

NASIG Newsletter

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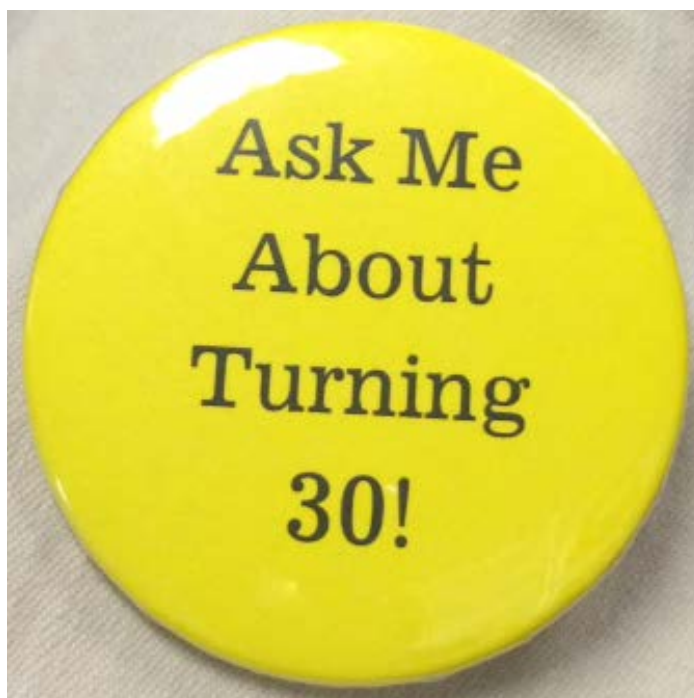
Profile of the 30th Anniversary Task Force

Wm. Joseph Thomas

This year's Annual Conference in Washington, DC, will celebrate NASIG's 30th anniversary. To lead the festivities, the Board has appointed a 30th Anniversary Task Force with the charge "to produce an updated official history of NASIG and to arrange for an event celebrating NASIG's entire thirty year history at the 2015 NASIG Conference." The charge specifies that this updated official history "should build on the history created for the 25th anniversary" and that the event should not only be a "celebration of NASIG's history, but also welcoming to newcomers and more recent members, without a strong emphasis on one era over another."

So, just who are the members of this task force and what are they planning? The chair of the 30th Anniversary Task Force is Eleanor Cook, longtime member of NASIG who was president 2002-2003. The other members of the task force are Sara Bahnmaier, Karen Davidson, Christie Degener, Jeff Slagell, Paula Sullenger, Esta Tovstiadi, and Jenni Wilson. They are joined by Board liaison Carol Ann Borchert.

The board intended for the membership of this task force to include some long-time members, some who had worked on the earlier anniversary task forces, some mid-career serialists, and some new professionals. Together this group would reflect the diverse membership of NASIG and reflect not only pride in where we've come from but also in where we're going together.



Among the long-time members are Eleanor Cook and Christie Degener. A NASIG attendee since the 3rd conference, Eleanor has been an academic librarian for more than thirty years. Christie has been working at the UNC-Chapel Hill Health Sciences Library as a professional librarian for almost thirty years, and first heard about NASIG at the 1985 ALA Conference. She was able to attend the very first NASIG conference and immediately realized this was the best organization for her, one that could continue to help her learn and succeed at her job even as it changed over the years. She writes that she feels very lucky to have attended all the conferences to date--yes, she is one of the all timers--and to have had many opportunities to give back to this organization that has done so much for her,

including serving on the 25th anniversary celebration task force. Christie looks forward to working with this group to help NASIG celebrate thirty great years, with MANY more to come! By the way, Christie was the one who first told Eleanor she needed to come to NASIG conferences!

Karen Davidson and Jeff Slagle became involved with NASIG in the 2000s. Karen's first career was law enforcement and she made the transition into librarianship through work as an elementary school librarian. After obtaining her MLS in California, she "turned right instead of left" and ended up in Mississippi. She currently serves as coordinator of serials at Mississippi State University. Fellow Mississippian Jeff Slagell has been active in NASIG since 2001. He has been at Delta State University, home of the Fighting Okra, for fifteen years. He started as a serials librarian, but has also served as an assistant director and interim director. Most recently Jeff has been acting as dean for the past nine years.

Archivist Paula Sullenger and archivist-in-training Sara Bahnmaier are also members of the 30th Anniversary Task Force. An active NASIG member serving on several different committees since 1996, Paula recently joined Texas A&M University as associate dean for information resources after serving Auburn University for more than twenty years in a variety of roles. Sara is the head, Electronic Resources Acquisitions & Licensing at University of Michigan, following her service at the University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC) and, before that, as grants administrator for UIC for 10 years. Sara joined NASIG in 2010 and jumped right in! She has served on the Continuing Education Committee and as Conference *Proceedings* Editor, an assignment leading her to a joint project to investigate Taylor & Francis' LIS authors' rights policy and compare our policy with those of peer organizations. Paula and Sara will, of course, contribute to the updated organizational history.

Esta Tovstiadi is the interim acquisitions librarian at the University of Colorado Boulder, following her role there as a collection development librarian. She joined CU Boulder in September of 2012. Prior to that, she was an

electronic resources technician at the University of Kentucky (UK), where she also received her MLIS in May 2012. Before that, she worked on the Digital National Newspaper Program at UK, both as an undergraduate student and full-time after she finished her bachelor's degree in history. So, you could say that her employment history includes serials both old and new!

Esta joined NASIG in 2011, just before receiving the Student Travel Grant to attend the 2011 conference in St. Louis. (Her name was Esta Day at that time.) She did a poster presentation at the Nashville conference in 2012, and has been a member of the Continuing Education Committee since 2013. Esta writes that even though she is very new to NASIG and just beginning her career as a librarian, she is excited about being a part of the celebration planning group.



Jenni Wilson has worked in and around libraries for about twenty years, mostly as a vendor sales rep. She is currently at SAGE Publications, after working with Turner Subscriptions, Readmore, Blackwell's Serials, Swets Information Systems, and Alexander Street Press. She has been active in NASIG since 1995, serving on a number of committees including Conference Planning, Awards & Recognition, Membership Development, and Nominations & Elections. She also served a two-year term as Member-at-Large, and, oddly enough, though

not a runner herself, was involved with planning the 5K Fun Run for a couple of years.

The members of the task force organize their work with monthly phone calls, a wiki, and email. So, what do they have in store for us in DC? Look for a dessert reception Friday night, and watch for their NASIG timeline. They are hopeful that some of the presentations from this year's conference will mirror the 30th theme, especially since several important factors are converging nowadays: we are seeing turning points in publishing and also in academic libraries and higher education at large. The Call for Proposals specifically requests proposals "that look at historic trend analysis of the serials industry over the past 30 years, as well as visions of the future of the industry based on our history." See you in DC!