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Presidents Page

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IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY

OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

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Ames, Iowa 50011-2140

July 2010

Dear MACers,

Chicago has come and gone, and the meeting was amazing! It was our largest meeting ever (nearly 450 attendees), and almost 50 attendees joined MAC. Our annual meeting is so very important for us to connect with each other; however, I want to reassure all MAC members that it is important for us to connect with each other all year long. What follows is my brief "State of MAC" address given at the members' meeting on Friday.

My goal this afternoon is to briefly share some of the topics and issues that Council has been working on over the past year. Before I start, however, I want to tell you how seriously I take this position of presidency of MAC; I am following in the footsteps of some tremendous archives role models and colleagues, and I want to live up to their standards. The role of president is really being and serving as a facilitator—to help our elected officers and volunteers reach their goals, to ensure that we are following the wishes of the membership, and to lead us to be more than we are. MAC is such a special organization, and I do not want you to forget that. We have a unique combination of professionalism and archives fun and flexibility that makes every MAC meeting I have ever attended a real pleasure. I want to ensure that every member, or at least as many as I can, has as positive an experience as I have had.

If you are interested in volunteering for MAC, please let me know. We have open committee slots and other openings that I need to fill. But beyond that, if you are interested in MAC, then tell me. I will do my best to find a way to utilize your talents. I don't care if you are a student, if you are starting out, if you are in middle management, or if you are retired. E-mail or call me. I need to make sure as many of you are involved and invested in MAC as I can—that will be the secret to our future success. As Craig, MAC treasurer, has reported, our financial status is solid. And in many ways, this gives us some flexibility in considering our future.

Council has been focusing our efforts on the following initiatives. We are now using MemberClicks to host our Web site and manage our membership information. There have been many long and hard hours spent by Council members—especially Craig, Erik, and Josh—and DMN to ensure the accurate transfer of all our information to this new system. We can now use it for listservs. We can now take credit cards for meeting registrations and renewals. There is still more training to come, but I do believe this is one of the best investments that MAC has ever made.

Time has also been spent on discussing the recruiting and retention of MAC members. The Membership Committee has worked hard to connect with members, and our new members' dinner currently has 70 attendees this evening. We are also trying to reach and build our student memberships—students, if you are here, please consider sticking with MAC throughout your careers. Our dues are incredibly reasonable (\$30), and guess what? They are going to stay the same for as long as we can keep them there. Our meeting costs, while growing when we visit a big city like Chicago, are still a great bargain.

Another area we are emphasizing and need some feedback from you is in the area of education. Last fall, Council asked the Education Committee to create a listing of all the archives programs (library, history, whatever) in the MAC region and make it available on our Web site. It is there now. Use it, share it, and introduce the archives profession to future generations. I have also appointed a task force to look at our education offerings, review our workshops, and target new audiences. Ellen Swain is chairing the task force, and you should be hearing from them in the next couple of months as they move forward. If you think there is something they should know or consider, please let Ellen know.

One of our greatest education and outreach tools is *Archival Issues*. This journal is so highly regarded, and yet we are short of materials and articles to be reviewed. MAC members, this is your journal, and is a tremendous opportunity for you to develop and share ideas and experiences. Please contact Bill about submitting your work.

Lastly, I have also appointed two additional working groups. One will focus on MAC's investment and development efforts—what do we need to be doing and where should we focus? There is also a working group looking at our marketing efforts for the organization. These groups will all be sending reports for Council to consider at its fall meeting in Dayton, Ohio, and once we hear from you, our constituents, then we will make the decisions as to how we will move forward from there. But again, we need to hear from you. I need for you to invest in MAC as professionals, and commit your time and effort to this organization and to your fellow archivists so we can make MAC even better than it already is.

Sincerely,



Tanya Zanish-Belcher
President, Midwest Archives Conference