different application for each one; since a

lot of the awards have similar requirements, it might be nice to have one application for all the awards (similar to how ALA does it). This might draw a larger pool of applicants.

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

- University of Toronto's iSchool Website
- NASIG's webpage
- I had visited the website and looked for the opportunity.

Where should NASIG be promoting awards?

- I have already asked our Dean of the Faculty to post the awards information on its website
- Web page, listservs, twitter
- Listservs
- AUTOCAT, LIS schools, ACRL, ALCTS, OLAC