

# NASIG NEWSLETTER

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## PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Dan Tonkery, NASIG President

This is the first message of the new millennium and after all the worry and hype about Y2K and after fearing

the worst about the end of the century, I must admit a sense of disappointment that nothing happened anywhere. The Y2K was either the best-managed project around the world, or it was perhaps just a lot of hype by the computer industry to scare everyone into buying new software and hardware. The Second Coming didn't happen; the electricity, gas, and other utilities still function; and the airlines continue to fly. So from where I sit, the Y2K was just a bust.

Now for the world that impacts all of us the pattern is pretty much the same: almost all the publishers regardless of size were able to take the orders for 2000, cash the checks, and continue sending the issues. The worries about lost orders, publishers going out of business were again nothing to worry about. In fact, the biggest worry from the publishers is the continuing acquisition trend of publishers and its impact on service.

The New Year brought some changes in the publishing landscape with the "dot coms" using their newfound wealth to purchase well-established companies. I am still in shock over the merger of AOL and Time Warner. Imagine the newfound wealth that exists in the value of the inflated stock price. What's next – Yahoo! buying Disney or someone else? The economic times are changing when a smaller company can acquire a much larger organization, all with the inflated value of the stock price. The big STM publishers that control the output in the sciences should be looking over their collective shoulders...who knows who will be next on the acquisition trail.

Mergers and acquisitions in our industry were the topic of one of the meetings at ALA mid-winter. The consensus from the audience was that M&As in our industry have been going on for many years, nobody likes them, and most of them cause nothing but poor service in claiming, etc. Individuals with many years of service often get retired or made redundant, and the new merged organization gives poorer service. Everyone is

watching the merger activity in both the subscription and book vendor world. Having less choice is not a desirable factor; however, there is little that we as a group of buyers can do about it.

Other meetings of interest centered on the rapid growth of e-journals, the difficulties in acquiring them, and the poor service from everyone in the delivery chain. Why is it that in this day of unbelievable technology, we have to go backwards in ordering, claiming, and serving e-journal products? The amount of work that the average library spends in acquiring and setting up access to the e-journals in their collection is criminal. With all the technological advancement that has enabled us to

deliver an article to the desk top, why can we not get our access to a journal working the same day, week, or some would even accept within the same month?

The meetings were full of horror stories from libraries that cannot get any timely response from the publishers. With publishers returning to order-direct models, it is a step back in time. Few librarians have the time or patience to educate the publishers on what it takes to service the e-journals. The negative comments about misinformation and confusion for licenses, access terms, ordering procedures, and just general poor technical support came from every corner and library regardless of size. The staff time wasted on acquiring and servicing

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e-journals is becoming an industry embarrassment with little end in sight. While we don't have all the answers, NASIG is a forum where the serious issues do get addressed in much more depth. Our annual meeting this year on the campus of the University of California in La Jolla from June 22-25, 2000 offers a look at many of these very issues. I invite the publishers, subscription vendors and the librarians to come together, roll up your sleeves and start solving some of these e-journal issues. Come hear from experts!!! The Program Planning Committee under the capable leadership of Mary Page, Cindy Hepfer, and Susan Davis has put together a stimulating program that addresses many of the issues facing the serialist today from bibliographic treatment to preservation and from licenses to full-text electronic access to the desk top. No other meeting in our industry is focused on the depth and breath of e-journal access and management in the local library.

Join in the discussion on pre-print servers and the changing role of serials librarians and have fun at the same time. In the evening we are going to the Birch Aquarium and the famous San Diego Zoo. Karen Cargille and her Conference Planning Committee members have outdone themselves with events and a Conference full of excitement. Come enjoy the San Diego scenery, culinary treats, and Southern California style entertainment. Of course, come and see me answer the challenge from Steve Oberg to top his entrance at the opening of the meeting last year. You be the

judge...will I be able to top his entrance?...come and see for yourself!!

Look for the meeting brochures and the registration forms...don't be left out of the excitement...register early for what should be the most exciting library meeting in years!!!

Change in our industry is coming (just like the weather this year), and it is difficult to manage. I am looking forward to the discussion on the pre-print servers like PubMed Central and listening to how CSCU was able to impact the publishers with their novel approach at gaining access to the entire campus wide system with their recent contract. We are all in the middle of change in our institutions. Many of our members are now doing the work of four staff, and you need some insight on how to cope with the demands of your institution. Come listen and interact with your colleagues who are dealing with the same situation.

