NASIG Newsletter

Post-Conference Wrap Up

2020 Conference Survey Report
NASIG 35th Annual Conference
June 9-11, 2020

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The 35th Annual NASIG Conference was the first fully online NASIG Conference. Due to COVID-19 health concerns, the NASIG Board transitioned the conference from being in-person in Spokane, WA to online via Zoom. NASIG was able to make this free for attendees through the generous sponsorship of vendors. The online conference took place over three days and included one keynote speaker, 13 live sessions, two vendor lightning sessions, and 13 pre-recorded sessions. Other events included a fun run, ice cream break, and first timer's meet-up -- all online.

There were 256 surveys submitted. This is a significant increase from last year's 98 from Pittsburgh. This is because of the large number of online attendees since the online conference was free.
Respondents were asked to give ratings on a Likert scale of one to five, with five being the highest.
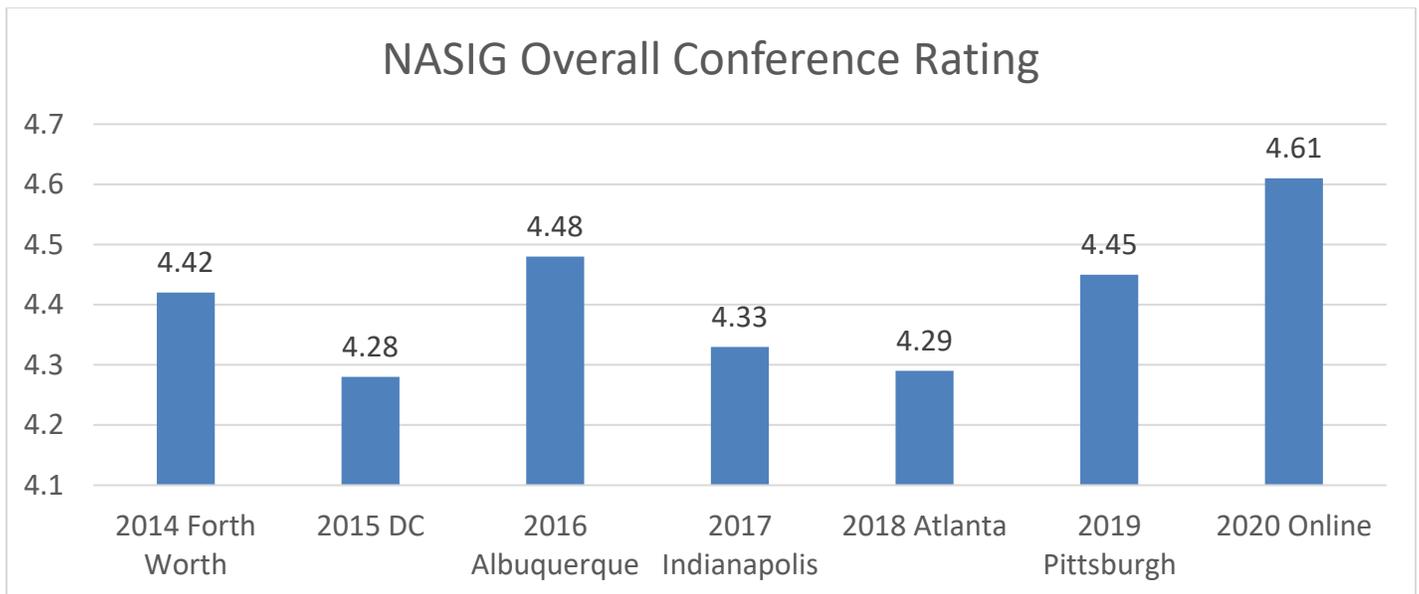
Respondent Demographics

Non-NASIG members had the highest response rate (74% or 190 respondents), possibly because NASIG made the conference free and available to anyone resulting in many people not connected with NASIG attending for the first time (60% or 153 respondents were first time attendees). Similarly to previous surveys, the majority of respondents (76% or 195 respondents) were academic library employees. 68% of respondents had at least 11 years or more of professional experience, potentially suggesting that NASIG has the opportunity to reach out and introduce the organization to those newer to the field.

Respondents were asked to describe their work using 29 keyword checkboxes, including other. They could check more than one answer. The top five responses were:
1. Electronic Resources (48%)
2. Catalog/Metadata (46%)
3. Serials (34%)
4. Collection Development (32%)
5. Acquisitions (29%)

Overall Conference Rating

The overall 2020 conference rating was 4.61, which is an increase from previous years.

Figure 1. *NASIG overall conference rating.*

The balance and variety of sessions received a 4.38 rating.
The overall usefulness and design rating of Zoom was a 4.51.
The ease of use of Sched was 4.57.

Opening / Keynote Session

The 2020 conference included one keynote session. 174 respondents answered giving an overall rating of 4.38 rating that the keynote was valuable.

Live Sessions

NASIG 2020 offered 13 live online sessions and two live vendor lightning sessions. The majority of respondents rated the sessions at a 4 or higher.
Tuesday's lightning talks were rated 4.09 and Wednesday's lighting talks were rated 4.19.

Pre-Recorded Sessions

NASIG 2020 offered 13 pre-recorded online sessions. 35% or 73 respondents watched some of the pre-recorded sessions at the time of answering this survey. The low attendance or response rate is likely because respondents may not have watched the pre-recorded sessions before filling out the survey. There were

several comments of "will watch later" for these sessions.

Future Conferences

The survey requested that respondents rate their likeliness to attend the 2021 NASIG Conference whether it was in-person or online.
For an in-person conference 26 people responded that they were highly likely to attend and 18 responded that they were very likely. For those not likely to attend the biggest issue was no professional development funds (108 respondents) and the next being safety around COVID-19 (91 respondents).

For an online conference, 58 people responded that they were highly-likely to attend and 63 responded that they were very likely. For those not likely to attend, the biggest issue were no professional development funds (59 respondents).

In addition, the survey collected responses on what future topics attendees are most interested in:
- Open Access (4.20)
- Issues related to electronic serials (4.18)
- Diversity, equity, & inclusion (4.16)
- Accessibility (4.06)
- Technology (4.04)