

AWSIL news

May 2015

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REPORT FROM YOUR CHAIR

What an exciting year for AWSL! I have to consider myself very fortunate to be working with such a great group of special librarians. We have accomplished plenty over the past year and have another great year ahead. This is my first report from the prestigious 'chair' position of AWSL, so I'm equal parts excited and nervous. Here is what has been happening in the AWSL division since our last newsletter, published in October 2014.

The division had an incredibly successful slate of programs at the WLA Annual Conference, which was held in early November in Wisconsin Dells. It was so well-received that it deserves its own article, which I have written later on in the issue. The AWSL officers were able to connect with librarians from across the entire spectrum of librarianship and with several library students who were in attendance. A conference where we are able to show off the myriad skills of special librarians and connect with other professionals is a success in my book, and this conference certainly exceeded my expectations.

The incoming chair of AWSL, Christina Johanningmeier, has offered up an intriguing slate of program proposals for this year's conference, which will be held in Middleton. I was lucky enough to get a sneak peek of a few of the proposals, and they should be excellent. Watch for a full description of AWSL's programs for this year's conference in our fall newsletter.

As AWSL continues to reach out to special librarians and students, we will be offering a grant for a librarian or student to attend the conference this year. We hope to receive a good number of applicants with the conference located so close to Madison and it's numerous students and librarians. We'll be sending out an email to our members and interested students in the coming months. We hope to see your name on an application!

Along those same lines, we are planning on hosting several socials at the Union Terrace, one this summer and one after SLIS orientation. The social this summer, on June 25, will be preceded by a tour of the Kohler Art Library, one of a number of special libraries located on campus. I sheepishly admit that I have never been in the Art Library and so I am really looking forward to taking the tour. The tour starts at 4pm, and after it concludes at 5pm, we'll take the five minute walk to the Union to have a drink, have some fun and generally be cool librarians. Join us!

The September social will follow our appearance at the SLIS orientation. There we will encourage new library students to come visit with us and to not limit their ambitions solely to public and academic libraries. Again, I hope that many professional special librarians can join us as we meet with potential future special librarians.

If you are interested in becoming more involved with AWSL or have an idea for a program, tour or project, don't be shy! We want to hear from you. As you can see, we love working together and have produced some great content for the coming year. Feel free to email me if you want to volunteer or if you have questions about any of the upcoming events.

The AWSL officers join me in welcoming you to AWSL and its events in 2015. We hope to see you there! Thank you for having me as your chair, and I look forward to working with you all for many more years.

Respectfully,
Kris Turner

AWSL ROCKS THE 2014 WLA CONFERENCE!

Unsurprisingly, the 2014 WLA Conference, held in Wisconsin Dells, was a big success. The organizers and volunteers do an amazing job pulling together so many different groups and details. They make this gargantuan task look easy.

However, I am here to sing the praises of the group of AWSL members who presented, monitored and hosted a great round of programs, tours and socials. We had an amazing turnout for every single session, did some teaching, learned a little and had a lot of fun.

Here are the highlights of AWSL's slate of programs:

Wednesday, the first full day of the conference was an extremely busy one for the division. Our first session was entitled "We are all Special Librarians" and featured our past chair Jen Edmonds and myself as the speakers in a round-table type discussion. We discussed what it means to be a Special Librarian, what we do in our day-to-day professional lives, and how we can connect with public and academic librarians to help them with questions that can be very difficult to answer. We had a great amount of audience participation (especially since it was so early in the day and in the conference!), and there were a lot of students in attendance, which is especially exciting to see.

Next, we held our business meeting over lunch. I transitioned to the chair position, Jen became the past chair and Christina Johanningmeier took over as chair-elect. Carrie Doyle, our liaison to the WLA board reported on the most recent events in the larger WLA structure, while Anne Moser took notes in the place of new mom Amy O'Shea (congrats to Amy on the newest AWSL member!). The meeting really set the groundwork for the big events we have for the coming year.

