



Post Conference Wrap-Up

Report on the 2017 NASIG Award Winners

At the 2017 NASIG annual conference, the Awards and Recognitions Committee presented the following awards: the John Riddick Student Grant, the John Merriman Award, the NASIG grant for Mexican students, the Rose Robischon Scholarship, the Horizon Award, the Paraprofessional Specialist Award, and several First-Timer awards. Award recipients were asked to comment on their conference experience in the form of an online survey that was distributed. Many award winners responded to the survey, and what follows are their comments.

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

- Attending the NASIG conference really broadened my perspective on what other professionals are doing across the entire field of information services.
- It is an opportunity to meet colleagues in a similar field so you can make useful contacts for your career. For example, many of the long term attendees were going through an LMS upgrade around the same time and could discuss the benefits and pitfalls of implementation.
- It is a great opportunity to meet and network with professionals in the field (including other newcomers!). Obviously it is a place to learn, but it does provide opportunities to learn about different work being done in the library field.
- The word "serials" no longer encompasses print and I feel NASIG has moved beyond the print paradigm to include electronic resources and other relevant

information in the different sub-sectors of librarianship.

- It was a great experience as a paraprofessional. Newcomers will learn the many facets of serials outside of their specific roles in their jobs.
- Serials are very foreign and sometimes confusing compared to working with monographs, so it's helpful to attend a conference focused entirely on serials and to meet other serial/e-resource librarians who have been through this sense-making process. NASIG also offers a much broader array of programs than most librarians know because it doesn't get the publicity some of the larger conferences get.
- Practical information you can take back to the library and use, plus an opportunity to network with potential mentors and collaborators.
- I feel that the conference was helpful for newcomers in educating them on the current issues in serials and e-resources. I also feel that it was good to meet others in the field and make connections.
- NASIG members are the friendliest group of people I've met! They are very welcoming to the new members and students attending the conference, and the support given was very helpful in feeling at home at the conference venue in Indianapolis.
- It is worthwhile for newcomers to the field to attend NASIG because of the content presented during the sessions. The different sessions provide a solid base for potential type of work that they will encounter in their positions.

How did attending the conference benefit you personally?

- I benefited from the chance to hear about what other peers are working on in different types of organizations, and made wonderful new acquaintances that I hope will grow into professional collaborations and friendships in the coming years.
- I was able to get an insight into how my American and Canadian colleagues are progressing with open access, how they are promoting it at their institutions, and I was also introduced to OERs - a new concept for me.
- The conference benefited me by giving me the chance to talk with new people, learn about different areas of the library, and provide the space and opportunities to experience a new city.
- The biggest strength was the intimate size to get to know others in the profession doing similar work as I am.
- I made some contacts for future serials related issues not just specific to systems or programs. I learned a lot from sessions involving our upcoming migration to Alma. I felt more comfortable at this conference, more engaged with other people interested in serials and not as another "Librarian".
- I've got a dozen contacts to call (or tweet!) for help with our (probably eventual but currently potential) migration to Alma. So, I feel much less alone there. (No less worried though because migration still sounds problematic.) I also gained a better appreciation of working with vendors to solve problems like unauthorized resource access instead of merely being frustrated with the options they provide. (I'd still like to see an open source LMS rival the corporate products, but it's a work in progress.) I think I may have made some actual friends too!
- I'm still reviewing my idea list I compiled while at the conference! So many good ideas for workflows, assessment, managing the work of serials management.

- I felt that it helped me to better understand some of the challenges facing others in serials and e-resources, and to connect with others in the field.
- I continue to learn more of the lingo attached to serials / e-resources work by having attended both the ER&L and NASIG conferences this year. I also am able to bring back interesting information about the work NASIG members are doing and share that with various librarians here at my institution. I also presented for the first time professionally, and that was a highlight of the conference for me, building my confidence and my public persona too.
- I was able to see what other libraries were doing in relation to serials and information resources.

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

- Attending the conference gave me more confidence that there is indeed a broad range of career options for information service professionals. It also confirmed my desire to spend more time boosting my technology skills, as these are utterly important regardless of a person's job title.
- Not really, I'm quite well established in open access now so hope to remain in this area.
- The conference did make me think about other opportunities that are out in the library field and how I may be interested in, at the very least, looking into them.
- It didn't necessarily influence my career plans but rather validated that I have chosen the right area for my skill sets.
- NO, I'm looking at retirement these days, not career advancement.
- Somewhat. I've had the ERM portion of my career for only a few years, so learning serials and e-resources these has been challenging. I've considered going back to being a traditional cataloger because there's several layers of complexity managing both roles, but NASIG has given me hope that I can figure it out. It has also made me re-evaluate where I should be serving. A smaller organization has some advantages over the

large sections of ALA. (Don't get me wrong. I love ALCTS and LITA, but I might not be able to afford multiple conferences per year if I get into one of the higher service roles.)

- No
- No.
- I am very interested in Acquisitions and Collection Development work, which intersects nicely with my work experience in Interlibrary Loan and Document Delivery, and learning more and more about serials and e-resources helps me feel more comfortable in thinking about an ERL position in the future.
- No, only because I am already in a position that is setting me up to where I want to go in my career. It is already focused on information resources and serials.

