



## Articles

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### **John Riddick Student Grant Winner Essay**

Jordan Pedersen

I was so grateful when I received the news that I would be able to attend the 2018 NASIG conference in Atlanta, which turned out to be even better than I had expected! I was especially grateful for the opportunities to present at the student spotlight session, to meet my NASIG mentor (Steve, who is super friendly and made me feel completely at ease), and to attend such a variety of sessions with such interesting people. By attending, I feel like I deepened my knowledge of technical services and collections-related issues in academic libraries especially, and I made a number of connections with American colleagues who went to great lengths to explain how American institutions work in comparison to the Canadian ones I'm used to.

In the future, I will definitely recommend that my peers apply to the extensive scholarships offered by NASIG and, in general, just get involved. For me, it was one of the first times where I felt like I was part of a professional community, not simply a student, and I think that is invaluable for anyone who is about to enter the profession. It also bolstered my confidence, and so when I returned to my TALint position (part-time work on a two-year contract) at the University of Toronto, I offered to share my experiences at NASIG with my colleagues.

Thank you again to all who were involved in securing funding for the awards, to all those I met who made me feel so welcome, and to all the presenters who I learnt so much from. I had an excellent time at NASIG 2018!