Vice President's Column: MAC Meetings Update

Douglas Bicknese, Vice President, Midwest Archives Conference

MAC is getting ready to come home to Chicago once again—has it really been five years? The programs, speakers, and tours are all in place. Be sure to see the program preview in this newsletter—as usual, there will be a mix of sessions and workshops for newcomers to the profession and for veteran archivists as well. For those of you who can't make the tours (or who can't get enough), be sure to see the additional Chicago highlights found on the meeting blog at http://macchicago2010.wordpress.com/.

Dayton, Ohio, October 22–23, 2010

The 2010 symposium will focus on the timely topic of learning more about your users and their needs. In an era of changing technologies and user expectations, how do we know where to focus our limited resources to get the best results? Will researchers continue to come to our facilities if we give them what *we* think they need instead of what *they* think they need? Through presentations, group discussions, and hands-on activities at Wright State University's Nutter Center, you will develop an understanding of the fundamental methodologies and the practical skills necessary for successful implementation of archival user studies. The presenters and facilitators will train you to gather the data you need to make informed decisions based on the priorities and needs of your users. Upon completion of the symposium, you will return to your repository with a draft user survey that you can administer quickly, easily, and confidently.

St. Paul, Minnesota, April 28–30, 2011

The 2011 annual meeting continues to fall into place. The Local Arrangements Committee, chaired by Ann Kenne and Karen Spilman, has been very busy. The meeting will be held at the Crowne Plaza St. Paul–Riverfront hotel and the reception at the famous Wabasha Street Caves, one of the more unique facilities in the Twin Cities. Lynn Smith and Alison Stankrauff have assembled the Program Committee and will issue a call for proposals this summer, so if you think of any ideas, be sure to contact them!

2011 Fall Symposium

At the time of publication, MAC is still finalizing the 2011 symposium topic and location. One of the keys to MAC's success is the willingness of its members to step forward with innovative meeting ideas. If you have an idea for a symposium topic or meeting location, be sure to check out the meeting planning portion of the MAC Web site. The meeting planning manuals contain templates for meeting proposals and numerous tips on planning a successful meeting.

Grand Rapids, Michigan, April 19–21, 2012

Nancy Richard and Portia Vescio have assembled a Local Arrangements Committee and have hit the ground running. The 2012 annual meeting will be held at the Amway Grand Plaza Hotel, situated near the Grand River in downtown Grand Rapids and located near the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Museum, the brand new Grand Rapids Art Museum, and many other museums and cultural attractions. Keep your eyes open for additional information on the reception site, tours, and other meeting attractions.

Remember that MAC meetings are grassroots efforts. If you'd like to bring MAC to your neighborhood, or have ideas for a symposium topic, feel free to contact me at douglas.bicknese@nara.gov.

MAC
Midwest Archives Conference

Upcoming MAC Meeting Sites and Dates

Annual Meeting, 2010
Chicago, Illinois
April 22–24, 2010

Fall Symposium, 2010
Dayton, Ohio
October 22–23, 2010

Annual Meeting, 2011
St. Paul, Minnesota
April 28–30, 2011

Annual Meeting, 2012
Grand Rapids, Michigan
April 19–21, 2012