Maria Stanton Position Statement

My overall career has been dedicated to supporting libraries, librarians, and researchers. For the last 12 years, my focus has been academic libraries with a heavy emphasis on the role of journals and the changes in scholarly communications. As a result, I feel a strong affinity with NASIG's vision “to advance and transform the management of information resources” with the goal of improving distribution, acquisition, and accessibility of all formats. I am pursuing the Member-at-Large position within NASIG because I am at a point in my career where I more fully appreciate the value of supporting our greater community and helping in any way I can.

I joined Atla (American Theological Library Association) six years ago. I believe this experience, coming from a small, nonprofit library association, will give me a unique perspective on issues that concern NASIG. In my role, I routinely engage with librarians, publishers, and other information professionals. Issues that are at the forefront of our discussions within NASIG are part of my daily life (e.g., information standards, business models such as Open Access, copyright issues, and management of large datasets.)

Throughout my career, I have promoted the use of standards, especially ones that support inter-operability. I have supported the implementation of KBART. I have advocated with publishers to add DOIs. I have strived to improved metadata to help ensure that link resolvers work as effectively as possible.

I am also committed to understanding the needs and behaviors of researchers to be able to better support libraries and librarians. In this capacity, I will routinely meet with scholars, researchers, and faculty to understand what they are using and how they go about research and publishing. I was also part of the team at Atla that supported a study in collaboration with Ithaka S&R regarding the Changing Research Practices of Religious Studies Scholars.

I believe in collaborative leadership. I also bring financial stewardship expertise as a result of my experience on the leadership teams at Atla, Alexander Street Press, and Serials Solutions. I am standing for the board to use my skills and experience to help NASIG reach its objectives. I will approach my role on the board with dedication and thoughtful consideration of the issues that can influence the future of NASIG.

If appointed to the board, I will promote the work of NASIG. I will use my speaking engagements to advocate for NASIG and to encourage others to become involved with the organization.

Finally, I will note that working for professional association has shown me how important it is for members to commit and to be engaged in order to have a thriving organization. I am drawn to NASIG’s sense of community and teamwork. I would like to contribute my time to the ongoing success of NASIG.
Maria Stanton

Professional Experience

Director of Production Jan 2014 – Present

Atla, Chicago, IL

Company profile: Atla is a nonprofit, membership association of librarians and information professionals, and a producer of research tools, committed to advancing the study of religion and theology. Responsibilities include:

- Strategy: Member of the executive team responsible for the organization’s strategic plan and overall stewardship of the day-to-day operations.
- Lead a team of 20+ staff responsible for the editorial scope and quality of Atla’s flagship product, Atla Religion Database®; including the technical staff who manage our editorial platform, the subject matter experts who index the content, and the acquisitions team responsible for acquiring content for the database.
- Lead licensing activities: define the target titles for the bibliography and assist in negotiations with publishers.
- Lead new product development initiatives in collaboration with Business Development.
- Accomplishments:
  - Implementation of a new editorial platform; enabled Atla to improve currency (moved from quarterly updates to monthly updates).
  - Transition from MARC to MODS/MADS; enabled Atla to better support non-Roman character sets (e.g., we now include the original Arabic, Hebrew, Korean, Chinese, Japanese along with transliterations to better support our researchers).
  - Lead the business case and planning for our new product offering, ATLAS PLUS®; which has enabled Atla to considerably expand our full text offerings.
  - Increased the scope of the index from 550+ titles to over 1000+ current titles. We continue to add approximately five new journals each month.
  - Established collaborative relationship with sister organization in Australia / New Zealand (ANZTLA).
  - Supported the creation of Atla’s five-year strategic plan, which is due to be revised in 2020.

