



## President's Corner

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Angela Dresselhaus

### **Bridging the Gap NASIG & UKSG Working Towards Open Access Conference Proceedings**

On February 4, 2019, the Board announced our Open Access publication plan for the NASIG Conference Proceedings. Steve Oberg invited the chair of the UKSG, Andrew Barker, to the 2018 conference board meeting to propose a partnership between UKSG and NASIG. The board mulled the idea over in the months following the conference, carefully weighing the risks and opportunities. While this process occurred during the past year, the groundwork for Open Access was several years in the making. Longtime members of the NASIG community have discussed this need for at least a decade. A NASIG Proceedings Open Access Task Force was formed and presented their findings to the Board on January 14, 2010. Moving forward with Open Access at the time was a monumental hurdle due to lost revenue from the publishing arrangements and the ability of Proceedings volunteers to manage the workload without professional editorial assistance.

Both hurdles remain present today, but now NASIG has a plan to overcome these barriers. Partnering with UKSG to publish with Insights on Ubiquity Press offers NASIG access to professional editorial assistance and the trust of an editorial board of leaders from the information community in the US and abroad. Currently, two former NASIG Presidents, Jill Emery and Rick Anderson, serve on the editorial board of *Insights*. We are confident that the NASIG Proceedings Committee will have the support needed to manage the workflow.

Our fundraising goal in support of this venture is \$25,000 a year, a challenge we can meet with careful planning and support from the community.

NASIG intends to form a new Open Initiatives Committee, led by Andy Wesolek. This committee will work to ensure that NASIG is positioned to effectively support Open Access publishing, library focused Open Source software communities, Open Educational Resources, and other important open initiatives. A call for volunteers will be forthcoming in April.

The Board is considering expanding membership options to include an International Open Access Individual Supporter membership that would confer access to NASIG member benefits and directly support Open Access publication. Likewise, we are investigating options for an Organization Open Access Supporter membership to offer an avenue for organizations to show their support for Open Access Publication and NASIG.

A third prong of the fundraising plan includes a review of the technologies, services, and practices NASIG uses to run our organization. The board has in recent years worked to eliminate the in-person winter board meeting, saving a significant amount of money each year. Likewise, we expect to realize savings as NASIG inches closer to announcing our conference rotation plan. We are also considering several technology systems changes to reduce overhead cost. The NASIG board is confident that we can work together to support Open Access Publication of the Conference Proceedings.