

MLA is now accepting proposals for educational sessions and poster presentations for the 2022 Spring Institute for Youth Services scheduled March 10-11, 2022, in Mt. Pleasant.

Library Science Fair Proposals are welcome through December 2021.

Conference Information

At MLA's first in-person conference since 2019, we invite attendees to **LEVEL UP**. Whether that means growing professionally within your current role, wanting to communicate your vision better to your team, or aspirations for moving up in the profession, we invite you to share your ideas and energy for leveling up and making change within your organization and the library profession. Come get inspired and empowered at Spring Institute 2022!

Library Science Fair

Do you remember the feeling of accomplishment and the nervous anticipation as you awaited the results from your childhood science fair? All the time you spent designing the perfect experiment culminated in a beautifully decorated, and hopefully glittery, tri-fold poster board with your carefully drawn bubble letters and illustrations. As you looked out across the cafeteria you were sure your potato-fueled lightbulb burned the brightest. We think adults deserve that feeling too. Welcome to the MLA “Library Science” Fair. Just like fifth grade but with a little less science and a little more library. Just ask yourself...

Do you have a great project you’ve implemented at your library, but don’t think the information would fill a whole breakout session time slot?

Would you like to share your unique programming ideas with your peers?

Have you or your library done something so great, you must share it with the world?

Does your library do something no one else does?

If you said yes (or maybe) to any of these, then submit a proposal for the Library Science Fair. This quick and engaging presentation session will give you an opportunity to showcase your brilliance in a fun and comfortable reception format. Think of it like a strolling reception or an avenue of ideas with catchy displays and a spirit of sharing. Topic examples might be unique collections, outreach programs, engaging services or distinctive displays.

Submissions do not need to test a hypothesis or be strictly scientific in nature —*they just need to mean something to you!*

Reception attendees will vote for presentations they like the best and top entries will be celebrated.

Proposal Submission Information

Agreements and Selection Notification

- MLA will contact each program's submitter regarding final decisions in January 2022.
- MLA will send all presenters a Presenter Agreement. This must be confirmed by the presenter and returned to MLA.

General Guidelines

- Contact information is required for each presenter.
- Presenters are not reimbursed or compensated for session time, mileage, or any other expenses.
- Presenters must register for the day(s) they attend Spring Institute if they intend to stay beyond the reception.
- Entries cannot be a sales pitch.

Setup

- Each entry will be given a 6-ft table with linens and skirting to display poster and any additional materials.
- Entries should be constructed on (1) tri-fold foam presentation board with dimensions of 36" high by 48" wide (24" center panel and 12" side panels). You may purchase this board on your own or MLA will provide one for you complimentary at the conference check-in desk. You must bring all items to adhere your presentation to the board.
- Board should stand on their own or have supports. They cannot be affixed to walls.
- It is recommended that you also bring business cards or handouts as takeaways for attendees.

Selection Criteria

Reception space is limited so the Spring Institute work group will use the following criteria in assessing the viability of including a proposal. The work group retains the right to reject, modify, or combine proposals.

Clarity:

Is the proposal easy to understand with technological or industry jargon explained, if necessary, correct grammar and professionalism? Does the proposal clearly state concrete & specific topics/themes that you'll be highlighting?

Practicality:

Is the topic appropriate for the conference in content and audience?

Timeliness/Relevance:

Is the topic of current interest, bringing new ideas or a fresh perspective?

Proposal Requirements

Presenter Information

Name

Organization

Job Title

Phone

Email

Mailing Address

Past presentation or qualifications on chose topic

Short biography, written in 3rd person

Attached headshot

Proposal 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.

Proposal Description

In 750 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 so please write it in 3rd person, and 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.

Social Media Description

In 140 characters or fewer please provide a short description that may be used for social media and related marketing purposes.

Disclaimers

If your proposal is accepted, you agree to the following policies:

1. Consent

Registration and attendance at, or participation in, MLA meetings or other activities constitutes an agreement by the registrant to the use and distribution of the registrant's or attendee's image or voice in photographs, videotapes, electronic reproductions of such events and activities by MLA. Please contact MLA at MLA@milibraries.org if you'd like to be removed from any list.

2. Code of Conduct

MLA is committed to providing a safe, productive, and welcoming environment for all participants and MLA staff. Each participant, including attendees, speakers, volunteers, exhibitors, staff, service providers, is expected to understand and follow MLA policies and report any violations. These expectations apply to all MLA activities including those held in conjunction with MLA conferences, events and meetings, as well as online venues and social media.

Speakers are asked to frame discussions as openly and inclusively as possible and to be aware of how language or images may be perceived by others. Exhibitors in the exhibit hall, sponsor or vendor booths, or at accompanying activities are also subject to the policy.

Full Code of Conduct can be reviewed here: [MLA Code of Conduct](#)

3. COVID-19 Policy

Based on the recommendations from the CDC regarding small and large gatherings, and with our guests' safety in mind, we strongly recommend that you be fully vaccinated to attend MLA events. At this time, we also recommend that masks be worn in all indoor spaces for the safety of all attendees. These recommendations are subject to change based on recommendations in place at the time of the event. MLA will alert you of any changes to this policy.

If any government orders restrict us from gathering, we will reassess the event dates at that time. If you have a positive COVID-19 test or exposure within 14 days of the event you are expected to alert MLA staff.

We ask you to be courteous and conscientious of others while meeting in-person at the event, especially when it comes to health and safety.

4. Conference Presenter Policies

- You will be responsible for registering and paying for the conference if you wish to attend other sessions or events beyond the reception.
- Attendance at the event is NOT a requirement to present.
- You will not be reimbursed or compensated for presentation time, mileage, or any other expense related to my participation in the conference.