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Vice President’s Column: MAC Meetings Update

Mark Shelstad, Vice President, Midwest Archives Conference

MAC has a full slate of upcoming meetings and symposia. These engaging meetings are brought to the MAC membership through the work of the Program, Local Arrangements, and Symposium Committees. If you’d like to bring MAC to your neighborhood, or have ideas for a symposium topic, feel free to contact me at mark.shelstad@utsa.edu. Proposals are welcome for the 2012 Fall Symposium and the 2013 Annual Meeting.

Dayton, Ohio, October 22–23, 2010
Symposium Organizing Committee Coordinators Rosemary Pleva Flynn, Colleen McFarland, and Shari Christi have assembled an innovative symposium that focuses on user studies. The symposium will examine the role of user studies in nurturing and sustaining an archival program and explain the nuts and bolts of conducting user studies, including the opportunity to create a customized user study for your repository. The presenters and facilitators include Rick Pifer, Chris Prom, Ciaran Trace, and Beth Yakel, who will explore how to gather the data needed to make informed decisions based on the priorities and needs of your users. The symposium will be held at the Wright State University Ervin J. Nutter Center, one of Dayton’s premier conference facilities. The Nutter Center is a short distance from the Hilton Garden Inn, Dayton Beavercreek, and other attractions.

St. Paul, Minnesota, April 28–30, 2011
Dr. Mark Neuzil, faculty member at the University of St. Thomas, will be the meeting’s plenary speaker. Neuzil is coauthor of Views on the Mississippi: The Photographs of Henry Peter Bosse, and he also has written on other aspects of environmental history. The conference hotel will be the Crowne Plaza St. Paul Riverfront Hotel, which is within walking distance of some of St. Paul’s best attractions including the Science Museum of Minnesota, the Ordway Center for the Performing Arts, and the Landmark Center. The reception will be held at the Wabasha Street Caves, once used as a speakeasy/dance club for gangsters in the 1930s. The Program Committee, cochaired by Alison Stankrauff and Lynn Smith, has begun putting together the meeting program, which is focusing on the theme of “Headwaters of History.”

Sioux City, Iowa, October 2011
MAC will be heading to western Iowa for its 2011 symposium, which will focus on the preservation of magnetic media. The Symposium Organizing Committee of Lisa Carter, Paul Eisloeffel, and David McCartney are exploring such topics as preservation issues, format obsolescence, collections management, description, use, and options for reformatting. Negotiations are being finalized with the site hotel—a short walk away from Sioux City’s historic Fourth Street District, which has a variety of dining and specialty shops.

Grand Rapids, Michigan, April 19–21, 2012
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 brand new Grand Rapids Art Museum and many other cultural attractions. The reception will be hosted by the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Museum. Rachel Vagts and Elizabeth Myers have been appointed program cochairs and recently began assembling the Program Committee.