

# MAC midwest archives conference

## n e w s l e t t e r

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

Volume 48, Number 2 (189)

[www.midwestarchives.org](http://www.midwestarchives.org)

October 2020

### In This Issue...

<b>President's Page</b> .....	<b>1</b>
<b>MAC News</b> .....	<b>2</b>
<b>News from the Midwest</b> .....	<b>7</b>
<b>Archival Resources on the Web</b> .....	<b>9</b>
<b>Electronic Currents</b> .....	<b>15</b>
<b>Mixed Media</b> .....	<b>19</b>
<b>Up-and-Comers</b> .....	<b>23</b>
<b>People and Posts</b> ...	<b>27</b>
<b>MAC Contacts</b> .....	<b>29</b>

### President's Page

October 2020

To the MAC community:

Recently on Twitter, I read about an individual who described their library's reopening plans with the phrase "escalation of commitment," meaning, the determination to move forward with a plan when all available and incoming data demonstrate a likely negative outcome. While this may not be the case for your employer, as we move from summer toward fall, we can all identify areas where we see this escalation in our schools, our workplaces, our communities—and feel powerless in regaining control and making well-informed decisions.

This issue of the newsletter will look different from previous fall issues. Gone is the focus on the Fall Symposium, which MAC Council canceled earlier this year due to the global pandemic. We are not yet announcing a call for proposals for the spring meeting, nor are we promoting it as an upcoming event. MAC leadership is simply not able to make the well-informed decisions we want to make and thus, are purposefully trying to de-escalate our commitments for the coming year.

But de-escalation is not the same as withdrawing from our commitments. MAC is first and foremost here to serve as a resource for your professional development and educational needs. Our Program Committee and Education Committee are helping MAC leadership think through our options and the possibilities for educational activities for 2021. I appreciate their efforts and the conversations we have had about what MAC can provide.

We have also been in contact with some of our peer associations to share ideas and talk about planning. It is comforting to connect and try to solve our problems together, not in a vacuum. Finally, MAC continues to rely on and benefit from our partners at AMC Source.

Rather than escalate our commitment, MAC is approaching our current situation more along the lines of the adage, "If you find yourself in a hole, stop digging." We may not have dug the hole, but we should not carry on as if we are not in it. MAC may feel and operate differently over the coming year. Some of these changes may be long lasting and others may be just for the time being. In either case, MAC aims to serve your professional needs now and going forward.

Sincerely,



Erik A. Moore  
President, Midwest Archives Conference