

1-2017

## President's Page

Jennifer Johnson

*Cargill*, [jennifer\\_i\\_johnson@cargill.com](mailto:jennifer_i_johnson@cargill.com)

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### Recommended Citation

Johnson, Jennifer (2017) "President's Page," *MAC Newsletter*: Vol. 44 : No. 3 , Article 2.

Available at: <https://lib.dr.iastate.edu/macnewsletter/vol44/iss3/2>

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January 2017

Hello MAC Members,

I happily returned to work at the end of October after my maternity leave ended. While I certainly enjoyed my time at home, it was also a pleasure to return to confounding e-mail and information technology issues, and the daily needs of the archives.

The 2016 Fall Symposium, "Archivists and Copyright," held in Ann Arbor, October 7–8, 2016, was a resounding success. Thank you to the Planning Committee led by Martha Conway and Olga Virakhovskaya for a well-organized event. And, thank you to our speakers, Melissa Levine and Aprille McKay of the University of Michigan, for leading attendees through an in-depth discussion on managing risk and balancing access with copyright issues.

The fall Council Meeting was held on October 6 in Ann Arbor. Council addressed several items related to the organization's strategic plan. This spring members will be asked to participate in a member census to help MAC better understand its membership. Look for announcements to participate shortly after the Annual Meeting in April. Council also had a long discussion about diversity within the organization. Diversity was not a specific plank in our new strategic plan as we hoped that diversity would weave in and out of everything MAC does. But, to build on Dennis Meissner's plenary at the Milwaukee meeting, which focused on diversity and inclusion, and recognizing that MAC needs to be more inclusive, we want to make diversity a strategic focus. Please look for a strategic plan update this winter, and consider attending the "Cultural Diversity Competency" workshop presented by Helen Wong Smith in Omaha, on April 5. Last, the Election Review Committee, formed after last year's election recount, made a number of suggestions for improving MAC's election process. The biggest change for the membership will be a new renewal deadline of January 31, by which your membership renewal must be received if you are to vote in the upcoming election. For more information about this change in practice, please see the article in this newsletter.

In February, I will send out a call for volunteers to serve on MAC committees. This is your opportunity to become involved in the organization in a nonelected position. There are a variety of committees that serve MAC such as membership, education, and awards that need member volunteers. Contribute to MAC and your professional development.

Spring will be here before we know it. If you have not renewed your MAC membership, please do so today. MAC relies on the support of its members. Elections will begin in February, and we have an impressive slate of candidates thanks to the hard work of our Nominating Committee led by Mary Ellen Ducey. Be sure to read their statements on the MAC website. And, soon, you will receive your program for our spring meeting in Omaha. Join me in the "Gateway to the West," April 5–8, 2017.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jennifer Johnson".

Jennifer Johnson

President, Midwest Archives Conference

InfoCenter  
PO Box 5670  
Minneapolis, MN 55440-5670

MS 70  
15407 McGinty Road West  
Wayzata, MN 55391 USA

Tel: 952-742-6498  
Fax: 952-742-6062  
[www.cargill.com](http://www.cargill.com)