Vice President's Column: MAC Meetings and Symposia Update

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Vice President’s Column:
MAC Meetings and Symposia Update

Mark Shelstad, Vice President, Midwest Archives Conference

The 2012 Annual Meeting in Grand Rapids was a great success. I’d like to thank the Program Committee, cochaired by Elizabeth Myers and Rachel Vagts, for the outstanding sessions, and Plenary Speaker Kate Theimer of ArchivesNext for her thought-provoking lecture on participatory archives. The Local Arrangements Committee, Nancy Richard and Portia Vescio, also did a great job of organizing the hotel activities, the reception, and tours. If you were torn between concurrent sessions and want to know what you missed, many of the presentations will be available on-line on the MAC Web site at http://www.midwestarchives.org/.

Cincinnati, Ohio, October 18-20, 2012
The final pieces are being put into place for the Fall Symposium, with an impressive line-up of speakers, including Deanne Sellnow from the University of Kentucky, Stacia Kuceyeski of the Ohio Historical Society, and Peter Carini of Dartmouth College. They will provide hands-on opportunities to work with primary sources, develop assignments and lesson plans, and discuss best practices. Cochaired by Anne Ryckbost and Lisa Sjoberg, the Symposium will include area restaurant tours in downtown Cincinnati and the historic Mainstrasse neighborhood in Covington, KY, which is within walking distance from the hotel. An evening reception will be held at the hotel’s revolving restaurant. Participants who stay after the meeting on Saturday will have the opportunity to visit the Cincinnati Public Library’s Main Branch for a private viewing of the 1848 daguerreotype Panorama of the Cincinnati Riverfront by Charles Fontayne and William Southgate Porter.

Indianapolis, Indiana, April 17–20, 2013
Indianapolis is nearly ready for the 2013 Annual Meeting. Great meetings depend upon great session proposals—be sure to share your session ideas with the Program Committee this summer. The Program Committee, chaired by Anne Thomason and Meg Miner, will be glad to work with you to put the finishing touches on your suggestions. Meanwhile, Noraleen A. Young, Christine Guyonneau, and the Local Arrangements Committee are busy working on events at the Hyatt Regency in downtown Indianapolis and the reception site at the Indiana State Library.

Green Bay, Wisconsin, September 25–27, 2013
The 2013 Fall Symposium, “Refining the Digital Presence of the Archives,” will offer expert advice on the selection and implementation of on-line tools to improve and expand archival services and administration for the betterment of users. The Symposium will consist of sessions featuring on-line tools and approaches in the areas of resource discovery, interpretation, promotion and marketing, description, and reference. Three additional sessions will deal with user-focused design, Web analytics, and optimization for mobile devices. In addition to the speakers, there will be two break-out sessions where individuals will be grouped by institutions of similar size to discuss implementation and prioritization strategies. The Symposium Organizing Committee, cochaired by Deb Anderson and Josh Ranger, is finalizing session speakers and reception sites. The Symposium will take place at the Green Bay Hyatt on Main.

Kansas City, Missouri, Spring 2014
Kansas City, here we come! Since the Midwest Archives Conference last held its Annual Meeting here in 2003, Kansas City has experienced a fabulous downtown renaissance, with more than $6 billion invested in an exciting revitalization, featuring the trendy Power and Light entertainment district, and topped off with the recently unveiled $400 million Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts, which soars high on the city skyline. A hotel that will offer easy access to a variety of attractions and proximity to a number of potential reception sites is being secured to host the meeting. Keep your eyes open for additional meeting information.

It has been a great two years serving as vice president. I’ve enjoyed working with all of the MAC members on the Symposium Organizing Committees, Local Arrangements and Program Committees, and with the vendor coordinators, and watching all of the meetings fall into place. If you have ideas for future MAC meetings, be sure to share them with Menzi Behrnd-Klodt, who will be guiding MAC’s meetings over the next two years, at menzi@xyte.com.