

ASSOCIATION OF WISCONSIN SPECIAL LIBRARIANS | AWSL

A DIVISION OF THE WISCONSIN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

Leadership

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Committees

CONFERENCE PLANNING
Team Awesome AWSL!

NEWSLETTER
Carol Hassler

Next Business Meeting

The next business meeting of AWSL will take place in the fall. Watch the listserv for date and connection details!

All AWSL members and interested WLA members are encouraged to attend!

Explore the Atmospheric, Oceanic and Space Sciences Library

By Carol Hassler

This spring I visited the Atmospheric, Oceanic and Space Sciences (AOSS) Library at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, and was lucky enough to get a tour of the library and archives from Helen Murphy, the librarian helming AOSS. Established in 1981, the library is part of the Space Science and Engineering Center (SSEC) and shares a building with several science-focused departments.

Recently remodeled, the library has become a gathering hub in the building, providing both quiet study and meeting space. An interactive classroom at one end of the library includes group study tables, and updated screens and sound system.

Visitors to the library are immediately greeted with friendly work spaces and comfortable seating along a bright wall of windows. The library provides a puzzle table for students and staff to drop in for a relaxing few minutes of puzzling, and soft seating tucked a little past the entrance is a comfortable place to catch up on work or reading.



The Atmospheric, Oceanic and Space Sciences Library provides access to many online research sources, as well as print and archival collections. The library's print collection features a strong core of monographs on SSEC topics, with several items covering the study of physics, engineering, weather, radar, and satellite technology. As the collection evolves, topics continue to expand into other environmental sciences as well.

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Coffee Chat Sharing!

Would you like to share about your library or a project at our monthly coffee chat? To sign up, contact Carol Hassler at carol.hassler@wicourts.gov

Join our Board!

Becoming a member of the AWSL leadership team is a great way to meet new people and to provide opportunities for your fellow special librarians to get together to have fun, to learn, and to socialize. Being an AWSL leader is a great way to get in some professional development in a low-key, low-stress, high-reward way. The time commitment is minimal. The board meets twice a year: once in the spring and once at the annual WLA conference in the fall. All other duties can be completed remotely.



Do you need help crafting your proposal? Join conference committee members for an informational Zoom Q&A. Presentation proposal workshops are being held:
 April 16 from 12:00 - 1:00 p.m.
 May 5 from 11:00 - 12:00 p.m.

Connection details are on the WLA conference website.

A note from your chair

By Carol Hassler

While this newsletter issue has been in development, I've re-written my welcome a handful of times. As the news cycles churn, one thing remains unchanged for me: my utmost respect at the astonishing dedication of librarians to provide the best service possible. I joined AWSL in 2018, when I first joined WLA. At the time, I wasn't sure how valuable the organization might be to me. I joined as a skeptic, and I write to you now as a believer. I'm here to stay, and I'm so happy to serve as your Chair this year.

The ability to connect with other librarians and learn more about what other libraries are achieving is my favorite thing about WLA, and about AWSL. Sometimes it's easy to feel like you're working in isolation, and this organization facilitates reaching outside of that - to help and be helped.

Earlier this year, AWSL members set a goal to continue developing advocacy resources and support for special libraries and collections. I look forward to working with you to provide a platform for discussion and learning opportunities as the year progresses.

Join our monthly coffee chats to connect with other WLA members, and to enjoy the occasional special presentation. Coffee chats are on the second Friday of every month via Zoom, at 10:30 a.m. Watch the AWSL listserv and WLA news for meeting announcements and connection details. Add dates for the rest of the year to your calendar!

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|-----------|--------------|
| May 9 | September 12 |
| June 13 | October 10 |
| July 11 | November 14 |
| August 18 | December 12 |

Present at the WLA Annual Conference!

Do you have an idea that could inspire your peers and shape the future of libraries? The WLA Programming Committee is now accepting proposals for panels, presentations, and workshops at the 2025 WLA Annual Conference in Middleton, WI! This year's theme is "Be the Change," and we want YOU to be part of it.

