



NASIG NEWSLETTER

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Columns

Checking In

Kurt Blythe, Column Editor

[Note: Please report promotions, awards, new degrees, new positions, and other significant professional milestones. You may submit items about yourself or other members to Kurt Blythe at kblythe@email.unc.edu. Contributions on behalf of fellow members will be cleared with the person mentioned in the news item before they are printed. Please include your e-mail address or phone number.]

NASIG continues to be super popular, as evidenced by the worthies you'll find below. Please help me in welcoming our new members:

Maria Aghazarian is the digital resources and scholarly communications specialist at Swarthmore College in Swarthmore, Pennsylvania:

I wanted work experience before I started library school, and I found myself falling into serials librarianship. I started at Swarthmore as the serials and e-resources specialist, where I mostly managed print continuations and standing orders and assisted with e-resources. My responsibilities expanded as I was eager to learn more, and my introduction to NASIG came through the Fritz Schwartz Serials Education Scholarship and the privilege to attend the 31st Annual Conference. The conference was incredible because not only did I learn a lot, but I learned a lot that I could directly apply to my work. In particular, it was a fantastic opportunity to connect with others on issues of open access. It's pretty amazing to see the wide array of work covered by NASIG attendees, and to see that it's not unusual for serials librarians to be working with/in scholarly communications.

Rachel Becker, previously the serials acquisitions assistant at the Wisconsin Historical Society, now the electronic/continuing resources librarian at the University of Wisconsin – Parkside, writes:

My career in libraries has been varied from public to archives to academic and finally electronic resources. While in library school, I accepted a position at the Wisconsin Historical Society working in the serials department helping to manage a large collection of print journals and newspapers. I found the work both fascinating and challenging. After graduating, I decided I wanted a position where I could use the skills I had learned in this position as well as gain new ones in the academic library world. My current position is a delightful mix of electronic resources management, collection development, copyright advising, and research help. I became involved with NASIG after I was awarded the 2016 Horizon Award and enjoyed attending my first conference. I look forward to many more years as a NASIG member!

Lisa Gonzalez writes:

I first became involved with NASIG when I attended the conference for the first time in order to give a presentation on institutional repositories and metadata about journal articles. NASIG seemed like the best venue for this topic, and I was pleased with the response to my topic and the overall quality and relevancy of the conference to my work as an electronic resources librarian in a theological library. My interest in the conference was sparked in the first place because of NASIG's work to produce the document *Competencies for Electronic Resources Librarians*. The competencies do a very good job of outlining the scope of work that many e-resource librarians perform, and I found the document to be

very helpful as I planned my own professional development.

Besides studying ways to improve electronic resource management, I am also interested in exploring how libraries can make better use of data to improve acquisitions decisions and make the best use of library budgets. I am also passionate about supporting open access in scholarly communication and would like to see more systematic investment of time and money by libraries to develop and support open access projects. Currently, I am the knowledge base and license manager librarian with the PALNI (Private Academic Library Network of Indiana) consortium. My job focuses on supporting librarians in their work to maximize access to electronic resources for their patrons and to improve their libraries' e-resource workflows. Now that I'm officially a member of NASIG, I plan to explore more of what NASIG has to offer as far as professional development opportunities.

Bethany Greene [ed. note: my colleague!] is very grateful to have been awarded a position as Carolina Academic Library Associate in the E-Resources and Serials Management department at University of North Carolina (UNC)-Chapel Hill.

Since starting the position last fall, I have acquired a much deeper appreciation for serials and feel as if I have truly found my place in the library world. I frequently look to NASIG materials for direction and guidance as I become more familiar with the responsibilities of electronic resource librarians. I am currently a student member of NASIG and hope to attend a conference in the near future.

John Kimbrough writes:

I'm an electronic resources librarian at Georgetown University in Washington, DC. After several years as a reference librarian and other public service positions at Georgetown and the University of Chicago, I recently made the jump to the dark side (or saw the light) in technical services. My new colleagues strongly encouraged me to attend the NASIG conference in Albuquerque, and now I understand why it was on the "must-do" list!

Peter McCracken, at Cornell University:

I'm a returning NASIG member, rather than a new member. Some long-time members will recognize my name in connection with Serials Solutions, which I founded with my brothers and a friend. Serials Solutions introduced me to NASIG and I thoroughly enjoyed participating in, presenting at, and attending conferences from 2002 to 2009, including being on a planning committee for 2003's conference in Portland. Before starting Serials Solutions, I was a reference librarian at East Carolina University, and then at the University of Washington. In 2009, I founded ShipIndex.org, and with ShipIndex, I attended the 2013 conference in Buffalo, which was not too far from my home in Ithaca, NY, where I've lived since 2007. In June 2016, I became electronic resources librarian at Cornell University, and in that role I found it important to re-join NASIG. I look forward to re-engaging with NASIG members and contributing my experiences as a reference librarian, an e-resources management vendor, a database vendor, and now an e-resources librarian.

Then, **Nayeli Cortés Rafael**, writes:

I am a student from the Escuela Nacional de Biblioteconomía y Archivonomía. I am currently in my ninth semester and am performing my social service in the Lorenzo Boturini Library (Biblioteca Lorenzo Boturini) at The Insigne y Nacional Basílica de Santa María de Guadalupe. In this library, I am cataloging serials publications.

I am finishing my studies and have found that in school we are only taught a little about continuing resources. However, throughout my academic training as a librarian I have discovered new trends in the world of serials publications. This is why I was interested in seeing the call that came through of the Asociación Mexicana de Bibliotecarios for scholarships to NASIG for Mexican students. It was an opportunity not to miss.

In truth, I do not regret having attended the 31st Annual Conference in Albuquerque, New Mexico, because I was opened to new expectations for my work, and ways of working, and aspects of the daily life of working in continuing resources. Because I am

a few steps away from beginning my professional career, I have enjoyed being a part of the conference. I am now a member of NASIG and look forward to working with serials in the future.