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MAC News

Midwest Archives Conference

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Preserving the Documents of the Past and Making Them Accessible to the Future!

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This year, don't forget to go green! You can now take advantage of several online services through MAC's website, including the MAC event calendar, online voting, membership renewal, electronic download of MAC publications and conference programs, and registration for the Annual Meeting and Fall Symposium. Log in to www.midwestarchives.org.

Get Jazzed for the 2014 Annual Meeting!

The Program Committee is pleased to bring you the latest news about the upcoming 2014 Annual Meeting in jazzy Kansas City, the Crossroads of America.

This year's program is shaping up to be a hit with a track to satisfy everyone. Chuck Haddix's opening plenary, "Early Bird: The Life and Music of Charlie Parker in Kansas City: An Archival Perspective," ties together the conference theme with the musical history of our host city. We may think we know Bird's work already, but Haddix will make us privy to previously unknown photos of and recordings by Parker, focusing on four key recording sessions. We'll also learn how collections in Kansas City's own Marr Sound Archives and elsewhere serve the scholarly community.



Rocket Swing Unit plays the Spinning Wheel. Used by permission of the University of Missouri–Kansas City, Dr. Kenneth J. LaBudde Department of Special Collections, Ernest Daniels Collection.

While improvisation is something musicians and audiences alike appreciate in performance, you might prefer to reduce improvisation on the job. We've got

workshops that will bring a little more stability and organization to your own work. Improvising a disaster plan isn't likely to win you any awards. Perhaps you'd like to move in double time when it comes to learning about digital preservation tools and services or creating a strategy around the need for a digital preservation program. And when it comes to copyright issues, the last thing you want to do is work on the fly. If any of this sounds like you, be sure to check out the great preconference workshops arranged by MAC's Education Committee.

Our professional colleagues submitted a stellar group of session proposals this year. Several themes stand out in those that made the cut. We are extremely proud to include sessions that address ways to diversify the archival record. A panel from our host state will address approaches to preserving Missouri's LGBT history, while another will describe a project bringing together tribal institutions

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Get Jazzed for 2014 Annual Meeting

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and graduate students in Wisconsin. As we seek ways to add more voices (literally and figuratively) to the archival record, two sessions address oral history—one focusing on ways to make problematic oral history collections more accessible and the other discussing creative solutions for funding oral history projects. Our colleagues will share with us their experiences in reaching wider audiences through social media, heritage tourism projects, partnerships with digital humanities scholars, and more. And let's face it, no archival conference in the twenty-first century would be complete without a session or two on digital preservation and electronic records. We've got that covered too.

An exciting departure from the traditional session format is a slot featuring two "modified Oxford-style" debates on controversial topics in the archival community. The debate team members will present affirmative and negative arguments on the statements "Archivists have a professional responsibility to be politically active" and "The cost of using volunteers in archival institutions outweighs the benefits." Audience participation is vital to the success of this session, and we hope our MAC colleagues are up to the challenge. Come on, we know that we're an opinionated bunch—let's put our passions to work!



Jesse Price Band. Used by permission of the University of Missouri–Kansas City, Dr. Kenneth J. LaBudde Department of Special Collections, Mutual Musicians Foundation Photograph Collection.



The Jay McShann Band featuring Charlie Parker in Wichita, Kansas. Used by permission of the University of Missouri–Kansas City, Dr. Kenneth J. LaBudde Department of Special Collections, Jay McShann Collection.

Another new feature this year: three open forums organized by the Education Committee. Scheduled over the Friday lunch hour, these forums provide an opportunity for archivists with similar interests and needs to come together to network and learn. Themes revolve around matters of ongoing significance to the archival community—social media, MPLP for audiovisual materials, and outreach and marketing.

Like amateur musicians giving recitals, graduate students and recent professionals are honing their skills and ready to show us their stuff. More than a dozen will share their research and experiences as a part of our student poster session. Topics range from using archival materials in undergraduate education, to indigenous knowledge databases, to applying principles of information architecture, to digital collections. Be sure to make time to speak with and encourage the up-and-coming generation of archivists on Friday afternoon as they present their posters. Let's remember that we were all young once and looking for positive feedback from our older colleagues!

