



President's Corner

Steve Oberg

Although this column appears in March, at the moment of writing at the end of January, winter is definitely still in effect in the Chicago metro area where I live and work. Actually, I enjoy the snow and cold, perhaps because of my Scandinavian and Scottish heritage. Then, too, I like the fact that the days are getting noticeably longer. The other day, as I left work, I was pleased to see a bit of light still left in the sky for the first time in a long, long while. The sun is setting later and later each day, and this added glimmer of light gives me hope for spring.

There is more than a glimmer of light ahead for NASIG in the coming months as well. Some reasons for my optimism:

- A really strong conference program has been put in place for #nasig18 in Atlanta by program planning folks that builds on the theme, "Transforming the Information Community." (We had an unusually high number of proposals to sift through, which is a good thing!)
- Conference planning folks are also quite busy working out various important details to make your visit to the upcoming conference as welcoming and beneficial as it can be.
- For #nasig18, we will have in place an important agreement with a new A-V vendor who will provide new kinds of services for us such as dedicated WiFi internet access and expanded

conference session recordings for a reasonable price.

- A new task force is hard at work, laying out plans for transforming our web-based infrastructure over the next year or so.
- In addition to the strengthened relationship with the Library Publishing Coalition mentioned last time, we are also in the process of figuring out ways to more closely collaborate with our sister organization, UKSG, and we are actively investigating ways to collaborate with other groups as well, such as ALCTS.
- Each committee is now regularly reporting on how its work fits into/addresses aspects of the new strategic plan put in place last summer.

I've enjoyed a number of online and offline interactions with people who are interested in NASIG, and my sense from those interactions is that we are making progress in awareness about what we do, who we are, and why our work and events are valuable. Of course, this is highly anecdotal and unscientific, but I find it encouraging. A key aspect that has generated interest is NASIG's relative affordability. My sense is that increasingly, people are figuring out how expensive some other conference events are in comparison to ours. They like what they see in past NASIG conference programs, and they like that we offer greater value, particularly for attendees who might not have full-time professional employment or who might be working at

the moment as paraprofessionals. Another aspect of our work that has garnered positive attention is our recently released *Core Competencies for Scholarly Communication Librarians*, a well-received contribution that demonstrates our expanded mission and vision.

In April, I will proudly represent NASIG at UKSG's annual conference in Glasgow, Scotland, and I'm looking forward to the opportunity to tell UKSG attendees about us and the work we are doing. This annual tradition of leaders of both organizations exchanging visits to our mutual conferences has always been a critical component to cementing our long relationship, stretching all the way back to NASIG's origin.

organization. I'll plan to report on that experience in my next, and final, column.

In the meantime, I cannot say it often enough, and I mean it sincerely: THANK YOU ALL for the ways in which you support this great organization. Please continue your support, please plan to join us for #nasig18 in Atlanta, and please spread the word to others!



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Over the next few days, the Executive Board will be meeting for its first ever virtual winter board meeting. We will be discussing in detail all of the great work that is going on among various committees, as well as looking more closely at some options for strategic changes in the way we work and in what we do as an