



# NASIG NEWSLETTER

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## Columns

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### 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 [kcblythe@email.unc.edu](mailto:kcblythe@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.]

Once again, friends and colleagues, our Checking In column weaves a fascinating tale of how our membership comes to be:

**Sharon R. Argov**, EdD, MLS, AHIP, founding director of the library at Larkin University, writes:

I am not a serials librarian; however, after reading information on the NASIG website, I felt it was a valuable organization for me. I am very interested in the issue of access to information, especially for diverse populations, and align with the NASIG vision. While conducting research for my dissertation on the information seeking behavior of nontraditional college students, I learned much about the roadblocks to access of online information, in all segments of the population and for varying causes. I am committed, in whatever small way I can, to improve access for all. As NASIG is not a librarian-only organization, there is good opportunity for substantive interchange and communication with vendors and publishers, as well as library professionals. I look forward to developing relationships and learning new ways to incorporate best practices, not only for access to information, but in the finding and appropriate use of the wealth of information that is available in the "information superhighway." The following quote sums up my philosophy as a librarian: "In the nonstop tsunami of

global information, librarians provide us with floaties and teach us how to swim" (Linton Weeks, Washington Post, January 13, 2001).

**Keondra Bailey** of Duke Medical Center Library & Archives writes:

I have been working in libraries (or library-adjacent capacities) since 2009, and along the way, I've met quite a few people who are current or former NASIG members. I am currently working toward my master of library science with a concentration in digital librarianship at North Carolina Central University. Recently, the school's website posted that NASIG membership was free to current students, and as I get closer to graduation and the realization of what I would like to do with my MLS, and how closely it aligns with the organization's mission, I thought it was about time I joined NASIG. I'm excited to be a member of NASIG for networking and opportunities to continue to develop my skills in the field of technical services. If you see me at a conference or other event, say hello!

**Melissa Belvadi** writes from the University of Prince Edward Island:

I work in a small public university in Canada, with just six librarians, so we all wear many hats. My official title is user experience & collections librarian, but folded into that are the roles traditionally known as acquisitions librarian, serials librarian, and electronic resources librarian. I am also a reference librarian and subject liaison for several departments including psychology and sociology. I have been in this role at UPEI since 2011, but I also have experience managing the electronic serials at my previous position at a university in the United States, where I managed all electronic resources through the growth of online serials.

I have joined NASIG this year in conjunction with deciding to attend my first NASIG conference. I can only afford one big American conference per year, and I had been going to Charleston in past years. As I've recently started up a major new project here involving assigning Library of Congress classes to serials, I decided I needed to connect more specifically with serials librarians.

**Zacharia Benalayay** writes:

I am a master's student at the University of Texas at Austin School of Information pursuing studies in digital librarianship and information architecture. I am currently working on several digital initiatives projects for a few of the libraries on campus, focusing on preserving and assessing the value of their born-digital content. I developed a passion for information retrieval and libraries during the research phase of my undergraduate studies in classical language at Dickinson College. I love learning, and working in a library has given me the opportunity to help others learn and discover their passions. I joined NASIG early in my studies because I wanted to immerse myself in the field and learn from professionals like you fine readers about all the latest developments. I'm excited to be a part of the community, and I look forward to reading and hearing more about you all in the future.

**Martin Chandler** writes:

Originally from Nova Scotia, Canada, I recently completed my LIS degree, during which I learned a little bit about the wide world of serials, scholarly communication, and NASIG. As I transition into my career, I'm looking forward to learning more through the mentoring program and committee participation. I have a great interest in linguistic barriers in academia, as well as the ongoing potential of open access publishing, especially in regards to its possibilities for historically marginalized communities.

**Fanuel Chirombo**, MS, MLS, is a serials & electronic resources librarian at Salisbury University. He started his career in librarianship as a library circulation assistant at the University of Zimbabwe in his native country and was later appointed the librarian for a local

bank, Universal Merchant Bank, before he migrated to the United States in 2005. In the United States, he worked as a contract reference technician at the University of Maryland, Baltimore Health Sciences and Human Services Library in 2006 before he accepted a regular position as a circulation technician at Morgan State University in 2007. Later on, he joined the University of Maryland University College as a contractual document delivery technician in 2009 before going back to University of Maryland, Baltimore as a serials technician at the Thurgood Marshall Law Library. After completion of his graduate degree in library science at the University of Maryland, College Park, he accepted a position as cataloging and reference librarian at the University of Maryland Eastern Shore in 2014 before accepting his current position in 2016. Currently, he is studying for a PhD in organizational leadership, and his research focus is on transformational leadership, job autonomy, and turnover intentions of academic librarians.