Our next session of the day was all about way finding. Special guest Liz Zimdars, who is the adult services librarian at the Sun Prairie Library and myself presented to a very energetic audience. We discussed the best practices for digital and print signs and offered both good and (hilariously) bad examples of signage in libraries. We designed this presentation to appeal to librarians of all stripes, and we had a great turnout and once again great audience participation. I am strangely proud of this presentation simply because I heard later on that it was the funniest (in a good way) presentation that the member had attended. I was especially heartened to hear that since many sessions err on the lecture side. I am glad that we were able to bring some levity to the conference and remain educational. We ended the day with our traditional fall social. The AWSL group retired to a local bar and had some drinks, which really was a great way to end the first day of the conference.

Our next big day was on Friday. The conference ended at 11:45am that day, but the AWSL division had two of the highlights that day. First, AWSL sponsored a tour of the nearby Circus World Archives, a special library if there ever was one. The tour was at capacity and was overseen by Carrie Doyle, who effortlessly sheperded the large group through the tour. The Circus World Archivist Pete Shrake led the group around the archives, showing off some of the more unique items in the collection.

Below: One of the many historical Circus posters held at the Circus World Archives (l); Archivist Pete Shrake shows off a clown picture in the archives (r).



Scheduled for the last round of sessions, I presented on Apps for librarians in their personal and professional lives. The attendance exceeded my expectations to say the least, with nearly 90 people cramming into the room. I covered over 100 apps in 45 minutes, ranging from GoodReads to Sportstracker to Chirp (here is a list of the apps that were covered!). The session was a marathon, but was a lot fun, since it involved showcasing useful apps in front of an audience that was very much invested. I hope I can do more presentations on the apps in the future.

The best part of being chair this year is that I get to see AWSL do it all again. Christina Johanningmeier and I have already submitted proposals for the next year, and I hope that we are just as successful in Middleton as we were in the Dells. I hope to see you in the audience in November!

- Kris Turner

WISCONSIN STATE LAW LIBRARY: SERVING THE STATE OF WISCONSIN SINCE 1836

By: Lisa Winkler, Outreach Services Librarian

Do your library's users ask for Wisconsin statutes, regulations, or court forms? Have you ever been asked to find a legal assistance clinic, an appellate court brief, or a tax law treatise? Finding primary law is one thing, but locating helpful secondary legal information can be another challenge entirely. As librarians, we help people find information they can use to make informed decisions. Even with our expert search skills, some legal information can only be found in specialized resources that are not freely available online. However, many government agencies, law schools, legal service providers and other experts produce a wealth of reliable web-based information. Where can you turn to find trustworthy legal resources quickly? Why, the State Law Library, and our incredibly helpful website that functions as an online pathfinder.

<http://wilawlibrary.gov/>

The image shows a screenshot of the Wisconsin State Law Library website. The website features a header with the title "Wisconsin State Law Library" and a search bar. Below the header, there are several navigation buttons: "Ask a Question", "Locations & Hours", "Articles & Journals", and "Renew / Log In". The main content area is divided into several sections: "State & Local Information", "Quick Links to Laws & Cases", "Library Highlights", "Library Research", and "Use the Library". A callout arrow points to the search bar with the text "Search Legal Topics and website". Another callout arrow points to the navigation buttons with the text "Top library services". A third callout arrow points to the main navigation menu with the text "Menu for the website". A fourth callout arrow points to the "Library Research" section with the text "Catalog & research links". A fifth callout arrow points to the "Library Highlights" section with the text "News and promos".

WSLL Website

The WSLL website is a virtual one stop shop for access to authoritative sources of legal and government information. Our Legal Topics, arranged in over 450 different subjects from Abandoned Property to Zoning Law, contain thousands of links to vetted online resources. The Wisconsin Law page provides access to free, reliable primary law such as statutes and administrative code, Supreme Court and Court of Appeals opinions, Attorney General Opinions, and local ordinances. You will also find links for federal law, tribal law and laws of other states. Try searching the library catalog. It includes records for print and electronic materials at all three of our libraries, including the Dane County Law Library and Milwaukee County Law Library. Use Index to Legal Periodicals and HeinOnline, our legal journal and article databases, remotely with your library card number. Check out the county legal resources database for locally sourced information by county or subject.

