

CLOSING NOTE

It is an amazing time to be a fan. With the development of electronic publishing and social networks, we are able to connect to our interests and other fans almost anywhere in the world with a few keystrokes. There is now more media being produced than a person can engage with even if they are given 24 hours every day for the duration of their lives. This brings to the forefront our mission: to encourage fandom studies.

What attracts fans to a particular series? How do fans interact with each other and with the media they prefer? What causes some people to engage in a single genre of media while others explore the great variety that is available today?

FANS is devoted to the study of all fan interactions with neomedia and this edition of the Phoenix Papers contains a wonderful variety of topics exploring the cultures of fandom. Our conference, which was held 31 May – 2 June, featured presentations of these papers and allowed an opportunity for attendees of A-Kon® to learn about their favorite media as well as asking questions about the subject. For our first year we had an impressive attendance with academics coming from across the USA as well as Japan and Mexico. We are excited to have added Dr. Ashmore of Akita University and Jonathan Tarbox to FANS committee and look forward as we seek to expand our conference as well as look to other convention that may be interested in hosting conferences with us in the future.

As a reminder, our conference next year will be 6 – 8 June 2014 and in addition to the conference attendees have access to the A-Kon® convention. This provides both interaction with fellow academics and fans, but can be a perfect opportunity to start research for your submission for *The Phoenix Papers*.

Our CFP for October will be open until 15 September and we would like to encourage anyone interested to contact us about any questions you may have. We have enjoyed the papers from our first two editions and look forward to the submissions we will receive to finish out the next journal.

– JONATHAN DAVIS
ASSISTANT EDITOR, *THE PHOENIX PAPERS*