PRESIDENT'S CORNER
Eleanor Cook, NASIG President, 2002/2003

My NASIG – Your NASIG – Our NASIG!!

I title this column in the above fashion thanks to some illumination received during NASIG’s strategic planning retreat in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, in January 2003. Philadelphia was COLD, but the NASIG Strategic Planning Task Force and Board were HOT! I tell you what: we were really cooking. Thanks to Betty Kjellberg and her incredible facilitation skills and insights, we will soon complete an awesome blueprint to work with for the future.

Let’s talk about change. We all hate it, especially when it comes as a surprise. But let’s face it: serialists have a love-hate relationship with change. We live with and thrive on change—it’s our middle name, and it always has been. Serialists must deal with ambiguity and exceptions to the rule all the time—for goodness sake, this language permeates our staff job descriptions!

So, NASIG must change. Organizations like NASIG go through life stages. We are in our late adolescence now, which means we are facing some major shifts and must take on new responsibilities. I am totally confident that the NASIG teenager has been reared properly and can take on these new roles as the NASIG adult. Please indulge my use of this metaphor since it seems so appropriate.

NASIG’s beginnings, based on a perceived need for a different kind of organization, were refreshing and exciting. But some have observed that as we’ve matured, we’ve taken on a mantle of self-assuredness, found comfort in the structure we’ve created, and frankly, in some people’s minds, begun drifting too quickly towards
middle-aged inertia. An example of this inertia is our membership: a mixed bag demo graphically, but heavily populated with middle-aged academic librarians (I’m one of these). This is a major concern for the future, as NASIG’s mission was always meant to include everyone in the serials information chain—not just the academic librarians—whatever their age or job assignments.

Due to the digital revolution, everything serial is up for grabs—culturally, economically, and technologically. So many new players are entering the scene! NASIG is poised to be THE organization that caters to many of these players. But this won’t happen if we remain the same cozy little group we started as and resist changes that reflect our leadership role and increased maturity as an organization. For example, I doubt that the founders of NASIG intended us to stay in dormitories forever: we were doing that to save money! (and many of us are getting tired of it, especially since we can stay in hotel rooms today for the same price!)

We cannot become victims of “WADITW”—“We’ve always done it that way.” While we cherish many “NASIG traditions,” we are going to have to retire some of them. It’s the natural order of things to move forward, painful as it might be at times. One of the true revelations I embraced during our strategic planning retreat was this observation: “For every member who threatens to quit if you make a change, you may find several other potential members who will join.” That thought made me feel better since our membership survey indicated to me that some people want NASIG to remain static. We simply cannot do this. And as your President this year, it’s my job to help you understand why.

Our strategic planning consultant, Betty Kjellberg, made a wonderful statement near the beginning of our day together. She said, “NASIG is made up of members who are not only devoted to the organization, but who simply adore it.” That is so true: we are in love with this organization, many of us. And like any thing or person loved, we hate to see certain changes—especially related to growth. But we are not sweet little children anymore, and we have to face the future.

IN THIS NEWSLETTER: The Strategic Planning Task Force will give you a summary of the retreat we held in Philadelphia. As they continue their work over the next six months, we look forward to the blueprint I alluded to earlier—a plan that will help guide NASIG into the future.

Board minutes: These may seem like dry reading, but they are chock full of action items that you might have an opinion about. Read them and find out! And if you have an opinion, let us know—individually or through NASIG-L.

Site selection report for 2004 and beyond: Check out exciting plans for developing conference sites in the future. Note that we expect to continue to value local NASIG members’ participation in conference site planning, but with an emphasis that shifts the burden from local volunteer staff to professional conference organizers.

Don’t expect we’re out to change everything—absolutely not! And things aren’t going to change as quickly as some would like, actually. For example, the 2004 conference continues to be squashed between other June events, but we have an eye towards the future and new scheduling possibilities. And I really believe that the NASIG membership continues to value inclusiveness, informality, and frankly, fun!

One thing that will stay the same is the opportunity to get involved. Whether you are a new or returning NASIG member, please consider volunteering for a committee assignment. (See the call for volunteers elsewhere in this issue.) The work is meaningful, energizing, and you will make friends with those you work with. Committee work can lead to other possibilities: leadership roles within and without NASIG are always on the horizon.

NASIG is what YOU make of it, what I make of it, and what WE together can make of it. I look forward to seeing as many of you in Portland as possible, and I thank you all for your dedication and interest in our shared goals.

Postscript: If you read the midwinter minutes, you will see that the NASIG Board was asked to consider recent upheavals in the subscription agency realm. At this time, due to NASIG’s policy of restraint from any comment about commercial issues, there is nothing we can say or do to be helpful in this matter. However, our sympathies are with those NASIG members affected by this situation, be they librarians, vendors, or publishers. Through our strategic planning efforts, we plan to examine how to better serve our membership through these tumultuous times.
NASIG EXECUTIVE BOARD MINUTES
Bea Caraway, NASIG Secretary

Date, Time: January 23, 2003, 8:35 a.m. -5:19 p.m.
Place: Van Pelt Library, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Attending: Members-at-Large:
Eleanor Cook, President Marilyn Geller
Anne McKee, Vice President/President-Elect Daniel Jones
Maggie Rioux, Past President Mary Page
Bea Caraway, Secretary Robert Persing
Denise Novak, Treasurer Kevin Randall
Joyce Tenney

Guests:
Kris Kern, Co-Chair, 2003 Conference Planning Committee
Kate Manuel, Co-Chair, 2003 Program Planning Committee
Sharon Sullivan, Co-Chair, 2003 Program Planning Committee
Charlene Simser, NASIG Newsletter Editor-in-Chief

1.0 Welcome (Cook)

Cook welcomed Board members and guests to the midwinter Board and thanked Bob Persing for his invaluable help in arranging for lodging, the meeting room, and meals for the Board.

2.0 Secretary’s report (Caraway)

2.1 Board actions since the fall Board meeting, October 18-19, 2002

Caraway compiled the following list of Board decisions taken since October 19, 2002, for inclusion in the minutes.

a. December 2, 2002: at the suggestion of the PPC, the Board members endorsed the idea of holding a NASIG/ATLA networking node at the PSU conference. PPC to work out the details.
b. December 21, 2002: The NASIG Board accepted N&E’s report of the proposed candidate slate with thanks for all their efforts thus far. The Board also directed them to continue with the election process.

As a point of information, Caraway included the following list of other activities since June 23, 2002:

- After e-mail discussion and general approval of the idea, Cook asked Sarah George, the NASIG Webmaster, to add credit card information to the membership forms. On November 8, 2002, George updated the new membership form and the member renewal form on NASIGWeb to include information on using credit cards. Cook sent a message to NASIG-L noting this and sent a message for the publicist to post to the regular list of e-mail lists.
- November 9, 2002: Cook e-mailed Peter McCracken and Mike Markwith, informing them of the Board’s decision to issue a disclaimer at the beginning of McCracken’s paper within the Proceedings.
- November 13, 2002: Tenney forwarded editorial changes on the Marcia Tuttle International Award application form to A&R. The new version should be available for the next round of applications.

2.2 Board roster updates

Caraway distributed copies of the 2002/2003 Board rosters and asked Board members to make corrections.

2.3 Revisions to the executive working calendar

Caraway asked for changes needing to be made to the executive working calendar. No changes were noted. Caraway asked that Board members contact her as they work with the calendar and discover inaccuracies or needed revisions.

2.4 NASIG note cards

Because both Cook and McKee have had several occasions to send thank-you notes on behalf of NASIG, they asked Caraway to get a price quote for cards with the NASIG logo (for 250 and 500 cards). Caraway reported that Penny Lane Printing could supply 250 cards with color logo and matching envelopes for $403.88, and 500 of the same for $509.66. Finding this price somewhat high, the Board instructed Caraway to ask for a price quote from Gerald Printing, Bowling Green, Kentucky.
This company already has the NASIG logo and has done some work for NASIG.

**ACTION:** Caraway to get price quote from Gerald Printing for 250, 500, and 1,000 full-color logo note cards and matching envelopes.

**DATE:** ASAP.

3.0 Publicist’s report (Rioux)

Rioux reported that the French brochure had been printed and will be posted on the NASIG Web site. She has written a short piece for the March Newsletter reminding members that North America covers more countries than the U.S. and includes more languages than English. This is in response to questions and comments members included in the recent member survey. Rioux posted award announcements and reminders to various lists, solicited names of other relevant lists for postings, and asked professional liaisons to forward pertinent NASIG-L announcements to their organizations.

4.0 Treasurer’s report (Novak)

Novak reported that she has not yet been able to look into transferring the Schwab accounts to Bank of America.

**ACTION:** (carried over from the fall Board meeting): Finance Committee will propose an investment strategy with Bank of America.

**DATE:** By the June Board meeting.

Novak also noted that there are several outstanding, uncashed checks totaling about $500 from 2000 forward because the bank we use has no cut-off date for uncashed checks. She will simply carry these forward on the books.

4.1 Review of financial reports

Due to the weakness of the stock market, NASIG’s assets fell about $3,000 in 2002. There were extra expenditures to cover the costs of implementing online registration and supporting the work of the Strategic Planning Task Force.

As requested at the fall Board meeting, Novak included columns in the NASIG budget sheets for actual expenditures. Regional Councils and Membership was over budget because of the production of the French and Spanish brochures.

NASIG’s assets as of January 11, 2003, totaled $171,934.01; liabilities totaled $0.00.

4.2 Online registration implementation report

As of January 18, 2003, version 1 of online registration had been tested. Details of the 2003 conference registration are to be incorporated by February 7, 2003, and further testing is to be completed by February 28. Online registration is scheduled to debut between March 3 and March 14, 2003.

4.3 Policy for honoraria

Board discussion on the point led to clarification of the policy governing payment of honoraria to speakers, which generally provides for no honorarium for NASIG members speaking at NASIG-sponsored continuing-education events.

**ACTION:** Novak to revise the wording in the compensation policy so that it makes this policy explicit.

**DATE:** Before the speaker’s letter for the 2003 conference goes out. (The letter includes a copy of the compensation policy.)

**DONE:** January 31, 2003.

4.4 Conference calls

Novak has not had time to investigate conference calling.

**ACTION:** Move this agenda item to the June Board meeting. Novak to ask Finance Committee members to assist with information gathering.

Additional item: The 2003 CPC asked the treasurer about the possibility of selling souvenirs via the NASIG Web site before the conference. The Board commended the CPC for thinking creatively, but after consideration decided that it would be too much work for both the treasurer and the CPC. (In future years, this may become possible.)

5.0 Site selection report (McKee, Novak, Page)

McKee, Novak, and Page visited Minneapolis, and McKee and Novak visited Milwaukee to investigate the possibility of holding the 2004 conference in hotels there. In both cases, the visitors and convention bureaus and the hotels expressed great eagerness to host NASIG, and both offered varying types and amounts of administrative assistance. Both cities are easily accessible by air, and both have good sites for evening events. Hotels in both cities are similar in price and facilities such as meeting rooms, large ballrooms, Internet access, and so forth. It was noted, however, that the cost of high-speed connectivity would fall on NASIG, which is not the case when we meet on a campus. None can offer extensive AV
support, so NASIG would have to contract for that with a local company. In addition, access for email is likely to be more limited than when we are on a college campus. Food costs will be about the same as on a campus, and the per-person cost of a room at double occupancy will be only slightly higher than in a dormitory and much more comfortable.

The visitors and convention bureaus can help with registration, supply maps and promotional materials, and offer other services at no or low cost to lighten the burden on Conference Planning Committee members.

After extensive Board consideration of the costs and benefits of holding a conference away from a college campus, Rioux moved (Geller seconded) that the 2004 conference be held at the Hilton in Milwaukee. The motion passed unanimously. An important difference between Milwaukee and Minneapolis-St. Paul was availability in June. Minneapolis-St. Paul is available only in May 2004, while Milwaukee is available in June.