Learning Center

Watch video tutorials on subjects such as Case Law Research with Google Scholar, Hiring a Lawyer, and Introduction to Law. You can download helpful legal research guides at any time by visiting our Learning Center, or use our Start Here library guides to find print resources in our library on certain subjects. Sign up for classes or webinars by checking out the Classes page on our website for the current schedule.

In addition to our in-house classes we are available to provide training at your public library. Contact Lisa Winkler, Outreach Services Librarian, to discuss scheduling a session for your librarians or the public.

Research Assistance

Whether you need a specific piece of information, guidance finding materials in the library, or navigating a legal research website, our reference staff will do their best to help you. Anyone may use our general reference service, available in person as well as by email, phone, fax, and mail. (Please note that library staff cannot give legal advice.)

Newsletter, Blog and Social Media

WSLL @ Your Service is our monthly electronic newsletter distributed by email and posted to our website. Regular articles include the "What's New" recap of library news, "This Just In" list of new acquisitions, "Tech Tip" to make your life easier, and a review piece called "WSLL Recommends." We also have rotating segments such as "Start Here" guides to help make our collection more accessible. Contact Tammy Keller to sign up for the email list: tammy.keller@wicourts.gov

Library Highlights, the State Law Library's blog, is another way to keep up with our news. You can check us out online or use the RSS feed to have news brought to you. We also maintain a presence on Facebook, Google+, and Linked In. Pick your favorite method, like and follow us, or subscribe to our newsletter to conveniently stay informed.

And More

The above is only a selected overview of materials and services that may be of particular interest to public librarians serving communities throughout Wisconsin. Our website is a constantly evolving pathfinder to online legal information, and I encourage you to bookmark it now. It is an excellent launch pad to credible legal information. If you have any questions or would like more information, you know what to do: Ask a Librarian.

AWSL MEMBER HIGHLIGHT: Q AND A WITH NELL FLEMING

Name

Nell Fleming

Position

Librarian and Archivist at the Wisconsin School for the Deaf

Describe your current job

I serve as a K-12 librarian for the residential school for the deaf and function somewhat like a school librarian would, teaching classes in library skills, helping people learn to find their own resources, use databases, and electronic devices. I also serve much like a public librarian for the staff and students who may not have time to go to their home libraries or the local library here due to dual living arrangements. I do programming like the Teddy Bear Overnight, middle school mystery night, obtain loaner collections on select topics or the hottest new reads and provide reading incentives from Aram Public Library. I serve as liaison to help the students obtain the skills to seek out the public libraries in their home communities when they are back home for the summer, or after graduation.

I also serve as a statewide resource librarian for professionals and families who are deaf or hard of hearing, work with individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing or are training to do so. We provide as many resources as we can for beginning sign language students, interpreting students, teachers of the deaf, speech and language pathologists and audiologists, outreach professionals, and more. Our resources include books on DVD in American Sign Language with tutorials for parents learning to read to their children, interpreter practice tapes, Deaf history, culture and archives.



I am serving as Archivist for the fourth year in a row. It is an ECA position which we bid on yearly and I hope to continue for several more years as I enjoy setting up displays around the county and in our museum, doing research for our alumni and teachers and sharing the history with the students. We will soon have our Wisconsin Times newspapers from 1896 to 1982 online through a LSTA grant obtained as a partner of Aram Public Library. This is an exciting upgrade in providing access to Deaf and hard of hearing people throughout the state to their personal heritage.

