Checking In
Kurt Blythe, Column Editor

[Note: Please report promotions, awards, new degrees, new positions, and other significant professional milestones. You may submit items about yourself or other members to Kurt Blythe at kcblythe@email.unc.edu. 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.]

Given that NASIG is the most happening professional organization in the history of the world, it should come as no surprise that we have some new members. Please welcome:

Rebecca Bearden. In her own words:

“What began as a student on-campus job during my undergraduate studies turned into my career choice. I’ve been working with serials for the past thirteen years. I was a student member of NASIG from 2006-2007 while obtaining my MLS, and I re-joined in May 2014. I will be attending my first NASIG conference this year and look forward to meeting everyone.”

Presently, Rebecca is the Technical Services Librarian at the University of Connecticut School of Law Library, having earned her MLS from Southern Connecticut State University.

Virginia Bryant relates:

There's no great story to how I came to join NASIG. I've long been interested in NASIG noting its' quality conference programming, and this year the NASIG conference happens to be local to Washington D.C. The longer version is that a colleague, the former serials librarian at George Washington Law, retired last year and her responsibilities were divided among a number of librarians and staff. Now, more than before, as assistant director for technical services my position provides oversight for the handling of continuing resources within the library's ILS. I review the bibliographic records for print and electronic continuing resources, and load in the ILS all of the incoming electronic resources batch files. NASIG members have been integral in sharing practices regarding electronic resources so I look forward attending the conference programs in May.

Qali Farah is another person new to NASIG, one who “has been An Acquisitions/Serials staff member for a long time and [who] recently received my MLS degree from the University of Maryland.

Matt Harrington, serials package manager at North Carolina State University, is also new to NASIG, but has worked with serials as a paraprofessional for several years. Matt writes, “I am thankful to have been awarded the Serials Specialist award at the recent NASIG conference. It was a wonderful experience, and though the award brought me to NASIG as a first-timer, I look forward to next year’s conference.”

Ria Lukes is the technical services librarian at Indiana University, Kokomo, a position she has held since 1998. Her responsibilities include collection development, acquisitions and acquisition budgeting, cataloging, collection maintenance, and coordinator of the Federal
Depository Library Program. Ria has held three other professional positions in both academic and special libraries that gave her experience in reference, teaching, and management. Her research interests include collection development and shared print collections, assessment of the value of academic libraries, library websites, and government documents. She earned both her MLS and B.S. in Education from Indiana University. Ria recently joined NASIG as a way to find colleagues who share her professional interests and have like responsibilities. She also gave back to the organization by presenting at the 30th annual NASIG conference.

Eridan Thompson, who you may remember from “Citations,” recently completed her first year as the electronic resources librarian at Florida Southern College. She joined NASIG with an eye towards learning more about the NAISG Core Competencies for Electronic Resources Librarians. Eridan is trying to learn as much as possible but has found that this area of librarianship has many different tracks and a huge learning curve.

Linda Van Keuren writes:

I am the associate director for resources and access management at the Dahlgren Memorial Library, Georgetown University Medical Center. I have worked in academic libraries over 20 years and over 3 years here at Dahlgren Memorial Library. As Health Sciences research focuses heavily on journal content, I joined NASIG to network with other librarians tasked with negotiating, licensing, purchasing, managing and providing access to serial content. It is critical for my library, as a 99% digital library, to follow best practices for digital library management and the educational opportunities provided by NASIG will help me and the rest of the Dahlgren resources and access team remain current in this area.