Vice President, Digital Content Production 2012 – June 2013

Alexander Street Press, Alexandria VA

Company profile: A dynamic electronic publisher that offers innovative research databases for the academic library markets, including market-leading streaming video and audio databases, and award-winning archival text-based collections. Responsibilities include:

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• Strategy: Member of executive team responsible for five-year strategy and operational plan.
• Lead a team of 30, including VP of Metadata Standards & Bibliographic Control, two Indexing Managers, and one Technical Content Processing Manager. Team includes the indexing staff, MARC catalogers, video and audio encoding staff, and image / text conversion staff.
• Text: Convert 100k+ pages per year to JPEG and METS/ALTO or proprietary DTD.
• Video: Fully transcribe and convert 10k+ hours per year to 2.5 Mbps H264/MP4.
• Audio: Convert 500+ tracks annually to MP3 format.
• Indexing: Maintain authoritative controlled vocabularies for key index fields, including Person, Subject, Historical Era, Genre, Instrument, Organization, Location, and Cultural Group.
• Achievements: (a) Replaced out-dated workflow for video encoding with cost-effective alternative (60% savings). (b) Resolved inherited 12k+ hour video transcription backlog. (c) Resolved inherited 125k+ digital audio track backlog. (d) Re-energized demoralized department via redefined staff roles, better cross-company alignment, and established career progression.

Senior Director, Content Operations 2008 - 2011
Serials Solutions (a ProQuest business), Seattle WA
Company profile: An innovative provider of webscale discovery and management solutions marketed to libraries. Responsibilities included:
• Strategy: Key member of strategy council charged in 2010 with redefinition of the organization’s strategic vision and reshaping the company’s culture from product-driven to customer-focused.
• Lead a team of 30, including a Director of Serials Metadata, Sr Managers of Metadata Services, and a Development Manager. Team included Metadata Specialists, Catalogers, Developers, QA staff, and systems analysts.
• Knowledgebase Management: Introduced tool based on use of regular expressions to support automated harvesting of journal and ebook metadata from the web, resulting in annual expansion of content offering (growth from 678K tracked titles 2007 to over 7.5M in 2011).
• Mediated Linking: Lead technical team responsible for development and release of new connectors for both OpenURL and Federated Search products.
• Vendor Management: Introduced broader use of 3rd party development resources, including negotiation of contracts and management of vendors.
• MARC: Introduced automated MARC ebook delivery solution based on algorithmic analysis of ebook holdings information compared to available ebook bibliographic records.
• New Business development: Signed six-figure deal to expand MARC solution to new market.
• Financial: Established organization’s first product-line P&L analysis process and discipline.
Previous experience includes editorial and product development positions with ProQuest, Wolters Kluwer, and Cengage (Gale).

Education

Saint Louis University, St. Louis, MO Master of Arts, ABT (All but thesis), Philosophy, 3.7 GPA
Bellarmine University, Louisville, KY Bachelor of Arts, Magna Cum Laude 3.8 GPA

Professional Affiliations and Presentations

NASIG:
- Program Planning Committee (2018 – present)
- Conference Planning Committee (2019 – present)

NISO:
- Member of the NISO Board of Directors (2018 – present)
- Member of the NISO Open Discovery Initiative Task Force (2017 – present)
- Member of NISO KBART working group 2010-2011
- Atla’s voting member (2015 – present)

ANZTLA:
- 2019 conference presentation on Atla’s survey of international seminaries.
- 2018 keynote focused on the central role of the library and librarians in the overall success of a university or seminary.
- 2017 conference presentation focused on various collaboration projects being undertaken in US seminary libraries.

BETH (Bibliothèques Européennes de Théologie) 2018 conference
- Presentation as part of a panel discussing automated indexing

NFAIS
- Open Access Presentation 2017
- Humanities Roundtable Presentation 2015

Society for Scholarly Publishing 2016 conference
- Presentation for the section “Playing Global Moneyball”: Case study on Atla’s global collaborative efforts.

American Library Association NISO working group update (Midwinter 2011).
University of Washington: Member of iSchool Advisory Board 2011
Charleston Conference:
- Presentation on knowledgebase management (2010)

American Library Association: Holdings Information Update Forum (Midwinter 2010)