

NASIG/North Carolina Serials Conference Webinar

Joining the Library Profession: Getting Hired, Attending Regional Conferences, and Finding a Mentor

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ATTENDANCE IS HIGHLY ENCOURAGED: THE VALUE OF ATTENDING REGIONAL LIBRARY CONFERENCES

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Regional conferences

(For this presentation, excludes national or international)

- Local
- Area within a state or province
- State or province
- Neighboring states or provinces

*...using examples from (mostly)
North Carolina*



General conferences for all types of libraries within a specified geographic area

- Azalea Coast Library Conference
(Wilmington, NC),
Southeastern North Carolina
- North Carolina
Library Association
Biennial Conference





Conferences for specific types of libraries

- Triad Academic Library Association (TALA) Paraprofessional Conference
- Society of North Carolina Archivists (SNCA) Conference



Conferences for special interests

- North Carolina Serials Conference
- Librarian to Librarian Networking Summit [K12 media personnel], East Carolina University

Conferences for neighboring states

- Ohio Valley Group of Technical Services Librarians Conference [IN, KY, OH]
- Mid-Atlantic Chapter of the Medical Library Association Annual Meeting [VA, DC, MD, Western PA, West Virginia, NC]



Why regional conferences?

- Smaller attendance
- Shorter travel distance
- Good opportunity to gain conference experience



Looking for your options

- Remember that library folks are welcoming and inclusive – you don't have to limit participation to your local area
- Places to look for conference information:
 - Library Conference Planner <http://lcp.douglashasty.com/>
 - Your graduate program
 - Your state library association
 - Listservs
 - Google
 - Social media
- May want to check website for Code of Conduct for attendee behavior

Value

- Professional development
 - Learn about new and innovative practices
 - Learn about new technologies and tools
- Network
 - Meet librarians, archivists, paraprofessionals, and other students
 - Meet individuals from all types of libraries – academic, public, K-12, special, government
- Gather research ideas

Preparing for the conference

- Opportunities may be available
 - Sign up as a volunteer
 - Sign up to be assigned a conference mentor
- Financial incentives
 - Travel scholarship for students or first timers from the conference, association, or your graduate program
 - Conference fee may be reduced or waived for students
 - Association membership may be discounted for students
- Plan to present
 - Respond to a call for proposals (CFP) of interest

Value of presenting

- Useful to have a presentation or poster session on your resume as you look for a professional position – it shows you are interested in professional development and scholarly contributions
- Can develop a research paper you have written or a project you have conducted



Presenting

- Present as an individual or with colleagues/faculty
 - Full sessions
 - Panel presentations
 - Lightning talks
 - Poster sessions
- May be a special category for students to present lightning talk or poster, so eliminates competition with professional librarians and archivists (ex. SNCA – Society of North Carolina Archivists) for a conference spot

Job information

- Keep up with trends, projects, practices that can help inform your job search
 - Places to apply
 - Types of positions available
 - Topics/trends/issues that may be discussed during interviews
- Conference may offer a job placement or career development service
- Student track may be available at larger conferences

More to do at the conference

- Let people know you are a student and/or first timer
- Meet with vendors
 - Learn about products and services
 - Collect swag
- Especially if overnight, may have chance to meet socially with fellow attendees
 - Conference reception
 - Conversation at coffee shop
 - Dine arounds

Writing/Social Media

- Journals may enlist attendees to record sessions for publication
- Conference proceedings
- Write a blog post
- Submit write-up and photos describing how you benefited from attending the conference to your alumni newsletter editor or your local library association news editor
- Tweet at the conference



Thank you.

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