

NASIG Newsletter

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Profile

Carol Ann Borchert,
NASIG President
Sharon Dyas-Correia

Carol Ann Borchert is the 2015/2016 president of NASIG and therefore, as tradition dictates, a subject to be profiled in the NASIG Newsletter. Carol Ann holds a BBA in Finance from the College of William and Mary, an MLS from the University of Kentucky, and an MA in Spanish from the University of South Florida. She has held various library positions at the College of William and Mary, the University of Kentucky, Furman University, and the University of South Florida.

Carol Ann's very first library job was as a student assistant for the secretary who reported to the three division heads at William and Mary's Swem Library. Typing and reading her supervisor's reports gave her a great overview of library operations, and she gravitated to the technical services section. When a part-time staff position opened in serials cataloging at Swem Library, her boss suggested that Carol Ann apply for it. Carol Ann loved her work there, and went straight on to library school at the University of Kentucky. She graduated from library school in 1991. While studying library science, Carol Ann worked as a graduate assistant in monographs cataloging at the University of Kentucky. As part of her degree, she did a fieldwork placement in serials cataloging, since that was what she was hoping to do upon graduation. However, the job she landed was as a monographs, not a serials, cataloger. There was a period of several months where Carol Ann worked as acting head of the Serials



Photo courtesy of Carol Ann Borchert

Department but she did not have the acquisitions background to move into that position—nor, at that time, did she have the interest in acquisitions. In 1995, as materials were starting to move to electronic formats, Carol Ann moved into a position at Furman as reference and government documents librarian. Two years later, she moved to the University of South Florida in an equivalent position for reference and government documents. She moved to a full-time reference

position in 1999 with a focus on Latin American and Caribbean collections.

In 2004, Carol Ann felt she had finally come “home” when she took on a technical services position as the coordinator for serials at the University of South Florida. This job has a heavy acquisitions focus rather than cataloging, which she finds is a good fit for her after all. She says she enjoyed working in public services, and it gave her a necessary perspective for what she does now, but she is happiest in technical services. Carol Ann manages the acquisitions and access for subscription journals and journal packages acquired by the University of South Florida. She also oversees the seventeen open access journals that the library hosts and publishes in the Scholar Commons repository. In her daily work, she is both a customer and a publisher.

Carol Ann joined NASIG the first time in 1991, when she was in graduate school and hoped to become a serials cataloger. In 2004, when she moved from reference into the coordinator for serials position, she says she asked a colleague for advice. The colleague’s first suggestion was to “Join NASIG!” (with an exclamation point), so she did. Carol Ann has held quite a few positions on NASIG committees including:

- Member, Nominations & Elections, 2005/2006
- Co-editor, NASIG Conference Proceedings, 2006-2008
- Member, Awards & Recognition, 2008/2009
- NASIG Secretary, 2009-2012
- Co-Chair, Electronic Communications Committee (now Communications & Marketing), 2012-2014
- And, Vice President/President Elect, 2014/2015

When asked about the challenges and rewards of being president of NASIG, Carol Ann replied that one of the biggest rewards is getting to know her fellow board members over the course of her term. She really enjoys seeing the “back office” side of how NASIG works and helping to get that work done. The biggest challenge for her is the time commitment. When asked what makes her background ideal for the work, Carol Ann replied that she has a tendency to be really organized,

which is why she started out with a finance degree and gravitated to technical services when she started working in libraries. She said that, as is the case for most serials folks, she also enjoys problem solving. She indicated that both of those skills have been serving her well as president, as have her years of public services, which helped her both to overcome her tendency to be an introvert and to feel comfortable to working with people.



Carol Ann in Ireland, 2014 (Photo courtesy of Carol Ann Borchert)

When asked why she wanted to be president of NASIG, Carol Ann responded that the landscape of serials has been changing for years, and the line between serials and other continuing resources has blurred. As a result, she said, many of us are now working with other types of electronic resources, such as databases, e-books, and datasets. Our skills working with online publications have also translated to managing repositories and library publishing initiatives. Carol Ann continued by pointing out that this is an exciting time to be working in these areas of librarianship. NASIG has been broadening its focus in recent years, and she would like a chance to help the rest of the profession become aware of the great work NASIG is doing—even better if they join and become part of it!

Carol Ann was asked what she hopes to accomplish as president of NASIG. She quickly responded that she would like to help the organization grow its

membership numbers, get a strategic plan in place, and help to position NASIG as a contributing force in the profession, beyond the conference. On this last point Carol Ann pointed out that the core competencies have already generated a lot of buzz in the profession. Carol Ann then asked and answered the following question: “What other initiatives could NASIG implement that would have a similar impact?” Her response was that if you have an idea, please contact someone on the board or come to the membership meeting and share your thoughts.

When asked about her role as president Carol Ann said that as president, she is the face of NASIG for this year, but it is only for one year. Her role is to help keep NASIG moving forward. According to Carol Ann, NASIG has been kind of turning a corner for the past several years. Just like when driving a car, we slowed down a bit while taking that turn, that transition, and our membership shrank, but now we have completed the turn and are getting ready to speed up and accelerate again. She pointed out that her predecessor, Steve Kelley, laid some good groundwork for NASIG to expand by getting the name change done, and the new vision and mission implemented. Those changes had been years in the making, but they finally came to fruition last year. Now NASIG needs a strategic plan as a roadmap for the next few years. Carol Ann pointed out that the presidents who come after her will benefit from the foundations built this year.

Next, Carol Ann was asked what are the most and least important parts of her job as president. She replied that the most important is staying on top of things and staying organized. The NASIG secretary helps her stay on track to make sure that things do not fall through the cracks. The newsletter editor also nudges her to remind her of deadlines. Many of the board members bring ideas to the group, including suggestions from the many NASIG committees. She says that we have a lot going on at any one time, so it is important to stay focused on the biggest issues and to move things out to the committees when possible and appropriate to get broader input. As for least important—sometimes, she says, it is her own opinions that are least important.



Photo courtesy of Carol Ann Borchert

She tries to get out of the way so that everyone on the board has a chance to be heard. A strong group decision is better than one person's will. Carol Ann was also asked what she wished that she knew before becoming president. She responded that having been secretary under three NASIG Presidents, she felt pretty well prepared for this position. She also had the additional year as vice president to get acclimated. According to Carol Ann, there have not been many surprises...so far.

Carol Ann was then asked what she would want to tell the world about herself, her family, hobbies, etc. She responded that she has five brothers and no sisters, but she is fortunate that her brothers have great taste in wives, so her sisters-in-law are awesome. As for hobbies, she reads a lot, and though her main genres are science fiction and fantasy, she reads pretty much anything that strikes her fancy. She has also been doing Irish dancing since 2006, and her favorite TV shows are *Doctor Who*, *Good Witch*, and of course *The Librarians*.

When asked what other organizations she belongs to that she doesn't mind the world knowing about, she replied the American Library Association, the Association for Library Collections & Technical Services, and the Florida Library Association. As for other volunteer positions, Carol Ann has been a peer reviewer for her state association magazine, *Florida Libraries*, for several years. She confesses to having become a compulsive editor. Another fun fact about Carol Ann is that she likes taking vacations in the middle of nowhere, with no phone or computer access. She said that she loves, loves, loves going to Ireland. She has taken two walking tours in Ireland and had a fabulous time. Her vacation pictures for the past several years are on her Flickr site at <https://www.flickr.com/photos/16673865@N06/albums/>. As is evident in the photos, her mom is one of her favorite traveling companions.

When asked if there were anything else she would like to include, Carol Ann's final words were: I think that covers it!



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