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2010 Annual Conference: **WORKING SMARTER** October 3-4

Complete Information
is available on the MSLA website
<http://www.maschoolibraries.org>

From the Editor

It is my firm belief that the Forum is an essential conduit of professional information and communication for MSLA. I also believe that combining the jobs of webmaster and editor is logical and a good "fit" for me.

A Brief History Lesson: The Forum

My first impression of MSLMA came from the copy of the Media Forum that arrived in my mailbox in 1997. I'm a bit shaky on that date, but it was a good first impression. I had no crystal ball to see into the future...being the MSLMA webmaster...becoming the president...changing our name to MSLA ... serving on the AASL Board of Directors.

Back then, Nancy Jones was the editor of the Media Forum. It was published quarterly and mailed to members. I considered it a benefit of membership and read it cover to cover. I vividly remember Nancy's "Recipes for Success."

The publication schedule became irregular after 2000; shortly after I became president-elect of MSLMA in 2002, Nancy stepped down as the editor. The eBoard gave Kathy Lowe and me the mission of moving the Media Forum to an online format. That summer, we enlisted Paula Byrne as the editor and lined up Rick Paula as the technical editor.

The new Online Media Forum had an ambitious publishing schedule of five times per year, as well as a strong staff of columnists and editors. Anne Croak gave behind-the-scenes support. April Graziano's "What Works" column was a terrific resource on a variety of timely topics: summer reading, collaboration, and cooperation with public libraries.

The archives of the Media Forum on the MSLA website is a treasure of recent MSLA history. Personally, I am most touched by the tributes to Joan Gallagher who lost her battle with cancer in 2003. The award named in honor of Joan was given to Senator Jack Reed in November of 2003. MSLMA's first celebration of School Library Month took place in April 2004, with the inaugural Bookmark Contest. It was my honor to write the "President's Messages;" my theme was (and is), "SHOUT!"



In 2004, the first Media Forum PLUS was printed and mailed to members. This was acknowledgement that print was still of value; since then, the Forum PLUS has been printed each year.

In 2007, Patsy Divver and Jan Koleszar took over as the MSLA Forum editors. Linda Redding's "Lunch with an Author" debuted and the Forum online issues became available in print as a download. Patsy and Jan take their place in the "Forum Hall of Fame" with our thanks for their professional dedication.

This fall we will debut a new format for the Forum.

It promises to be interactive, informative and timely. Once again, I find myself at a frontier in MSLA history. From the print-only Forum, to online only, to....? Watch for the rollout of this exciting resource.

Enjoy this MSLA Forum PLUS with news from the Library World, plus a special 2009 Awards section and a sneak preview of our 2010 Conference.

Sincerely, Ann Perham
MSLA Webmaster and Forum Editor

The Forum Plus is also available on the MSLA webpage: <http://www.maschoolibraries.org> > Newsletter