

## MLA Conference 2009

The MLA conference is always a great opportunity to learn how we can improve the quality of our Libraries and service to our patrons. The variety of topics this year was impressive. Each of the five sessions I attended will benefit me, my community and the patrons I help each day.

Sessions attended:

1. Primary Sources for National History Day – This is an area I help with each year as a volunteer and Librarian and the new sources and information will be passed on to students working on their projects.
2. Fun with Facebook – Finding out how to use Facebook for professional opportunities and enhance library services was covered.
3. Grassroots Advocacy – This was a timely topic and greatly appreciated which has changed my attitude and approach for better.
4. Census 2010: Are You Ready to Be Counted? – Both personal and professional interest motivated me to attend this session and I gathered information that will be useful for all.
5. Marketing Your Collections: Practical Examples from Depository Libraries in Minnesota – While this was not what I had expected, it was the most interesting and it helped me direct a college student to information the very next day. It was a “WOW” session.

Ample time was allowed between sessions to visit with the vendors and Library staff from a variety of libraries from around the state, which is also a good learning opportunity. I look forward to the Silent Auction which is a fun way to support the Minnesota Library Foundation and their mission.

Thank you for the scholarship support so I and many others could attend and thus return to our libraries energized with new information and ideas.

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