



NASIG NEWSLETTER

Vol. 31, no. 3

September 2016

eISSN 1542-3417

Profiles

Profile of Anna Creech, NASIG President

Christian Burris, Profiles Editor

I'm Christian Burris, and I serve as a member-at-large for NASIG as well as the profiles editor for the *NASIG Newsletter*. It was my pleasure to interview Anna Creech, who is the president of NASIG for 2016-2017.

Anna earned her B.A. in Mathematics from Eastern Mennonite University and her M.S. in Library and Information Sciences from the University of Kentucky. Currently, she is the head of resource acquisition and delivery for the Boatwright Memorial Library at the University of Richmond. She took over the gavel from Carol Ann Borchert at the close of the 31st Annual Conference in Albuquerque in June 2016.

My interview with Anna was conducted by e-mail in early August.

Who or what drew you to NASIG initially?

My first professional position after graduate school was as a serials cataloger. I had minimal experience with cataloging, though I had worked with serials to some extent in previous jobs. My supervisor gave me some manuals to get started, and also suggested I attend the NASIG conference, specifically because there was a pre-conference on serials cataloging.

When did you decide to become a librarian?

When I decided I would be a terrible high school math teacher. It was right after my sophomore year of college, and I had just finished a three-week practicum at a local high school. I was already questioning

whether I should continue with the secondary education degree, and that experience sealed it for me. I had been working in the college library since my first year, and I had been a big fan of libraries all my life. As I assessed my options, it seemed like this was the next best career choice to make. I finished up the mathematics degree sans secondary education, and got a job at another university library to give myself a few years of breathing room before I then plunged into graduate school full-time.

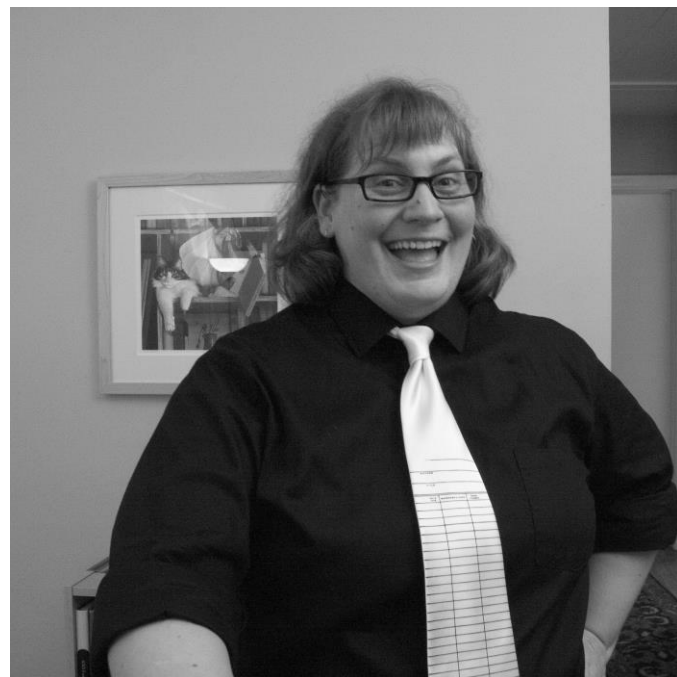


Photo Courtesy of Anna Creech

What has been your greatest reward as a librarian?

I don't think I have a good answer for this. It just feels like the right thing for me to be doing. I think having a purpose in life is rewarding, but perhaps not the greatest reward.

What drew you to academic libraries?

I loved college and never wanted to leave it. This was my cheat to stay in higher education without having to pay for it. I briefly considered special libraries, but I didn't want to do reference/research work, and I figured the competition for NPR jobs would be really stiff.

How did you arrive at the University of Richmond?

Rachel Frick joined Jeff Slagell and me at the hotel bar in Louisville before the NASIG conference [in 2007], and she told me about the electronic resources librarian position she had created at the University of Richmond. I was ready to move on to a new place, and I wanted to get back to the mid-Atlantic area, or at least somewhere within driving distance of my family in Ohio. I applied for the position, got an interview, and apparently they liked me well enough. NASIG has been partially responsible for every job I've received since I joined.

How did you get started as host at WRIR-LP?

They were tabling at an event I attended within my first year of moving to Richmond, and that's how I first heard about them. I had been involved with two college radio stations some years before, and I missed doing radio. I applied to be a DJ, went through the training process, and landed my first show from 3am-6am on Sunday mornings. I moved around the late night slots until finally a morning show opened up. I've been the "Monday Morning Breakfast Blend" host for the past two years now, and the Rock/AAA music director for the past three years. The latter is my application of library/organizational skills to the disorganization of the radio station's music collection.

What's currently on your playlist?

Tegan & Sarah, *Love You to Death*
Sleater-Kinney, *No Cities to Love*
Missy Higgins, *The Ol' Razzle Dazzle*
Tycho, *Awake*

Worriers, *Imaginary Life*
Erin McKeown, *According to Us*
Kiya Heartwood, *Palo Duro*
Lucius, *Good Grief*
Lucy Dacus, *No Burden*
...and a bunch more. I know I've probably forgotten something I'd want to share.

I know that you've been to Dragon Con several times. What's your favorite thing about geek culture?

For Dragon Con specifically, it's the cosplay. People really go all-out in their costumes. My favorites are the ones that color outside of the lines. The first year I went, it was all zombie versions of standard characters, and the next year it was steampunk variations. I was really impressed with a woman who knit a full-body costume of the hat that Jayne wore in *Firefly*. That's a very specific kind of fandom. I could never think of a character that I was that fond of or obsessed with to dress up like them, and to be honest, having no crafting skills was a bit of a setback. However, one year I decided to dress as Michael Porter's Libraryman character, and that was rather fun.



Anna Creech as Michael Porter's Libraryman
Photo Courtesy of Anna Creech

Who are you currently reading?

Matt Wallace is writing a series of novellas about a catering company for the supernatural community. His irreverent humor reminds me of Christopher Moore, and the books move at a good pace.

What are your priorities/goals as the president of NASIG?

Many of the things I wanted to do when I ran for president a few years ago have already been or are in the process of being implemented, so I've had to think a bit about this. Recent presidents and boards have done quite a bit to shift us in the direction of focusing on creating content for the profession, and I plan to support and move forward those initiatives. I also want NASIG to be more visible in the places where it should be an obvious choice for partnerships. Mainly, I think we have a lot of good things going on right now that need to keep rolling.

Would you like to share anything else with us?

It may come as a surprise to some, but I'm actually a shy person. I've just learned how to fake it well enough.



Photo Courtesy of Anna Creech