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Editor

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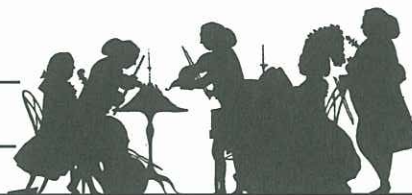
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And They Were There

Reports of Meetings — NASIG Conference

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North American Serials Interest Group (NASIG)
“Roaring into Our 20s” — May 19-22, 2005, Minneapolis, MN.

Report by **Cris Ferguson** (Electronic Resources/Serials Librarian, James B. Duke Library, Furman University) <cris.ferguson@furman.edu>

This past week I went to the **North American Serials Interest Group** in Minneapolis, MN. The conference opened on Thursday the 18th and closed on Sunday the 22nd. Over the course of the four days I went to many interesting sessions, but there are several sessions programs I want to highlight in particular.

The first session I want to highlight is the opening plenary session, which was given by **Marshall Keys** of **MDA Consulting**. Prior to starting **MDA Consulting**, **Keys** was the executive Director of **NELINET**, the largest library organization in New England. In his talk **Keys** highlighted how today's technology trends affect the libraries of tomorrow. He focused his discussion on chaotic transitions, the period of time in which old and new technologies battle to see which ones survive. In almost all cases, the new technology emerges as the victor and the old technology falls by the wayside. The primary example he used was the continuous changes in music recording formats (45's to 8 tracks to cassettes to CD's and now to music on DVD's).

He went on to explain that new academic library patrons come to school with a “blogger” mentality. They care about community and personalization, but not about privacy, “You are unique, even though you are exactly like ev-

eryone else.” This new generation of students use their cell phones as their primary information appliance, through text messaging, camera phones, and the ability to surf the Internet and check email. Their attitudes towards information dramatically impact the principles and laws of intellectual property. They feel that anything in the environment, whether it is protected or not, is something that can be captured and shared. Students today see no difference between TV and the Internet. They can watch television through **TiVo**, email, and file sharing, and they can browse the Internet from their television. He highlighted a few examples of places that files can be shared that are virtually un-touchable in terms of prosecution for peer to peer file sharing: **Earth Station 5** and **Venuatu**.

For libraries to survive they will have to accommodate users, providing personalized information access. Students want their library interface to be like **Amazon**, showing what they have recently purchased, other materials on the same subject, things that similar users have checked out, etc. At **Duke**, all incoming students were given **iPods** to record and share lectures between each other. They were also given the ability to install **Linux** on the **iPods** to provide more usability. **Keys** emphasized that there will come a time when we will have to treat all

students as distance education students.

The second session I would like to highlight is a session called Collaborative Checklist for E-Journal Access. The session was lead by representatives from **Ohio State Universities**, **Swets Subscription Services**, and **Springer Publishing**. During the session it was mentioned that over 50% of North American libraries receive print + online subscriptions. Of the 50% that receive print + online, 90% of those are academic libraries. In order to streamline the process of handling these print + online subscriptions **OSU**, **Swets**, and **Springer** created a checklist outlining what each organization was responsible for when setting up access to e-journal subscriptions. Their biggest challenge was to consolidate responsibilities and to identify who did what. In the end, they created a list of tasks and very clearly outlined what was expected of the library, the subscription agent, and the publisher. (I have a copy of that handout if anyone is interested.) It was interesting to note how much **Swets** is doing for its customers in the handling of electronic subscriptions. In comparison, **EBSCO** (our subscription agent) is not doing a very good job. It made me seriously rethink using **EBSCO** to handle our larger e-journal packages.

This brings me to the third program I want to highlight. There was a poster session at the conference describing in detail the process of switching subscription agents. (I have that handout as well). In light of the session on the e-journal checklist, I have been inspired to give **Swets** a trial run as an alternative subscription agent. Using the information gleaned from the two sessions, I hope to cancel a small number of subscriptions (50 or so) through **EBSCO** and switch them to **Swets** to see how the service between the two differs.

Other programs I attended were related to

- Electronic Journals Workflow — interesting, but not really applicable to an institution of our size. The speakers were from much larger institutions.
- Electronic Resource Librarians — also interesting. Many different types of institutions were represented, and I got to hear about the kinds of things people in my position at other schools were doing
- The role of the media in the division of America between liberal and conservative — This was one of the most interesting sessions, but not broadly useful to the field of information sciences. I have the Web addresses of a couple of really cool organizations that promote responsible media reporting and democratic conversation between political parties.

Lastly, I attended the **NASIG Continuing Education Committee** meeting. I will now be managing the **CEC's** page on the **NASIG** site and be the committee contact for a continuing education event in Mississippi. 🌳

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Case Study One ... from page 72

new knowledge you have could lead to greater job responsibilities or even a different job later on in your career.

Expert B: The Fast and Efficient Response

1. Try to get on **Tim's** schedule to ask him about: departments, trends in collecting, you will want to know about how people use the collection in those fields, what their preferences are, are there any new initiatives or trends in the discipline, get a feel for journal prices, book prices, etc.

2. Need to find out about the collection funding, for example, are there discretionary monies? How much money is left? Is there budget planning to be done?

3. Since this is an added duty, your focus would be on keeping it going right now, then maybe if it turns out to be a long-term commitment, you would need to start thinking on types of projects your would need to do — i.e., review of the approval plan profile. However,

your main concern immediately would be to make sure you are getting by first. All of this of course would depend on how long you would be expected to take on these responsibilities. 🌳

*If you have any ideas for future case studies, or a topic you would like explored in this column, please contact me, **Anne Langley** (Duke University) <anne.langley@duke.edu>.*

In Indian Territory from page 70

able as a paperback and kept in print. The works of **LeMoyne** and **White** provide the most valuable illustrations of Southeastern Indians made during the 16th Century, and they were rarely equaled.

All of the travel accounts listed in this article deserve to be kept in print indefinitely in hardback editions for libraries and in paperback editions for students. No introduction or notes are

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