

NASIG Newsletter

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Post Conference Wrap-Up

Report on the 2015 NASIG Award Winners

At the 2015 NASIG annual conference, the Awards and Recognitions Committee presented the following awards: the John Riddick Student Grant, the Fritz Schwartz Serial Award, the NASIG grant for Mexican students, the Serials Specialist Award, the Rose Robischon Scholarship, and the Horizon Award. Each award included a financial component offsetting award winners' expenses to the conference. At the close of the conference each award winner was asked to comment on their experience. Questions were asked in the form of a survey, a compilation of their responses is included below.

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

- It really will give you a well-rounded and general understanding of the field. The breakout sessions are diverse that you can take a sampling of so many different topics. A newcomer would surely walk away knowing a little bit more about the hot button topics in serials. It's also a wonderful opportunity to get to know your peers who are just bursting to answer your questions and share their professional wisdom with you.
- Yes! A conference is always a good way to jump into a field, refine one's "pitch," learn to talk with other professionals, etc.
- The experience in a NASIG conference broadens our perspective, opens the possibility for dialogue and makes us able to compare the different methods on building a serial collection.

- Unlike the larger conferences with a broader scope, the narrower focus on serials keeps the conference small enough to allow better opportunities to get to know others working in serials.
- The main reason is the face to face interaction (networking). They are able to gain insight and knowledge from others with experience in the field.
- Newcomers can gain valuable practical knowledge from the seasoned and innovative speakers. Professional relationships with fellow attendees can also be a great way to learn about the field.

How did attending the conference benefit you personally?

- I have added to my knowledge bank! The conference definitely reinforced the things that I am learning in library school, and even added some new concepts as well! It's one thing to hear about open access mandates and e-resource management in class. It's another thing to hear it coming from librarians, vendors, and publishers at an internationally recognized conference.
- For me, NASIG was a learning experience I did not expect. I thought that I would be in a very pro-open access environment, but I found myself among librarians and professionals with much more nuanced views. In many cases, I met colleagues whose professions depended on various aspects of the scholarly publishing "status quo." This exposed me to people and perspectives I would not have sought out otherwise, and made me a better open access advocate for it.

- The conference helped me to understand different points of view on the subject, to see serial collections in a new perspective.
- I gained a better sense of the current scholarship in serials, I met others tackling some of the same issues I have been examining, and I reconnected with colleagues from previous positions.
- Attending the sessions gave me a better understanding on how to deal with certain aspects of my job. Also, during the socials I met some great people who were willing to share tips. I enjoyed meeting the students, they had many questions and I was happy to share what I knew.
- It was wonderful to spend time with such a friendly and relaxed group, and I felt very comfortable during the conference. I found that many of the conference session topics were very relevant to my position, and I will definitely be applying lessons learned to aspects of my own job.

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

- Most definitely. I am seriously considering a library career in acquisitions and e-resources.
- If anything, attending the conference confirmed my career plans in aiming for a career in open access and digital rights advocacy.
- It had a big impact on my resume, and makes me able to get a job on serials and to study the subject further.
- Rather than changing my career plans, seeing a continued need for the organization and interpretation of data reaffirmed my concentration on the technical side of serials management
- My career plans were reconfirmed. I am interested in upper management. Attending NASIG gave me an idea of what skills I need to develop.
- My career plans did not change by attending the conference.

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

- I would have really liked to attend one or two of the post-conference workshops, but I couldn't work it in my budget. That would have been a nice addition to the award to be able to attend those without charge.
- My experience was overwhelmingly positive. The application was not confusing, questions about the application/process were answered quickly, decision and disbursement details were communicated comprehensively, and Tim was extremely helpful with travel arrangements. Thank you all!
- This was the first time someone from my university got the award. It was because they didn't get notifications earlier, and the students are not well informed on the awards.
- The timeframe for submission and announcement seemed less concrete than it could have been.
- Rose Robischon Scholarship – any scholarship that offers financial assistance is great. After reviewing the scholarships NASIG offers, none of them mention a mentor. It would be great if the recipients are assigned an experienced NASIG member to serve as a mentor. I think this will be a great asset especially for students.
- Nothing. Every aspect of my experience was a positive one. The various committee members who contacted me regarding the fact that I had won, the registration process, travel plans, & follow-ups communicated swiftly, clearly, and professionally.

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

- I would have liked planned, quick social activities in between sessions. I found myself not really knowing anyone, and the waiting in between sessions was kind of long.
- It would have been good to know more in advance about expectations of award winners, especially what events we should we absolutely be at (e.g. the

opening dinner). It would also be cool to have some way to communicate with other award winners before/after the conference, especially (for me, at least!) with fellow students and early-career professionals.

- I'd have liked to meet more people from the NASIG group, and to see a more diverse group, especially age-related.
- Everything was planned nicely, and I cannot think of anything I would have wanted changed. I felt very welcomed even as a paraprofessional among mostly professionals, and the mentoring program and first-timers reception certainly helped, as well.
- I had a great experience. I didn't know the awards winners would be recognized at the opening reception. I would include this information so winners know in advance.
- My experience during the conference was positive and I felt very welcomed. Communications regarding the awards dinner, the first-timer & mentoring cocktail hour and the committee meeting breakfast were clear and any questions that I posed were answered in a timely manner.

Do you have any other suggestions or comments?

Please tell us about them here.

- The conference was truly a great experience. Thank you for the opportunity.
- Not that I can think of right now, but I will be in touch if I do!
- No, it was great overall.
- I enjoyed listening to the speaker at the awards dinner, and I thought it was refreshing to have that slight break from serials scholarship to hear about local DC history.
- A group photo of the winners – set a no conflict time if possible.
- Can't thank the Awards & Recognition Committee enough, as well as NASIG as a whole, for providing me with this wonderful and enlightening experience. NASIG is obviously a very special group and it has been an honor to meet and learn from the speakers and other attendees. My only

suggestion is a selfish one – keep the conference in the Northeast!!

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

- I received an e-mail on the University of Missouri School of Information Science and Learning Technology listserv.
- Department (UW iSchool MLIS) listserv
- My university got an invitation through AMBAC, the Mexican association on library science. I was working on the program coordination when it came through, so I posted in Facebook and applied.
- The announcement was emailed to all staff in my department by my department head.
- I learned about the awards via NASIG listserv and did more research on the website
- I learned about the awards on the NASIG Website. I was browsing the NASIG Conference Archives to get a sense of what this conference is all about, and followed the 'sponsors' link.

Where should NASIG be promoting awards?

- Everywhere! Lol, just kidding. To library schools was the way I learned. I think that scholarship seekers will look first to their school, so that would be the best and most appropriate place.
- It sounds like NASIG is already promoting to schools/departments. Connecting with student associations (ALISS, etc.) might also ensure that students hear about it and pay attention when they do.
- NASIG website, library listservs, MLS/MLIS programs, other conferences
- Promote awards on the conference registration's website. This serves as a reminder to members that awards are available.
- Large national/International listservs, small local listservs, library schools, social media.