



Profiles

Profile of Shannon (Regan) Keller

Christian Burris, Profiles Editor

Shannon (Regan) Keller is the Acquisitions Coordinator of E-Resources and Serials at The New York Public Library. She became the chair of the Digital Preservation Task Force, and the group will be working for the next two years. I completed my interview with Ms. Keller by e-mail on November 22, 2017.



Photo Courtesy of Shannon Keller

What led you to become a librarian?

It became clear early on in my undergraduate career at Michigan State University (MSU) that I did not want to become a teacher as I had planned. I was working at the MSU Main Library in circulation at the time and began to ask questions and explore the librarian profession as a career. I had a very supportive supervisor while at MSU, who helped me reach out to and coordinate with librarians in other departments, to shadow them and ask them questions about their careers. Through these discussions I decided to pursue a MLIS. It was through a work study program while pursuing my MLIS that I became interested in managing e-resources.

How did you arrive at the New York Public Library?

My husband and I moved to New York City in 2014 for his career. Upon our arrival in NYC, I accepted a one-year, grant-funded position at Columbia University Libraries to explore ways in which to expand the coverage of e-journal preservation. I knew this was a short-term, temporary position when I accepted it, so I was always on the look-out for new opportunities in NYC. I applied for a position in acquisitions at the New York Public Library (NYPL), managing e-resources and serials, and started in August 2015. Just this past week I accepted the position of Helen Bernstein Librarian for Journals and Periodicals with NYPL's Research Libraries Collection Development department.

How did you get involved with NASIG?

I first learned about NASIG when I worked with Betsy Appleton at George Mason University. She introduced me to the organization and a year later I applied for and

received the Horizon Award. This was in 2013 and I have not missed a NASIG conference since!

What is the charge of the Digital Preservation Task Force, and who is involved?

The formal charge is:

The charge of the Digital Preservation Task Force is to identify ways in which NASIG can raise awareness of and develop tools for reducing the risk of losing vulnerable digital scholarly content. The task force will identify new roles for librarians and publishers as well as the impact of these changes on preservation in an ever-changing digital environment, and develop some best practices for the industry. The task force will identify ways in which NASIG can be involved in proactive digital preservation, including tools for marketing digital preservation to a broad range of library administrations and publishers.

One of the task force focuses that I find particularly interesting is exploring how NASIG, as an organization, fits into proactive digital preservation. NASIG membership has a vested interest in the success of digital preservation initiatives and this task force will make recommendations as to how the organization can support these goals.

The task force membership has representatives from public and academic libraries, and a non-profit (Hypothes.is); we would love to have publisher representation on the task force, to have their perspective and insight. If you're interested, please email the committee at: nasig.dptf@gmail.com.

What are some of the challenges in digital preservation?

Navigating the technical standards and best practices for digital preservation, in a rapidly changing field, is one of the biggest challenges. Tracking new developments in digital preservation can be particularly cumbersome if you're a librarian managing multiple different workflows and projects. I think the overarching challenge of educating stakeholders about digital preservation and how institutions can support these initiatives is one the task force is particularly well

suited to explore. The task force is actively working to demystify digital preservation and give information professionals the tools to be advocates for digital preservation at their institutions.

Does the task force have a timeline for its work?

Yes, the task force will provide final recommendations to the Board at the 2019 conference.