Because booking farther in advance than our usual eighteen months or so can give better rates, more flexibility of dates, and longer preparation time, the Board gave serious thought to booking a site for 2005 now. Discussion ensued about the advisability of holding the 2005 conference in Minneapolis-St. Paul. The Board members were impressed with the service and facilities both cities offered and the eagerness with which they solicited our business. After long discussion, Rioux moved (Randall seconded) that NASIG be held in Minneapolis-St. Paul in 2005. Page offered a friendly amendment to add that this would be conditional upon successfully negotiating dates, price, and participation by local NASIG members as CPC members. Rioux and Randall accepted the friendly amendment. The motion passed unanimously.

The Board next discussed dates for the 2004 conference in Milwaukee, taking into account not only temporal proximity to other major conferences but also comments from the member survey about preferences for dates. After long and agonizing debate, Rioux moved (Tenney seconded) that the 2004 conference be held during the available June dates, i.e., June 17-20. The motion passed with eight in favor, one opposed, and two abstaining.

**ACTION:** McKee (as Vice President/President-Elect) to appoint CPC members for the 2004 conference earlier than is customary and help revise their responsibilities based upon the new circumstances of meeting away from a college campus.

**DATE:** By March 1, 2003.

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6.0 Committee reports

6.1 Archives (Caraway)

At the request of the Board, former archivist Marilyn Fletcher and current archivist Holley Lange reviewed requests received over the years requiring consultation of materials in the archives. Based on information they supplied, usage appears light, numbering no more, on average, than four or five simple requests annually. There have been no requests for on-site research in the archives. The Board charged Lange to use this information to continue discussions with the archives at the University of Illinois in order to finalize the cost and feasibility of turning the NASIG archives over to them permanently.

The Board wishes to thank Lange and Fletcher for their efforts.

**ACTION:** Lange to pursue negotiations with the University of Illinois archives and offer a report and recommendation to the Board.

**DATE:** By the June Board meeting.

6.2 Awards & Recognition (Tenney)

As of January 16, 2003, one inquiry about and no applications for the Tuttle Award had been received. Two complete and four incomplete applications for the student grant have been received. Tenney reported that a question had arisen about the number of credit hours a library school student may have completed to be eligible for the Fritz Schwartz award. The Board advised that the credits are to be counted at the time of the application, not at the time when the award would be received.

**ACTION:** Tenney to instruct A&R to revise their guidelines to clarify this point.

**DATE:** ASAP.

Rioux asked what information the service recognition gift given to outgoing Board members and committee chairs should include. The Board agreed that the person’s name, term of service, and position should be engraved on the gift. Rioux then asked if anyone other than those indicated should receive a service gift. She asked that Board members think about this and give recommendations to Cook to use in compiling the list for A&R. Cook added that each year, the President determines, with advice from the Board members, if there are additional recipients to consider (such as task force chairs).

In further discussion about recognition of service to the organization, the Board agreed that a detailed personal letter is useful for the file of a member serving as a NASIG committee chair. It also shows personal
appreciation for the member’s efforts. As a result, the Board agreed to make it a practice for each liaison to draft a paragraph detailing the outgoing chair’s contributions and accomplishments and forward it to the President to include in his or her letter of appreciation at the end of the chair’s term of service.

ACTION: A&R to select a suitable service gift for this year’s outgoing chairs and any others designated by the President.
DATE: By April 1, 2003.

6.3 Database & Directory (Randall)

As of January 15, 2003, there were 1389 members. Seventy of those are new members who joined after October 15, 2002. In February, the committee will decide who is going to be responsible for updating the database to reflect the new committee appointments for 2003/2004.

ACTION: Randall to inform McKee (Vice President/President-Elect) who the contact person is for receiving information about new appointments.
DATE: End of February.

There was discussion of the online versus print version of the directory, during which it was noted that, 1) the print version is often out of date by the time it is issued and mailed, and 2) the print version is very expensive to produce and mail. Jones noted that the Medical Library Association has ceased producing a print directory altogether. The Board agreed that it is time to address the question of print directories and asked that D&D deliver a recommendation to the Board in June.

ACTION: Randall to instruct D&D to investigate whether and how to move to a fee-based distribution of the print directory.
DATE: By the June Board meeting.

6.4 Nominations & Elections (Rioux)

The Nominations and Elections Committee compiled a slate of candidates from among 69 eligible nominees. The ballot is scheduled to be mailed on or before February 15, 2003. Deadline for postmark of ballot is March 15, 2003. Rioux noted that presently, a nominee must write a statement at the beginning of the selection process if he or she is willing to be considered for the ballot. Rioux asked the Board to consider whether that was the best way to proceed or whether the statement should be requested at a later stage in the process.

ACTION: The Board instructed N&E to discuss this point and include a recommendation in its final report.
DATE: By the June Board meeting.

6.5 Evaluation & Assessment (Persing)

As of December 9, 2002, 31 speaker reports (evaluations or scores) had been requested by and sent to speakers from the 2002 conference. The EAC has been considering the possibility of electronic transmission of the report summary to the designated recipients and has proposed distributing a PDF file for the 2003 conference summary report.

6.6 Electronic Communications (Persing)

Persing reported that the ECC created a password-protected space on the NASIG Web site and posted nominees’ profiles there for the Nominations & Elections Committee members to access. ECC also created a similar space for all documents for the January Board meeting. Board members retrieved and printed files to bring to the meeting, eliminating the shipping costs. ECC also assisted with the online registration development. A new e-list (“temporary-l”) was created at the request of the Board. It can be used to accommodate any ad hoc group that needs to have group e-mail communication for a limited period of time.

Persing reported that our domain name (nasig.org) had been renewed for three years and that our ISP (Bee.net) has installed filtering software for spam.

At the request of the Board, the ECC has continued posting job ads to the job list on the NASIG Web site.

The Board expressed thanks to Sarah George and David Bynog, co-chairs of ECC, for their responsiveness.

In response to Novak’s question about when her responsibility would end as Board liaison to the online registration development group, the Board indicated it would be complete when online registration was up and running successfully. From that point forward, a member of ECC should be responsible for overseeing online registration.

ACTION: Persing to direct the ECC co-chairs to assign responsibility for the online registration system to a committee member.
6.7 Publications (Geller)

Sarah Tusa has resigned as co-chair but continues on as a committee member. Cook appointed committee member Rick Anderson to complete the co-chair’s term.

Geller reported that committee member Donna Packer will make inquiries of the ALCTS Serials Section Chair Carolynne Mayall about the possibility of NASIG updating the bibliographies of the serials syllabi created by the Serials Section Education Committee and using them as the basis for a serials management course to be maintained on the NASIG Web site. Geller also reported that various committee members are updating the Human Resources Directory (which had recently been moved from the Continuing Education Committee’s Web page to the Publications Committee’s Web page), are working to complete a NASIGuide for using the MARC format for holdings, and are planning a transition from paper to an electronic format for the conference handouts.

ACTION: The Board requests a final report and recommendation for conference handouts in an electronic format.

DATE: By the June Board meeting.

7.0 Program Planning Committee (Manuel, Sullivan, McKee)

The Board set the price for the two 2003 preconferences at $50 each. The break-even point for each preconference is 40 registrants.

The Board reviewed the program proposed by the PPC, asked for clarification at several points, and offered suggestions of speakers for three slots still needing to be filled.

After considerable discussion about how to hold a “hot topics” forum at the 2003 conference, the Board and the PPC co-chair decided to schedule it as a concurrent session. The topics will be selected and announced in March.

All agreed that the program was excellent, then commended PPC for their good work.

8.0 Conference Planning Committee (Kern/Tenney)

Kern reported that CPC member Scott Smith, who was serving as registrar, has taken a job elsewhere and is unable to continue as a committee member. Member Sandy Beehler will take over as registrar. She had been responsible for transportation. The co-chairs will assign transportation to another member. Kern reported that all the three designated conference hotels would provide a continental breakfast to NASIG members as part of the conference fee.

The Board set prices for souvenirs as recommended by the CPC.

Following discussion of the range of activities possible for the opening evening of the conference, the Board and CPC co-chair decided to combine the usual welcome to the conference and the city and the awards ceremony with a served banquet. Following the meal, participants will be encouraged to stay and socialize or to socialize at nearby locales.

ACTION: Kern to 1) ask POVA to staff an information table during registration, 2) add a statement to the hotel reservation form stating “NASIG is not responsible for hotel refunds,” 3) add the cancellation policy to the conference registration form, 4) to have the CPC provide a listing of local musical acts taking place in Portland during NASIG to distribute at the conference.

DATE: 1)-3) ASAP; 4) by the time conference begins.

The Board approved Capers Café as the caterer for the reception at the central branch of the Multnomah County Library System. The Board approved the slate of tours, and Cook signed the contract with the tour company, Columbia Crossroads, Inc.

The Board agreed that given the excellent quality of public transportation in Portland, CPC need not arrange for airport shuttle service for conference attendees.

McKee moved (Persing seconded) that the 2003 conference fee (excluding housing) be set at $300. The motion passed unanimously. This is $85 less than the 2002 commuter rate.

The Board commends the 2003 CPC for their creative thinking, excellent planning, and their hard work up until now and extends gratitude to them for their efforts in the time remaining before the conference.

9.0 Committee reports (cont.)

9.1 Bylaws (Jones)

The Bylaws Committee is ready to distribute by mail a notification to the membership of the upcoming vote to add a new membership category of “corresponding member.”

The requirement to notify the membership by mail 30 days before any vote on a change to the bylaws means that NASIG must pay the cost of paper and postage. The
The Board discussed how to best form a group to be responsible for public relations and outreach. It was agreed that a task force should propose a plan based on guidance from the strategic plan, now in development.

**ACTION:** Cook to appoint members to a task force to write a charge for a new committee that will undertake outreach and PR, based on guidance from the strategic plan, now in development.

**DATE:** Cook to appoint task force members ASAP. Charge to be finalized by the June Board meeting.

### 9.4 Continuing Education (Randall)

Randall reported on the four CEC programs that have been held since the fall Board meeting. NASIG had been scheduled to sponsor an SCCTP workshop in Oregon in 2002, but OCLC sponsored one instead. Plans had been underway to coordinate a workshop with the North Carolina Library Association’s Resources and Technical Services Section, but in the end, this did not happen. In response to a question from CEC, the money budgeted but not spent in 2002 cannot be carried over and used to sponsor a workshop in 2003.

Randall also reported that the 2003 mentor program would be co-chaired by Carole Bell (CEC) and Alice Tucker (RC&M). CEC member Janie Branham resigned as a co-chair of the mentor program.

The *Human Resources Directory* is in the process of being transferred to the Publications Committee from the CEC.

Regarding the Mexico Student Conference Grant, Tenney indicated that the visa should not be as big a problem this year as last. Novak added that Mexican members must pay their membership dues in U.S. currency.

### 9.5 Newsletter (Simser)

Simser explained that the PDF version of the December issue of the *Newsletter* had been made available after a long delay. Having received two e-mail inquiries about the delay, she asked for the Board’s advice about putting a notice on NASIG-L regarding the delay. The Board suggested that she do so only in those cases when she received many such inquiries.

Simser reported that Step Schmitt had completed the conversion to PDF of all remaining back issues of the *Newsletter*. Issues more recent than 1991 are searchable.

Simser asked for guidance from the Board about desirable features in a search-enabled feature being investigated for
NASIGWeb. The Board agreed that Persing should refer this request to the ECC for a recommendation, suggesting that a useful feature would be the ability to include or exclude from any search the Proceedings, the Newsletter, or the remainder of the Web site.

**ACTION:** Persing to ask ECC to provide recommendations for desirable features in a search-enabled feature for the Web site.

Simser informed the Board that there was a conference photo archive on the Web site and asked for guidance as to where the list of photos should be situated on the Web site. The Board, deeming itself unqualified to give such guidance, suggested the formation of a working group to look into the question.

