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MPLA Academic Section Report
1/2004

The Vice-chair, Melissa Heckard has begun preparations for the Professional Forum to be held in conjunction with 2004 MPLA/CAL Conference in Denver. It is hoped that early and sustained advertising along in conjunction with other efforts will result in an excellent session.

The Section business meeting at MPLA/NLA Conference yielded 15 suggestions for program topics. Joe Janes, one of the creators of the Internet Public Library, would be willing speak on the topic of virtual reference, one of the topics suggested at the section meeting. Another suggested topic was joint use libraries. A possible speaker for this topic would be Don Riggs, who designed and operationalized the new joint-use library that serves both Broward County residents and students, faculty, and staff of Nova Southeastern University. He is available on the conference dates and would be interested in being a speaker. The Section members would like to sponsor another session about Academic Librarians and Non-Traditional Research similar to the "Outside the Boundaries" session at the 2003 conference. David Alexander has agreed to work on coordinating this session. Other ideas suggested included reorganizing organizational structure, redesigning space, collaborative workspaces, mentoring, project management, assessment (outcomes based), academic writing (how to put a paper together-possible preconference), open source applications, Prospero vs Ariel vs Illiad, creating tutorials, 2 way video conferencing, distance education/online services, faculty status - pros and cons.

A message requesting program ideas was sent out using Member Clicks. A speaker suggested by Suzanne Taylor in response to the message was Catherine Murray-Rust, Colorado State University on the topic of the future of higher education. Vice-Chair Melissa Heckard also suggested several ideas. In addition she identified possible speakers for topics suggested at the section meeting.

Information commons (Allison Cowgill, Colorado State University)
Information Literacy (Kate Manuel, New Mexico State University)
Scholarly communication (Joan K. Lippincott, CNI, Julia Blixrud, ARL)
Reorganizing organization structures; team-based managment; assessing teams (Rosann Bazirjian, Penn State)
Web-based Education Resources (Jo Ann Carr, University of Wisconsin, Madison)
Mentoring (Dana Keyse, Elizabeth W. Kraemer, and Julie Voelck, Oakland University) (Gail Munde)
Virtual Reference (Bruce Newell, Montana State Library)