



Articles

Report on the 2019 NASIG Award Winners

The Awards and Recognitions Committee presented the following awards at the 2019 NASIG Annual Conference: the Birdie MacLennan Award, the Diversity & Inclusion Award (sponsored by HARRASSOWITZ), two First-Timer Awards, the Fritz Schwartz Serials Education Scholarship, the Horizon Award (sponsored by EBSCO), two John Riddick Student Grants, two Mexican Student Grant Awards, two Paraprofessional Specialist Awards, and the Rose Robischon Scholarship. The committee asked award winners to respond to a survey about their experience as recipients. What follows is a summary of their comments.

Why do you feel it is worthwhile for newcomers to the field of serials to attend a NASIG conference?

- There are many reasons why newcomers to the field of serials should attend the annual NASIG conference. For one, we get to network with our counterparts at other institutions. Through the sessions, we discussed some of the challenges in our profession and learned about a multitude of things including new or emerging technologies and best practices, among others. Having the opportunity to learn and network are critical factors, especially for newcomers.
- Making connections with other people who do what you do, who understand the specialized responsibilities of this area of librarianship, is very valuable. Being able to ask your questions face-to-face and get help from people directly, as well as learning about how other people manage their workflow, is incredibly helpful. NASIG is small

enough to not be super overwhelming to navigate, and small enough to really get to know people.

- The NASIG conference was a great introduction to the community of practice. As a newbie, it was an opportunity to learn from more experienced colleagues and establish new professional connections.
- It's useful for the friendliness of the conference. It's a good beginner's conference because it's not overloaded.
- Absolutely worthwhile. I was able to make connections, learn and have a blast at the conference.
- It allows newcomers to realize that there are people out there that have been where you are. That there are people that you can turn to, and gain knowledge from their experiences.
- I think serials are very important in libraries and plays an important role in collection development, budget management, and access.
- I do feel it is worthwhile for newcomers to attend the NASIG conference because it is a great learning and networking experience. Also I find NASIG particularly welcoming and therefore perfect for newcomers who may be anxious.
- By attending the NASIG conference, newcomers can broaden their education and training beyond their own institution and learn about how other libraries are advancing. Through collaborative learning, newcomers can become innovative members of their workplace by bringing back new ideas and practices in the field of serials that they took away from the conference.
- Gain an insight to current methods in the management of metadata and more...

- I believe that there was a lot of information presented at NASIG for a person like me who is just starting out in this field.

How did attending the conference benefit you personally?

- Thanks to the award, I was able to network with NASIG members. As noted in my previous response, I also learned quite a lot and brought some of what I learned back to my institution and shared with colleagues. It was also pleasant to be paired with a seasoned librarian who now serves as a mentor.
- I met great people and had interesting conversations at every meal! I was able to ask some specific questions about my job and get feedback from others, so I could have more context for what I was doing and be reassured I wasn't doing something wrong or missing something important.
- I learned a lot at the conference, met new people, and got a lot of new perspectives...I'll be able to apply a lot of the conference session directly to my job.
- I was able to make connections with individuals that I normally would not have been able to make.
- I benefited from the conference in meeting people from all over that are happy to provide guidance, advice, support, and understand what you are talking about.
- It was my second time to conference, so it was a good experience to meet professional librarians and learn new things
- I benefited from listening to the sessions as well as meeting and chatting with others who do similar work to mine.
- The conference has allowed me to expand my personal network through all of the warm, welcoming and intelligent people I met. The opportunity to present at the Student Spotlight Session has also helped me to grow professionally as it was my first time speaking at a conference. I also took away many ideas that are highly relevant to the projects that I am working on and solutions to problems that my institution is also currently facing.

- The networking was very beneficial in meeting librarians with similar systems and their recommendations to common cataloging issues and general system processes.
- It helped me step out of my box, with meeting people with an entirely different lingo from my previous background. I met some amazing people and attended some great sessions.

Did attending the conference influence your career plans? If so, how?