**ACTION:** Simser and Persing to establish a working group to investigate the organization of a conference photo archive and provide the Board with a progress report.

**DATE:** By the June Board meeting.

The Board discussed items to be included in future Newsletters and offered them as suggestions to Simser.

10.0 Proceedings editor search (Page)

Page reported that the 2002 Proceedings are at the publisher and that they are expected to be ready for the 2003 conference.

The application deadline for the next set of Proceedings editors was January 15, 2003. The search committee is to review applications and select editors in February 2003.

11.0 Unfinished business and “pop-up” agenda items

Cook reported that she had received three responses to her posting of the January Board meeting agenda to NASIGWeb. First, Miriam Palm, ALCTS Newsletter editor, offered to include the dates of our Board meetings in the ALCTS listing of midwinter meetings as a non-affiliated group.

**ACTION:** President will in the future inform the editor of the ALCTS Newsletter of the meeting time and place of the NASIG midwinter Board meeting.

**DATE:** Annually.

Next, a member asked if NASIG was going to involve itself in any way with standards of practice for subscription agents in light of Faxon’s difficulties. Finally, a member requested that the NASIG Board discuss the COUNTER proposal and take a stand on the proposal. After considerable discussion, the Board decided that these particular issues were outside of NASIG’s scope. Topics which may lend themselves to NASIG’s possible involvement or endorsement will be considered on a case-by-case basis. The Strategic Planning Task Force is addressing such issues in its final report.

Cook reminded the Board members that all must observe deadlines for submitting committee reports before Board meetings, even though the reports are distributed electronically now instead of on paper by mail. Board members need time to read the reports before the Board meeting. Board members offered suggestions for organization of the reports, e.g., that they be named, numbered, and ordered according to the agenda, that they be merged into one document for downloading, and that they be made available in PDF.

Cook reminded all Board liaisons to inform chairs in a timely manner of any action items that have come out of the Board meeting and remind them to read the minutes. She also asked liaisons to remind their committee chairs that reports are due shortly before the annual, fall, and midwinter Board meetings.

Cook shared with the Board a letter of thanks from Robert Wolven, Chair, Program for Cooperative Cataloging, and Director, Bibliographic Control & Processes at Columbia University Libraries. He expressed appreciation for NASIG’s donation of $1,200 to support Canadian participation in SCCTP train-the-trainer workshops in Philadelphia and Seattle.

At 5:19 p.m., McKee moved (Randall seconded) that the meeting be adjourned. The motion passed unanimously.
The NASIG budget runs on a calendar year for tax purposes.

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**Balance Sheet**

**As of January 11, 2003**

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| LIABILITIES & EQUITY |          |          |          |          |          |          |
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| EQUITY | 171,934.01 |          |          |          |          |          |
| **TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY** | **171,934.01** |          |          |          |          |          |

In October 2002 at the fall Board meeting in Portland, Oregon, the Executive Board approved the NASIG budget for 2003.

**2003 Final Budget**

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**Other**

- **A&R**: Tuttle & Schwartz Awards and other award plaques and recognition
- **CE**: Mentor Program
- **D&D**: If desktop publisher is needed
- **ECC**: Misc. software + Online Reg. Resources
- **Online Reg. Resources**: SQL Server Database Access (Bee.Net) $250 per year

Verisign SSI encryption certificates $350/yr. Ongoing Host Fees (Bee.Net) $200/yr. Initial Setup Fees $50 SQL + $50 Verisign (Bee.Net) $100

**Strategic Planning**: Midwinter retreat expenses

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**NASIG 18TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE (2003)**

**CPC UPDATE**

Kris Kern and Wendy Stewart, CPC Co-Chairs

“Serials in the Park”

NASIG 18th Annual Conference
Portland State University
June 26-29, 2003

Ever wonder what you would do if one day you walked out of a Saturday plenary at NASIG, and instead of taking a stroll across campus to get to your next meeting, you ended up in the middle of a farmer’s market? You will get the opportunity to find out when you attend the annual conference in the heart of downtown Portland, at Portland State University, June 26-29. **Serials in the Park** will offer fresh ideas and new ways of doing things, so make sure you register early and plan ahead.

One of the biggest differences in this year’s conference is that **no on-campus housing will be available**. Housing will be at three area hotels that are within walking distance to Portland State, with the Portland Marriott Downtown serving as the primary conference hotel. You will need to fill out the **special housing registration form** in order to get the conference rate. Look for it in your brochure or online: www.nasig.org/conference

In other big news: NASIG will also offer online registration for the first time (but registration by mail will also be available).

The program will feature some new offerings, too, such as town hall forums and expanded times for poster sessions, but it will maintain NASIG’s tradition of strong,
informative, and timely workshops and concurrent sessions. Evening events will include the opening night banquet at the Portland Marriott Downtown on Thursday, June 26. Friday night will be a free evening with dinner on your own, and Saturday will feature an elegant Northwest-inspired buffet at Multnomah County Library’s Central Branch, shopping in the gift shop, and access to the Wilson Rare Book Room. Both Thursday and Saturday night’s events will feature cash bars where you will be able to sample local libations or other alcoholic beverages.

On Sunday after the conference you have your choice of exploring on your own or taking advantage of one of the local tours NASIG has arranged. You could select a motor coach trip up the Columbia Gorge, or if you’re a history buff, you might want to choose the Oregon Territory Historic Tour. And if you are an oenophile, you won’t want to miss A Taste of the Grape, which will take you to two wineries where you can learn about growing grapes and making wine, and maybe get a sample or two.

You can find detailed conference information and registration and housing forms at www.nasig.org/conference and in the conference brochure that will be mailed to NASIG members in early March. NASIG-L is another source for conference information and announcements. You can also check the Web site for local area information.

And should you find yourself in the middle of a farmer’s market, relax, maybe do a little shopping, get some fresh-from-the-oven bread or fresh vegetables. The park blocks are the home of a farmer’s market each Saturday from early in the morning until 2:00 p.m. It will give you the opportunity to meet the locals. So plan early and stay late: PSU is eagerly awaiting Serials in the Park, NASIG 2003.

**PROGRAM PLANNING UPDATE**
Charity Martin, Kate Manuel, and Sherry Sullivan, PPC Co-Chairs

The Program Planning Committee (PPC) is pleased to announce that the preconference, plenary, concurrent, and workshop sessions for NASIG 2003 have been set. A complete program will soon be available for your viewing pleasure on the Web at the conference Web site (http://www.nasig.org/conference/index.html).

In planning this year’s program, we relied heavily upon comments from evaluations of prior conferences. We think attendees will be pleased to see the strong coverage of cataloging topics, the focus on issues and skills of interest to serialists working outside “traditional” library settings, and the mix of research-based and skill-building workshops on the 2003 program. We were fortunate to have received many excellent proposal submissions on many topics: one of the most difficult tasks of the PPC is always deciding which of these wonderful submissions will have a place on the program!

The plenary sessions are the only sessions that all NASIG conference goers attend and are intended to address “big picture” issues that attendees can discuss throughout the conference. This year, PPC is pleased to announce that Leigh Watson Healy, Vice President and Chief Analyst, OUTSELL, Inc. will be delivering a “traditional” plenary speech on “Trends in the Information Content Industry.” The other two plenaries will take a different approach in the hopes of furthering spirited discussion among conference attendees. One will be a town hall meeting/open discussion facilitated by Christa Easton, Coordinator for Digital and Serials Acquisitions, Stanford University Libraries, and the other will be a panel discussion titled, “There Is No Forest, We’re Only Hugging the Trees: Newfangled and Nontraditional Ways of Acquiring, Providing Access, and Managing Both Print and Electronic Journals.”

Panelists include Rick Anderson, Director of Resource Acquisition, University of Nevada, Reno; Ladd Brown, Head of Acquisitions, Virginia Polytechnic Institute & State University; Adam Chesler, Vice President for Business Development, Ingenta; Joan Conger, Database Performance and Assessment Librarian, University of Georgia; and Ted Fons, Product Manager, Innovative Interfaces, Inc. Jill Emery, Director, Electronic Resources Program, University of Houston, will moderate the panel.

Two sets of five concurrent sessions will, we hope, still confront NASIG conference attendees with a tough choice—which ones to attend—even though both concurrent sets will be offered twice.

Concurrent Set I will feature the following presentations:

- Michael Kaplan, Maggie Horn, Timothy Gatti, and Heather S. Miller on “Serial Aggregations, Multiple Versions, and the Virtual Union Catalog: The Combined Digital Library, SUNY, and Ex Libris Experience;”
- Mary Devlin on “100% Communication;”
- Jill Emery, Beverley Geer, Claire Ginn, and Dan Tonkery on “Expose Yourself to Electronic Journals: A Candid Discussion;”
- Eileen Fenton and Abby Smith on “The Digital Preservation Conundrum;” and
- Philip Wallas, as well as a librarian and a publisher TBA, on “Helping Manage the E-
Journal Forest: Do You Need an Agent Any More?”

Concurrent Set II will include:

- Carol Tenopir, Donald W. King, Peter Boyce, and Carol Hansen Montgomery on “How Are Electronic Journals Changing Patterns of Journal Use?”
- Oliver Pesch, on “Usage Statistics: Taking E-Metrics to the Next Level,”
- Shelley Neville, on “Seeing the Forest and the Trees When Developing a New Acquisitions System,”
- Pauline La Rooy and a speaker from the Canadian National Site Licensing Project on “From Tiny Acorns to Great Oaks: Taking a Nationwide Approach to Library Co-Operation,” and
- One current on a “Hot Topic” whose theme and presenter(s) will be decided closer to the actual date of the conference.

There is one—and only one—“double” workshop on this year’s program, so be alert for it in registering. This is “Case Studies in ESerial Cataloging, Or: What Am I Supposed to Do with This?” presented by Steve Shadle of the University of Washington Libraries. Those selecting this workshop will miss the other workshops presented in the Workplace Issues/Skills Set and the Research Set. They will only be able to attend one other workshop, during the time when selected Workplace Issues/Skills Set and Research Set workshops are repeated.

This year, workshops are divided into a Workplace Issues/Skills Set and a Research Set. Only selected workshops from both sets will be repeated during the conference. Topics to be addressed by workshops in the Workplace Issues/Skills Set include networking, Web-based resources and online or distance education, changing roles for technical services librarians, copyright law, the accessibility of electronic information to persons with disabilities, recruitment of and professional development for new serialists, managing workplace change, strategies for the tenure track, writing and maintaining policy and procedures manuals, print repositories and electronic access, and streamlining workflows. The Research Set includes presentations on electronic resource management and the MARC record, training guideposts, benchmarking time and costs for serials operations, usage data as a tool for evaluating full-text access methods, using the OPAC to dynamically generate Web pages for e-journals, maintaining e-journal subscriptions, and table of contents services for faculty.

We are also pleased to offer two preconferences. The first preconference is, “The Seventy Percent Solution: Assessing Criteria for Model Fund Allocations,” to be presented by Don Frank, Claudia Weston, Mary Ellen Kenreich, Cyril Oberlander, and Sarah Beasley, all of Portland State University. This panel shares their experience in developing a new model for allocating shrinking acquisitions budgets involving a broad spectrum of participants throughout the library and the university. Our second preconference is, “A Survival Guide to Cataloging,” to be presented by Karen Darling of the University of Missouri, Columbia. Many of us thought the last time we had to catalog was in graduate school, but today’s new technologies, electronic resources, multiple formats and migrations to new Integrated Library Systems have brought the issues of cataloging to the forefront. This preconference is meant as a refresher for those serialists who now need those cataloging skills revived.

Both preconferences would be excellent for those new to serials work or for those looking to adjust to changes in their serials responsibilities. Those on the west coast should keep in mind that one may register for and attend a preconference without registering for or attending the entire NASIG conference. A preconference could thus be an excellent one-day training opportunity.

