President’s Corner

Anna Creech

First of all, it was great to see so many familiar faces in Albuquerque this year, as well as so many new faces. I remember sometime around my 9th NASIG conference that I realized all the greetings and hugs and smiles on the first day felt a bit like a family reunion. I’m glad to see our “family” continue to grow and evolve over the years.

The work that the Albuquerque Conference Planning Committee put into the organization of this conference was evident to me, and that was also reflected in the glowing responses to the feedback survey. Additionally, this was an excellent program put together by the Program Planning Committee. I left the conference feeling inspired, and with a still growing to-do list prompted by the things I heard there.

Of course, the annual conference isn’t the only thing that has been keeping us busy this past year. NASIG is continuing to move forward with our expanded scope and mission. We joined NISO as a voting member, and we’re establishing a Standards Committee to facilitate engagement with NISO and other standards organizations (COUNTER is on the horizon). The Board had a very productive strategic planning day with October Ivins last winter, and we established a Strategic Plan Implementation Task Force to flesh out the ideas and create a plan to fulfill them. Drawing on the charge laid upon us by 2015 Vision speaker Anne Kenney, we created a task force to identify ways in which NASIG can raise awareness of and develop tools for reducing the risk of losing vulnerable digital scholarly content.

One of the things that came up in the strategic planning session was a concern that the membership is being taxed too much with the volunteer work needed to keep the organization running smoothly. The Board is taking two approaches to address this over the next year or so. We’ve asked the Evaluations & Assessment Committee to develop a self-evaluation process for committees to assess whether they have enough support to do what they are tasked to do, as well as whether there are tasks that could be outsourced. The latter point is the other approach, and we are expanding some of the responsibilities for Non-Profit Help, an organization that has been assisting with some of the logistical tasks for the Conference Planning Committee and the Awards & Recognition Committee.

Ultimately, our goal is to free up member volunteer time for participation in more content-related work, such as the core competencies development and standards development/enhancements. These are the kinds of things that will have a positive impact on the profession.

These are exciting times to be involved with NASIG! Thank you for giving me the opportunity to provide leadership to this organization. I have some (literally) big shoes to fill, but thankfully, Carol Ann Borchert is still here in a past-president capacity to keep me from tripping in them.