Post Conference Wrap-Up

John Riddick Student Grant Report
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As a first time attendee of a NASIG conference and the John Riddick Student Grant winner, I knew I was going in to the conference as a sponge, learning from the various sessions and the attendees with their vast experience in libraries. I was very impressed with the conference and grateful to have the opportunity to attend as an award winner.

I really enjoyed learning about other institutions and their migration to new library systems. Coming from a library that is in the middle of data-cleanup in pre-implementation, I was very curious to see how other libraries are handling the changes and what processes are working for them post-implementation. Though the library migrated to a different system, the presentation from Radford University by Kay Johnson and Jessica Ireland confirmed the need for the data-cleanup we are doing and proved to be beneficial in the end for Radford.

Working primarily in acquisitions had me very interested in the use of evidence-based acquisitions (EBA), a method I had not known about previously. The University of Colorado consortia set up different methods of acquisitions in their streaming video services from Alexander Street Press (ASP) and Kanopy. My library currently has a DDA program with Kanopy, so the comparison with ASP’s EBA program was interesting to learn about, though having heard the details it would not be beneficial for our campus. Learning about other library’s explorations and similar situations is the best part of conferences in knowing what you should or should not try as a library.

Both of the vision speakers on open access were interesting and both had valid points in supporting open access. I don’t currently know very much about our institutional repository (IR), but T. Scott Plutchak’s discussion of open access IR’s to support and complement the university sounded like an ideal use of IR space. Heather Joseph put open access in a different perspective for me in altering the question of having open access “in order to do something significant.” Giving purpose to supporting open access, besides the acquisition and licensing thoughts of saving time and stress, really makes the movement more valuable and worth fighting for continuous progress.

I would suggest to students potentially interested in the e-resources or serials fields to attend NASIG. Again, I feel like the sessions were varied; there was always something to learn about or discover. As a student, I’ve enjoyed attending different conferences of various sizes, but attending NASIG has been my favorite because of the people and the environment and atmosphere the conference plans for attendees.