North American Serials Interest Group

NASIG Newsletter

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President's Corner

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A Full Year of Seasons

Those of you who may have been following my first year in the mountains of western North Carolina may wonder what I think of spring here. In a word? Delightful! There were plenty of old favorites, such as daffodils, dogwoods, azaleas, redbuds and so on. But I've added some new ones to the list, too: rhododendrons, trout lilies, halberd-leaf violets, spring beauties, and more. Spring has been lovely, but I'm especially looking forward to my second summer here. Now I know that I can expect warm but not terribly humid days, cooler (than San Antonio!) nights, lots of green, and plenty of outdoor activities, from hiking and rafting/tubing/canoeing to relaxing on my deck and enjoying the view.

Following Tradition

As you may have gathered, I often review former President's Corners before writing my own. I want to make sure I'm not forgetting to mention something vital! And one tradition that I am not going to break is to report, briefly, on my attendance at the UKSG Annual Conference and Exhibition. As I mentioned in my greetings from the U.S., I was especially pleased to represent NASIG. My first serials boss and mentor, Sylvia Martin, was in that group of US serialists who joined Marcia Tuttle in 1984 to attend UKSG, and I still remember how electrified she was upon her return. And NASIG was formed a short year later. Thanks to Sylvia and all the other pioneers out there!

In addition to the exceptional programme (didja catch that? I used the British spelling as an homage), I was especially interested in attending the UKSG business meeting. The organisation (HA! I did it again!) appears to be much more streamlined, yet they still produce a topnotch conference with almost twice as many delegates as we had last year. It gave me pause.

Two Word Cloud

In the December issue of the *Newsletter*, I mentioned one of the exercises that the contingency planning group participated in last June. Mark Lane had us come up with a group of words to describe the following organizations: NASIG, ALA and the ER&L conference. Later in the day, Lane asked us, "If you were re-creating NASIG today, what two words would you like to associate with it?" Another way to put that would be to imagine you were encouraging a colleague to join NASIG. Which two words would you want to describe NASIG accurately? One of Lane's suggestions was that NASIG should agree on two words, and then use them in all NASIG materials.

Sometime very soon – probably before this issue of the *Newsletter* comes out – I am going to post this on NASIG-L. Vice President/President-Elect Steve Shadle is going to link a tag cloud to the discussion so that we can see a visual representation of all the words that people suggest. Please put on your thinking caps and be prepared to participate!

St. Louis, Here I Come!

This is something else that every other president says in this column, but I am really excited about our upcoming conference in St. Louis! The Program Planning Committee has created an interesting, relevant and timely program. This often happens to me as I'm registering for NASIG conferences, but I had a difficult time choosing between sessions. Thank goodness I'm bringing two colleagues with me so we can cover all bases! And the Conference Planning Committee has worked incredibly hard – and with a sometimes micromanaging executive board – to make the conference run as smoothly as possible, and to make it fun, too! As I've already mentioned, I'm especially excited about the Cubs vs. Cards ball game. But the opening reception at the City Museum is going to be cool, too! And I've got to be sure to see the Gateway Arch. And I'd like to visit the Missouri Botanical Garden, and the Missouri History Museum. Oh, crikey, I need more vacation time!

Finally

My last President's Corner! I do not have an easy time with *Newsletter* deadlines, and Angela Dresselhaus has been very patient with me this year. I appreciate her steadfastness. I also appreciate the time and service that our outgoing board members have given to NASIG this year. Great thanks to Rick Anderson, Steve Kelley and Christine Stamison. And I welcome Jennifer Arnold, Stephen Clark and Allyson Zellner to the board for this coming year. Buckle your seatbelts, kids! You're in for a busy but fun ride!

Finally, finally: thanks to ALL of you who volunteer for committee work, attend our conferences and other programs, and contribute in various ways. We are all NASIG. We are all the eggman. We are all the walrus. Goo goo g'joob.