



Profiles

Christian Burris, Profiles Editor

Profile of Danielle Williams, CPC Co-Chair

Danielle Williams is the collection development and electronic resources librarian for the University of Evansville Libraries in Evansville, Indiana. A longtime member of NASIG, she served as the co-chair of the Conference Planning Committee for the 2017 Annual Conference in Indianapolis, Indiana. My interview with Danielle was completed by e-mail on Monday, August 7.



Photo Courtesy of Danielle Williams

How did you become involved with NASIG?

I was a shiny new periodicals librarian many years ago and my boss encouraged me to join. I attended my first conference and that was it. NASIG provided some desperately needed guidance to a new librarian and helped me get through the day-to-day needs of being a periodicals librarian. As my position changed, NASIG seemed to change as I needed to learn new skills. The

more I learned from NASIG the more I wanted to give back.

What are some of the committees that you served on in previous years?

I have served on PPC (Program Planning Committee) as a member for two terms; served on the mentoring committee; served two terms on CPC (Conference Planning Committee) as a member; and served on Nominations and Elections as vice chair. I've also served on PPC as vice chair and chair.

What was it like serving as a co-chair of CPC for the conference in Indianapolis?

I had to think long and hard about serving as co-chair. I was just finishing up as PPC vice chair and chair, which was two years of intensive work on the conference. But I was also familiar with CPC, having worked on CPC twice and having worked closely with CPC as a part of running PPC. I knew it was going to be a daunting challenge, but I also knew I would enjoy it. And I really did. It was fun working closely with the board and the PPC, and it was great fun researching activities for NASIG. Having attended so many conferences over the past seventeen years I knew what was expected at the conference and I did what I could to make the conference fun and unique.

What are some of the greatest challenges for CPC?

CPC is responsible for any issues that attendees may have, be they dietary or emotional. We have to be prepared for any eventuality and hope that nothing

comes up we aren't prepared for. The CPC is visible at the conference to ensure everything runs smoothly, but unless you serve on CPC you don't realize how much is going on before the conference and behind the scenes to ensure that everyone has what they need. We can get advice from previous conference committee chairs, but something will inevitably come up that CPC needs to be prepared for. CPC chairs really need to be able to think on their feet.

Conversely, what are some of the greatest rewards for CPC?

The end of the conference was my greatest reward. Not because a long year was over, but because the year had not gone to waste. There were no disasters, we were able to handle any issues that came up, everyone seemed to enjoy the opening session, and no one attacked us at the registration table.☺ I walked around and checked everything between and during sessions, and everyone seemed to have a great time. That was my best reward.

What is the best piece of advice that you received as a co-chair of CPC?

From Betsy Appleton, a 31st [NASIG conference] co-chair: "Don't spend every minute at the registration

table." I didn't get a chance to attend more than two sessions, but I was warned about spending all my time at the registration table. I was busy running around and checking AV and set-up for the sessions, but I also escaped for a few hours each day. I had a great committee who pitched in to handle any issues that came up and that made it easy for me to get some time away. I would give the same advice to next year's co-chairs.

Do you have any goals for the upcoming conference in Atlanta?

I am going to be a regular person at Atlanta. For the past three conferences I've been involved in some way with the running of the conference. Next year I'm going to attend sessions and not stress.

Do you have any additional comments?

Don't be afraid to serve on CPC. It's a lot of work, but it is worth it.