The PPC is still seeking proposals for posters to be presented at NASIG 2003. The call for posters and the proposal submission form can be found at http://www.nasig.org/public/timedated/2003poster.htm. Posters proposals are due by Friday, March 7, 2003. Posters are excellent opportunities for those seeking to showcase late-breaking serials developments or for those new to researching and presenting in librarianship. It is not too late for you to make the NASIG 2003 program!

PPC will be in need of new members for 2004, as will be many other NASIG committees. To volunteer for a NASIG committee, fill out the form at http://www.nasig.org/members/forms/volunteer.html.

Finally, the PPC co-chairs would like to thank our marvelous board liaison (and NASIG’s soon-to-be President), Anne McKee; our excellent consultant, Lisa Macklin; and the wonderful members of the PPC. PPC members are Sandy Folsom, June Garner, Kit Kennedy, Lee Kreiger, Pat Loughry, Emily McElroy, Lanell Rabner, Connie Roberts, Rose Robischon, Steve Savage, and Gale Teaster.
Sometimes getting there really can be half the fun, as I learned last October while traveling to the fall meeting of the NASIG Executive Board in Portland, Oregon. Instead of flying, I decided to take the train all the way from Boston to Portland. It was a wonderful adventure and really added to my enjoyment of the trip. If you live somewhere at the other end of an Amtrak trip from Portland, I highly recommend “training it” to the June NASIG Conference. There’s lots of scenery to be seen, interesting people to meet, and best of all, no phones and computers to bother you (unless you volunteer to let them). You’ll arrive in Portland renewed, refreshed, un-jet-lagged and eager to jump right into the NASIG conference.

While I did the entire cross-country journey by train, taking the Lake Shore Limited from Boston to Chicago and the Empire Builder from Chicago to Portland, you could also do just the Empire Builder leg. Or, if you live in the western U.S., there’s the Coast Starlight, which travels from Los Angeles up the Pacific coast and is considered to be one of the best train rides in the United States. You probably won’t want to travel both ways by train—it takes too long—but Southwest Airlines (and other airlines as well, I’m sure) will sell you a one-way ticket so you can get home quickly.

One thing nice about the train compared to flying: they really take care of you. Of course, I was traveling first class, which I never do by plane, but this was a trip of more than one night, so I decided to spring for a Superliner sleeping compartment. This means first-class service and all meals in the dining car are included. It was a little pricey, but not so bad considering that I had a bed, all meals, my own big window, coffee and soda all day, a local newspaper each morning, and even a friendly sleeping car attendant to ensure I was up on the local sights, make up the bed, and keep the coffee fresh.

Eating in the dining car for three days is also a lot of fun, in addition to the really good food. You won’t get a table by yourself, but will be grouped with other folks to make up a foursome. I met some very interesting people (I bet they’re saying the same about me). There was an elementary school principal from St. Paul, Minnesota, a macrobiotic diet advocate whose husband is a beef cattle rancher in North Dakota, and a woman from California returning home from a friend’s wedding in Montana, to say nothing of the very pleasant staff who very efficiently filled us up with salmon, chicken, salads, breakfast yogurt, and lots of other good stuff (as first-class passengers you get to choose anything you want on the menu).

The highlight of the trip, of course, was the scenery—and there sure was a lot of it. I made good use of my personal big window, plus spending some time in the lounge car, which has even bigger windows. I think the most spectacular part of the trip was going into and through the Rockies at Glacier National Park just at sunset. Seeing the jagged, snow-toped mountains appear on the horizon after spending all day traversing the high plains of North Dakota and Montana was absolutely awesome. Taking the trip in June would give you more hours of daylight and a better view of the mountains themselves. Another view not to be missed was catching my first glimpse of Mount Hood glowing pink in the sunrise and framed between the steep walls of the Columbia River Gorge. Just seeing mile after mile of plains and thinking what Lewis and Clark and the pioneers with their wagon trains must have gone through to get from east to west gave me a great respect for those daring men and women. And let’s not forget the people who were already there when Easterners showed up—it was fun to imagine what the rivers would have looked like with Nez Perce, Shoshone and other such folks camped alongside. I could almost see (smell?) the buffalo herds! Amtrak supplies a great guide magazine to the route which describes all the points of interest along the way and just when to look for them (Did you know that Whitefish, Montana, was originally named Stumptown, or that the train route through Glacier Park follows the “Mystery Pass” that Lewis and Clark were looking for, but couldn’t find?).

Of course, all good things must come to an end, and we pulled into Portland’s Amtrak station right on time, just about 44 hours after leaving Chicago. I found myself totally relaxed and ready to face civilization and a two-day Executive Board meeting. I would have been even more ready to face the fun of a NASIG conference. Even flying home was more fun after having taken the train out. It gave me more appreciation for the swift air travel we take for granted, and in my mind’s eye as I looked out the window, I could still see the scenery more than five miles below us that I had enjoyed from my train window only a few days before.

Taking the train across country is a real adventure, but it’s a nice, soft, relaxing one. The best analogy I can think of is that it’s like taking a cruise on a smallish, land-based passenger ship. Everything is taken care of, and you don’t have to think about which way to go or how to deal with what’s outside—just enjoy the view. So do something different this time as you make your plans to attend NASIG 2003. Take the train to your walk in the park and blaze a new trail for yourself.
On behalf of the NASIG Board and the Site Selection Committee I am very pleased and excited to announce that the 2004 NASIG conference will be held in (drum roll please)...Milwaukee, Wisconsin!!! The dates will be June 17-20, 2004.

After analyzing the Web survey results, it was evident that people wanted this conference to be as cost-conscious as ever while still providing an exciting venue and program, as well as selecting a city that also offers a vacation destination. I am confident NASIG will be able to live up to all of those principles with the excellent choice of Milwaukee. In these days of budgetary cutbacks and ever-rising travel costs, 36 states can drive to Milwaukee in 12 hours or less! We are hoping that with the ease of car travel, we might be able to attract people who have always wanted to attend NASIG but who could not afford airfare rates. However, if you DO want to fly, Milwaukee is served by almost every major air carrier and is the home of the simply superb Midwest Airlines (formerly known as Midwest Express).

Something TOTALLY new will be that for the first time, the conference will be completely centered in a hotel. While there are certainly some outstanding colleges and universities in and around the Milwaukee area, the meeting rooms and hotel rooms will be under one roof at the historic Milwaukee Hilton. We have the strong support of the libraries on the campuses as well as the Central Branch of the beautiful Milwaukee Public Library to make this conference the most outstanding ever.

Why the change? NASIG is quite simply a victim of its own success!! The annual conference has grown every year (approximately 750 people at the 2002 conference). NASIG has had an extremely difficult time identifying campuses that could host that amount of people in one auditorium, let alone the dorm space required to house everyone.

We have negotiated extremely favorable rates that will bring the cost of the lodging close to dorm rates and only a few dollars more than the 2003 hotel rates. Additionally, the prices we have been quoted for food are well within what NASIG is usually charged every year for food. And if we meet certain food thresholds (which are the same numbers we have met for several years), we will NOT be charged for any of the meeting rooms, including the ballroom(s).

After visiting Milwaukee and seeing everything this city has to offer, I am confident that a stimulating and dynamic site has been chosen. Please stay tuned to the months ahead as we begin the planning for this conference. We will ensure that everyone is kept well informed of the exciting events as they unfold!

IN MEMORIAM

ALFRED JAEGGER

NASIG extends its heartfelt condolences to the Alfred Jaeger, Inc. family on the loss of their founding member. Alfred Jaeger, father to two sons (Don and Glenn, both current NASIG members) and a daughter, founded the company that bears his name in the late fifties. Their back-volume service initially served the corporate, medical, and special libraries arenas and eventually expanded to serve academic communities.

KATHY SWEET

Marty Gordon

It saddens us to note that on January 2, 2003, Ms. Kathleen Anne Sweet passed away after a brief illness at her home in Phoenix, Arizona. Kathy had spent her entire twenty-plus-year career as the serials supervisor at the Phoenix College Library, which is part of the Maricopa Community College System, the largest such system in the United States.

Kathy was a regular attendee of the annual NASIG conferences, attending every one since NASIG 8 in 1986 at Brown University in Providence, Rhode Island. She convened discussion nodes at several annual conferences designed for paraprofessional attendees, and also co-presented a workshop titled, “And then it happened...” at the NASIG 9th Annual Conference at the University of British Columbia in Vancouver.
Kathy was a vibrant and outgoing person who readily engaged all those whom she met and personified the “informal networking” venue of NASIG annual conferences. Always willing to contribute her thoughts on serial matters in a kind, thoughtful manner, Kathy will be sorely missed by all who had the good fortune to know her.

STRATEGIC PLANNING RETREAT

[Held Wednesday January 22, 2003, at the University of Pennsylvania’s Van Pelt Library.]

Bob Persing very generously and capably hosted an all day retreat of the NASIG Executive Board and the members of the Strategic Planning Task Force. Our meeting was guided and facilitated by Betty Kjellberg of Association Solutions.

Betty led the group through a series of exercises aimed at helping us to clarify our thinking about NASIG as an organization and to envision new directions. The question Betty put to us was, “What do you want NASIG to be, become, or be known as?” The “visioning exercise” took us through a process which uses “divergent” thinking to generate lots of ideas and thoughts and “convergent” thinking to bring those thoughts together into like “clusters.” As a result, we created several shared vision statements. Betty encouraged us to think in colorful, poetic, inspirational, empowering language.

Betty says, “My own goals were to help the group to think beyond what NASIG is and move toward what NASIG could become, recognizing that change is scary and that members may not necessarily be ready for all the changes that leadership may propose. I wanted leadership to understand that by virtue of being in leadership roles, it is their responsibility to move the organization in new directions that will help the organization grow and become sustainable over the long haul. I also wanted everyone to think about what provides value to all kinds of members, not just what provides value to one subset of the membership.”

During the meeting, we came up with the suggestions of what our shared vision of NASIG is:

- A network of informed, active professionals that fosters dialogue and professional growth.
- To offer the most influential conference where issues are hotly debated.
- That NASIG becomes a proactive socio-political force in the information industry.
- A forum for genuine communication-seeking options and solutions for the serials universe.
- To be “THE” preeminent organization focused on the diverse, global serials chain.
- That NASIG is a fiscally responsible, financially secure, professionally managed organization.

From these shared visions of NASIG, the group built projects and the beginnings of plans for change in the organization. As soon as we have received and analyzed the full report that Betty is preparing for the task force, we will come to the NASIG Board and membership with proposals for change.

NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS COMMITTEE

Beverley Geer, Chair

The NASIG Nominations and Elections Committee is pleased to inform you of the slate of candidates for the upcoming election:

**Vice President/President-Elect/Past President**

*(3-year term beginning 2003/2004)*

- Marilyn Geller
- Steve Savage

**Treasurer**

*(2-year term beginning 2003/2004)*

- Denise Novak
- Virginia Taffurelli

**Member-at-Large**

*(3 positions to fill; 2-year terms beginning 2003/2004)*

- Kay Johnson
- Carol MacAdam
- Mary Page
- Kevin Randall
- Bob Schatz
- Stephanie Schmitt
- Markel Tumlin

All active members on record with the Database & Directory Committee as of January 31, 2003, will receive a ballot and complete candidate profiles, which will be mailed on or before February 15, 2003. The envelope will be marked “Official Election Ballot.” Please review the ballot, VOTE, and return the ballot in the envelope provided. Postmark deadline for returning the ballot to me...
is March 15, 2003. If you misplace or do not receive the return envelope, my address is P.O. Box 542068, Houston, TX 77254-2068.

In accordance with NASIG Bylaw Article VII, Section 1, the ballot will provide space for write-in candidates for each office to be filled.

Results of the election will be posted on NASIG-L, published in the next scheduled issue of the NASIG Newsletter, and announced at the business meeting at the 2003 conference. Please address any questions regarding the election to me at b_geer@yahoo.com or geer@amigos.org.

Many thanks and happy voting.