Previous professional endeavors

I have worked in a variety of agencies in the past as a teacher of the deaf, advocate for deaf services, recreation professional for the deaf, and interpreter for the deaf. I even did a few years as an ASL qualified flight attendant with United Airlines. I have worked as racial justice coordinator at the YWCA of Charleston, WV and as Americorps Vista Librarian at Big Ugly Community Center. The key element in all of my previous professional experience is advocacy. In some way, shape or form, I find myself advocating for equality, access, and premium services for underserved populations. I hold degrees in Library and Information Science from University of Illinois as well as degree in Advanced Library Research from University of Illinois on the demographics of children's picture books in the twenty-first century.

Why did you decide to work in the library profession?

I started considering library school just after my daughter was born. I enjoyed working with students and the community but interpreting required a level of neutrality that left me feeling empty and the public school system was over populated with teachers of the deaf in my area. I saw an opening for a librarian at the Illinois School for the Deaf as and it got my wheels spinning. My sister was in library school as well in Indiana and I started thinking about all of the librarians I had interacted with in the past and realized that I loved what they do and how I felt when they assisted me. It seemed that in my own experience anyway that librarians really loved their jobs and I wanted that too. I didn't actually expect to find a job at a deaf school after we moved to West Virginia and I started becoming very interested in youth librarianship and genealogy. I was very surprised when the opening showed up on the job postings for WSD and that I was not only was I chosen for the position but that my family was able to move for the opportunity. I feel very fortunate.

Why did you join AWSL? WLA?

I believe that joining professional organizations is an important responsibility for professionals in any field. It is also vital to stay fresh that you stay connected. Especially in a job like mine where I am the only person in my field in the building. If I were to just continue to do the same work year after year without networking and learning it would become stale. I also enjoy the advocacy between professionals that can be achieved when you think broadly about your mission.

What is the favorite part of your job?

This is very hard to choose but if I have to pick just one thing it's the hugs I get from children ages 5 to 8 on a daily basis. I love being that person that they are so happy to see and the library is a place of wonder whether they have a full grasp of written language yet or not. It runs a close second to helping people who call with archival requests for information about their great grandparents. Reading the school entry records and telling folks fun things like "did you know your grandfather's father owned a saloon in such as so town, WI?" is really neat.

What is the least favorite part of your job?

The piles I create on my desk. I am easily distracted and I tend to go with the moment.

Do you have a role model as a librarian?

My role model is my former boss from Step by Step in Charleston/Harts West Virginia. I did a year as an Americorps Vista Librarian out at Big Ugly Community Center and my boss Michael Tierney is a person with whom I look to as a model of what it means to serve your community. Michael has a law degree from Harvard and chose to live in one of the most depressed communities in the nation to set up a non-profit to serve the needs of those who are overlooked in the US. He not only serves the community but he has become one of them. People don't always feel great about being "helped" but will feel much better about being able to help themselves and that's what Americorps is all about which is why it's a perfect match for Michael's efforts as CEO of Step by Step. Michael created a library of over 10,000 holdings with zero dollars, for a community that does not have a school or public library in the county closer than 45 minutes. The closest library is 25 min away in another county. The area is a hollow on a creek between two mountains and there are no businesses or services of any kind in the neighborhood of Big Ugly except for this community center which serves as library, after school program, free dinner program, summer camp, and teen center to name a few. Other projects include water reclamation, summer reading and book distribution.

What is your favorite book of the last year?

I taught an Urban Fiction Book Club Last year and I really enjoyed the book *The Coldest Winter Ever* by Sister Souljah.

What is your dream vacation?

I would love to visit the mountains of Rwanda to see the Gorillas in the Preserve that Diane Fossey set up.

What are your hobbies?

I have a practice tight wire at home and in good weather the garage is converted to a practice area. It's my form of walking meditation now that I'm too old to perform. My husband and I met in the Gamma Phi Circus at Illinois State University as well as performed in the Triton Trouper Circus in the Chicago area. My daughter is following in our footsteps with Gamma Phi Circus Camp every year. It helps to live in the 19th century circus capital of the world, Delavan, WI. I also like to research our and other people's family history.

