The executive board met at our 2017 conference site for the fall meeting, and I have to say, as someone who grew up in Ohio, my expectations of Indianapolis were far below reality. I was impressed with the pedestrian friendliness of the downtown area, the architecture, and the people I met. The board dinner provided us with an opportunity to take in many of the downtown sites as we trekked about a mile or so to a fantastic German restaurant (The Rathskeller) housed in the basement of an old German clubhouse (The Athenæum).

In addition to the sidewalks of downtown Indianapolis, the board covered a lot of ground in our meeting. We discussed some of the details of the 2017 conference program and activities, providing feedback to the committees planning them, and hashed out some communications/workflows that had experienced hiccups in the last conference. Another thing we discussed is adding an organizational membership category for non-profits that want to be members but aren’t interested in the vendor expo or other sponsorship options. While we managed to whittle away at the action items from our past meetings, we ended up adding nearly as many more to the list as challenges or informational needs presented themselves.

The Scholarly Communications Core Competencies Task Force is nearing the final stage of its work, and the draft looks very promising. The task force will be sharing the draft with the membership for additional feedback, and will likely also present at the 2017 conference.

Speaking of task forces, the Strategic Planning Implementation Task Force will be soliciting feedback from the membership, so keep an eye out for that.

So many great things are happening across the NASIG committees and task forces. You can read the details in their reports, and marvel as I do at how much this organization gets done with the help of volunteers. I was at the Charleston Conference earlier this fall, and only once did I get the “is NASIG still a thing” question. The questioner soon regretted it as I began to list off the amazing things we’re doing – from the core competencies to the standards work – NASIG is more relevant and significant than ever!