



Post Conference Wrap-Up

Report on the 2016 NASIG Award Winners

At the 2016 NASIG annual conference the Awards and Recognitions Committee presented the following awards: the John Riddick Student Grant, the Fritz Schwartz Serials Education Scholarship, the NASIG grant for Mexican students, the Paraprofessional Specialist Award, the Rose Robischon Scholarship, the Birdie MacLennan Award, the First-Timer Award, the John Merriman Joint NASIG/UKSG Award 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, and 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?

- As a newcomer to both the field of professional librarianship and serials management, attending the NASIG conference provided me with an invaluable networking opportunity. I am the only librarian working in serials at my institution and having an organization devoted solely to my area helps me stay on top of current trends in the field. The sessions were fantastic as well as the social events. I feel like I've made some great professional connections that will stick with me as I move forward in my career that I would not have met without attending the NASIG conference.
- Serials world (Electronic and print) is complicated. There are several presentations at this conference based on practical experience, so one can learn a lot.
- The NASIG conference program covered a variety of topics relating to not only serials but also important issues like open access, library system migrations, online resources, and vendor relations. While most topics focus on can focus on serials, this variety is a good start for different interests among the serials field.
- The attendance at this type of conference allows you to know another panorama, different contexts, and for other job prospects and skill. You see cases of real situations and problems which a librarian faces every day and the solutions they find. Also attendance allows you to meet people working in different countries, states, and institutions, and they have other ways to manage and view your world. You find new trends of work, new ways of development activities, and meet new sources of information. Above all, attendance allows the librarian stay at the forefront of changes.
- It's a great way to meet others in similar roles as well as leaders and reps from vendors.
- NASIG's conferences offering a great mix of big picture presentations that help situate one's work within the wider landscape as well as practical, view-from-the-trenches kinds of workshops with information that one can take back to the workplace and implement. NASIG attendees are generally warm and welcoming to newcomers, enabling those new to the organization to feel like they have found their place
- My impression from attending this year's conference is that NASIG conferences are one of the most ideal conferences for newcomers, especially

library school students. As a relatively small conference, activities are more or less spatially contained, which means it's not an entirely overwhelming experience. For every first-time attendee, it felt like there were 2 long-time attendees who were enthusiastic to strike up a conversation with you based solely on the fact that you were a first timer --which creates an incredibly welcoming environment and a perfect icebreaker for any setting. My work in serials stems from the fact that I wanted work experience before attending library school, and serials-related positions are some of the most accessible positions to someone without an MLIS (or other Masters degrees). And as many serialists can testify, working with serials is hardly just processing magazines or standing orders. In my position, I get experience with all kinds of work--electronic resources, cataloging, scholarly communications--and attending this year's NASIG conference allows me to keep up on issues across the board. As a new professional and grad student, this conference also served as a great introduction into librarianship as a whole. It can be hard to find professional development activities that speak directly to the work that I'm doing in such an inclusive way as NASIG does. And of course, communication never stops at the conference's end--if you miss a business card, there's always SERIALST.

- The conference was great for a few reasons. I attended sessions on issues that were new to me and that I hadn't ever thought of before. I also got to meet a lot of people and even spend time with people from my institution that I don't see on a regular basis. I also found the whole conference very energizing, the atmosphere was so positive and encouraging that I came back to work very eager to share my experience and to tackle new problems.
- NASIG provides a great opportunity for newcomers to develop their professional network and to know the trendy topics in the field.

How did attending the conference benefit you personally?

- Although I've been working in libraries since a teenager I just completed my MLIS May 2015 and started my first professional position in January 2016. Working in academic libraries is a change from public libraries for me and I haven't had many opportunities to attend national conferences in the past. Being able to attend the NASIG conference as an award winner provided me with a huge confidence boost and allowed me to experience what it's like to network in a national organization. I feel much more confident in my position now with the experience I've gained at the conference.
- I networked with my colleagues and attended sessions of my interest.
- The conference had many social opportunities that allowed me to meet librarians from cities and schools of different sizes. Learning about how organizations differ made me appreciate how our library functions and gave me ideas on how we, as an organization, can be more efficient and do things differently.
- For me as a student to attend this conference was very interesting since I met people with different perspectives on the profession, who had experience in the management of serials publications in the real world, and not just theory. Knowing the experiences of other librarians in their workplace allowed me to learn about the skills that I need to acquire. This conference also helped me see the different trends in serials and the work that exists around serials. I won this scholarship to support my professional formation, to reinforce my knowledge, to learn from others, and this conference allowed me to learn more about repositories, cataloging, metadata and e-books.
- I was able to discuss my research with others interested in OA topics.
- This is probably my 15th NASIG conference, so it was as always a good chance to catch up with old friends and colleagues and learn about what's new in the world of serials. Being able to attend the

UKSG conference allowed me to make new connections in the UK, while also providing me with a wider view of the scholarly communication landscape, particularly the different initiatives carried out in the UK.