Link to my professional Blog at WSD

https://wiki.wsd.k12.wi.us/users/flemin/weblog/6705c/Meet_the_new_Librarian.html

This post is the first post I created titled "Meet the new Librarian"

LIBRARY PROFILE: KOHLER ART LIBRARY

Join us as we tour the Kohler Art Library and its artists' book collection from 4 to 5 p.m. Thursday, June 18. Visit a new library and its special collection.

If Gertrude Stein was correct, a rose is a rose is a rose, but a book is not always a book. Books are also works of art. The Kohler Art Library holds more than 1,000 artists' books, one of a kind or limited edition works, created as works of art.

The library's primary mission is to serve the education of art and art education students and support the Chazen Museum, provides not just information but a sense of inspiration, of thinking of art differently, says director Lyn Korenic, and the artists' book collection is one of the ways the library does this.

"The practice of browsing is paramount," says Lyn Korenic. "They're just looking. I think the art historian and the art student learn a lot on their own. Only they know what they're looking for and when they find it."

Artists' books, books made by artists as works of art, began to emerge as an art form in the 1960s. Unlike paintings, for example, "artists' books are meant to be handled." The Kohler's collection was started in the early 1970s under director William C. Bunce.

The collection acts as an outreach tool, drawing patrons of all ages and from throughout the state. Korenic has brought in classes from the Madison area, from Madison College and Edgewood College; Clark College in Dubuque; Chicago. Patrons ranging in age from teen-age members of Girl Scout troops

to senior citizens. The Girl Scouts who visited recently were working on their Book Arts badge, making books. This is often the case; patrons are often working on books of their own.

(Full disclosure: I learned of the artists' book collection through Carol Chase Bjerke, whose work is in the collection. I also took a bookmaking workshop from her.)

"It starts with the teacher who's making the books," says Korenic. The teachers are both arts teachers and creative writing teachers.

Korenic also takes the collection on tour, to the Children's Museum, for example, and to Alzheimer's groups. Last year, an average year, she used the collection for 40 sessions with 400 people.

Her development plans are to improve "accessibility and outreach," do more preservation for the collection, and work with the ARLIS thesaurus to improve subject terms for cataloging.

She is also looking for unusual formats, unusual materials and works that push the envelope. She is looking to build minority representation, social justice, women's issues, and works that combine art and other disciplines.

If you would like to browse the collection online, it can be found at digicoll.library.wisc.edu/ArtistsBks/

For a directory of artists' book collections at other institutions, visit

<http://www.andrew.cmu.edu/user/md2z/ArtistsBooksDirectory/ArtistsBookIndex.html>

Christina Johanningmeier

Visual Materials Assistant Archivist, Wisconsin Historical Society

AWSL TRAVELS: LIBRARIES FROM AROUND THE WORLD

We love our profession very much and even on vacation, some of us will drag our traveling companions and loved ones to visit libraries during our travels. AWSL has decided to document the libraries our members visit around the world. Here is our inaugural collection.



Little Free Library
Submitted by Christina Johanningmeier
May 2015

New York Public Library
Manhattan
November 2014
Submitted by Anne
Moser





Oneida Community Library
Oneida, Wisconsin
Submitted by Carrie Doyle
2013 WLA Conference

Salt Lake City Public Library
Salt Lake City, Utah
Submitted by Kris Turner





Public Library of Delphey
Delphey, Greece
January 2015
Submitted by Anne Moser
(lucky person!)

UPCOMING EVENTS

June 18

Tour the Kohler Art Library at the University of Wisconsin-Madison and its artists' book collection from 4 to 5 p.m. Visit a new library and its special collection. Afterward we will enjoy an hour or two on the Memorial Union Terrace. For more information, please contact Christina Johanningmeier cbj253@charter.net.

September

Annual fall social including incoming and continuing SLIS students interested in special libraries. Time and date to be determined. Look for an email in the summer.

November 3-6, 2015

Annual WLA Conference to be held at the Madison Marriott West in Middleton. Many great AWSL programs will be presented. Stay tuned!

YOUR AWSL BOARD

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