## Profile

### Dorothea Salo
### 30th Annual NASIG Conference Vision Speaker
Sharon Dyas-Correia

Dorothea Salo is a faculty associate at the University of Wisconsin-Madison iSchool and the first of three exceptional vision speakers scheduled to share their insights at the 30th annual NASIG Conference this May in Washington, D.C.  Salo holds an MA in Spanish and an LIS from the University of Wisconsin-Madison, as well as a BA in Comparative Literature and Spanish from Indiana University-Bloomington. She teaches "a broad array of topics including information technology, markup languages, linked data, database design, digital preservation, information structuring and organization, and (of most interest to NASIG attendees) the intersection of various publishing industries with librarianship."  The *NASIG Newsletter* profiles editor asked Salo to provide answers to a set of questions designed to help readers learn more about this dynamic speaker and her thoughts.  What follows are some of the questions and the answers provided by Salo.

***Are there highlights of your work background you would like to share?***

I came to librarianship through publishing, doing SGML/XML production and a tiny bit of typesetting for scholarly book and journal publishers. While working in publishing I also participated in standards work, specifically on the e-book content standard that is now EPUB. After graduating library school, but before I started teaching in it, I worked as an institutional-

repository manager and research-data librarian for George Mason University and the University of Wisconsin-Madison.



*Photo Courtesy of Dorothea Salo*

***What are some of the challenges and rewards of your work?***

I love my students and my colleagues! They challenge me, believe in me, and give me room and reason to learn, experiment, and grow. Watching people I taught make their mark in the information professions is

absolutely thrilling too. I also delight in the constant change and progress in the areas I teach; communicating my excitement about policy and culture change in librarianship and academe around scholarly communication never palls. Nothing's more fun than charging into a class proclaiming "This? This is information history in the making!" with something that just broke last week -- something like the OSTP Memo plans and policies that U.S. federal agencies are finally issuing - up on the screen for students to look at.

The biggest challenge for me, and it's a challenge I share with our professions as a whole, is advocating for the value of the work I do, honestly and without losing hope, in the face of an awful lot of people who believe that my work is worthless.

### What do you hope to accomplish in your current positon?

I started teaching library school as an adjunct seven and a half years ago. It's fair to say I'm a better teacher now than I was then. It's also fair to say I have a lot of room to improve! Continuous improvement is baked into what I do, and I embrace that; I want to keep getting better at teaching. I also have a couple of pet course ideas I want to implement if there is ever time. This is not a criticism of the UW-Madison iSchool, which has already let me build and try out four brand-new courses; the problem truly is that I have no curricular leisure left to fill with something new. I'm building a giant Rube Goldberg-style analog and digital media-rescue/forensics machine in our library, and once it's all working and properly documented I want it to become a service-learning tool that enables our students to help save materials from across the entire campus, perhaps for other communities in Wisconsin also.

More broadly, I want to put my two cents into the larger professional discussions around what we expect of initial professional education, as well as what kinds of reskilling we expect of established professionals. There's a lot of work to do here, a lot of misunderstandings and miscommunication to fix, and I'm in a good place to help with that.

### How does your work relate to the work of NASIG?

I help create NASIG members. Not a few people I've taught have gone into e-resource management, scholarly communication, publishing in and outside libraries, and library advocacy. I actually have an advisee right now who discovered her avid interest in e-resource management from the NASIG conference, which happened to be held near her location that year. So thank you for that, NASIG, and I believe my advisee will pay the favor forward once she graduates!

### What makes your background ideal for your work?

Gosh, I don't know.  Is there an ideal background for teaching? Certainly my strong background in library-relevant technologies has helped me quite a bit. What has taken me even further, though, has been curiosity, passion, and humor.

### What background do you wish you had?

Can't change the past, and for the most part wouldn't want to! There's always more I wish I knew – I'm reading about organizational change and adult learning every spare minute I get these days – but I can learn, I do learn, and that's enough for me.

### What is the topic for your vision session at conference in Washington?

I'll be talking about patron privacy in the current e-resource environment.

### Can you give us some highlights or a teaser?

Sure! The title is "Ain't Nobody's Business If I Do (Read Serials)," which of course riffs off a famously painful and tragic Billie Holliday standard, a song whose narrator is trying to deal with domestic abuse. Now, I know I absolutely must not take that metaphor too far, both because I don't want to hurt anyone listening and because loss of privacy is (usually) on a completely different level from domestic abuse – but I am certainly thinking about some uncomfortable parallels between

how the song narrator responds to her situation and how we're responding to ours.

**Why is the topic important?**

It is important because patron privacy is baked deep into the librarian ethic; because librarianship is steadily losing control of its ability to guarantee patron privacy with respect to electronic resources; because loss of privacy has already hurt people and institutions and is liable to hurt many more; and, because we can change at least some of this, and I believe we should!

**What would you like to tell the world about you, your family, hobbies, etc.?**

I live in Madison, Wisconsin with my husband David, whose claim to fame is having been the linguistics consultant for the *Lord of the Rings* and *Hobbit* movies. We both enjoy cycling, vegetarian food, science fiction and fantasy (literature and TV/movies), Korean historical dramas, and hanging out with our cats, Didi and Lancelot.

**Are there other fun things or facts about you that you would like to share?**

I once nearly fell off a riser while performing in a choral concert at the Cathedral of St. John the Divine in New York City. I've sung (again, in a chorus) at Carnegie Hall. After giving a talk at the UK Serials Group annual conference, I got stuck in Edinburgh, Scotland for an extra week due to the Icelandic volcano eruption. If you're going to be stuck in Europe, I recommend Edinburgh with all my heart!

**Are there organizations you belong to that you don't mind the world knowing about?**

Due to acute time poverty, most of my organizations are library-related at the moment. I do belong to the Wisconsin Bicycle Federation and am a supporter of the wonderful Henry Vilas Zoo in Madison. When I had more time I sang with the University of Wisconsin Choral Union and Madison Summer Choir. Perhaps someday I will again.

**Is there anything else you would like to include?**

Just that I'm thrilled to come to NASIG, and I hope to start some fruitful conversations there!

**Salo's Vision Session is sure to be stimulating and thought provoking. It will definitely inspire some interesting and productive conversations!**