

## MAC Annual Meeting in Madison, Wisconsin “Moving Archives Forward” May 5–7, 2022

*By Cynthia Bachhuber and Katie Nash*

The theme of MAC 2022, “Moving Archives Forward,” was fitting for MAC’s 50th anniversary and first in-person conference since 2019! Attendees spent time together examining the past and looking forward. The Program Committee developed an incredibly diverse and innovative program for those in attendance. The Local Arrangements Committee spotlighted the breadth and depth of the city of Madison. Attendees showed up in solid numbers for both the in-person and virtual conferences. Attendees expressed enthusiasm for the opportunity to network with other professionals, share ideas, and talk through the many changes the last two years have brought to the profession. In the end, MAC hosted 236 members for the in-person conference and 96 members for the virtual conference.



*The registration table, staffed by (l–r): Michelle Sweetser, Cynthia Bachhuber, Heather Sonntag, and Katie Nash*

The conference kicked off on Thursday, May 5, with workshops, local tours, a few sessions, the MAC PALS reception, and an all-member reception at the Wisconsin Historical Society. The next two days, Friday, May 6, and part of Saturday, May 7, were filled with innovative, relevant, and meaningful programs and a poster session that were well attended both in person and virtually.



*Poster session*

The Education Committee—led by Carrie Schwier (cochair) and Hathaway Hester (cochair) and comprising members Sarah Cain, Ashley Howdeshell, Stefanie Hunker, Kathryn Kuntz, Ryan Leimkuehler, Tia Stinson, Matt Strandmark, and Katie Blank—provided attendees with a workshop on Thursday, May 5. “CLI for GLAM: A Bash for Absolute Beginners” gave total newbies a chance to gain competence and confidence using command line. At a time when tech solutions seem to be increasing, it was much appreciated to have a chance to slow things down and work together from the very beginning.

The tours were a real hit among in-person attendees and included a variety of places to visit both within the city of Madison and on the campus of UW–Madison. Traditional behind-the-scenes tours of local repositories included UW–Madison Special Collections, Wisconsin Veterans Museum, and the state-of-the-art Wisconsin State Archives Preservation Facility. Attendees had the opportunity to learn about First Nations of Wisconsin during the First Nations Cultural Landscape Walking Tour that took place on the campus. All tours were at full capacity, and some were able to add more attendees at the last minute.

While the plenary speaker, Margaret Noodin, was unable to attend in person, attendees were able to participate and learn from Dr. Noodin via livestream. Margaret Noodin received an MFA in creative writing and a PhD in English and linguistics from the University of Minnesota. She is professor of English and American Indian studies at the University of Wisconsin–Milwaukee, where she also serves as the associate dean of the humanities and director of the Electa Quinney Institute for American Indian Education. She is the author of *Bawaajimo: A Dialect of Dreams in Anishinaabe Language and Literature* (Michigan State University Press) and *Weweni* and *What the Chickadee Knows* (both Wayne State University Press), both bilingual collections of poetry in Anishinaabemowin and English. To hear her work, visit <https://ojibwe.net>.



*Plenary speaker Margaret Noodin*

The Program Committee—led by Kahlee Leingang (cochair), Sarah Dorpinghaus (cochair), and Scott Brouwer (interim cochair) and composed of members Shelby Edwards, Matt Gorzalski, Sister Virginia Jung, Micaela Terronez, Anu Kasarabada, Brad Wiles, Amy Lisinski, Warren Lambert, Michelle McClellan, and Danielle Spalenka—developed an outstanding program (with over 20 sessions!) for attendees that included a variety of topics and a little something for everyone. The committee managed both in-person and virtual conference logistics, ensuring the program was smooth, informative, and responsive for all attendees.

The opening reception took place at the Wisconsin Historical Society, which houses one of the country's leading collections of North American history. Some highlights from the collections were on display in the beautiful nineteenth-century reading room, including early American newspapers, Stephen Sondheim's handwritten *West Side Story* lyrics, and papers from the Little Rock Nine. Attendees were able to enjoy these treasures and catch up with their colleagues over plentiful food and libations. We also all raised a glass to toast MAC's 50th anniversary.



*WHS archivist Jenny Barth at the reception exhibit*

The Local Arrangements Committee—led by Cynthia Bachhuber (cochair) and Katie Nash (cochair) and consisting of David Pavelich, Abbie Norderhaug, Dana Gerber-Margie, Meredith Lowe, Amy Rudersdorf, Emil Hoelter, Kate Slauson, and Jessica Hansen—would like to take the opportunity to thank all the MAC members who traveled to Madison and made this conference memorable. Bringing MAC to Madison has been in the works for years, and we were delighted to finally make it happen. We hope you enjoyed yourselves as much as we enjoyed pulling it together for everyone! We hope you remember your time in Madison attending MAC 2022 fondly and return to visit Madison and experience everything it has to offer.