

NASIG Newsletter

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Profile

Anne R. Kenney

30th Annual NASIG Conference Vision Speaker

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Anne R. Kenney is the Carl A. Kroch University Librarian at Cornell University and the third of three outstanding vision speakers scheduled to speak at the 30th annual NASIG conference to be held this May in Washington, D.C. Kenney manages and directs one of the top ten academic research libraries in North America, including twenty libraries and over four hundred staff. She has a MA in History, a MLIS from the University of Missouri, and a BA from Duke University. She is a member of the Transition Team for the Association of Research Libraries, on the board of the Council on Library and Information Resources, and on the MIT Libraries Visiting Committee. Last year Kenney was awarded the Hugh C. Atkinson Memorial Award, which honors “the life and accomplishments of an eminent librarian and a leader in library automation, cooperation, and management.”

The external profiles editor interviewed Kenney and the following are some of the questions and the responses shared by this thought-provoking and energetic speaker.

What makes your background ideal for your work?

I have worked at Cornell since 1997 in a variety of positions and have come to know the university and its library very well. Through leadership positions in the profession, I have developed a good sense of the major issues affecting the research library community today.



Photo courtesy of Anne Kenney

What background do you wish you had?

I wish I had a background in business and marketing. Major research libraries are mid-sized companies that must not only prove their worth but also demonstrate their efficiency and effectiveness.

Are there highlights of your work background you would like to share?

For fifteen years, I led research and demonstration projects in digital preservation and digital imaging for libraries and archives. I am the co-author of three award-winning books and over fifty refereed articles and reports.

What are some of the challenges and rewards of your work?

Challenges include addressing the unknown, declining budgets, technological change, digital preservation, and the costs and constraints around digital publishing. Some of the many rewards are working with some of the very brightest library staff in addressing such challenge, and moving the library forward to address twenty-first century needs and opportunities.

What do you hope to accomplish in your current position?

I would like to set direction for the next five years and provide the resources to accomplish our objectives.

How does your work relate to the work of NASIG?

Digital preservation is one of the major challenges to affect the serials information chain and almost all serials have moved online. These challenges are therefore important concerns for NASIG.

What is the topic for your vision session at conference in Washington, D.C.?

My vision session will be on building a social compact for preserving e-journals.

Can you give us some highlights or a teaser?

A digital-first ecology has disrupted traditional roles and responsibilities for preserving the world's scientific and scholarly knowledge. No longer can one partner in the

serials information chain assume full responsibility for this critical role, yet relationship differences are inhibiting rather than enhancing the development of a collaborative approach.

Why is the topic important?

Building a social compact for preserving e-journals will be fundamental to preserving the world's scholarship in the twenty-first century.

The external profiles editor also asked Kenney about herself and her hobbies. Kenney responded,

“When I am not at my desk, I’m a humble piano player and avid hiker. I have summited Kilimanjaro and hiked in the Himalayas, Patagonia, New Zealand, and the United States. Up next is the Inca Trail.”

Kenney is definitely a library visionary and a trailblazer in and out of libraries. She will surely deliver an important vision session.