NASIG PROFILES

MARILYN GELLER
STEVE SAVAGE
compiled by Allison Sharp and Char Simser

[Ed. note: Marilyn and Steve are on the NASIG 2003/2004 Election Slate running against each other for the Vice President/President-Elect spot. Both candidates were presented with the same questions. Their responses are presented below unedited.]

Marilyn Geller

Where do you currently work? What is your job title?
What are your responsibilities? How did you get started in serials work?
Where have you worked in the past? If you could create a dream serials job, what would it be?

I work as a private consultant helping different types of organizations manage special projects. I’ve worked for non-profit organizations like NISO, writing and distributing press releases and helping to make standards more visible to the library universe. I’ve also worked for academic organizations like Harvard University as project manager for their Mellon grant on digital archiving. And I have contracts with commercial organizations also. One of my current contracts is to help a journal publisher move to the online environment. I’ve already worked with electronic journals in libraries and in subscription agencies, so this contract gives me a publisher’s perspective also.

I started professional library life as a cataloger in the anthropology library at Harvard, which seemed like a dream job, and it was for about five years or so. Then I took a job as a serials cataloger at MIT, which seemed like a dream job because serials cataloging was the apex of the cataloging universe, and it was a dream job for more than ten years. Then I took a job with a subscription agency where my original job description was to “put the company on the Internet.” This was in the early to mid 90s, and that certainly sounded like a dream job to me. I worked very closely with Amira Aaron, and together we developed, among other things, BackServ—the first subscription agency gopher—a company Web site, and one of the first searchable Web-based catalogs in our business. I’ve worked with a few subscription agencies, but now I’ve settled down to consulting, which seems like a dream job...so far. I have the opportunity to work in different environments: academic, non-profit, and commercial. The projects are always new and different and give me the opportunity to explore new research areas or develop new skills without a long-term commitment.

What do you like most about serials work? What do you like least about serials work?
I think what I like most is the constant change—the amazing new permutations on what you thought was static and solid. What I like least is that some of that stuff that doesn’t change is incredibly tedious. It’s like laundry: no matter how often you do the laundry, you’re always going to have to do it again. And most of the time, laundry just isn’t that much fun! It’s possible that someday I’ll tire of change, and then the best thing about serials will be all that constant and routine stuff.

How long have you been a member of NASIG? How did you get involved with NASIG? How has NASIG changed?
I learned about NASIG during the planning of the Bryn Mawr conference, but I wasn’t able to attend that one. I went to the Dennison conference and have been a NASIG member ever since. At Dennison, I was stunned to see more than just a small handful of people who even knew what a serial was, but it struck me that there weren’t a lot of choices for serials catalogers. The third year, at Oglethorpe, some of us asked for and got time for an informal catalogers’ meeting. That was the start of what we now think of as Networking Nodes. It seems to me that from the very beginning, NASIG presented me with a series of opportunities to help myself, my colleagues, and the organization. But the opportunities are plentiful when an organization is young and malleable; it’s a bit more difficult when an organization is in its adolescence. I think that these days, NASIG is far more organized, but
also a bit more rigid. When you have enough of a past, it becomes possible to say, “Well, that’s the way we’ve always done it.” And that’s a bad thing. On the other hand, think of the incredible resources we’ve developed because we do have continuity from year to year, strong membership, and solid financial footing.

What do you think the serials landscape will look like in five years? Ten years? How has the serials world changed since you began working in it?

The industry as a whole has been able to integrate the scholarly journal into the rest of the scholarly universe quite well in the last 25 or 30 years. The result is more scholarly communication available through the mechanics of journals, more journals, higher costs, more intricacies, and better connections to the rest of the scholarly universe through the use of integrated library systems, electronic data interchange, shared standard cataloging, and the like. To all of this, add the dramatic changes brought about by the use of the Internet, and it might seem as though we’ve been transported to a whole new universe. While it’s important and interesting to look down the road and to try to see what the future might hold, I truly believe that this is a time to catch our collective breath and sort out where we are before we talk about where we’re going. I think that there are so many new and wondrous possibilities right now that we seem to have trouble giving each possibility the attention it deserves. The result is that some wonderful ideas have fallen by the wayside, and we’ve gone down some dead ends. If we were all to spend a little time sorting out the NOW, in five or ten years this question would have a better answer!

Is there anything that hasn’t been covered that you would like to share with the NASIG members?

I live in suburban Boston with my husband. We have three children who seem to have adopted a revolving door policy for the household. My daughter is the oldest: she’s 23, is married and lives in Fairbanks, Alaska (I never get any sympathy from her when it’s cold in Boston!). My older son will be 21 next month: he’s in his junior year at Bard College in Annandale-on-Hudson, New York (for those of you who remember your rock-and-roll history, yes, like in the Steely Dan song). My younger son is 18 and still lives at home: he’s a junior in high school and runs track.

When I’m not working or taking care of administering a family, I read voraciously. Right now I’m reading *Latitudes of Melt* by Joan Clark. I’ve just finished reading *Year of Wonders* by Geraldine Brooks: you have to read this book! I also do needlework, I’m an incredible bread baker, and I love flying but hate driving—except in beautiful little sports cars where I’m the passenger.

Steve Savage

*Where do you currently work?*

Head of Monograph Acquisitions at the University of Michigan Library. Our department consists of the Order Unit, which places about 35,000 orders per year; the Receiving Unit, which processes 30,000 volumes per year; the Approvals Unit, which processes 30,000 volumes per year through 25 approval plans; and the Exchanges and Gifts Unit, which handles about 20,000 gift items per year and manages about 3,000 exchanges of serials with 1,500 exchange partners throughout the world. The Order and Receiving Units manage about 5,000 standing orders for multi-part monograph titles and a small number of standing orders for unnumbered series, and the Exchanges and Gifts unit handles about 3,000 exchange serials and several hundred gift subscriptions.

I used to think that an in-depth serials background would be an excellent basis for just about any library job simply because so many aspects of libraries are related to serials to some degree, because most of the major developments in the publication industry are happening within the realm of serials, and because experience with the complexity of serials would prepare you for just about anything. I still believe that is all true. I just never would have suspected prior to starting my current job in monographs work that my serials background would indeed be directly applicable. In fact, I hate to think how difficult dealing with the messiness of standing orders for multi-part monographs, not to mention standing unnumbered series, would have been without this serials background.

*What jobs have you held previously?*

Head of Cataloging, Wayne State University Library System. Much of my production work revolved around particularly difficult serials work, such as electronic serials, government documents, and law publications. Prior to this job, I was Projects Coordinator in the same library system. My serials background certainly helped with a surprising range of projects.

Prior to WSU, I worked for six months at the Library of Michigan, a state library. I started there as a cataloger for the Michigan Newspaper Project, then two months later became the manager for the project, and two months later became the head of the cataloging team.

Prior to moving to Michigan to live with my partner, I was Head of the Serials Department at the University of Kentucky Libraries. Our department handled most of the processing work for the serials of the library system, as well as the extremely busy public service unit for the periodicals (current issues and back volumes) and most
microforms in the main library. I’ve long thought that I was extremely lucky in many ways to have started my career in this job. For example, this combination of managing at the same time the periodicals public service work and the technical services work upon which it depended was invaluable in developing an understanding of what selectors and library users need from technical services processes.

_How long have you been a member of NASIG?
Eleven years, since 1991._

_How did you get started in serials work?
This was one of the luckiest accidents of my life. I had been working on a master’s degree in piano performance at the University of Kentucky when I injured my right wrist and arm. This didn’t heal correctly, so it eventually resurfaced and eventually made completing my doctorate impossible. Consequently, I found a job as a paraprofessional in the periodicals public service unit of the library. I immediately liked this work and decided to begin the MLS program there. I still miss playing piano a lot but have always felt lucky this worked out the way it did; I never liked teaching piano and was horrible at it, but I have really liked all of the various types of library work I’ve done. This is in part because of the nature of the work, and in part because it means a lot to me to be spending so much of my life in a profession whose purpose is to make life easier and better for people in general._

_How did you get involved in NASIG?
Brad Carrington, a serials cataloger in our department at Kentucky, talked Mary Welch, our other serials cataloger, and me into submitting several topics for workshop presentations for the 1991 conference. My topic was preservation microfilming of serials (our department included a unit that filmed all current Kentucky newspapers and materials for the Kentucky Newspapers Project). This topic was selected for the program and paired with a presentation about multiple formats cataloging by Mitch Turitz. During the conference, I was very impressed with NASIG for several reasons. I think all of them still apply to the organization today: NASIG seems more practical, effective, well managed, and directly related to my work than any other organization, and I really like how human the organization felt: it really is devoted to serving its members and profession, and the people at the conferences are always friendly. Another reason why I liked the 1991 conference so much was that, during it, I fell in love with Tom Champagne, whom Susan Davis had asked to introduce me at the workshop, so it was a _truly wonderful_ conference in many ways! Tom and I attend every conference, and it always feels like somewhat of an anniversary for us. We’ve both met many of our favorite people and formed most of our closest friendships with people we met at NASIG conferences or worked with on NASIG committees, so we have very strong personal connections with the organization. NASIG has been very good for both of our careers and personal lives, so obviously I owe a great deal of thanks to it, and especially to Brad and Susan!_  

_What is your dream serials job?
I really like variety and complexity, and all the change that goes with those factors. So if I could have any serials job I could imagine, it would probably be managing a comprehensive serials department in a university library. This would include all the acquisitions, cataloging, serials control, binding, and public service for all types of serials, including electronic formats, government documents, microforms, etc. I’d include the managing aspect because I like the variety of workflow management, staff supervision, administrative tasks, committee work, keeping up with development in the profession, and working within the context of the larger library that are elements within a department head type of position. I’d include being in a university library because I seem to need the education-oriented customer-service aspects, whether it relates to the public or other library staff, to feel as if all these hours of my life spent at work are worthwhile._

_How has NASIG changed?
On the surface, it might seem that NASIG hasn’t changed much, that it’s been so consistently successful that hasn’t needed to. But I think that’s a misconception. Certainly, the philosophical basis of the organization has been so on target from the beginning that it has easily adapted to changes around and within the organization. I think that’s how the best organizations _should_ work. I attended NASIG Board meetings for several years while I worked with the NASIG _Newsletter_. These meetings made it evident to me how much the organization is in a constant state of growth, or at least change. I particularly like how the organization has been taking steps to develop membership in Canada, Mexico, and the Caribbean during the past few years. (Otherwise, we probably should seriously consider a name and mission change for the organization, if we’re going to be honest.) This effort, and expanding membership within the commercial sector, are particularly difficult nuts to crack, but I’m glad the organization is still working at it. If nothing else has become clear to me during my life so far, I think I’ve learned a good deal about the depth of the world’s need for more people to work and live well together. NASIG is certainly one venue where that can, and really should, happen._

_Is there anything that hasn’t been covered that you would like to share with the NASIG members?_
Just something that I’d like to pass on to others: This summer, while Tom and I were visiting three friends who work at UCSD, I met Luc Declerk. Before becoming Director of Technical Services at UCSD last March, Luc lived in Canada for many years. It was interesting hearing things he had to say about the views of many Canadian serialists about NASIG. Luc said several times that he’s always heard nothing but very good things about NASIG and gave detailed examples. In addition to the obvious pleasure of hearing external evidence that an organization which I feel so connected to is doing excellent work, it made me feel proud of NASIG. I hope other NASIG members can feel the same way.

OTHER NASIG NEWS

SITE SELECTION COMMITTEE REPORT

Denise Novak, Mary Page, and Anne McKee

In recent years, it’s become increasingly difficult to find a campus site that can accommodate the annual NASIG conference. Either we are too large a group, or the dates don’t work for us, or the necessary onsite staff support isn’t available. Limiting registration has been discussed as an option, but most of us are uncomfortable with that idea, which flies in the face of the NASIG spirit of openness. And quite frankly, some of us in certain age groups no longer find dormitory life as charming as we once did (not to mention bunk beds!).

