

Members' Comments on the Importance of NASIG

As the "lone" serials professional in a small (2,432 FTE), private, academic library, I rely on NASIG communications to help me see into the future and make wise decisions dealing with serials. I have not presented at NASIG conferences or even attended one, however, I am grateful for the minds that have done so and who publish their findings so that those of us who are a department of one can see "the big picture" and not learn everything from personal experience. Thanks!

Betty Batten
Serials Librarian
Edmond Stanley Library
Friends University
Wichita, KS

I have been a member of NASIG for more than 1/2 my professional life, and it would take nearly that long to express the myriad ways in which the organization has helped me to grow as a librarian...a "serialist", if you will.

A venue to hear presentations on matters which pertain directly to my responsibilities, a forum to air my opinions and "sound out" my colleagues on same, and a gateway to explore new topics and methodologies would certainly be definitions of NASIG that come to mind.

But most of all the opportunity to get to know others who have made significant contributions to the field and develop relationships with them that time and time again have proven invaluable as I deal with serials at my library.

Martin Gordon
Acquisitions Librarian
Shadek-Fackenthal Library
Franklin & Marshall College
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I first joined NASIG in 1993 and attended the conference in Providence, RI. I was brand new to serials acquisitions, and I learned some very practical things at that NASIG conference that have helped me throughout my career.

What I remember in particular from that conference was a discussion about the serials publishing industry where mysteries such as why it takes US publishers 6-8 weeks to change mailing addresses, and tips about what length to make subscription names, were explained. I was able to take back to work these very basic, but very useful tidbits of information and improve our acquisition and claiming of serials. These minutiae are still sometimes very important to know.

In 1994, I attended the NASIG conference in Vancouver, where I met Christa Easton, my current manager. When I applied for the Serials Librarian job at Stanford in 2002, Christa remembered me from that conference and I believe that helped me get an interview. That year, I also remember seeing a presentation about this new thing called the World Wide Web that was going to change our lives. It certainly has done that.

I was not able to attend NASIG again until Portland in 2003, where I was privileged to present a poster session - my first professional presentation.

It is difficult to fully describe the tremendous difference NASIG has made in my professional life. The organization holds a special place in my regard even though I was unable to participate fully for many years. Thank you for giving me the opportunity to share how meaningful this organization is to me.

Dalene Hawthorne
Ordering Librarian
Stanford University Libraries
Stanford, CA

I'm a rather new member (3 years) and I have only been to one conference, but NASIG has been very important to me. I became the periodicals librarian here in 2000. We are a small university library (1700 students - 5 librarians) and I do everything from Acquisitions to binding or discard. I learned the position from my predecessor and was to some extent "flying blind" until I joined NASIG. Library school (Berkeley '83) didn't give me much preparation for serials work. Through my membership I have brought our library up to current standards in cataloging and stayed informed about other standards and changes in the field. I regularly visit the website and joined SERIALST and NASIG-L. I attended the Williamsburg Conference and it was so great to interact with people who do what I do. When you are in a small library it is easy to get isolated from the rest of the library world and no other organization meets my needs as well as NASIG. In addition, the people are just so darn nice!! I have e-mailed people with questions and always get a prompt and courteous response. I don't know if this will be included in your history, but it's nice to let someone know how great NASIG is for me.

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