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

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

(For this presentation, excludes national or international)

...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:
  - 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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