This year, we are having a sort of hybrid conference in Portland, Oregon: we’ll be staying in hotels, but most of our meetings will be on the beautiful campus of Portland State University. As we looked around for sites for the 2004 conference, we could not find a campus that offered all of our basic requirements: meeting and living space for 700, convenient transportation options, and a staff support infrastructure to take on the yeoman’s work of CPC.

This year’s Site Selection Committee decided to look at conference and retreat centers as well as hotels. We quickly realized that conference centers were out of our price range. We then began contacting a few convention and visitors bureaus around the country to explore our options for a hotel-based conference. To our pleasant surprise, we found that several cities wanted our business, and they were willing to work hard to earn it. We also learned that the costs were comparable to previous NASIG conferences and that the hotel and/or convention bureau staff would provide ample support both before and during the conference.

During November and December 2002, the Site Selection Committee visited both Minneapolis/St. Paul and Milwaukee. We were favorably impressed with both cities and what they could offer NASIG. In both cities, we could have all our meetings and house all attendees in one hotel. Both cities offer plenty of restaurants and amenities within walking distance, and both offer superb entertainment options for us to consider. The committee believed that either city would be a wonderful site for NASIG 2004, and we presented the Board with details about each location. Ultimately, the Board selected Milwaukee for 2004.

As the Board discussion continued, however, we realized that so much work had gone into the selection process and that we had excellent contacts established with Minneapolis/St. Paul. We are trying out a new hotel-based format, and we think it’s a good idea to test it out for a few years so that we can learn and improve each time. Providing we can negotiate favorable terms with Minneapolis/St. Paul, the Board approved Minneapolis/St. Paul as our 2005 conference site.

While it may seem odd to have back-to-back conferences in the upper Midwest, this part of the country has been underserved by NASIG in the past, and it is an area that has frequently been suggested for future conferences by NASIG members. Plus, both cities will be fabulous conference sites, and both are easily accessible from most North American cities and Europe.

In many ways, NASIG is the victim of its own success. We put on an excellent conference every year, and we just keep growing. To remain a fresh, vibrant organization, we need to try new formats for our conferences, and the hotel-based conference presents us with an opportunity to experiment. We have every reason to believe that the new format will be a success, and we are counting on you, the members of NASIG, to help make it so.

Watch this space for exciting details about future NASIG venues!
NASIG ET VOUS Y USTED AND YOU
Maggie Rioux, NASIG Publicist

Everyone attending the NASIG 2002 Conference at William & Mary received a copy of our new NASIG membership brochure, “NASIG and You.” But did you know that it’s now available in French and Spanish as well as in English?

Although most of our members are from the United States, we’ve always been the North American Serials Interest Group, which means that our area of interest includes Canada, Mexico, and the Caribbean area as well as the U.S. In order to make it easier for serialists from the Spanish-speaking countries and francophone Canadians to learn about NASIG, we’ve translated the membership brochure into those two languages. We’re especially interested in increasing our membership from the Mexican and Caribbean serials community since we have had trouble in the past in reaching these folks.

All three versions of the brochure are on NASIGWeb (http://www.nasig.org/public/AboutNASIG.htm). Also, if you need brochures to distribute at a serials-related event, please contact the NASIG publicist at least two weeks in advance with an estimate of how many you’ll need and in what language. Maggie Rioux is currently the publicist but will hand over the reins (and brochures) to Eleanor Cook at the end of June.

NEWSLETTER NEWS

Every issue of the NASIG Newsletter is now available online. Newsletter staff have revamped the index page, http://nasig.org/newsletters/index.html, making access to either the HTML or PDF versions immediately apparent!

The Editor-in-Chief calls for three cheers and a round of applause for Step Schmitt, who scanned the remaining 37 issues of the Newsletter in record time! Step began work on the project the week of January 6 and completed the conversion in about 14 days! She has a few enhancements to work on over the next few months. Watch future issues of the Newsletter for other exciting news related to this project!

Thank you, Step, for your hard work! Take a bow!

CALLING ALL SERIALISTS
Char Simser
NASIG Newsletter, Editor-in-Chief

Your Editor-in-Chief has had feedback from a number of members of NASIG indicating that the Newsletter occasionally should include fun stuff! Things about YOU, the members of the organization. Yes, we know you are a great librarian, vendor, or publisher! But who are you when you leave the library (or the office) at the end of the day? What secret talents do you possess?

In this inaugural column of “Calling All Serialists” we are looking for some trivia:

Who am I?

Did you know...
• There are several musicians on the NASIG Board?
• That at least one member of NASIG used to be in an all-girl rock band in high school?
• One member was an Army wife who moved 16 times in 16 years to places like Alaska, Germany, Kansas, and Washington state.

Did you serve in the armed forces?

Do you skydive? fly airplanes? ski?
Have you published poetry? novels? short fiction?
Did you audition for “American Idol”?

Send in a tidbit about yourself for publication in the June 2003 issue of the NASIG Newsletter! Let your colleagues at the 2003 Conference in Portland try to uncover the mysteries! Maybe you’ll discover that you have more than just serials in common. Answers (i.e., names) will be published in the September issue of the Newsletter.

Future issues of the Newsletter may put out other calls:
• What did you do before you moved into the realm of serials?
• When you were a kid, what did you want to be when you grew up?

We’ll be looking for suggestions for topics.

Deadline for submission to “Calling All Serialists” is
May 1.
E-mail the Editor-in-Chief at newsletter@nasig.org.
The 2002 revisions to the *Anglo-American Cataloguing Rules*, 2nd edition (AACR2), include far-reaching conceptual changes, particularly to Chapter 12 (formerly Serials). The compiled revision to AACR2 was published in September 2002 and was implemented by the Library of Congress in December 2002. Therefore, this NETSL/NASIG program, featuring two renowned experts in their respective areas, was most timely.

Ann Sandberg-Fox, Cataloging Consultant and Trainer, discussed “Revisions to AACR2 Chapter 9.” This chapter, formerly titled “Computer Files” and now titled “Electronic Resources,” is a perpetual work in progress, revised regularly over the past 20 years. Nor does it seem that this chapter will be given even a brief rest to pause for breath: further discussions involving both new and older but unresolved issues will surely result in further revisions in the near future. Sandberg-Fox proceeded through the chapter by ISBD area, first describing the changes made in each area and then outlining the current discussion points pertinent to that area.

The most significant revision to Chapter 9 has been in terminology: the term “electronic resource” replaces “computer file” throughout AACR2, including the general material designation (GMD). Another important change has taken place in the scope of the chapter (Rule 9.0A): interactive multimedia are now included (although the phrase itself is no longer used as an optional GMD), and a clear distinction is made between direct access and remote access resources. Making a decision as to whether an electronic resource is direct or remote is fundamental, as many other decisions will stem from this. For the former, which are “local” and have physical carriers, conventional terminology, such as CD-ROM, can be used in the physical description area. There is no physical description for remote access resources, such as Web sites. Changes to the rules for the latter include considering all remote resources to be published and mandatory provision of the date on which the resource was viewed for cataloging. Another revision of great importance is the change to Rule 9.0B1, which states that the chief source of information is the entire resource, as compared to the previous emphasis on the title screen. Finally, all of these changes need to be considered in the larger context of the revised Rule 0.24, which now states that the catalog record should bring out all important aspects of a resource—including its content, carrier, form of issuance, bibliographic relationships, etc.—in every area of description.

The requirement to describe all aspects of a complex resource leads to the first of the discussion points outlined by Sandberg-Fox. The question is, which AACR2 chapters should be consulted, and in what order, to catalog resources which exhibit characteristics of multiple classes of materials? The ISBD Review Group of IFLA (the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions) has a proposal now being considered which would allow ISBD areas and elements to be repeated as needed, to bring out aspects in the following order: content, physical carrier, form of issuance. She gave the example of a serially issued map on CD-ROM. Rules for content would be drawn from Chapter 3 (Cartographic Materials), physical carrier from Chapter 9, and form of issuance from Chapter 12 (Continuing Resources). A second discussion point has to do with what the proper scope of the chapter should now be. Many remote-access materials will now be cataloged as integrating resources using Chapter 12. Again, the emphasis on equally bringing out all aspects of an item means that the mere fact that a resource may require a computer for its use is no longer the strongest factor determining which chapter to use. The Joint Steering Committee for the Revision of AACR2 (JSC) is considering a proposal which would restrict use of Chapter 9 to something resembling its original scope: that is, for materials such as computer programs, data files, and certain types of multimedia.

The change to “electronic resource” as the GMD for this chapter is associated with the ongoing review of the purpose of function of GMDs in general; again, particularly in the case of complex resources. Barbara Tillett and Jean Weils have conducted recent studies of the GMD, and the IFLA ISBD Review Group is discussing the possibility of constructing complex GMDs from multiple terms when needed.

The value of ISBD Area 3 (now titled “Type and Extent of Resource”) for electronic resources has long been in doubt, although at present the area is still in Chapter 9. The current ISBD standard for electronic resources,
Jean Hirons, CONSER Coordinator at the Library of Congress and one of the primary architects of AACR2’s new approach in Chapter 12, continued the presentation by speaking on “Changes to AACR2 That Accomodate Seriality.” Rather than review in detail the extensive changes to this chapter, Hirons concentrated on two primary topics: the new conceptual framework of finite vs. continuing resources, and the concept of “major and minor changes” as a basis for creating new records. She mentioned, as well, that as a native of Massachusetts, she couldn’t resist the opportunity to speak at the NELA conference at the height of autumn, although she is now declining further invitations to speak about Chapter 12!

While the fundamental conceptual change from “Serials” to “Continuing Resources” in Chapter 12 has been discussed at length in many contexts by now, Hirons’ exposition of the basics was most useful. She pointed out the distinction between the new definitions of continuing resources and integrating resources (IRs), and the revised definition of serials. She made clear the differences between monographs and continuing resources, and also between serials and IRs, emphasizing that the latter two terms are not synonymous, but rather designate two types of resources covered by the revised chapter. Finite IRs, such as an image database which is added to until a complete collection is represented, are included in the chapter, because it was judged that only one set of rules was needed to cover all types of IRs. Other types of publications which exhibit qualities of seriality, such as limited-duration conference newsletters and serial reprints, are included as well. The two most essential differences in cataloging treatment between serials and IRs are the basis of the description and change conventions. For serials, description is based on the first or earliest available issue, and changes require the creation of successive entry records. For IRs, the latest iteration (or state of the resource) is the basis of the description, and an “integrating entry” record is updated with new information for most types of changes to the resource.

The significance of these changes has several dimensions. First, we now recognize that many resources which we have treated as monographs are in fact not such and require additional control. At the same time, the long-standing monograph/serial dichotomy will not serve us any longer. The umbrella concept of continuing resources may increase in significance over time as more different types of materials come to exhibit the dynamic quality that we now associate with Web sites. In addition, libraries that participate in either CONSER, BIBCO, or both will catalog integrating resources. Hirons also addressed several current myths, particularly the perception that “serials” no longer exist in AACR2. Not only has the definition of “serial” not radically changed, but in fact most serials will continue to be cataloged as they have been.