I look forward to seeing you at the annual meeting. As I sit here at my computer and compose this column, the weather outside is near freezing, and we have had six inches of new snow last night. Believe me, I cannot wait for warmer weather and a change to welcome you to San Diego for the 15<sup>th</sup> annual meeting to be held on the campus of the University of California, San Diego in La Jolla.

## **NASIG 15<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL CONFERENCE (2000)**

### **CONFERENCE PLANNING COMMITTEE UPDATE**

Karen Cargille, CPC Chair

The NASIG 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference will be "Making Waves" with "New Serials Landscapes in a Sea of Change" this summer. The conference will be held on the campus of the University of California, San Diego in La Jolla from June 22-25, 2000. Detailed conference information is included in the conference registration brochure, which is expected to be mailed late February. We plan to post the brochure information on the conference Web site in advance of brochure mailing, so watch NASIG-L for announcement. Registration is open only to NASIG members until April 1, 2000 after which registration will be open to non-members as well. The registration deadline for all participants is May 19, 2000. Registrations received after this date are subject to availability and late charges. Be sure to register early to reserve your place at this popular conference.

Not only will you enjoy the varied and stimulating program brought to you by the Program Planning Committee, but also you will experience three fantastic nights of San Diego scenery, culinary treats, and Southern California style entertainment.

The Thursday evening event is set amid the dazzling display of marine life at the world renowned Stephen Birch Aquarium. Enjoy a spectacular ocean view during the cocktail buffet; afterwards take a tour of the breathtaking exhibits. The bookstore will be open for your enjoyment.

On Friday night you will be on your own, but not without a multitude of exciting options at your disposal. You may stay on campus and take in a play at the La Jolla Playhouse; or be more adventurous and visit the Historic Gaslamp Quarter in downtown San Diego. The Quarter is full of fine restaurants, specialty shops, jazz clubs, coffeehouses, and microbreweries. Near the Gaslamp Quarter is Seaport Village, a re-creation of a 19<sup>th</sup> century

wharf with shops, restaurants, and benches for people and harbor watching. If high-stakes excitement is what you are looking for, then visit the Viejas Casino and Turf Club in Alpine. Busses will be available to shuttle conference participants to and from the above destinations.

Walk on the wild side Saturday evening when you visit the famous San Diego Zoo. Enjoy a delightful dinner and an entertaining animal presentation before being let loose to roam the grounds at your own pace.

The excitement doesn't stop here—Thursday, Friday, and Saturday nights the gameroom at the Price Center on campus will be open for the infamous Late Night Socials. Be sure to stop by and socialize with your fellow colleagues. Play pool and arcade games, or, if you prefer, just relax in the Library Lounge. Light snacks will be served in addition to a cash bar serving premium beers, wines, and soft drinks. We are working on securing a DJ to play '60s and '70s music for your listening enjoyment.

Conference participants may also want to explore other areas of San Diego. Visit the Cabrillo National Monument, attend the San Diego County Fair, tour a Navy Ship; or, for those nature enthusiasts, take a hike at Torrey Pines State Park. No matter what you choose, you are guaranteed a wonderful and exciting time.

Planning to stay after the conference closes? Not a problem since on Sunday, June 25<sup>th</sup>, we will be offering four tours. Hop aboard the Old Town Trolley for a tour of San Diego; take a Sunday stroll through Balboa Park, 1200 acres of museums, theatres, gardens, and much, much more. Discover scores of fascinating animals and their behaviors at the San Diego Sea World. Sea World offers high-energy shows, amazing exhibits, and world-class thrill rides. Or, travel south of the border to Tijuana where you can experience a taste of Mexico only a short distance from La Jolla.

Explore San Diego before you arrive by visiting the NASIG conference Web site featuring links to various entertainment and restaurant sites in addition to further information regarding the conference. The conference Web site can be found at:

<http://orpheus-1.ucsd.edu/nasig/nasigframe.htm>

If you have any questions, please contact:

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## PROGRAM PLANNING COMMITTEE UPDATE

Susan Davis, Cindy Hepfer, and Mary Page, PPC  
Co-Chairs

As our report in the previous issue of the *NASIG Newsletter* indicated, the Program Planning Committee (PPC) decided to experiment with some new scheduling and programming options for NASIG 2000 in San Diego.

Scheduling highlights include workshops and concurrents that are usually an hour and a quarter (75 minutes) in length, instead of the traditional hour and a half. In making this adjustment, PPC members hope that we will have retained solid programming, but also have allowed attendees more time to comfortably move from one session to another and to “network” along the way. In addition, lunch on both Friday and Saturday will be at least two hours long. However, during the lunch break on Friday, the second hour is set aside as an opportunity for attendees to visit a new NASIG program feature, poster sessions. During the second hour of the lunch break on Saturday, NASIG committees will meet. Attendees who do not have NASIG committee assignments, and are interested in the work of a NASIG committee, are welcome to attend the open meetings. Individuals who do not wish to attend a committee meeting will have extra time for a leisurely lunch or perhaps check on e-mail.

