

ASSOCIATION OF WISCONSIN SPECIAL LIBRARIANS | AWSL

A DIVISION OF THE WISCONSIN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

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NEWSLETTER

Carol Hassler

National Brewery Museum Library

By Carol Hassler

The National Brewery Museum Library is located in Potosi, Wisconsin. In November, we sat down with Len Chylack, AWSL member, to talk about the library's history and collections. Find the library online at

<https://americanbreweriana.org/abalibrary/index.php>

The library is part of the American Breweriana Association (ABA), and traces its roots back to 1982 when the ABA was founded. ABA's purpose is to advance the public knowledge of brewing and breweriana, and the organization is dedicated to the preservation of the memories and artifacts of America's historic breweries. Researchers can visit the library for free, but since the library is volunteer-run visitors should schedule an appointment to make full use of the library's collection and unique archives.

This interview has been edited for space and content.

Please tell us about history of the library.

The person who started the ABA was a very foresighted person who actually put into our constitution that the goal of the organization was to have a noncommercial museum and library. We opened the library in Potosi in 2008, but from 1982 to 2007, we were a lending library by mail. We had 15-20 requests per month in the late 80's and early 90's.

How is the library managed?

Everything we do is on a volunteer basis. I go out a few times per year to work at the library. Our current librarian comes in twice a week or more, depending on what needs to be done. There are few other people who come in to work in the library as well.

Next Business Meeting

The next business meeting of AWSL will take place in the spring. Watch the listserv for updates, including the location or connection details for the next meeting.

Join us for AWSL town halls!
Get more information on page 6

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.

Lead a Town Hall!

Would you like to lead a Town Hall for your fellow special librarians? To sign up, contact Chair Anne Moser at akmoser@aquawisc.edu

One hundred percent of what gets donated to the library goes to projects. We have had an overwhelming response from our membership, raising money to upgrade the library. The early library looked like a meat market. It just had shelving with books on them.

In 2014, we upgraded with shelving, a new floor, logos to make the library what it is today. The newly redesigned library is much closer to the original vision.



Photo: The National Brewery Museum Library after the 2014 remodel

Can you describe what the library collects?

We collect anything that is related to the United States brewing industry. All of our collection comes from ABA members. It includes brewery publications, rare books, and other research materials.

We have a film and audio archive at the library where we collect, digitize, restore, and conserve these media. We have over 250 audiovisual media of all types from the U.S. commercial brewing industry. This includes TV and radio commercials, manufacturers items, brewing company training films, and more. We have quite a neat video of how hops are grown. These videos can be watched in the library. They started out being stored on CDs, but they're now available as MP4s from a library computer.

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 who are special librarians or who have an interest in special libraries.

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

What are some of the library's current projects?

I recently received a publication called *Brewers News*. It was in a small newspaper format. We got 128 issues from January of 1933 to September 1937, which was a great treasure to get. I'm in the process of archiving all of those.

I'm also working on securing permission to put a premier publication of the U.S. brewing industry online. This all started in 2012 when we decided that we wanted to archive the longest running brewing publication in the United States, called *Western Brewer Journals* (1876-1960). To fill out gaps in the archive, we borrowed a collection from the Beer Institute in Washington D.C. and archived over 352,000 pages.

Our major project right now is the U.S. brewing industry research center. This is a multi-generational project with the goal of providing in one place the sum total of all the history of the United State Brewing Industry.

One other project we're doing right now is to put all our public domain publications on our website. The accomplishment of all goals is a result of two factors: time and money. Time is more valuable than money. All my free time goes to archiving or writing.

We have some really rare books going back to the early 1800's. My favorite publication right now is the weekly *Brewers News*. There's a lot of history in there. I'm trying to get them scanned, and spending too much time reading the articles!

What kind of books on brewing were published in the early 1800's?

A lot of them were by an organization called the United States Brewers Association. They put out a book at their conventions. It's really amazing how great these are. We have some from the Buffalo branch of the U.S. Brewers Association in 1891, and other books that architects put out, who designed brewing buildings, from the 1880's. We have one from 1894 called the *Beer and Ale Bottles Manual*. There are really some neat books.

How can people learn more about the library?

There are three major brewing organizations, and we're one of

them. We're more of a social organization. We reach our members through our magazine, which is published six times per year. We also do a lot on social media, including Facebook and Twitter.

