



Profiles

Profile of Peter Whiting, NASIG Archivist

Christian Burris, Profiles Editor



Photo Courtesy of Peter Whiting

Have archives been a part of your background, whether personally or professionally?

I did take an archival class when I was getting my master's in library science so I've always had an interest in archives. In my first professional library job as Cataloging Librarian at Prairie View A&M University in Prairie View, Texas, I did catalog old books for the archives. I was always amazed to see old books that were in good condition when I cataloged them. Preservation is important for archival cataloging.

How long have you served as NASIG's archivist?

This is my second time as the NASIG archivist. My first stint as archivist was from 2010 to 2013. I am currently serving the three term as the NASIG Archivist.

Previously the archivist reported to the NASIG secretary and starting with my second stint the archivist is a member of the Communications Committee to keep in the loop on NASIG communication.

At this point in NASIG's existence, do you collect more physical items or digital items?

Way back when in my first stint as archivist the NASIG Board and I wisely realized and recommended that digital is the way to go. It makes my job as archivist so much easier. Now certainly paper has not gone away. I'm grateful for the donations of print that I have received from retiring NASIG members with a treasure trove of information about NASIG.

Have you had any challenges as NASIG's archivist?

The biggest challenge for the NASIG archivist is preserving photographs in the digital age. The focus has been on the award winners' photographs and perhaps putting them in the NASIG newsletter or NASIG blog. That is a good solution to preserve photos for future NASIG members.

Where do you see NASIG's archives in the next five years?

I see the continuation of digital archives including a digital conference folder. The biggest challenge is software or apps that are super awesome but have very little regard for digital preservation. At some point, I hope that the NASIG archives are more digitally accessible at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign where the NASIG archives are currently

housed. That would be great to access the archives online instead of having to trek to the University of Illinois Archives in Urbana-Champaign.

What are some of the more unique items in NASIG's archives?

Photos of NASIG bags that used to be handed out at NASIG conferences. NASIG used to sell pencils and stationary at the conferences so we have photos of those in the archives. In the signed license agreement with the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign we can't preserve three-dimensional works so digital photographs work to preserve the good memories of NASIG.

Do you have any additional comments?

If any NASIG member is unsure if what they have, digital or print, should go into the NASIG archives they should contact NASIG at info@nasig.org for help. The NASIG archivist will receive the email and be in touch.