The concept of “major change” or “minor change,” which replaces that of “title change” as the basis for creating a new record, is spelled out in rule 21.2A, which now includes provisions that were previously found in Library of Congress Rule Interpretations. The underlying principle behind these new and revised rules is that a new record should be made only when there is a new work. While this ideal goal cannot entirely be achieved, it is worth striving for and aligns the rules in a more desirable direction. The rules now attempt to distinguish between changes which clearly signal new works (e.g., significant change in content or audience) and those which are more cosmetic in nature (such as title changes due to typography or design). Hirons described title changes which are considered to be major or minor. Under the revised rules, more change will be considered to be minor, even some that involve the first word in the title. She highlighted four conditions: changes to the representation of a word, such as the switch from an initialism or acronym to the full form; different placements of corporate body names in a title and their representations; addition, deletion, or change in order of words in a list; and the addition or deletion of generic terms, such as “report,” indicating a type of publication.
Finally, Hirons discussed one of her current efforts, which will be of interest to many. She conducted a survey asking about the desirability of creating a single record for all online versions of an electronic journal, including and especially versions as provided by different aggregators. Ninety-nine percent of those who responded to the survey said that this would be preferred. As a result, she is drafting a proposal for the Program for Cooperative Cataloging, establishing that as a matter of policy, single records will be created which are as “aggregator-neutral” as possible. The only information specific to aggregators in such a record will be 856 fields for electronic access and 246 fields for variant title access. The journal publisher’s Web site would be the preferred cataloging source, if possible. CONSER would work with OCLC to collapse existing aggregator-specific records and clean up the database to the greatest extent. CONSER would also work with the ISSN Center and vendors such as Serials Solutions to discover journals with online forms, which at present have no separate records for those forms, i.e. where existing records are for print manifestations with online information added. The NELA audience received this proposal with great enthusiasm.

Useful links:
Presentations by Jean Hirons on changes to AACR2:
NASIG 2002:
http://lcweb.loc.gov/acq/conser/aacr2002/A2slides.html
ALA 2002:
http://www.alaa.org/alcts/organization/ss/serialscat.html
Steve Miller’s presentation to CONSER/BIBCO on cataloging integrating resources:
http://www.loc.gov/catdir/pcc/bibco/irtmg702_files/frame.htm

SERIALS REVIEWS IN UNCERTAIN TIMES: TWO APPROACHES AND ADVICE FOR AVOIDING FISCAL NIGHTMARES
Albert Joy, University of Vermont; Jay Schafer, University of Massachusetts – Amherst; Leslie Knapp, EBSCO Subscription Services
Reported by Kathy Blessing

[Presented October 21, 2002, at the New England Library Association’s Annual Conference in Sturbridge, Massachusetts. Co-sponsored by NASIG and the New England Technical Services Librarians (NETSL). This session also included a brief NETSL business meeting.]

Albert Joy, Acquisitions/Preservation Librarian at the University of Vermont’s Bailey/Howe Library, presented “Periodicals Reviews and Cancellation Projects: Issues to Consider.” In his discussion, he described his institution’s recently completed, yearlong assessment and cancellation project. This effort offers a successful model for non-crisis review.

According to Joy, initially getting the right people onboard is critical to any committee’s success. The Bailey/Howe Library serials review team included faculty liaisons as well as acquisitions, collection, and systems department professionals. This group also benefited greatly from a strong partnership with the library’s dean. While committee liaison members contacted department chairpersons and encouraged faculty participation in the review process, the dean communicated information about the review project to the university’s administration.

Under the direction of their systems librarian, the committee created a Web-capable, password-accessible Excel instrument. Joy explained this tool’s design and functions. Each title entry contained data extrapolated from Voyager (e.g. title record details) and EBSCOnet (e.g. historical pricing information). Faculty and librarians ranked the titles within their areas of concern by importance. Since this instrument was organized by LC subject headings, it allowed interdisciplinary use of journals to be taken into account. For instance, an ethics title ranked by the philosophy faculty as moderately valuable may have been considered highly important to a political science colleague’s research.

While the team targeted reducing expenditures by 15%, they did not allocate specific reduction amounts within disciplines or across the curriculum. Based on reviewer recommendations and negotiation with faculty, a 12.5% cut in periodical expenditures was reached. Due to changes in interest and attrition, many departments recommended title cancellations and requested, as funding permitted, the purchasing of more relevant ones. Unfortunately, as Joy pointed out, any savings that resulted from this project will soon be lost as inflation continues to increase.

Jay Schafer, Associate Director for Content, Acquisition, and Preservation at the University of Massachusetts-Amherst Libraries, discussed “From Collection Development to Content Acquisition and Access.” While the Bailey/Howe librarians were conducting their serials project in a proactive environment, Schafer and other members of the UMass-Amherst Libraries team were performing their review amidst huge, compounding cuts in state funding. Their efforts offer a successful model for
serials assessment and cancellation under extraordinarily difficult circumstances.

As Schafer explained, during the second half of 2001 the Educational Reference Materials (ERM) line in the state budget was unexpectedly and repetitively slashed. These drastic, unforeseen cuts virtually wiped out all state contributions earmarked for library reference collections in Massachusetts’ public institutions of higher learning. As a result of this enormous shortfall, UMass-Amherst’s journal subscription funding was reduced by more than two million dollars in matter of a few months. As the situation worsened, the team changed its original serials review strategy to a series of untraditional assessment and cancellation initiatives.

The UMass-Amherst system was particularly vulnerable to cuts at the state level since its own campus budget was very austere. Institutional funds to support library operations and resources were scarce. Outstanding periodical invoices became especially problematic. Unlike monographs and most annuals, periodicals cannot be stopped in a rapid manner. In fact, many publishers designate certain titles as noncancelable.

Among the more challenging tasks faced by the libraries was maintaining a competitive level research collection and upholding institutional status with the Association of Research Libraries. The serials team and director released communications and made presentations to their user community about these issues. It was important for their clientele to understand how ERM budget reductions impacted many facets of UMass-Amherst’s intellectual life. The response they received was very positive. Faculty and administrators rallied to support the libraries. Emergency provisions were allocated to offset current losses. More importantly, the administration worked to establish stable, sustained budgeting.

The only way the libraries could respond to enormous cuts and still meet their clientele’s collection expectations, according to Schafer, was to shift from a journal ownership mentality to one which focused on content access. He described the design and utilization of the team’s ranking instrument. Using this tool’s coding system, faculty indicated the primary use of each journal (e.g. undergraduate, graduate/research, multi-levels, and bibliographic use). Also, each title’s core or supplementary value was determined. Additionally, the review committee studied data from a previous serials review project (1999) where faculty had ranked and prioritized titles in their disciplines.

In terms of accessibility, importance was placed on providing the electronic delivery of articles to faculty, graduate students, and staff desktops. The Canada Institute for Scientific and Technical Information (CISTI), one of world’s major sources of information in all areas of science and technology, was chosen as the libraries’ major delivery vendor. By participating in the Boston Library Consortium (BLC) and partnering with UMass-Worcester, access to print materials not owned by UMass-Amherst was broadened.

To access UMass-Amherst Libraries’ budget crisis news releases and related archives visit: http://www.library.umass.edu/cm/cancellation/.

Leslie Knapp, EBSCO Director of Client Services, presented, “An Agent’s Perspective on Serials Reviews.” She urged librarians to communicate their collection profile needs to subscription agents. Knapp explained how EBSCOnet (http://www.ebsco.com/ebsconet/app/login.asp) clients may obtain, free of charge, a whole suite of reports (e.g. budget analysis, titles by assigned funding codes, historical and projected pricing, titles selected by index). The data captured in these documents may be sorted and formatted for various uses. In addition to PDF availability, most documents can be electronically prepared for uploading into serials review spreadsheets or integrated into a library’s system.

Knapp recommended that libraries not send in their renewals until they have firmly established the amount of subscription funds are available. Waiting until a budget amount is known may result in an institution having a number of claiming problems or even subscription lapses later on. But, this scenario is still preferable to one where EBSCO, or any other agent, has made commitments to publishers on an institution’s behalf and later finds that the organization is unable to meet its invoice debts. The process of recalling subscriptions after they have been ordered is extremely complicated and time consuming for agents since each publisher has unique refund or cancellation policies. Most companies also have a certain percentage of titles that are noncancelable.

As Knapp aptly stated, “It is a far, far better thing not to renew than it is to cancel after being invoiced.” Serials librarians, take heart.

For more review information, the session presenters may be reached at the following e-mail addresses:

Albert Joy         albert.joy@uvm.edu
Jay Schafer        jschafer@library.umass.edu
Leslie Knapp     lknapp@ebsco.com
The Committee to Study Serials Cataloging (CSSC) met in Philadelphia for ALA Midwinter. Most of the action occurred at the All Committee meeting on Saturday, January 25. There were several topics of unusual importance the committee discussed at this meeting.

The most significant, for its long range and long run implications, was the “Library of Congress Bibliographic Control of Web Resources.” Detailed information on the plan for those interested can be found at the Library of Congress Web site:

http://lcweb.loc.gov/catdir/bibcontrol/actionplan.pdf

There are many facets to the plan, covering matters such as acquisitions, vendors, continuing education, and the like, which the committee has no involvement with. However, there are three items that directly relate to cataloging. Item 3.3 of the plan is currently being addressed by the CSSC. Item 3.3 addresses creating a table that links cataloging notes or cataloging relationships, cataloging rules, and MARC tagging. The committee has been working with Judith Kuhagen and Barbara Tillett of the Library of Congress, and we invited them to meet with us at the Saturday meeting to discuss the table as devised by the committee so far. The two Library of Congress representatives were very pleased with the table the committee had devised. Much has yet to be done. The Library of Congress is working with other groups on this table and has its own editing to do, as the final say on how the table is to appear in completed form rests with them. All the same, it seems that the CSSC is making a contribution to LC’s efforts on this project. Barbara Tillett is hopeful that this item can be completed by the annual conference.

Another major item from the Saturday meeting is a proposed change to the ALCTS manual concerning how the CSSC does the minutes of its meeting. (The CSSC has a separate section in their manual on this, due to the unique nature of its meetings and their minutes, as it is expected that serials catalogers use these minutes as guidance in their day-to-day cataloging activities.) The committee feels that with the capabilities of mounting Power Point presentations, provision in the minutes procedures should be made for that, along with the necessity to update other aspects of these procedures. A final proposal was not ready to be submitted to the Serials Section Executive Committee. This will be done after the conference and submitted electronically for an executive committee vote.

The CSSC had its regular meeting on Monday, January 27, from 2-4 p.m. Most of the items included short reports. David Van Hoy, CSSC Liaison to the CC:DA, reported on those activities. Regina Reynolds of the Library of Congress reported on activities at LC, NSDP, and CONSER. Judy Mansfield, Acting Director, Cataloging Division, Library of Congress, gave a general overview of the LC Action Plan (John Radencich, CSSC Chair, then explained to the audience the committee’s work on Item 3.3 of the Action Plan). Everett Allgood of New York University gave a report on the CONSER Task Force on FRBR (Functional Requirements on Bibliographic Records).

The main speaker was Becky Culbertson, University of California at San Diego, who gave a report on “Option B+.” This refers to the effort by CONSER to reduce the proliferation of cataloging records that result whenever an electronic journal is published by a different aggregator. Currently, whenever an e-journal is provided by a different publisher or made available by a different aggregator, cataloging rules specify that a new record must be created. CONSER’s Option B+ plan allows all versions to be put on just one record. Becky’s presentation led to a spirited discussion among audience members that lasted for nearly 40 minutes and was the highlight of the meeting.

Finally John Radencich made an announcement that the CSSC is co-sponsoring an ALCTS Preconference on Knowledge Without Boundaries, which is about metadata in an international environment.
The semi-annual meeting of SIGALO (Serials Interest Group of Academic Libraries in Oklahoma) was a real treat to the 25 attendees. Held November 19, 2002, at the Midwest City Public Library in Midwest City, Oklahoma, we were very lucky to use the $1,000 scholarship that NASIG awarded us earlier this year for continuing education. Lisa Furubotten, Head of Serials Cataloging at Texas A&M University, College Station, instructed us in the changes that are just around the calendar corner for electronic serials.

The Serials Cataloging Cooperative Training Program (SCCTP), a division of the Library of Congress CONSER Program, has a number of programs available. One of these programs is Electronic Serials Cataloging. After questioning our colleagues in SIGALO, we felt using the money for the Electronic Serials Cataloging course would be money well spent. We had already had one such request earlier and felt that more knowledge in this area would only increase our abilities as serialists and catalogers.