What would you like librarians to take away from this article?

We are pretty specialized. We have a lot of people who come in and do research. Since we don't have a librarian, they have to call and make arrangements before coming in. We serve the public. We try and get the community involved in the library, brewery, the museum and everything else.

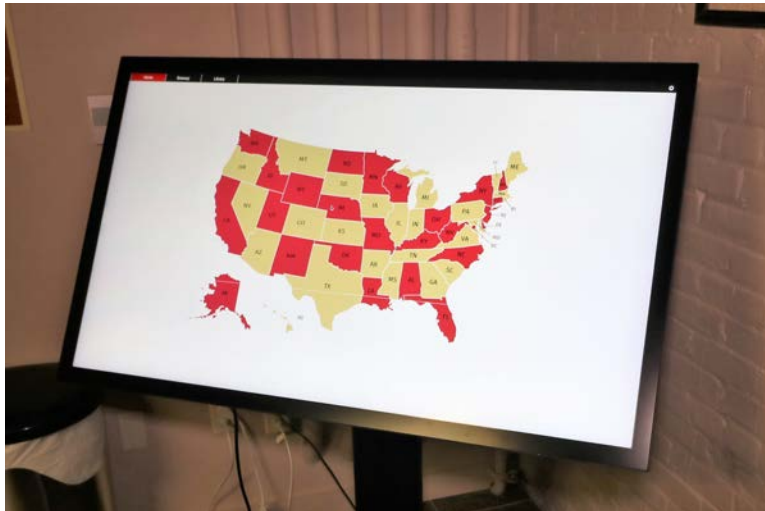
One of the things we would like to do is email [or contact] libraries who may be retiring brewery related books. There is a lot of stuff that libraries retire. I get a lot of stuff from members that show it was retired from a particular library. I've gotten some really rare materials from that.

Outreach and access

Forbes Magazine listed the National Brewery Museum and Library as "one of the world's best beer museums." Visit the museum and check it out for yourself!

Find contact and visitor information for the library online at <https://americanbreweriana.org/abalibrary/about/locationhours.php>

Follow on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/people/National-Brewery-Museum-Research-Library/100075958523204/>



The Brewery Information Kiosk (pictured) located in the library in Potosi, Wisconsin has access to the brewery database that is updated daily.

The Brewery database was established in 2003, and contains over 37,000 U.S. breweries with over 8,500 photographs of brewery building and artifacts that operated in the United States over the past 300 years. Dale Van Wieren spends hours every week updating the database for new breweries and researching older forgotten breweries.

This is a very popular kiosk to visitors at the museum. They can look up the breweries that operated in their hometown and look up the beer their dad drank. Visitors can look up the microbreweries currently operating where they live or where they are going to visit.

Learn more

We're grateful to Len for providing a summary of the library's projects and collections. Continue reading about the library on page 10.

Chair Report

By Anne Moser

Raising Voices in our Libraries

I was lucky to experience two extraordinary things over the past couple of months. First, our family was able to travel to Kenya to visit our eldest daughter and to experience the wonders of that beautiful country. Listening to the voices of Kenyans was inspiring. They are incredibly proud of their country, especially of their abundant natural resources. Second, I attended the 2022 annual WLA conference at the Grand Geneva Resort in Lake Geneva. There I reunited with my wonderful AWSL friends, in person. I happily listened to their voices as we caught up on the latest happenings in their libraries. Both experiences gave me much joy and provided me with renewed hope for the coming year.

The WLA conference was excellent and theme of voices really resonated with me. I listened to a talk on gathering voices using Story Corps, a non-profit in NYC that has been a leader in collecting oral histories for the past twenty years. I was very inspired by former Lt. Governor Barbara Lawton to raise my own voice to power every day. She shared her experiences in government and leadership and her stories included how she raises her voice with humor and grace. I will channel her in the months to come.

Finally, I was inspired by the voices of the next generation of library professionals I spoke with during the conference, especially the voice of our AWSL Scholarship Winner, Maura Flanagan. Read her article in this issue of your AWSL News, on page 6.

You can raise your voice in our upcoming Town Halls. We will continue to meet on Zoom monthly on the third Thursday of the month at 11:30a. I hope to see (and hear you)!