- I met a lot of new people in the field. For a seasoned professional, libraryland may be small, but for a new professional, it feels impossibly large. Through conversations before sessions, during breaks and over meals, I received advice about grad school, career guidance, solving specific difficulties at work, and guidance on tackling more general issues at my job. As I remarked many times since the start of the conference--it was refreshing and amazing to learn so much that was directly relevant to the work I was doing, and to be able to see how much I could directly apply to my work. Trust me when I say I took a lot of notes.
- I made great connections and learned a lot about how other libraries handle issues in serials management. It also helped put me on the radar at my own institution since it became a talking point for me and provided an opportunity to talk with co-workers that I don't usually get to see on a daily basis.
- I made great connections and learned a lot about how other libraries handle issues in serials management. It also helped put me on the radar at my own institution since it became a talking point for me and provided an opportunity to talk with co-workers that I don't usually get to see on a daily basis.
- I came to the conference with two clear goals: presenting on our approach of managing e-books and showing our local development of improving CORAL workflow at the CORAL user's group meeting. It was immensely encouraging to see others show strong interests in our work and to see how our work would benefit the community. After talking to other librarians, I realized we were not the only one facing the challenge and issues in the e-book landscape. I'm looking forward to some potential collaboration with others.

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

- When I started my search for a professional librarian position I went in with an open mind. My background is quite varied and I do have experience in serials working at the Wisconsin Historical Society managing their serials collection. My current position at an academic library managing the print and electronic serials collections is great and constantly evolving. Attending this conference showed me that this field is thriving and although print serials are declining, electronic resources are one of emerging fields in librarianship. I think this will be an area that will keep me happy for many years to come.
- No, it did not. I am quite well established in my career and future plans.
- I am finishing up with library school and working in the e-resources, serials, and acquisitions field though many of the classes don't focus on this area. Attending the conference definitely confirmed my interest in this area and made me feel at ease with fellow attendees.
- Before the conference I understood some aspects of serials, but the conference opened up my view of seeing and working with serials.
- Not really, as a mid-career person.
- No.
- I was and still am focused on scholarly communications. I was brought to this work through working with serials. I wasn't expecting NASIG to be so entirely relevant and practical in relation to my current work and what I want to do as a career. Attending this conference validated and informed my future career plans all around--from the vision speakers to conversing with attendees who currently hold positions that are more or less dream jobs for me.
- Attending the conference definitely solidified my desire to be in Technical Services, I've always been interested in it but the sessions at the conference affirmed that this is definitely the area I want to be working in.

- As a career changer from a different field, I'm a new to academic librarianship. But I can tell this is a profession with constant change and it requires us to be able to embrace the changes. I believe it's people who drive and make the change, so networking and collaboration will help us advance in this profession. The conference provides a platform to meet people and to get involved with committee work, which will in no doubt further my career.

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

- My experience was really positive and I didn't think the application process was too cumbersome. I would say making it easier to book flights and providing award winners with their own hotel rooms would be a good idea.
- For NASIG: This year most of the programs related to e-resources management were scheduled for Sunday morning at the same time. I was interested in all of them but could attend only one due to the time conflict. I think you could do better with program planning and schedule e-resources management related sessions throughout the conference and not at one particular time. At this time, I am unable to recall if there were any e-resources management related programs on the previous two days of the conference. I understand that NASIG is mainly concerned with serials management and not e-resources management but scheduling all the e-resources related session towards the last leg of the conference is definitely not a good idea. Low attendance and schedule conflict is quite discouraging for the presenters and attendees. Scheduling the conference sessions is a hard job so this is just my humble suggestion and not a criticism by any means.

For Award Committee: I personally think it is helpful to know how many applicant one was competing against in a specific award category. It kind of

builds confidence. So, If NASIG could just add a sentence in the award letter stating "We received ___ number of applications and you are the lucky winner" or something like that, it would be helpful. Or, you could announce at the inaugural session about how many people applied for the awards in various categories.