- I cannot say that attending the conference has influenced my career path. However, I can say that after attending the NASIG conference, I am positive I chose the correct career path.
- I wish I had known about NASIG earlier in my career, as it was very helpful to connect with others doing what I'm doing. It influenced my career in that it confirmed I want to continue working in this area of librarianship.
- I'm already very involved in e-resources and collection management so this conference didn't change the trajectory of my career, but it did give me more resources to tackle problems and make improvements at my institution.
- No, I plan on remaining in acquisitions.
- Maybe it is definitely more in the front of my mind to maybe go for my MLIS.
- I have not decided where I want to be in after I graduate.
- I am a mid-career librarian so it did not. That said, when I first became a serials librarian, NASIG was one of the first organizations I joined and it has enriched my career over the years.
- No, I do not have concrete career plans as I am interested in many different areas of librarianship. However, speaking to other professionals has allowed me to see the vast scope and variety of projects and responsibilities that a librarian in a single department can have depending on the needs of their institution and their own personal interests.
- It solidified my goal of staying in the electronic resource management area of my library.

- Oh most definitely! I was just talking to my boss about it yesterday and asking about online programs that would allow me to get my MLS after I finish my undergrad.

What can NASIG and/or the Awards & Recognition Committee do to improve the NASIG Award program?

- Personally, I would not change anything. It was a fantastic experience.
- I have no suggestions. I thought it was done very well, and felt recognized without being put into too much of a spotlight.
- The only issue I had was that the application form is hard to use and print because of the scrolling textboxes
- I don't know that there is a way to improve it, it seemed to take in diversity and inclusion and seemed to have a great deal of awards given out.
- I believe there is only one award for the paraprofessionals it may be nice to have a second one for paraprofessionals that serials are their career path.
- I hope there is an award to promote diversity and inclusion.
- Can't think of anything.
- Consider investing in more diversity awards. Many groups are still underrepresented in the conference.
- Advertise via ER&L's conference. I learned about NASIG at ER&L from attendees.
- I have never applied for an award, this was not offered in my past career experience at the level I held, so just to have the opportunity to apply and be considered was an amazing feeling and accomplishment.

What could NASIG and/or the Awards & Recognition Committee do to improve your conference experience?

- My conference experience was superb. Hence, I do not think there is anything that can be done to improve the experience for future awardees. One possible suggestion, perhaps, is encouraging interaction among award winners prior to the conference, although this may be tricky.

- One small suggestion would be to include a definition of the different meeting types in the schedule, for those who are brand new. I wasn't sure what a "User group" meeting was (if it was open to anyone at the conference or if it was a closed meeting).
- The conference was great -- I really appreciated the First Timer social event.
- I don't know, maybe perhaps a session to introduce all of us to each other before the awards or have a brunch or something?
- I cannot think of anything.
- Host a short get-together for student attendees similar to the First-Timers reception.
- I had a wonderful experience and enjoyed meeting systems librarians. The best part was going out to eat with other librarians in the evening and talking shop.
- As this was my first big conference. (I have attended a serials workshop.) I believe everything was done perfectly. The first-timers reception was great, explained why NASIG is what it is, and the open session was beautifully outlined.

Do you have any other suggestions or comments? Please tell us about them here.

- I truly enjoyed my time in Pittsburgh. I am grateful to the wonderful group of people who led unofficial tours of the city as well as those who were very welcoming during my stay. Thank you for experience!
- Thank you to everyone who did all the work organizing and putting on the conference and awards program!
- Thank you, I truly appreciated the opportunity.
- It was wonderful to see so many young award recipients. I think it is great that NASIG provides so many award opportunities.
- Enjoyed the location of the conference.
- In my award, I also was offered to be a committee member and I am looking forward in seeing what this all entails for me and my future as I seek a new career in the library field.

How/where did you learn about NASIG's awards?

- I learned about NASIG through a co-worker.
- The NASIG Facebook page
- ERIL listserv
- Email / listserv
- I found out about them through the listserv emails.
- From a colleague
- Through the website and emails
- Email
- I heard about the NASIG awards from my supervisor who is an active member of NASIG and my colleague who had won an award the year before.
- I often visit the NASIG website to read up on what you all are talking about and saw a call for people to apply, so I did, and actually won. I was so excited!
- I am subscribed to ERIL-L's and found out about it that way.

Where should NASIG be promoting awards?

- I would say: social media (Facebook, Twitter, etc.), listservs, newsletters, library magazines and/or journals.
- Via MLIS schools, state library associations, and library-related social media pages/groups.
- E-resource related listservs are great - possibly also ALA Connect if you aren't already?
- Listservs, NASIG website.
- The distribution lists are perfect. I believe you already promote them there. Maybe library school alumni lists?
- Continue posting on various listservs but make the awards page more prominent on the NASIG website as it is buried among too many other categories in the About menu.