



Interview with Arthur Aguilera, John Riddick Student Grant Winner

Why do you feel it is worthwhile for students to attend a NASIG conference?

Attending NASIG as a student provides an incredible opportunity to meet working professionals in the field you are thinking about going into. You'll often get to meet individuals whose papers you might have used in a class or whose chapters you might have read in a textbook. It's your opportunity to get first-hand knowledge straight from the geniuses themselves! It's also a great way to get connected with other students who are in the same boat as you are. These connections will most likely stick with you throughout your career.

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

Attending the conference helped me affirm my interest in working in serials and scholarly communications. It's one thing to read about this kind of work, but it's another to completely experience what the work is like through professionals who do it daily. Attending the conference definitely made me excited for the career I am choosing.

How did attending the conference benefit you personally?

Aside from getting to learn more about the profession in a way that was impactful, I gained a sense of community that I wasn't expecting. By attending, I automatically felt that I was a part of something. On

the last evening of the conference, I spent time with other student grant winners as we explored Atlanta and pondered what the future of library work was and how we fit in it. That personal experience made me feel more connected to the work of today and excited about the challenges of the future.

How did you learn about NASIG's awards?

My colleague, Nancy Donahoo, is the one who told me about the grant awards when she suggested that I co-present with her about work we had been doing. I was so incredibly humbled for her to even suggest that I apply.

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

I felt extremely taken care of by the Awards & Recognition Committee, and Del Williams was incredible to work with. I really appreciated the time set aside for the award recipients to get together to talk about our experiences over a meal, and I hope that continues in the future. I am extremely thankful for the experience I had, and a large part of that was due to how organized Del and the Awards & Recognition Committee was.

Arthur Aguilera is an administrative assistant for Albertsons Library at Boise State University. He recently graduated with a Master's degree in library and information science from the University of Washington

in June 2018. Arthur received a 2018 John Riddick Student Grant Award and was a co-presenter at the NASIG Annual Conference.