



## Post-Conference Wrap Up

### 2018 Conference Evaluation Report NASIG 33<sup>rd</sup> Annual Conference Transforming the Information Committee June 8-11, 2018

2018 Evaluation and Assessment Committee:  
Michael Fernandez (Chair), Esta Tovstiadi (Vice-Chair),  
Clint Chamberlain, Melody Dale, Tim Hagan, Preston  
Livingston, Trina Nolen, Diana Reid, Derek Wilmott

The 33rd Annual NASIG Conference was held in Atlanta, Georgia. The conference offered four pre-conference workshops, three vision sessions, thirty concurrent sessions, one “Great Idea” showcase with thirteen presentations, a student spotlight session with four speakers, a snapshot session with six presentations, and a vendor expo. Other events included an opening reception, first-timers’ reception, vendor lightning talks, and informal discussion groups.

There were 149 surveys submitted from 317 conference attendees. Survey respondents could enter a name and email address for a chance to win a \$50 Amazon gift card. Gregory Yorba from California State University – Fullerton was the winner.

Below is a summary of the survey results.

#### Conference Rating

Respondents were asked to give ratings on a Likert scale of one to five, with five being the highest. The overall rating of the 2018 conference was 4.29. This was a decrease, albeit a small one, from the overall rating of

4.33 in 2017, and the second year in row that the overall rating decreased. The rating was comparable to the similar 4.28 rating of 2015.



Figure 1. Overall conference satisfaction rating.

In terms of geographic location, Atlanta was rated 4.28, nearly identical to the overall conference rating of 4.29. This was an increase of the 2017 location of Indianapolis, which rated a 4.16.

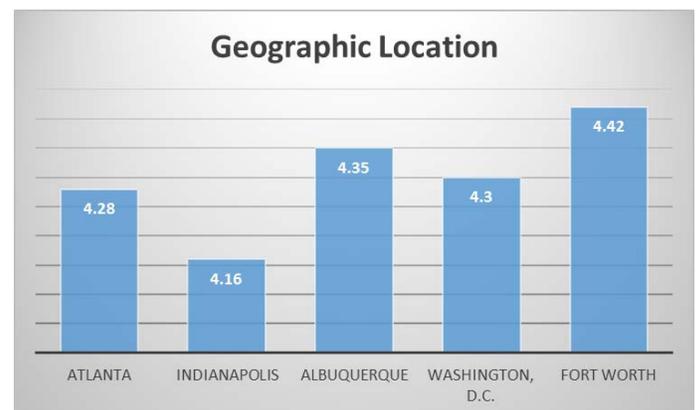
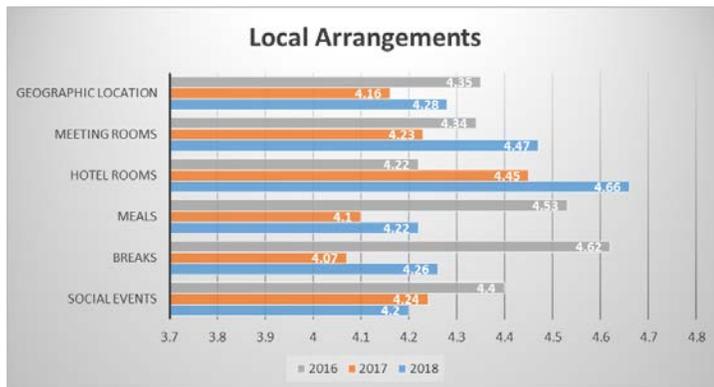


Figure 2. Satisfaction with conference location.

51 respondents commented on the facilities and local arrangements. Many noted the lack of vegetarian meal options and breakfast options overall. The hotel facilities were generally regarded highly with many praising the hotel staff. The hotel's accessibility by public transportation was also appreciated by many respondents who were able to conveniently travel there directly from the airport.



**Figure 3.** Satisfaction with local arrangements.

95% of survey respondents used a mobile device during the conference. The most common uses of mobile devices during the conference were to look up schedule and room information, take photos, and post on social media.

### Program Descriptions, Online Conference Information, and Schedule

The vast majority (85%) of survey respondents rated the layout and explanation of programs a 4 or higher with 55% assigning a rating of five.

A majority (52%) rated the usefulness and design of the online conference information to be a 5, with an overall weighted average of 4.33. Several respondents praised the Sched app in their comments.

The overall scheduling of the conference was met positively, with a majority of the respondents agreeing or strongly agreeing that the right amount of time was left for breaks (91%), programs and sessions were the appropriate length of time (95%), and that the conference was well-paced throughout without feeling

rushed or leaving too much unstructured time (87%). One scheduling issue that was noted by multiple commenters was the Saturday evening dine-arounds, which began immediately after the late afternoon sessions, forcing many attendees to leave the Student Spotlight Session and Great Idea Showcase early.

### Pre-Conference Workshops

The four pre-conference workshops received weighted averages ranging from 4.06 to 4.38. Comments were generally positive though it was noted that the Friday workshops overlapped with the user group meetings.

### Vision Sessions

Three vision sessions were a part of the 2018 conference. The average overall ratings for the sessions ranged from 3.99 to 4.33. Sören Auer's presentation was well-received for a topic that many respondents noted was new to them. Many respondents commented on the thought-provoking nature of Lauren Smith's presentation on equity of access. Lisa Macklin's presentation on open access was highly-regarded and generated several comments on its relevance and practicality.