The PPC Workshops Subcommittee has added a new dimension to the workshop offerings. For the first time we will have four “in-depth” workshop sessions, as well as the traditional, repeated workshop sets which are a NASIG trademark. In previous years, PPC has considered offering a few longer workshops in order to focus on topics that would not fit into either the concurrent or repeated workshop models. In 2000, we have for the first time managed to incorporate this wish into the conference program. On Saturday afternoon there will be eleven repeated workshop sets. Additionally, there will be four in-depth workshop sessions that will run for two and a half hours (2:00-5:15, with a forty-five minute break), at the same time as the repeated workshops. The in-depth sessions will not be repeated.

When you receive your conference brochure, please pay careful attention to the schedule and choices for workshops. We have a grand total of thirty (a new NASIG record!), including fifteen traditional workshops in Set I, which will be presented twice on Friday. On Saturday, there are eleven traditional, repeated workshops **and** four in-depth workshops that run at the same time as Workshop Set II. When you fill out your registration form, remember that on Saturday, conference goers need to **choose either** two regular workshops **or** one in-depth

workshop. Please try to complete the registration form accordingly; it will save the conference registrar many hours of headaches!

The PPC Plenary Subcommittee members are very excited about our three plenary sessions. On Friday morning, Eugenie Prime (Manager of the Hewlett Packard Libraries), who is known for her motivating talks on librarians and leadership, will be our first plenary speaker. Saturday's session will feature Robert Cringely, a PBS commentator on the high-tech industries and Silicon Valley culture. Both will address the conference theme "Making Waves, New Serials Landscapes in a Sea of Change" from their own particular perspectives. More information on these speakers and their talks will be found in the conference brochure on NASIGWeb at <http://www.nasig.org>. The Sunday plenary will feature a panel addressing the topic "Catching the Wave: Views of the Serials Future." Eugenie Prime, John Cox (John Cox Associates), Julia Blixrud (SPARC), Chris Beckett (CatchWord), Regina Reynolds (Library of Congress), Mark McCabe (Georgia Institute of Technology), and Cathy Norton (Marine Biological Laboratory/Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution) will each briefly present their own particular points of view. We expect that the session will be both enlightening and provocative, and we hope that audience members will challenge the speakers and others in the audience with questions and comments.

The Sunday morning program will end earlier than in the past, with box brunches available as early as 10:45 a.m. User group meetings are scheduled from 11 a.m.-12 noon, and tours will begin promptly at 12:30. PPC hopes that whether attendees leave San Diego on Sunday or participate in one of the excellent tours arranged by the Conference Planning Committee for Sunday afternoon, this more relaxed approach to Sunday morning will prove to be a welcome feature of the 2000 conference.

NASIG's concurrent sessions, or mini-plenaries, will take place Saturday morning. This year there will be only one set of concurrent sessions that will not be repeated. PPC members are proud of the lineup, and we hope that every registrant will find at least one session particularly appealing. (We anticipate that many registrants will have to agonize over their choice! We certainly are agonizing already.) The concurrents will feature Marilu Goodyear and Adrian Alexander speaking about the BioOne program; Trisha Davis addressing the Digital Millennium Copyright Act; John Cox talking about globalization, consolidation, and the growth of the information giants; and Julia Blixrud describing the SPARC initiative. In addition, Tom Sanville will talk about changing collection development patterns resulting from the OhioLink experience; Mark McCabe, a former investigator in the

Antitrust Division of the Department of Justice, will present his portfolio theory for academic journal markets; Debora Seyes will address serials cataloging, metadata, and markup; and Rick Luce and Liz Pope will describe two well-known archive projects, The Open Archives Initiative and PubMed Central.

This year we are also proud to sponsor three preconferences. Frieda Rosenberg, Mary Ann Van Cura, and Thomas Cooley will present a hands-on workshop on the MARC Format for Holdings. Julie Page from UCSD will oversee a workshop on salvaging library collections in a disaster situation. Registration for this session is **limited** to thirty-five people. And Judy Luther has pulled together an exciting session in which the "ideal" e-journal of today and tomorrow will be explored. Two sets of panelists will present their points of view, and participants will have opportunities to discuss aspects of an ideal e-journal in small groups. We hope by the end of the session to be able to produce a document that describes what an ideal e-journal should look like! Please consider taking advantage of these half-day sessions: come to San Diego a day early and participate in one of these preconference workshops!