Of course the conference will offer plenty of opportunities for socializing. In addition to the tours, receptions, and coffee breaks, smaller meetings are being arranged for users of Archive-It, members of the Women's Archives Roundtable, and various alumni organizations. Look for details in the on-site pocket program.

With all that the meeting has to offer, you'll be singing, "I'm goin' to Kansas City, Kansas City here I come!"

Between Meeting Council Actions

Council unanimously passed the following motion via e-mail on November 20, 2013, with all members voting save Jennifer Johnson: To approve the following proposed registration rates and the attached revised meeting budget prepared by the Local Arrangements Committee for the 2014 Annual Meeting: Member, \$75; Nonmember, \$90; Student, \$45; Member, postdeadline, \$90; Nonmember, postdeadline, \$100; Student, postdeadline, \$55; Day, \$50.

Council unanimously passed the following motions via e-mail on December 4, 2013, with all members voting:

1. To approve the meeting minutes from the Fall 2013 Council Meeting.
2. To approve a bylaws amendment to approve the vice president as a signatory for official documents.

PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO ARTICLE I, SECTION 2, OF THE BYLAWS: To Amend Article I, Duties and Powers of Officers and Council Members, Section 2, Vice-President, by adding the phrase “may sign any documents as authorized, and” to the fifth sentence.

If amended, the sentence will read:

“The vice-president may sign any documents as authorized, and shall act as liaison and adviser to the Program and Local Arrangements Committees and other committees and service providers, as appropriate, including oversight of planning and arrangements for semi-annual meetings; and act as liaison concerning Conference publications and with the public information officer and with other committees, as appropriate.”

3. To approve a bylaws amendment to allow video/teleconferencing for Council meetings.

PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO ARTICLE VI, SECTION 3 OF THE BYLAWS: To Amend Article VI, Meetings, Section 3, Council Meetings, by adding the phrase “either physically or by teleconference or videoconference” after the word “present” in the final sentence.

If amended, the sentence will read:

A majority of the members of Council present, either physically or by teleconference or video-

conference, and entitled to vote shall constitute a quorum at a Council meeting.

4. To approve the following meeting refund policy: To receive a full refund for Annual Meeting or Fall Symposium registration, individuals must submit a written request postmarked or e-mailed by the advance registration date. No refunds will be given after the advance registration date; no exceptions.

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Innovating Oral History

Urbana-Champaign is home to many unique oral history projects, including the Evolving Archives (EVA) Initiative, the Lincoln Hall Storyography Project, eBlack C-U, and WILL-TV's World War II Stories, to name a few. On September 12 and 13, Organizing Committee cochairs Anke Voss and Bethany Anderson invite MAC members to the 2014 Fall Symposium, "Oral History, Archives, and Innovation," on the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign (UIUC) campus, to immerse themselves in the community's rich tradition of capturing the history of the "living source." Given that technologies are constantly changing, archives and archivists must rethink how they collect, curate, and disseminate oral histories. For two days, Doug Boyd, director of the Louie B. Nunn Center for Oral History at the University of Kentucky, will discuss strategies addressing oral histories in the digital age, sharing his expertise on collecting metadata, transcription, format obsolescence, and preserving oral histories for future generations.

Boyd's innovative work with archives, oral history, and digital technologies includes the IMLS grant-funded project "Oral History in the Digital Age" (a collaboration between MATRIX at Michigan State University, the Library of Congress, the Smithsonian, the Oral History Association, and the American Folklore Society), which develops and implements best practices for collecting, curating, and facilitating access to oral histories. At the historic Illini Union on the UIUC campus, Boyd will lead attendees through the transcription and indexing process while addressing collection management strategies, digital preservation, digital audio and video, legal and ethical issues, metadata collection, and digital tools such as the open source, web-based OHMS (Oral History Metadata Synchronizer). OHMS enables researchers to perform keyword searches within a time-correlated transcript that connects text searches to the corresponding moment in the recorded interview. The program will explore these workflows and tools through local oral history projects within the Urbana-Champaign community.

The digital age presents us with many opportunities, and this innovative program promises to explore the multifaceted nature of oral histories as they are captured, curated, and disseminated. In addition, the symposium committee is planning a reception on Friday night at UIUC's Spurlock Museum, where attendees will be able to view the museum's vast collection of archaeological artifacts and ethnographic materials from Europe, Africa, South America, the Middle East, and Asia. We hope to see you in September for this exciting program!

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