### Other Sessions

NASIG 2018 offered 30 unique concurrent sessions. 24 of those (80%) received an overall rating of 4.0 or higher. The number of sessions offered was higher than last year's conference in Indianapolis. Most comments were positive, or offered specific, constructive criticism of an individual session. The Evaluation & Assessment Committee distributed individual feedback to presenters upon request.

As in previous years, the 2018 conference offered a session for Vendor Lightning Talks, featuring ten individual talks. This session was not evaluated.

This year's Great Idea Showcase consisted of 13 unique presentations, higher than the seven presentations in

2017. The weighted average for these ranged from 4.0 to 4.38. The Showcase did not generate many evaluation comments, though several respondents used this section to note the scheduling conflict with the Saturday dine-arounds.

There were four student spotlight sessions, with weighted averages from 4.28 to 4.62. The comments were largely positive, with many respondents advocating for a more prominent timeslot to showcase student work at future conferences.

The 33rd conference marked the fifth year of the Snapshot Session, “designed for 5-7 minutes talks in which projects, workflows, or ideas are presented.” The session consisted of six presentations, with weighted averages from 3.39 to 4.20. The ratings on these skewed lower, with four of the six presentations receiving lower than a 4.0.

The survey requested that respondents rate and comment on ideas for future programming. Comments were entered with general and specific ideas for various types of sessions. A detailed summary of feedback will be submitted to the board.

### **Opening Reception**

The opening reception at NASIG 2018 received a rating of 3.73. The 2017 opening reception was rated at 4.10. The opening reception speaker, David Bradley, generated much dialogue for an overview of Atlanta history that was widely found to be problematic and insensitive. A more detailed summary of responses will be submitted to the board. While many comments took note of the problematic nature of the speaker’s comments, several also showed appreciation for the timely statement of apology issued by NASIG. The

conference survey did not include an individual rating for the speaker, so the overall rating of 3.73 represents the opening reception as a whole, including meals and activities.

### **Events**

The First Timers Reception received a rating of 4.17. An overwhelming 90.32% would like to see this event continue. Comments submitted about the event were generally positive.

The Members Forum, formerly known as the Business Meeting, received a rating of 4.23. Respondents were appreciative of the budget transparency as well as the opportunity to share a dialogue in the wake of the opening speaker’s controversial remarks.

The Vendor Expo received a rating of 4.10 with the majority of survey respondents (85%) wanting to see it continue.

### **Respondent Demographics<sup>1</sup>**

As in previous surveys, academic library employees continue to represent the largest group of respondents at 77%. This is a slightly higher percentage than was held by academic libraries for the 2017 conference at 74%.

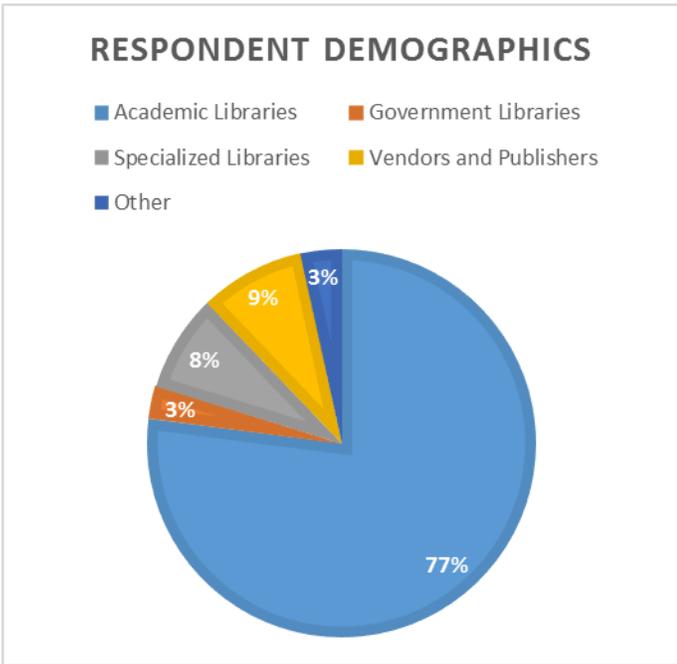
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<sup>1</sup> To ease the reading of the demographic chart, several categories offered on the survey were condensed:

- Academic Libraries contains: College Library, Community College Library, University Library
- Specialized Libraries contains: Law Library, Library Network, Consortium or Utility, Medical Library
- Vendors and Publishers contains: Automated Systems Vendor, Book Vendor, Database Provider, Publisher, Subscription Vendor or Agency
- Other contains: Public Library, Student

Several other categories were available, but not selected by a survey respondent.



**Figure 4.** Respondent demographics.

Respondents were asked to “describe your work” using as many of the 30 given choices as necessary (including “other”). For the fifth consecutive year, “Electronic Resources Librarian” garnered the highest number of responses (64). Serials Librarian (51), Catalog/Metadata Librarian (43), Acquisitions Librarian (38), and Collection Development Librarian (29) round out the top five responses.

When asked about the number of years of professional experience, “11-20 years” received the majority at 47 responses.