Bridging the Divide

Thank you for your interest in sharing your expertise and experience with Michigan's library community! MLA’s Annual Conference is scheduled for October 19-21, 2022, at the Blue Water Convention Center in Port Huron. The conference workgroup is currently in search of sessions that will speak to professionals in all aspects of library work, including leadership, youth services, programming, cataloging, IT, grant funding, capital improvement projects, reference, and more.

The 2022 conference theme is Bridging the Divide. Libraries help bridge a multitude of divides in their communities, including technological, socioeconomic, political, and access to information. Sessions that speak to this theme will be prioritized.

Proposed sessions should meet the following criteria:

- Present in-person at the conference hosted October 19-21, 2022 at the Blue Water Convention Center in Port Huron.
- Sessions must address an issue or speak to a topic that is specific to the audience described above.
- Sessions must be educational in nature; no sales of products or services will be tolerated.
- Sessions must deliver an engaging learner experience (e.g., utilize engaging visuals, elicit participant insights).
- Presenters should plan to develop and share additional handouts/resources attendees can review and immediately adapt/adopt following their sessions.

Questions

Please feel free to contact MLA at MLA@milibraries.org or (517) 394-2774 with any questions you may have prior to your submission.

General Guidelines

- Most educational programs are scheduled for 60-minute time blocks, including time for Q&A. MLA is willing to consider 30-minute sessions or longer multi-part sessions, if requested.
- Program submitter does not need to be the presenter.
- Program submitter will be considered the primary contact person.
- Presenters must appear in-person at the conference.
- Contact information is required for each presenter.
- Presenters are not reimbursed or compensated for session time, mileage, or any other expenses.
- Handouts will be posted to the MLA website before the conference. Handouts will not be printed.
- Presenters must register for the day(s) they attend if they intend to stay beyond their allotted presentation time.
Session Title
In 10 words or fewer please provide a title for your proposed session.
The best titles are clear, succinct, and describe exactly what will be covered in the session.

Session Description
In 500 characters or fewer, please provide a concise description of your proposed session.
If accepted this will appear in the final program listing and on the conference website. Please write it in 3rd person, make it lively, informative, and interesting. It may be edited for publication.
Speakers will be listed separately; they should not be listed in the session description.

Abridged Session Description
In 150 characters or fewer please provide a short description that may be used for social media and related marketing purposes.

Equity, Diversity, Accessibility, and Belonging
Fostering a culture of equity, diversity, accessibility, and belonging is the top strategic priority of MLA. Describe how this session aligns with those goals or contributes to wider representation of diverse groups and points of view. How might this session contribute to wider representation of diverse groups and points of view?

Conference Theme
Describe how this session speaks to the conference theme "Bridging the Divide".

Session Format
Please identify the session format. Examples Include:
Case Study Presentation – A session focusing on the results of a specific study, program or service.
Skill Building Workshop – A session in which participants will learn about a specific skill and how it can be applied to improve results, workflow, and/or efficiency.
Panel Presentation with Moderator – A moderated session focusing on a particular issue, program, or service.

Knowledge Level of Audience
Please indicate the level of knowledge attendees should have on this topic in order to gain the most benefit from attending.
Foundational – For those with no previous knowledge of the topic
Applied – For those with some previous knowledge of the topic

Learning Outcomes
Please identify three (3) learning outcomes for your session that begin, “At the end of the session, participants will...”
Learning outcomes should use active verbs, be measurable, and state what the participants should know or be able to do after attending your session. Learning outcomes should not simply repeat topics that will be addressed or activities that will take place during the session. Your proposal will be evaluated on the clarity and specificity of its learning outcomes.
Session Track
Please select up to two tracks that you think best describe your session:
Create – Sessions focus on concepts, programs, or services new to libraries and/or what’s trending for the new decade
Connect – Sessions focus on services and programs that engage staff, patrons, and/or the community with the goal of improving library services.
Reimagine – Sessions focus on how libraries are re-thinking and adapting services and programs to the changing needs of staff, patrons, and/or the community.
Lead – Sessions focus on how library staff, patrons, and/or community can lead others towards inspiring solutions.

Target Audience – Library Types (Choose all that apply)
All/General
Public
Academic
School
Special

Target Audience – Job Functions (Choose all that apply)
Acquisitions
Administrative Services
Cataloging
Children’s Services
Circulation
Collection Development
Director/Dean
Friends
Human Resources
Information Technology
Instruction
Manager/Department Head
Marketing
Media Specialist
Outreach
Paraprofessional
Reference
Student
Support Staff
Technical Services
Teen Services
Trustee
Other
Presenter Information
The following information is required of every presenter:
Name
Organization
Job title
Email
Phone
Address
Previous speaking experience or qualifications on chosen topic
Biography of 500 characters or less
Headshot photo

Disclaimers
If my program submission is accepted, I agree to the following:
• I will be responsible for registering and paying for the conference if I plan on attending other sessions or events beyond my allotted presentation time.
• I will be required to provide my own computer or tablet during the presentation time.
• I understand I must provide a digital handout to MLA by October 1, 2022 and handouts will not be printed by MLA.
• I understand I will not be reimbursed or compensated for presentation time, mileage, or any other expense related to my participation in the conference.
• I agree to MLA's Code of Conduct and COVID-19 Policy