**Demar Cornwall** is a Jamaican public servant who works as the librarian (head of unit) for the Arnel S. Henry Standards and Technical Information Centre at the Bureau of Standards, Jamaica. He appreciates information collection, management, and sharing, and the technologies used to accomplish these activities. Demar is passionate about public service, and his core interests are in government/corporate innovations, policy writing, development, planning, and research, particularly for developing countries. His current aim is to become a digital curator/knowledge manager and an adjunct lecturer in library and/or information studies. Demar may be contacted via e-mail at [demar.cornwall@outlook.com](mailto:demar.cornwall@outlook.com) or [demar.cornwall@alumni.uwi.edu](mailto:demar.cornwall@alumni.uwi.edu), or on Twitter @princecornwall. Currently, he is a student at the University of the West Indies within the Department of Library and Information Studies and is a member of the academic board for the School of Library Technical Education. Demar learned of NASIG from a Twitter post from a follower who had just registered and joined to get a multicultural/procedural approach to serials management. Also, it would be fun to meet new people!

**Melissa Freiley** saw the NASIG tweet that students can join for free and took advantage of that opportunity.

Melissa writes:

I am very interested in serials and e-resource librarianship and information science in general. I am so appreciative of the opportunity to be involved in an association that strives to increase understanding of information resource management. I am an information science graduate student at the University of North Texas, set to graduate in December, as well as the library cataloging technician at Denton (Texas) Independent School District. I am looking forward to increasing my knowledge and networking through NASIG!

**Juán-Pabló González** writes:

I am a student at the Catholic University of America, in Washington, DC. I am professionally interested in information literacy, digital literacy, research process instruction, and educational outreach in the special collections environment. I have recently become a student member of NASIG because I am interested in exploring the use of electronic serials, publications, and digital information as teaching tools.

**Laura Gricius-West** writes:

I am now in my fifth year as the electronic resources librarian at Saint Anselm College, a small Catholic liberal arts college in New Hampshire. I never anticipated being in this position when I graduated from the University of Alabama in 2010 (roll tide!). Cataloging was my forte and this position did not exist. New leadership saw the need for such a position, and I jumped at the opportunity when approached. Currently, we are implementing a new electronic resource management system (Sierra), and I joined NASIG as a way to network with colleagues in a similar position. Having never worked with an ERM system, I have so many questions! I look forward to attending the conference and meeting members who might be able to help me grow in my position (and on a personal note: to say hi to all my family members in Atlanta!).

**JaEun Jemma Ku**, PhD, internet applications systems specialist at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, is new to NASIG. A co-presentation brought her to NASIG, and she is looking forward to meeting with NASIG members for the first time.

**Raquel Lynn** has been working as a monographs cataloger for thirteen years at Stony Brook University on Long Island, New York. She writes:

I first heard about NASIG from my former supervisor, Violeta Ilik, who is the Program Planning Committee chair. She encouraged me to apply for the Rose Robischon scholarship, which was awarded to me. I look forward to meeting everyone and learning about MarcEdit 7 at the conference.

**Jennifer Pate** is the scholarly communications and instruction librarian at Collier Library at the University of North Alabama. Collier Library launched their institutional repository in February, and Jennifer is working to build campus support and awareness as well as to solicit faculty and student publications and research. In addition to her scholarly communications work, Jennifer teaches information literacy classes to First-Year Experience and freshman English students and is the library liaison to English, foreign languages, and chemistry and industrial hygiene. Jennifer uses “NASIG Core Competencies for Scholarly Communication Librarians” as a framework for much of her scholarly communications work, so she was happy to join the ranks of NASIG members this year and looks forward to presenting at this year’s conference in Atlanta.

**Jill Power**, MLS, senior product manager, platform and user experience, EBSCO Information Services writes:

Simultaneously working in a library as well as working on the vendor side has made for an interesting career. I have worked as a product manager in a variety of industries and as a part-time reference librarian in a public library. Both have provided me with a holistic look at content and data as well as the end user’s experience with them. Most recently at EBSCO, I have focused on how to

make our products more accessible for users with disabilities. This experience has opened up to me a whole new way to look at the world and the content we provide online. I have learned a lot directly from students, and I am excited and passionate about improving access to our products for all users. I look forward to speaking at the NASIG conference in June where I can share a little about what we are doing at EBSCO and what we have learned. It is a continual learning process so we are excited to have a forum to share our stories and yours.

**Rebecca Tatterson** writes:

I am the new electronic resources librarian at Joyner Library, East Carolina University. My background is in public services and interlibrary loan, so I am new to e-resources from the management perspective. I am fortunate to have the opportunity to work with my colleague Angela Dresselhaus as I obtain skills in my new position. I look forward to working with everyone in serials librarianship and meeting others at the NASIG conference in June.

**Richard Wade** writes:

I'm a graduate student in the information and library science program at the University of Buffalo. I am the current president of the Library and Information Studies Graduate Student Association on campus. When I'm not reading copious amounts of material for school, I enjoy participating in Krav Maga lessons. I also collect vinyl records and baseball cards in my free time.