



# NASIG NEWSLETTER

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## 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.]

BEHOLD! The continuing saga of NASIG's new members!  
In all seriousness, welcome:

**Jennifer Donley's** life with serials and NASIG began thus:

I was hired as the sole Catalog and Serials Librarian at Ohio Northern University in 2009. At that time all I really knew about serials cataloging was that (per one mentor) it was "like nailing Jell-O to a wall," so my first few years with serials were truly a trial by fire. Retirements and new hires have given our library the ability to restructure our positions and as a result I no longer work directly with serials but I do handle all of the loading of e-resource MARC records for e-books and e-serials. I also work closely with our Electronic Resources Librarian, Heather Crozier, who joined us in 2015 and took most of the serials work off my hands. Heather encouraged me to join NASIG because of my e-resource and collection management responsibilities, and I haven't looked back since!

**Suzanne Fricke**, DVM, MLIS, AHIP joined NASIG in advance of the upcoming annual conference close to her home in Spokane, WA. Suzanne tells us:

The draw was your mission to bridge various library stakeholders and perspectives in the interest of resource discovery and user experience. I am a second career Animal Health Sciences Librarian working at Washington State University as liaison to neuroscience, veterinary medicine and global animal health. My work in reference and instruction really requires a collaborative team of librarians, staff members and resource providers working in cataloging, systems, access services, scholarly communications, assessment and collection development.

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**Colleen Lougen** became a member of NASIG recently after her career came full circle. She began in serials 20 years ago while working as the Project Assistant for the New York State Newspaper Project at the New York State Library. From there, she worked in cataloging, acquisitions, systems, and then transitioned to electronic resources, reference, and instruction at SUNY New Paltz for 14 years. This past May, she began managing serials and government documents, along with electronic resources at SUNY New Paltz, during the SUNY system-wide migration to ALMA. She writes:

It's been a humbling year so I figured I could use the support of NASIG to help me reacquaint myself to the world of serials as I shift gears from public services to technical services. I hope to attend my first NASIG Annual Conference sometime in the next couple of years!

**Ruth Mahaffy** works at the Sioux Center Public Library, doing everything from leading bilingual story hour, to training new employees, to troubleshooting authentication issues with their electronic resources. Ruth notes:

I am currently an MLIS student at Emporia State University and joined NASIG while I was taking an electronic resources management class. I am interested in how public libraries can improve patron access to digital content. My experience is in rural public libraries, so I am familiar with the unique challenges and opportunities that small public libraries face, but I have also enjoyed learning from larger public libraries and academic libraries. I have a special interest in training staff members and helping them build their confidence and competencies in assisting patrons with electronic resources.

**Charlene Morrison** lets us know:

I am excited to have joined NASIG this year. My interest in serials started with NACO series training. After some years of cataloging various materials, I transferred to a new job in OCLC's Metadata Quality and started learning serials under the tutorage of two very knowledgeable serial experts, Laura Ramsey and Robert Bremer. Their guidance was

fundamental in developing my expertise. While the focus of my work is database quality, I am my team's serials expert and continue to pursue avenues to keep up with continuing resource guidelines and trends, including linked data. This past year, I served on the ALCST Continuing Resource Cataloging Committee, joined the LD4 Wikidata Affinity Group, and joined NASIG to become more involved in the professional community.

**Keri Prelitz** started her career in archives but fell into collection development working for a vendor for five years. Keri goes on to share that:

...during this time a colleague told me about NASIG as I had started considering moving back into an academic institution and was looking into conferences and associations in an effort to focus on my professional development. Currently I am the Collection Development and Management Librarian at California State University Fullerton and am looking forward to attending a NASIG conference in the future.

**Pamela (Pam) Scott** informs us that:

I started working at Tripler Army Medical Library in 1989 as a temporary summer hire. A year later I applied and was selected for a permanent position. I worked as a library technician doing serials, binding, circulation, basic reference, and other technician-level work. Our Medical Library purchased Dynix Horizon ILS around 1993 and I was responsible for setting up copy records and prediction patterns for our 750 current subscriptions plus copy records for titles with no current subscriptions. In 2005 I conducted a retrospective conversion project and never regretted it. When publishers started offering digital editions of their publications I created our first website to share our online content. Over the years I have continued to maintain our website and manage our electronic resources. Throughout much of this time I was going to college part-time and completed my MLISc in 2009. Since I was already doing the work of an electronic resources librarian (and really liked it) a new position was created for me. My current responsibilities include managing eResources, setting up eResources in Serials Solutions, managing our link resolver and A-Z list, troubleshooting access issues, managing the library

website, collecting and compiling usage statistics, among other things. Many librarians appreciate the satisfaction of the face-to-face interactions with patrons when doing reference (as do I) but I have a great deal of satisfaction working behind the scenes so that our users can quickly and (hopefully) seamlessly access our resources from different platforms.

My name is **Carrie Voliva** and I'm the Serials Specialist for Indianapolis Public Library (IndyPL). Prior to starting this position in September 2018, I worked in several public services positions within IndyPL, from page to supervisor librarian. My undergraduate degree is in Journalism and I worked short stints in both public relations and book publishing before moving to the library world so I feel like all my professional experiences and studies have uniquely prepared me for this role!

My greatest challenge right now is our upcoming ILS migration (Horizon to Polaris) and setting up our serials subscriptions, holdings, and check-in records from scratch. We have 24 branches and are moving to centralized magazine check-in and barcoding of all issues. I've only started dipping my toes into digital access but determining what access we can provide for both staff and patrons with our public library budget will be an on-going challenge.

Since I'm the lone staff member looking at serials' issues at my library, I was heartened to connect with NASIG and hope to meet many fellow members at an upcoming conference.