



## Columns

### 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.]

In their own voices, our newest members tell the stories of how they came to join our wondrous organization:

My path here has been long and varied – graduated North Carolina State University, paralegal certificate from Meredith College, worked as a litigation paralegal, shifted from the legal field to social services, had a 27-year career (as a case manager, developing case management computer systems as a subject-matter expert and later a business analyst, training case managers, and supervising case managers), picked up a web developer certificate from Wake Technical Community College along the way, and retired early in April. I am ready to begin a whole new journey and use some of the skills I’ve acquired along the way! I’m currently a student in the Academic Library concentration at East Carolina University’s MLS program and interning with Continuing Resource Acquisitions in Technical Services at Duke University.

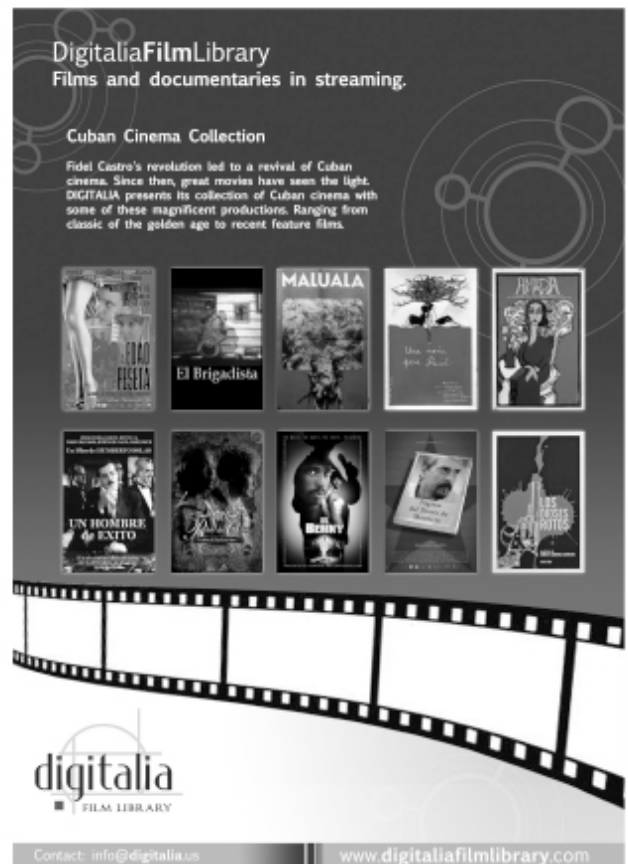
### Abigail Ballard

I have been lucky enough to take on four different technical services roles during my almost five years at the Columbia University Law Library. My newest position is the Head of Continuing Resources and Collection Maintenance. Although I have previously

worked as a serials assistant, I am new to higher level serial issues, and welcome any additional resources on the topic.

My colleagues have strongly recommended NASIG. I am excited for the chance to connect with a new group of people and learn as much as I can!

### Nariné Bournoutian



I lead Gale’s higher education publishing programs and platforms. My goal is to improve how Gale partners with academic libraries around the world to

provide authoritative content through technology that transforms research and teaching. By joining NASIG I hope to stay connected to the needs and problems facing scholars, students, faculty and librarians so our team here can enhance and develop resources that help make our partners and users more successful. I've worked with libraries in the information publishing industry for nearly twenty years and joined Gale ten years ago to oversee our periodical databases. Today, I'm excited to see how technology is transforming scholarship and creating new opportunities for libraries.

**Phil Faust**

**Vice President and Publisher, Academic Product**