

**Midwest Archives Conference
2009 Annual Meeting
April 30 – May 2, 2009
St. Louis, Missouri**

Linnea Knapp
Archives Librarian
University of St. Francis

With generous support from LIBRAS, I was able to attend the 2009 Annual Meeting for the Midwest Archives Conference. MAC is the nation's largest regional professional association for archivists. I have been a member since I was a student at Wayne State University in Detroit, MI, but was not able to attend the annual conference until I joined the staff at the University of St. Francis. With the economic situation as it is, the LIBRAS funding provided an opportunity to attend the conference that wouldn't have been there otherwise.

The MAC Annual Meeting Sessions that I attended were:

Who's on First (Class)?: A Case Study of a Collaborative Project between Archives and Athletics, a session full of ideas and practical tips addressing the many aspects of collaborating with the athletic department to create a digital collection.

Avoiding Turbulence: Donors, Deeds, and Descriptions, a presentation of the potential issues surrounding donations and access. This session also included ideas for dealing with different types of collection donations.

Only Ticketed Passengers Allowed: Controlled Online Collections, a discussion of types of controlled access collections and the reasons behind the limitations of access.

We Hope You Enjoyed Your Flight...Incorporating User Assessment into Digital Collections and Programs, information about the importance of taking user ideas and needs into account when creating online collections, along with helpful tips for creating and implementing user studies.

Coming Down from the Clouds: Perspectives on Archivists and Ethics, a panel of archivists discussed ethics and the importance of collecting all aspects of your institution and community, not just select (easy) areas.

Flying Solo: Staying Positive as a Lone Arranger, a very useful and encouraging presentations about working as the only archivist at your institution.

In addition to the breakout sessions, I was able to attend several other educational activities. I attended the Plenary Session where Charles N. Davis, Associate Professor of Journalism Studies and Executive Director of the National Freedom of Information Coalition at the University of Missouri School of Journalism, Columbia, gave a talk called **New Agents of Accountability: On the De-evolution of the Press and the Rise of New Information Flows**. His talk centered on freedom of information and access to records, focusing on the important role that archivists play as custodians of information.

The MAC Members meeting was an excellent opportunity to hear about the direction that the organization and the archives community are headed, and to celebrate service, leadership and publishing award winners. I was also able to take a tour of the Old Courthouse, which is a part of the Jefferson National Expansion Memorial. The Old Courthouse is a prominent part of St. Louis and U.S. history and includes a museum, library and archives. I also attended the Opening Reception at the Missouri History Museum, which provided another chance to learn more about the history of the area and generate ideas for future displays and exhibits.

This conference was a great and very worthwhile experience. I was able to network with fellow archivists and librarians and return to the University of St. Francis with fresh information and ideas. The experiences I had in St. Louis and the activities and sessions I was able to attend at the conference will help me immensely as I continue to work to shape and develop the USF Library Archives.