Who should submit? Library staff from ALL backgrounds, departments, and experience levels! Whether you work in public, academic, school, or special libraries, your voice matters.

Submission Deadline: Friday, May 9, 2025, by 5:00 p.m. CST
 Be bold. Share your knowledge. Submit your proposal today!
<https://www.wisconsinlibraries.org/2025-wla-conference>

About AWSL

The Association of Wisconsin Special Librarians (AWSL) is a division of the Wisconsin Library Association. Established in October 1986, AWSL exists to focus on the activities and issues of special libraries and librarianship and to provide a forum for exchange of ideas among persons involved with special libraries and collections.

Membership

Membership is open to all WLA members. Anyone who maintains a specialized collection of materials is considered a special librarian -- whether they're a trained and certified librarian managing a library's special collection, or a person in charge of specialized materials in a church, museum, prison, hospital, corporation, foundation, newspaper, government office, or other organization.

Join AWSL

Make the most of your WLA membership and join AWSL through the WLA website:

www.wisconsinlibraries.org/awsl

Reflecting on My First Library Conference Experience: WLA 2024

By *Emily Villars*

This past November, I had the opportunity to attend the 2024 Wisconsin Library Association (WLA) Annual Conference in Green Bay. This was an exciting event for me as it was my first-ever library conference and my first professional event in Wisconsin as I transition from a career in museums and cultural heritage to the library and information science field. Overall, the experience was both enriching and invaluable, providing me with a deeper understanding of librarianship in practice.

As an emerging library and information professional who just graduated this past December, the conference was a fantastic opportunity to network with professionals, learn about their work, and explore the multifaceted world of libraries. One of the highlights of my experience was connecting with the Association of Wisconsin Special Librarians (AWSL) members, who generously supported my attendance with their grant. They were a warm and welcoming group, and I enjoyed the lively conversations during our meetup.

Among the many insightful sessions, one presentation that particularly stood out to me was Dr. Carol Cornelius' talk on *Finding and Using Historical Documents to Hear the Voices of Indigenous Nations of Wisconsin*. Dr. Cornelius was an engaging and knowledgeable speaker. Her incredible work collecting, analyzing, and interpreting historical treaties, assessing their impact on Wisconsin's cultural and political landscape, and amplifying Indigenous voices through living documents was profound. After the session, I spoke with her about my Indigenous heritage and decided to purchase her book, *A History of Indigenous Voices: Menominee, Ho-Chunk, Oneida, Stockbridge, and Brothertown Interactions in the Removal Era*, to add to my personal library.

Amy Manion, the Director of Library Services at Waukesha County Technical College, led another memorable session. Her presentation, *All Eyes and Ears: Steps Toward Equitable Streaming Video Access for Students*, included an interactive activity where participants were asked to draw a penny from memory. As a Canadian who had grown up with the Canadian penny (which was decommissioned in 2013), I struggled to recall the details of either the Canadian or American penny. My drawing ended up being completely wrong and not representative of either penny. It was a fun reminder of how cultural differences can shape our experiences and understanding.

I was also captivated by Amanda McGillivray and Amelia Osterud's presentation on the Milwaukee Public Library's innovative approach to library services through multi-use branches. These branches serve not only as libraries but also as apartment complexes. This creative

model allows for an integrated, community-focused service, something I hadn't heard of before. It was an eye-opening example of how libraries can adapt to meet evolving needs.

Beyond the sessions, the people I met at the conference made the experience even more rewarding. I had the chance to connect with a diverse range of library professionals from various fields, and it was inspiring to hear about their work and the challenges they face.

One key takeaway from the conference is that AI's role in libraries will continue growing and embracing new technologies will be crucial in shaping the future of library services. The challenge will be creatively integrating these tools to enhance access, inclusivity, and library experiences for diverse communities, which reflects the conference's theme "All In: Include and Innovate."

