Introduction

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Introduction

NASIG held its 31st annual conference in Albuquerque, NM, June 9-12, 2016. The conference theme of “Embracing New Horizons” was reflected in the conference programs and events. Dr. Richard Melzer spoke at the Opening Session about his book, *Buried Treasures: Famous and Unusual Gravesites in New Mexico History*. Dr. Melzer spoke about this book with great enthusiasm and his talk demonstrated his depth of knowledge of local history and his humor. NASIG also continued its reputation for presenting timely, relevant, high quality conference programs. A diverse range of ideas were covered in the thirty concurrent sessions and five preconference workshops. Topics included: zines, institutional repositories, MarcEdit, open educational resources, electronic resource management, discovery, writing for publication, textbook affordability, and much more.

Speakers for NASIG vision sessions are carefully selected for their ability to deliver thought-provoking and memorable presentations, and the offerings of 2016 continued this tradition. Profiles of vision session speakers were published in volume 31, no. 1 and no. 2 of the *NASIG Newsletter*. T Scott Plutchak, Director of Digital Data Curation Strategies at the University of Alabama at Birmingham (UAB); Heather Joseph, Executive Director of the Scholarly Publishing and Academic Resources Coalition (SPARC), and James O’Donnell, University Librarian & Professor, Arizona State University Libraries delivered insightful and challenging sessions that are available on NASIG’s YouTube Channel at: https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCVvnh_CzXS8Ygf7v1ypTiQ.

In its fourth year, the Great Ideas Showcase featured six presentations. This event provides presenters the opportunity to interact informally with conference goers on a range of topics including new workflows, great ideas, and innovative uses of technology in the library. In addition to the Great Ideas Showcase, Snapshot Sessions provided short time slots for presenters to share ideas, projects, and new developments. The abstracts of these Great Ideas and Snapshot Sessions follow the general sessions of the Proceedings.

The Proceedings are the collaborative product of many people—speakers, volunteer recorders, guest editors, Taylor & Francis editorial staff, and others. Special thanks to the NASIG Program Planning Committee, chaired by Danielle Williams and Corrie Mash; the Conference Planning Committee, chaired by Mary Ann Jones and Betsy Appleton; the Conference Coordinator, Anne McKee; and the Board, especially the guest editors’ liaison, Angela Dresselhaus; and to the Taylor & Francis Production Editor, Hannah Wicklein. All of you deserve credit for the selfless time and energy you contributed toward the success of the NASIG conference and preservation of the conference record in these Proceedings.

The next NASIG conference will be in Indianapolis Indiana, June 8–11, 2017.

Dedication: John Riddick 1941-2017
The Executive Board dedicates the 2016 Conference Proceedings to the memory of John Riddick. Without John’s leadership, vision and driving force, NASIG would not be entering its 32nd year. As our founder, John is held in high regard and is owed a great debt of gratitude.

As NASIG’s primary marketing strategist in 1984/85, John tirelessly promoted the concept of a North American group for all participants in the serials information chain. John believed in what he called the “technique of personal marketing” – hundreds of hand-typed letters traveled throughout North America and designated ambassadors spread the word through visits and phone calls. His plan was a great success and the first conference had over 250 attendees and soon after the organization was off and running.

Self-effacing, never taking credit himself, John always talked about the collaborative efforts of all those involved. In his speech at the 10th conference (1996), John said, “And thus there was no heroic figure … NASIG was conceived and brought forth through the efforts and dedication of many individuals.” John capably motivated the right people and ensured that all sectors of the information chain were represented – libraries, vendors, publishers, and other service entities.

Most of all, he thrived in being a mentor and in seeing NASIG become a leading serials organization. Once he saw that others were able to take over, John stepped back and did not seek recognition. He had other projects to focus on – his research in British India.

In honor of John’s valuable contribution, the Executive Board in 2010 named the student scholarships the “John Riddick Student Grant Award”. The award entitles library school students to attend the NASIG conference with transportation and registration covered by NASIG. John originated the idea and the first scholarships were given in 1988.

To continue to celebrate John’s life, the NASIG Executive Board made a donation to CMU Library and has dedicated the 2016 NASIG Proceedings to his memory. We are so fortunate that John envisioned and then ensured that NASIG continues.

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