



President's Corner

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Only two months after becoming NASIG vice president/president-elect in June 2018, I left my library job of 11 years to take a new position with a software development company. This was a lot to take on all at once, and I often wondered if I had made the right choices and how I would handle it all. But as the conference got into swing in Pittsburgh, I realized how grateful I was to have maintained my NASIG connections during a time of change. As always, when walking into a NASIG event, I thought, "These are my people."

And that's what I hope NASIG can be for its members - a community of friends and colleagues that provides professional support, even as our individual circumstances change. I see this creation of connections as the theme that ties together much of the work we will do in the coming year.

The 34th Annual Conference in Pittsburgh gave us a chance to strengthen connections by listening to members in different contexts. We tried something new this year, using one of the plenary sessions to conduct a town hall about diversity issues. These conversations are never easy, and I want to give major kudos to the Equality & Inclusion Committee members who planned and moderated the event with openness and humility. We received a lot of comments from the membership during the town hall and after, and I'm committed to internalizing this feedback and finding ways to act on it.

The Members Forum also brought out some strong voices in support of making NASIG more accessible by

offering discounted rates to members based on salary, especially in light of a coming dues increase. I greatly appreciate the willingness of our members to improve the increase, while at the same time working to ensure that the distribution of costs is equitable. To this end, the Board prepared a new rate proposal for member comment and will aim to solidify the changes this fall.

Another way NASIG connects with its members and the wider community is through the publication of its proceedings. Last year, the board voted to move to the proceedings to an Open Access (OA) publishing platform in 2021. The dues increase will partially support the costs associated with a move, but we'll also need to continue planning efforts this year.

While a move to OA has benefits in and of itself, I've already seen the ways this work has created new connections and energy. Board members from our sister organization, UKSG, have been incredibly supportive, not just in helping us understand our OA options, but in comparing notes and engaging in conversations about our shared challenges. Reenvisioning the proceedings also gives us the chance to evaluate what we're doing now and see how we can make it better. We may be able to tailor writing opportunities to make them more appealing and offer new types of content on a new platform. Finally, considering this change has prompted us to launch a new Open Initiatives Committee, whose scope will extend beyond just the task at hand and suggest new directions for our organization.

To make these goals - and the many others that will inevitably crop up this year - a reality will take a lot of work and commitment. But I fully believe that anything that makes NASIG more available to a broader audience is worth that effort. I want to all of NASIG's current and potential members to have the same opportunity I did to find a place that feels like their professional home.