The three of us would like to thank our Board Liaison, Connie Foster; our consultant, Crystal Graham; and our committee members, Wendy Baia, Christie Degener, Marty Gordon, Sandy Hurd, Judy Luther, Joyce McDonough, Joyce Ogburn, Alison Roth, Allison Sleeman, and Kay Teel for all of their creative energy and hard work to date. Now we need to move on to our next activity, sending out speaker letters and information!

## **2000 CONFERENCE PROCEEDINGS EDITORS**

Ann Ercelawn, Board Liaison to Conference Proceedings Team

The NASIG Board is pleased to announce that Michelle Fiander and Joe Harmon from the 1999 Conference *Proceedings* Editorial Team will serve as Co-Editors of the 2000 San Diego Conference *Proceedings*. Michelle and Joe are librarians at Indiana University-Purdue University, Indianapolis (IUPUI). Michelle, Cataloger and Reference Librarian, has an M.A. in English and an M.L.I.S. from Dalhousie University, Halifax, NS, and is co-editor of *Indiana Libraries*, the journal of the Indiana Library Federation. Joe, Cataloging Team Leader at IUPUI, has an M.A. in Anthropology and an M.L.S. from Indiana University.

The Board welcomes their expertise and extends its congratulations on their appointment. The 2000 *Proceedings* will be published in print by Haworth Press

and electronically by NASIG's *Proceedings* Editorial Team in the spring of 2001.

## PROCEEDINGS INDEXER WANTED

If you are a NASIG member who wants to become more involved in the organization and you are detail oriented, here is an opportunity to consider. NASIG is seeking an indexer for the 2000 Conference *Proceedings*.

The indexer compiles the index for the year's NASIG *Proceedings* volume. The indexer receives the proofs from the publisher (Haworth Press) in January and has about three weeks to compile a dictionary-style index. A procedural document with definitions, instruction and guidance on Haworth's requirements is provided.

Applicants must be well organized and able to devote a concentrated effort during the period mentioned. Previous experience is helpful, but not necessary.

The indexer will work under the general direction of the *Proceedings* Editors. To volunteer, submit a letter outlining your interests and qualifications to:

Michelle Fiander or Joe Harmon  
IUPUI University Library  
755 W. Michigan Street  
Indianapolis, IN 46202-5195  
E-mail: mfiander@iupui.edu

Applications are gladly accepted via e-mail.

Deadline for applications: **April 20, 2000**

## CALL FOR CONFERENCE PROCEEDINGS RECORDERS

NASIG is seeking conference recorders for the workshops and pre-conference sessions at this year's annual conference in San Diego. Recorders are asked to attend specific sessions, take notes and then synthesize the notes into a readable, comprehensive report of the session for the Conference *Proceedings*. In some cases, recorders may be asked to listen to recordings of a presentation and work with the speaker to create a report for publication in the *Proceedings*.

If you are NASIG member with the ability to write clear, organized prose and who is able to submit a report by July

10, 2000, please consider this opportunity to make a valuable contribution to the organization.

Recorders will work under the general direction of the *Proceedings* Editors. Reports will be due by July 10, 2000. To apply, please send a letter with complete contact information and writing sample\* to:

Michelle Fiander or Joe Harmon  
IUPUI University Library  
755 West Michigan Street  
Indianapolis, IN 46202-5195  
E-mail mfiander@iupui.edu

Applications happily accepted via e-mail.

\*Writing Sample: The writing sample should be 1-2 pages in length and can be on *any* topic—it does not have to be related to librarianship. The purpose of the writing sample is to illustrate your ability to write clear, organized prose. Suggested samples include: reports on a process, event, or meeting; book reviews; excerpts from essays or academic papers.

Deadline for applications: **April 20, 2000**

### ***NASIG CONFERENCE REFUND POLICY***

There will be no penalty for cancellations received on or before the date 30 days prior to the first day of an annual conference. The full amount paid minus a \$25 fee will be refunded.

A cancellation fee of 50% of registration costs plus a \$25 fee will be applied for cancellations received between 29 to 10 days before the annual conference.

No refund will be issued for cancellations received less than 10 days before the first day of the annual conference. Late requests for refunds due to a family emergency only will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

All cancellations must be sent in writing via fax, e-mail, or regular mail to the conference registrar. Please fax or e-mail cancellations, if possible, and expect confirmation within two days. If necessary to cancel by USPS, please allow sufficient time for response.

NASIG is not responsible for problems beyond our control such as weather conditions, campus conditions, prepaid parking, prepaid tours, etc. No refunds will be given in these situations.