

Emeritus Membership Award

The Membership Committee is pleased to award **Dennis Meissner** the 2020 Emeritus Membership Award. He was nominated by Kevin Leonard, university archivist at Northwestern University.



Dennis Meissner

The award recognizes those who have contributed to the success, growth, and visibility of the Midwest Archives Conference through committee work, programming, outreach, and governance. The award intends to recognize those who work behind the scenes for MAC, as well as those who have been honored by election to office.

In his nomination, Leonard wrote, “Dennis always was willing to give freely to his colleagues his good and reasoned advice relating to collections and archival practice. . . . Dennis has distinguished himself greatly in his work on behalf of MAC, SAA, and the profession in general. His development of More Product, Less Process (MPLP) methodology has transformed our practices. Dennis has given tremendously of his time and talent. He has devoted his life’s work to the betterment of our

profession and to the service of our patrons. His efforts on behalf of MAC have been noteworthy.”

Meissner began his career at the Minnesota Historical Society as manuscripts assistant in 1973. He was promoted numerous times to positions including, but not limited to, senior records analyst (1980–1984), manuscripts coordinator (1984–1988), archival processing manager (2001–2006), head of Collections Management (2006–2014), and deputy director for Programs (2014–2016).

His contributions and service to MAC are substantial. Meissner has been a regular presence in the organization since joining in 1977. He held the offices of secretary-treasurer (1985–1989) and president (2007–2009), and served as chair of the *Archival Issues* Editorial Board (1995–1998). As chair, he revived the journal’s regular publishing schedule while maintaining an impressive quality of articles and reviews. Meissner was also speaker and facilitator at MAC’s 2006 Fall Symposium on “More Product, Less Process.”

Meissner’s influence extends beyond MAC and can be felt throughout the archival profession. With Mark Greene, he authored the More Product, Less Process methodology that generated much discussion and reexamination of archival processing. He has written and spoken extensively about MPLP and other matters pertaining to arrangement and description. He has served on various Society of American Archivists committees and was elected vice president/president-elect (2014–2015) and president (2015–2016). He has served on the board of the Society of American Archivists Foundation since 2015. Meissner won SAA’s C. F. W. Coker Award in 2004 and was named Distinguished Fellow in 2008. Other professional service includes the Hidden Collections Grant Review Panel of the Council of Library and Information Resources (2013–2015), OCLC Networking Names Advisory Group (2008–2009), the Encoded Archival Context Working Group (2007–2010), and chairing of the Research Library Group’s EAD Advisory Group.