Lisa Furubotten is a wonderful trainer. For those of you that haven’t had the pleasure of meeting Lisa, her background includes delivering this training class in English and Spanish. She has had the opportunity to travel to Mexico a number of times to deliver this program and has translated many of the slides into Spanish. She is very involved in the NASIG-Mexico Student Conference Grant program. One fact that we found impressive was that she was transcribing the CONSER manuals into Spanish. Talk about a job!

The trainee manual that is available through the Library of Congress has six sessions. Lisa went over each section, but the areas that our group was most interested in were how to deal with aggregator records and the single record/multiple record approach for electronic serials. Most of us are also anticipating the roll-out of the use of the more specific descriptor of “Integrating Resources,” which is for loose-leaf publications, Web sites, and online databases when cataloging electronic resources. This will be used instead of a more general term that is the standard today for computer files.

The one activity or idea that attendees really wanted to try once they got back to their home library was:

- Using new integrating resources options.
- Rethinking the single record approach.
- Aggregators—linking all in a batch so can pull all if publication is pulled.
- Buying packages of records from aggregators.
- More electronic cataloging.
- Global updates for rule and description changes (007).
- Adding extra fields to the single record that has already been created to show multiple links that are available, such as various aggregators.
- Access by source of aggregator.
- Connecting cataloging records.

Needless to say, most of us decided at the end of the day to go back and review our own serial records!

We are very thankful to NASIG for supplying this money to us through the Continuing Education Committee, and we highly recommend other interested people to contact their CE liaison to see what funds are available for local training opportunities.

For more information on SIGALO, please see our Web page at http://www.ecok.edu/library/depts/perd/sigalo/index.htm. The programming team consists of Nancy Jurney, Programming Chair, Langston University, Langston, Oklahoma; Michael Kim, Oklahoma State University, Stillwater, Oklahoma; Beverly Dowdy, University of Central Oklahoma, Edmond, Oklahoma; and Marla Roberson, Oklahoma State University, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.
TITLE CHANGES

[Note: Please report promotions, awards, new degrees, new positions, and other significant professional milestones. You may submit items about yourself or other members to Carol MacAdam (clm@jstor.org). 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.]

Congratulations to all!

Kitti Canepi has a new position as Campus Librarian and Head of Technical Services at the Ralph M. Paiewansky Library of the University of the Virgin Islands. Kitti was previously Resource Management Librarian at Florida Gulf Coast University. She began her new job on November 4, 2002. Kitti says that she could not pass up the opportunity to live and work in America’s Caribbean, the beautiful U.S. Virgin Islands. Her new addresses are:
University of the Virgin Islands
2 John Brewer’s Bay
St Thomas, VI 00802-9990
Phone: (340) 693-1361
Fax: (340) 693-1365
E-mail: kcanepi@uvi.edu

Karen Chan is now Catalog Librarian at City College of San Francisco. She was previously Technical Services Coordinator at California University of Pennsylvania. Karen’s new addresses are:
City College of San Francisco
Rosenberg Library R506
50 Phelan Avenue
San Francisco, CA 94112
Phone: (415) 452-5466
Fax: (415) 452-5478
E-mail: ychan@ccsf.edu

Robert Congleton has moved from being Serials Acquisitions Librarian at Temple University to being Serials Acquisitions Librarian at Rider University. He started the new job on January 1, 2002. About his new job, Robert writes: “I am transferring our serials check-in and maintenance procedures from manual kardex cards to the Voyager library system. I am also assisting with reference, collection development, and library instruction. It is nice to have a greater role in providing library services again.” Robert’s new addresses are:
Rider University Library
5 Black Rock Road
Yardley, PA 19067
Phone: (609) 896-5248
Fax: (609) 896-8029
E-mail: rcongleton@rider.edu

From Christa Easton we have this news: With the New Year I began a new job at the Stanford University Libraries: Head of Acquisitions. This expanded role includes responsibility for acquiring monograph, serial, and digital resources for the libraries. Responsibility for serials actually shifted from me in May 2002, when Dalene Hawthorne joined the libraries as Serials Librarian. NASIG networking really works. Dalene and I first met at NASIG in 1994 on the Grouse Mountain tour during the conference at University of British Columbia, and I was thrilled to hear from her again. Dalene came to us from the position of Library Coordinator at KPMG. She also brings us experience from Information Access Company (IAC, now part of Gale Group) and Innovative Interfaces. My contact information remains the same. Dalene’s contact information is:
Serials Department
Stanford University Libraries
Stanford, CA 94305-6005
Phone: (650) 725-1122
Fax: (650) 723-4775
E-mail: daleneh@stanford.edu

Janet Essency began her new job as Collection Manager/Serials at the Maxwell Library of Bridgewater State College on November 24, 2002. She reports that she is finding her new position very challenging. Janet was previously Serials Librarian at Minot State University in North Dakota. Her new addresses are:
Maxwell Library
Bridgewater State College
Bridgewater, MA 02324
Phone: (508) 531-6159
E-mail: jessency@bridgew.edu

Linda Marie Golian-Lui has added her husband’s name to her own. Linda is now Director/University Librarian at the University of Hawaii at Hilo. Her former position was as University Librarian at Florida Gulf Coast University.
University of Hawaii at Hilo
Edwin H. Mookini Library
200 West Kawili Street
Hilo, HI 96720-4091
Phone: (808) 974-7759
Fax: (808) 974-7329
E-mail: golianlu@hawaii.edu

Nancy Hanks writes: “I started my new position as Head of Cataloging & Descriptive Metadata at Loyola/Notre Dame Library in January 2002—just in time for my second system migration to Voyager! Now that Voyager
is up and running with some of the most critical cleanup projects accomplished, I’m getting involved in Dublin Core for locally digitized material.” Nancy was previously Assistant Librarian at Space Telescope Science Institute in Baltimore. Her new addresses are:

Loyola/Notre Dame Library
200 Winston Avenue
Baltimore, MD 21212
Phone: (410) 617-6851
Fax: (410) 338-6896
E-mail: nhanks@loyola.edu

On November 14, 2002, Rachel Hollis became the new Bibliographic Services Coordinator at the California State University, Monterey Bay. Formerly, she was the Serials Librarian and Cataloger at Stanford University’s Law School. Rachel has been a resident of Monterey for more than 12 years. She is pleased to be a part of the community on the Monterey peninsula again and excited to contribute to the mission and goals of CSUMB and the library. This change means that not only is her one-way commute reduced from 90 miles to six miles but that she can contribute to a university whose goals and mission she believes in and where she feels she has much in common with the students. Rachel’s new addresses are:

California State University, Monterey Bay
Library, Building 12
100 Campus Center
Seaside, CA 93955-8001
Phone: (831) 582-3142
Fax: (831) 582-3875
E-mail: rachel_hollis@csumb.edu

Linda Hulbert started her new job as Associate Director for Technical Services for the University of St. Thomas Libraries on October 1, 2002. Linda writes: “I loved my job as Director of Technical and Access Services at Southern Illinois University, Edwardsville, but my husband was transferred by his company to the Minneapolis/St. Paul area. Because I love him to pieces, I followed him. If a person believes in “fate, kismet, b’shert,” this wonderful job opened up at JUST at the same time we decided to make the move. I applied, got the job, moved to Minnesota, and six weeks later started at St. Thomas.” Linda’s new addresses are:

University of Saint Thomas
O’Shaughnessy-Frey Library
2115 Summit Avenue
Saint Paul, MN 55105
Phone: (651) 962-5016
Fax: (651) 962-5486
E-mail: lahulbert@stthomas.edu

Yasmin Jamal is now Group Leader for the Periodicals Reading Room. This is her first full-time job after completing her library science degree at the University of British Columbia. Yasmin’s new contact information is:

Marilyn Lewis has left her position as Head of Serials and Microforms Cataloging at East Carolina University to become Technical Services Librarian at Saint Leo University in Florida. Her new addresses are:

Saint Leo University
Cannon Memorial Library
Saint Leo, FL 33574-6665
Phone: (352) 588-8265
Fax: (352) 588-8484
E-mail: marilyn.lewis@saintleo.edu

Formerly Assistant Director of Library Services at Oklahoma State, Marla Roberson sends us this news: “I started my new position as Librarian, Access Services, at University of Central Oklahoma Chambers Library on January 13, 2003. I have always enjoyed tech services but am looking forward to expanding into the public services area with this position. I feel that my background in serials and cataloging will definitely help how I view and arrange material in the public arena.” Marla’s new addresses are:

University of Central Oklahoma
Chambers Library
100 North University
Edmond, OK 73034
Phone: (405) 974-3361
E-mail: mkroberon@hotmail.com

Donna Simmons-Skekel started her new position at Gettysburg College in October 2002. Donna was originally Serials/Electronic Resources Librarian, and after some reorganization at Musselman Library, her position has clarified itself as Serials/Cataloging Librarian, which more accurately reflects what she does there, including cataloging electronic resources. Donna’s addresses are:

Gettysburg College
Musselman Library
300 North Washington Street
Gettysburg, PA 17325
Phone: (717) 337-6895
E-mail: dskekel@gettysburg.edu

Char Simser reports that she has been appointed Interim Assistant Dean for Library Administration at Kansas State University Libraries. Char’s responsibilities place
her on the Libraries’ senior management team over the Technical Services and Digital Library departments. Char’s addresses remain the same.

Since mid-September 2002, **Reeta Sinha** has been engaged in her new position as Head of Collection Development at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas. She was previously Product Manager at Endeavor Information Systems in Des Plaines, Illinois. Reeta says she loves being back in academia, and being in collection development at the library (built in 2000 and gorgeous) is a dream. Living in Las Vegas is something she never dreamed she would do, and she likes it. Reeta’s new addresses are:

**Lied Library**
University of Nevada, Las Vegas
4505 Maryland Parkway
Las Vegas, NV 89154-7001
Phone: (702) 895-2231
E-mail: Reeta.Sinha@ccmail.nevada.edu

**Jeff Slagell** sends this news: I have been promoted to Assistant Director of Library Services at Delta State University. I was previously Head of Serials and Inter-Library Loan at Delta State since May of 1999. My addresses will remain the same.

**Sandhya (Sandy) Devi Srivastava** started her new position as Serials Librarian at Hofstra University on October 1, 2002. She writes: “This was a great change which now allows me the chance to work on managing electronic serials, journals, and databases. This was the one aspect that was missing from my previous job (as Serials Acquisitions Librarian at Long Island University) and makes this position all the more interesting and allows me to use another skill set which I had and wanted to put to use. This position meets all my requirements for what I would want in my serials career so far. It has been a great beginning.” Sandy’s new addresses are:

**Hofstra University**
West Campus Library
619 Fulton Avenue, Room 300C
Hempstead, NY 11550
Phone: (516) 463-5959
Fax: (516) 463-6438
E-mail: librdsds@mail1.hofstra.edu

**CALENDAR**
Stephanie Schmitt

[Please submit announcements for upcoming meetings, conferences, workshops, and other events of interest to your NASIG colleagues to Stephanie Schmitt, stephanie.schmitt@yale.edu]

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<td>April 7-9, 2003</td>
<td>United Kingdom Serials Group</td>
<td>26th Annual Conference and Exhibition</td>
<td>Heriot-Watt University, Edinburgh, Scotland</td>
<td><a href="http://www.uksg.org/conferences/current.html">http://www.uksg.org/conferences/current.html</a></td>
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<td>June 7-12, 2003</td>
<td>Special Libraries Association</td>
<td>&quot;Putting Knowledge to Work&quot;</td>
<td>New York, New York</td>
<td><a href="http://www.sla.org/content/Events/conference/2003annual">http://www.sla.org/content/Events/conference/2003annual</a></td>
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Positions on committees, task forces, editorial boards, and other positions will be available after the June 2003 conference.

To volunteer, please complete a form available at:
http://www.nasig.org/members/forms/volunteer.html

The deadline for submitting volunteer forms is:
March 15, 2003
for appointments beginning after this year’s conference in Portland, Oregon.
**NASIG NEWSLETTER**

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**NO LATE SUBMISSIONS WILL BE ACCEPTED**