Reflecting on my time at the WLA 2024 conference, I feel incredibly grateful for the opportunity to learn from experienced professionals and expand my library knowledge. The connections I made and the insights I gained will undoubtedly influence my future career. I'm excited to continue exploring the evolving landscape of libraries and will hopefully have opportunities to attend future conferences.

A note from the former AWSL Representative to the WLA Board

By Carrie Doyle

After three years, my second stint as the AWSL Representative to the WLA Board has come to an end. Thank you for this opportunity. One of the best things about being involved in WLA is meeting many amazing, smart and passionate people, all working together for the good of their patrons and their fellow librarians. WLA is a special group of folks.

Congratulations to Anne Moser of Wisconsin's Water Library on her election as our current WLA Board rep, and many thanks to Anne for putting her name forward. I am sure Anne will do a great job. I know this because I know Anne, and because this is Anne's second stint as the AWSL Representative to the WLA Board. There are some issues facing the library world in general, and the WLA Board in particular (as always), and Anne's knowledge, thoughtfulness, concern, and compassion will be a big asset as the Board navigates these interesting times.

When Anne's term is up in three years, I hope to congratulate one of you on your election for the AWSL Representative to the WLA Board position. One of the best ways to prepare for a potential spot on the WLA Board is to serve as AWSL Vice Chair/Chair Elect. My thanks to all who have served as Vice Chair/Chair Elect in the past, most recently Daphne, Carol, Steven and Val. As AWSL Vice Chair/Chair you will get an insider's view of WLA and how it operates and have the opportunity to move AWSL and WLA forward. Plus, you'll meet, and learn from, fun fellow librarians along the way. The call for Vice Chair/Chair Elect candidates usually comes out in the summer. I sincerely hope you will consider running. Feel free to contact me any time for more information.

Thank you,
Carrie Doyle
AWSL Member
Carrie.doyle@wisc.edu

Report from the AWSL representative to the WLA Board of Directors

By Anne Moser

Thank you for trusting me to be your representative to the WLA Board. It's an honor to do so and a delight to meet wonderful members of the WLA community. I began my tenure in January so won't have a long report but would like to share a few items from our recent meeting.

Highlights include:

1. The WLA balance sheet is strong but all of us need to continue to recruit new members to our organization.
2. There were a record number of participants in Library Legislative Day!
3. The 2025 board priorities include the organization manual update, belonging initiatives, connecting the WEMTA (the school librarian assoc.), examination of our institutional memberships, and relationship building with the TLAM (Tribal Library, Archives and Museums) group at the UW-Madison, iSchool.
4. A Sustainability SIG has been formed!
5. Proposal was submitted for an in-person WAAL conference.

As your AWSL rep, I want to encourage you to continue **being involved** this year as we navigate some choppy waters. Here are some great ways:

1. Attend the AWSL monthly Coffee Chats.
2. Bring a presentation to a Coffee Chat and share what great things you are doing.
3. Attend the WLA conference in the fall in Middleton.
4. Participate in a SIG – I just joined the Sustainability SIG!

And as your AWSL rep, I also encourage you to **go the extra mile**:

1. Recruit a new AWSL member.
2. Sign up for the committee that is reviewing the organization manual.
3. Attend the networking events being planned around the state.
4. Start thinking about presenting at the fall 2025 WLA Conference in Middleton.

Finally, I wanted to share with you that the association is looking to update their procedures for granting scholarships. For several years, AWSL has given a small scholarship to attend our fall conference. All scholarships given out to WLA members (including ours) will be moving under the umbrella of the WLA Foundation. WLA is looking for members from AWSL to help craft criteria. Please consider volunteering for this important, short task.

If there is anything you need from me, as your representative, please do not hesitate to contact me. I am happy to be at the table with other WLA leaders and want to do my best to represent all our members. Just send me an email akmoser@aqu.wisc.edu or give me a call (608) 556-1492.