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

- I wasn't a Horizon Award winner, but all awards programs seemed extremely well organized. My feedback would be to simply keep the same calendar/level of information-sharing with applicants and winners.
- I didn't get this award so I cannot comment. I got the John Merriman Award and the program was faultless- the application was straightforward, the result was given in a timely fashion and bursary provided swiftly.
- I'm not really sure.
- I do not feel I have enough knowledge to comment on the Horizon Award.
- Don't know.
- I don't think you need to do anything to improve the award program except publicize it more. I heard about it through my boss, but I'm not sure if it was on any of the listservs I subscribe to. (It probably was, so disregard this if I'm wrong.)
- No suggestions. Communication was clear and neither spotty or overwhelming.
- I didn't really see anything that needed improvement with the program itself.

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

- I'm having a hard time coming up with ways to improve the experience, because it was so wonderful! My feedback would be to simply keep the same calendar/level of information-sharing with applicants and winners. The first-timers reception and first-timer conference mentor program is really helpful.
- Very little- my experience was great. The first timers reception was good, the "dine arounds" are a great idea- much more relaxed than a conference dinner, the catch up breakfast on the last morning was enjoyable. All in all a brilliant experience.
- Not much; it was a great experience.
- This was the most organized awards committee I have ever seen. Please keep it going!
- There was some confusion on the sessions and locations a few times. That could be improved.
- The buddy was great! I think you should remind the award winners while everyone else is filing out to go to the reception to gather where-ever for the winners' picture. My coworker and I won an award, but missed the picture because we didn't see anyone or know exactly where to go, so we followed the crowd. Also please print a copy of the conference schedule.
- No suggestions. One of the better conference experiences I've had
- I thought the experience was good, and I don't have any specific recommendations.
- I don't really think there is anything more you could do, to be honest! It was a wonderful experience from the get-go ... from Mary Bailey answering questions I had about the application form, to Tom Osina's helpful emails and prompt replies to questions about registering and receiving the grant monies, to all of Katy and Shannon's emails about the student presentations, to everyone greeting me so readily when I arrived in Indianapolis. The hotel was wonderful and wonderfully situated to be able to take in a bit of the city too. Everyone at the conference really seemed to care that we students

felt welcomed and accepted as professionals in our own right. The attendance at the first-ever student presentations was HUGE, but felt very welcoming and supportive of our fledgling efforts to present professionally. All of the events pulling the first-timers together were great too, as it gave us other newbies' faces and names to connect with. All in all, a great experience!

- It was a well-run conference, I cannot think of anything to improve the conference.

Do you have any other suggestions or comments?

- NASIG is a wonderful organization, and I'm very glad to be a new member as of 2017.
- No suggestions. Thanks for the experience!
- This is unrelated to the Awards committee per se, but I ran into some confusion with the hotel charging me for the room when the award was supposed to cover it. It took some time to resolve and a lot of back and forth with the hotel but perhaps there might have been a way to avoid or prevent that in the future, as it seems Michael Hanson had others in addition to me, in a similar situation contacting him.
- More sessions and less main speakers after day 1.
- Nope.
- The stretching into Sunday made the conference seem a little long. On the other hand, not ending at 3pm or 4pm on Friday afternoon is much appreciated!
- No.
- My only suggestion is to try and get more proteins offered at breakfast! I would like Greek yogurt and an egg station and Canadian bacon, instead of white-flour carb-y products (which I do enjoy, don't get me wrong! but they don't set us up for thinking well during the morning sessions).

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

- On the UKSG website and from a colleague/friend who previously attended.

- Through NASIG's website and my current supervisor mentioned them to me.
- I have been following NASIG's awards since my first paraprofessional job in 2007. Because I did not receive proper support to attend professional development opportunities when I was a paraprofessional, I did not apply until I attained a librarian position.
- Co-Worker
- I applied for a UKSG award the year before and our boss saw NASIG's scholarship email, so she sent it to both of us.
- Colleagues
- I learned about them from a NASIG member/board member.
- A coworker mentioned the conference and the student awards to me. She is not a NASIG member right now, but has been in the past and had attended a conference or two as well, so she knew of the organization's high quality.
- I learned about it through a colleague who saw the award on one of their listservs.

Where should NASIG be promoting awards?

- I believe the awards are already being promoted in logical, high-traffic places: LIS school dept. listservs, code4lib listserv, etc.
- UKSG website/newsletters and possibly through CILIP as well.
- In library graduate school programs, the NASIG website, listservs, and committees.
- NASIG, ALCTS, Charleston, social media, and various technical services and scholarly communications listservs.
- Maybe not so much where but how? Many librarians probably know about NASIG but I didn't until this year when a co-coworker (Librarian) suggested I apply for the award to attend the conference. Maybe it should be suggested, where ever you promote the award, to be sure to include non-librarian serials (paraprofessionals) to apply also.

- Primo, SFX, BIBFRAME listservs. Others from ALCTS that seem applicable. Twitter!
- Beyond listservs I am not sure. Ambitious but you could create e-mailing lists - people who came in the past but didn't attend last year - department emails that go to technical services, periodicals, e-resources, etc.
- The website and relevant listservs.
- All library listservs; in ALA magazine and online posts; messages sent to all library schools for them to send on to their graduate students.
- Listservs.

Other comments?

- Thank you again, I had a wonderful time.
- Looking forward to next year's conference
- Thanks for sponsoring my attendance! I learned much and I had a great time.
- Looking forward to next year!
- Thank you for checking in -- one more example of the great service and caring that exemplifies NASIG and its members!