MAC 2018 Fall Symposium Recap

By Micaela Terronez, The University of Iowa Libraries

The MAC 2018 Fall Symposium, held October 12–13, was hosted by the University of Iowa Libraries in Iowa City, Iowa. This year's symposium topic, "From the Stacks to the Classroom," offered over 30 MAC members and other attendees the opportunity to collaborate and discuss instructional services, lesson planning, and assessment. From graduate students to experienced instructors, the symposium truly engaged with a wide variety of skills and contributed to attendees' approaches in archival and special collection instruction.

The symposium offered several thought-provoking sessions and practical workshops led by the presenters on Friday. For example, Cara B. Stone (instruction librarian at Iowa State University) discussed numerous methods for assessing instruction programs and how to employ active or collaborative learning in a special collections classroom. Rachel Seale (outreach archivist at Iowa State University) demonstrated additional techniques and offered suggestions for building relationships with educators, students, and librarians to market special collections classes. Anna Trammell (university archivist at Pacific Lutheran University) presented on using a social justice framework in the classroom to aid students in connecting the past to current events as well as on how to utilize instructional technologies in the classroom. The day also included ice breakers and workshops discussing challenges, ideas, and questions about instruction.



On Saturday, the day began with an open house showcasing an array of collections used for instruction in the University of Iowa Special Collections and University Archives and in the Iowa Women's Archives. Attendees were able to talk with graduate students and instructors about their experiences with teaching, while exploring the selection of materials. The Gene Wilder Papers were especially a hit! The symposium ended with a panel of graduate students from the UI School of Library and Information Science (Damien Irhig, Hannah Hacker, and Micaela Terronez) and recent graduate Elizabeth Riordan (outreach and engagement librarian at the University of

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Iowa) discussing their diverse experiences with instruction and lesson planning. Facilitated by Lindsay Moen (public services librarian at the University of Iowa), the panel enabled attendees to learn more about the logistics of classroom instruction and the important role that graduate students play in teaching classes on special collections and archival materials. In all, the discussions inspired attendees to enhance their own instruction programs, providing various takeaways for implementation.

The Local Arrangements Committee would like to take this opportunity to thank our sponsors and volunteers for the event. We had several individuals offer their assistance and talents during the weekend, and we could not have done it without you. We would also like to thank all the attendees and presenters for an enlightening weekend despite Iowa's bitter cold weather!



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