Respectfully submitted,
Anne Moser

Explore the Atmospheric, Oceanic and Space Sciences Library (continued)

Alongside print journal archives, the library maintains dissertations from the meteorology department going all the way back to the department's inception in the 1930's. This collection is helpful to historical researchers, but also popular with visiting post-graduates, reminiscing about their time at the University. The library also manages a collection of SSEC reports and related publications, including a wonderful collection of reports for NASA, when the Center worked on developing instruments to be installed on satellites. A database of scholarly works from the department is in the process of modernization, providing insight into historical research and scholar output.



(Left to right: Book stacks and collaborative work/study spaces; Satellite imagery in the archival collections; Film reels of satellite data)

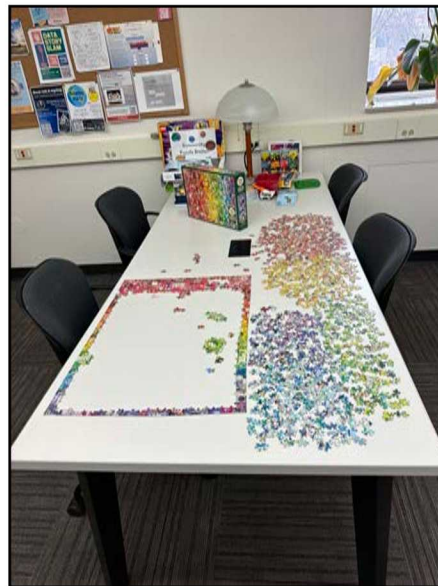
The SSEC is known as the birthplace of satellite meteorology, and the library's special collections reflects this. Library collections include satellite data, instrument histories, SSEC archives, organizational and government publications, and more. One of the library's archival collections is data from the Visual Infrared Spin Scan Radiometer (VISSR). This revolutionary instrument was installed on the first geostationary satellites and captures images in different wavelengths, so that scientists can observe the weather happening on the earth, even when the planet is dark.

One type of research question the AOSS library fields is to help people to find the type of satellite in use at particular points in time. Knowing what instruments were used and the type of data output they provide allows current researchers to draw better comparisons between recent and historical datasets. In a separate storage archive, the library has a collection of satellite data from 1975 onward, and has one of the most complete archive of historical satellite images in the United States. This collection is one-of-a-kind, and the data within is useful for understanding how weather systems worked in the past. Some of the earliest images from the first geostationary satellites have been digitized, and will become part of the University of Wisconsin Digital Archives.

As a longtime space and general science nerd, I was excited to see other collections as well, including maps and meteorological information on Antarctica, and messages sent between NASA or NOAA about the movement of satellites.

Visitors to the library can also enjoy a collection of scientific artifacts and photographs. Items from the founder of SSEC, Verner E. Suomi, fill a display case, alongside other weather-related artifacts. One display case near the tables in the reading room shows the type of instrument that would have been installed on a satellite.

The library responds to in-person, phone, and email research requests. The print collection includes a popular course reserves section, focusing on the coursework for the departments of study housed in the building. There's also a fun, free books section, filled with donated items.



(Left to right: A ceilometer to measure the height of clouds, The library puzzle table greeting visitors; A Japanese rain gauge)

When I visited, the library participated in a building-wide forecasting challenge where a different city is picked for a two week period, and students are challenged to forecast the daily weather. The library used historical methods from old meteorological texts and shared the information in a display at the library's entrance. It was a fun and engaging way to explore the history of science!

From comfortable work areas and meeting spaces, to unique and valuable data, the Atmospheric, Oceanic and Space Sciences library fills a key role as community center and research repository for researchers with SSEC, related departments, and the wider scientific community. The AOSS library is located on the UW-Madison campus, and open to the public Monday through Friday.

Send us your stories and pictures to include in our next newsletter! Email the newsletter chair, Carol Hassler, at carol.hassler@wicourts.gov.