

IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY
OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

University Library
Ames, Iowa 50011-2140

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Dear MACers,

The winter months are upon us after a busy fall—the MAC Symposium was a success, thanks to the hard work of the Symposium Organizing Committee (Shari Christy, Colleen McFarland, Rosemary Pleva Flynn, Rick Pifer, Anne Thomason, and Lonna McKinley). Thanks to our speakers Chris Prom, Rick Pifer, Ciaran Trace, and Beth Yakel, the participants heard an interesting program and had the opportunity to network and share information. What was the best part about the symposium for me? I came home with many ideas and notes about how to better collect information from my department's users.

MAC Council met prior to the symposium and had a long and varied agenda. You can read the draft minutes in the newsletter, but I want to update the membership on the final report of Task Force on Education, http://www.midwestarchives.org/council_reports, and our strategic planning discussion.

I would like to thank the task force for their time and dedication. Led by Chair Ellen Swain, members Katie Blank, Kim Butler, Mary Ellen Ducey, Tim Ericson, David McCartney, Chad Owen, and Kate Theimer worked over the past year to collect information from numerous sources. The report provides us with a blueprint as to how MAC should proceed, and it will prove invaluable over the next few years. I will be working with Council to create and appoint an expanded Education Committee with additional responsibilities. Our core group, already focused on our annual workshop offerings, will continue those duties. All in all, watch for some major changes to be coming soon.

Strategic planning discussions held in 2006 focused on the recruitment and retention of members, the role education plays in MAC, governance issues, and technology. Based on the task force report and further discussions, Council will keep these as priorities for 2011–2015, but with updated goals. We will continue our efforts at member recruitment and retention, focusing on program development at the annual meeting. We explore expanding and developing our educational offerings throughout the year. Council also plans to continue examining its governance structure and using technology to further expand our membership services. While our time spent discussing these issues was short, it was very productive!

In preparation for the annual meeting, I do hope to explore how MAC can provide a more organized way for its volunteers to participate in our activities. As President, one of my main responsibilities is to find and appoint qualified members to our many committees and projects. I hope to improve our efforts in this area to better match our needs with those who wish to serve. Stay tuned.

Warm regards,



Tanya Zanish-Belcher
President, Midwest Archives Conference