Another suggestion is that NASIG members should be given a chance to serve on one of the NASIG committee of their liking or they could be nominated to the committee of their choice by the NASIG award management committee. I think, in the long run, a possibility of getting professionally involved in a committee of your choice is more rewarding than the money for attending the conference. This aspect also brings in commitment from the award winners and a gives them a chance to engage in continuous learning and fulfill their professional or scholarship responsibilities.

Also, if you gave a chance to the award winners to speak for just about 1 minute while accepting the award, it would help them to connect with the audience and express their gratitude in front of a larger audience.

- No suggestions for improvement.
- The reimbursement model can be a little problematic.
- One thing that would be helpful for the Merriman Award is if the award winner could be selected and notified earlier in the year. I was notified on March 1 and had little more than a month in which to make travel plans for myself and my partner to attend UKSG, which might be fine for domestic travel but is a little tight for international travel. It would also allow the award winner a little more time in which to set aside money for the inevitable side trips and sight-seeing they might want to do before or after the UKSG conference.
- I can't think of anything that could possibly be improved!

- I can't really think of anything, I really appreciate that there are paraprofessional awards.
- I think the Committee did a fabulous job for the Award program. And I greatly appreciate they were able to accommodate everything I needed for attending the conference.

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

- Unlike other conferences I never found myself sitting in a corner alone at NASIG. I did like the idea of the Dine Arounds but it might have been nice to group people by interest. It would also have been nice to have arrived the day before the conference started because with flight delays I almost didn't make it to awards ceremony on time.
- There should be one session, where everyone comes together and discuss what they do and how NASIG could help them. We did have a breakfast session but very few people were there. It should be mandatory to attend.
- I felt that NASIG and the Awards & Recognition Committee were so welcoming during the time before the conference in planning for travel and accommodations and especially during the conference. I don't think there was anything that could have made me feel more at ease or improve my experience.
- The winners can also present a lecture.
- Nothing, really. It was a blast.
- Nothing that I can think of
- You all did a fantastic job, and I'm greatly appreciative of all the work you put into the program!
- I had a great conference experience and appreciated how many award-winner events there were. The environment at the conference was also incredibly welcoming and supportive, so I can't think of anything I'd improve.
- I had a wonderful experience at the conference and will definitely come back next year.

Do you have any other suggestions or comments?

- I had a wonderful experience and I can't say enough how grateful I am for the opportunity to attend as an award winner. I feel this gave me a boost professionally and a boost in confidence in my new position. Everyone in the organization is welcoming and kind and I made connections that I can ask questions of later. I hope to be able to attend next year too!
- You guys are awesome and thank you for providing such opportunities to librarians.
- No other suggestions or comments.
- That all the presentations that were given in the conference was recorded for that later were shared in his YouTube channel
- Nope
- Nope!
- No other suggestions.

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

- Website.
- I am a NASIG member and a previous award winner so I know about the awards through the emails and other announcements.
- Being a student member of NASIG taking advantage of the free student membership offered, I am on the NASIG listserv as well as SERIALST. My supervisor also forwarded me the award information encouraging me to apply.
- By means of the Asociación Mexicana de Bibliotecarios and by the teacher from Development collections of Escuela Nacional de Biblioteconomía y Archivonomía
- I think I first learned about NASIG's awards way back in 1998, when a friend who was a member at the time told me about them and encouraged me to apply for the Fritz Schwartz scholarship. I applied for it (didn't get it) as well as for a student grant, which I did get and which enabled me to attend the conference in San Diego.
- Through working on CMC

- Through research for library grad school scholarships. I can't remember what exactly led me to apply for this one--maybe between ALA's website and an email on a SERIALST?
- SERIALST listserv and from my supervisor.
- NASIG website

Where should NASIG be promoting awards?

- Library schools for the awards for students and listservs for professionals. An increased social media presence might be a nice idea too.
- I think you are doing great job of promoting your awards.
- If not already, NASIG should use university LIS organizations to promote the awards. I've seen postings on forums in the course management systems for scholarships and job postings. This could be used to target applications for the student awards.
- Library faculty and promote more on the YouTube Channel
- I think the current promotion strategies are pretty good.
- Aside from the places where you're already promoting them, I am not sure.
- Multiple listservs, grad school program coordinators, Facebook groups, the twitterverse
- Outside of listservs and maybe publisher websites (?) I'm not sure. I think that it's just a matter of people drowning in email and it can be hard to get through all of that. Maybe it's a matter more of changing the subject line of the emails to make sure they get noticed.
- Listservs, website, and social media.