Photo: Door to the library of the Kenya Railway Museum, Nairobi

AWSL Town Halls in 2022

By Anne Moser

Virtual town halls are moving to Thursdays, at 11:30, and on the same zoom channel. Join the AWSL e-list to get notifications and Zoom details for upcoming Town Hall programs. Our next Town Hall is on Thursday, December 15 on the topic of the Wisconsin Jury Instructions.

Save the Date for AWSL Town Halls in 2023

- ◆ December 15
- ◆ January 19
- ◆ February 16
- ◆ March 16
- ◆ April 20
- ◆ May 18

AWSL Scholarship Winner's WLA Report

By Maura Flanagan

The annual WLA conference is an event to experience for all MUS students as well as current individuals working within a library setting. The event was attended by those folks from across the state, all coming together in one common goal; to better themselves and their library to serve their communities and patrons. This year, the event was held at the Grand Geneva Resort located in Lake Geneva, Wisconsin. Although there were many wonderful sessions to attend to within each slot, each attendee faced the predicament of deciding which would be the most beneficial.

This annual conference was my first time attending a WLA conference, and my second conference overall. I am currently a third semester student in the MUS program at UW-Milwaukee. I have been working at the Oconomowoc Public Library for just about a year now, and to build upon the real experiences is priceless.

To say that this conference experience was beneficial to me would be a dramatic understatement. I was given the wonderful opportunity to step out from behind my desk and truly grasp librarianship. Many of the sessions that I attended yielded wonderful notes and resources that I could take with me to my current library and keep with me throughout my career. The insights and perspectives of others were enlightening to say the least.

For example, the session of 'Access to Justice and the Public Library' provided many resources that I am excited to share with my colleagues and implement at our reference desk. It is always a challenge to navigate legal questions, and this session gave me the tools that I need to help steer our patrons towards

those that are better suited to help, and to resources to allow them to be able to help themselves. That is only one of the many examples that I could speak to here. Each session yielded information that is and will continue to be beneficial.

Not only were the sessions themselves informative, so was the time in between organized sessions. I got the opportunity to speak with many attendees as well. From the wonderful and informative AWSL luncheon to the YSS breakfast to speaking with people around me before sessions started. Even to the Dungeons and Dragons social that I helped to run on Wednesday night, you can truly get to know someone and their passions at the gaming table.

Prior to attending, I loved my work in my library. I loved my coursework. But, I have found a new depth for this in attending the conference. Quite a few librarians are able to accomplish so many things and help their communities in so many different ways. This was an inspiring and unforgettable experience that I could not have achieved without AWSL. I want to thank them for giving me this wonderful gift and opportunity. I also want to persuade anyone, students or other librarians to attend the next conference. You never know who you may meet, what you might learn, or what may inspire you.

State Bar of Wisconsin Legal Innovator Award

By Carol Hassler

Carol Hassler (Wisconsin State Law Library) along with Bryce Pierson (Wisconsin Court System, Office of Judicial Education) are proud to receive a 2022 Legal Innovator Award from the State Bar of Wisconsin. This was awarded in recognition of the work done to host the Wisconsin Jury Instructions online at the library's website, wilawlibrary.gov/jury. Wisconsin Jury Instructions serve as models, checklists or minimum standards to assist judges and lawyers in providing instructions to jurors who must reach verdicts during trials.

The jury instructions project was completed in 2021 and replaced what had been a paid, subscription-based service of the UW Law School. The move to a free, online format was conducted in cooperation with the law school and the Director of State Courts Office through the State Law Library and Office of Judicial Education.

Read the State Bar of Wisconsin's article on the 2022 Legal Innovator's in the November 2022 Wisconsin Lawyer magazine. Read the magazine online for free at: <https://www.wisbar.org/NewsPublications/WisconsinLawyer/Pages/wisconsin-lawyer.aspx>

Reflections from the WLA Conference

By Carrie Doyle

I attended a WLA Conference session entitled "Everybody Dies, So Why Don't We Talk About It? Helping a Grieving Colleague." I can't stop thinking about this session. I have a close friend who suffered

a catastrophic loss, and I attended this session hoping to glean some insights on how to be a better friend and supporter for her and for colleagues/friends who might suffer losses in the future. Wow, what a session. Kati Morley shared her own story of incredible loss in such a direct and honest way, it was breathtaking. It's the first conference session I have been at where attendees passed around a box of tissues. We also heard valuable advice on how to be a compassionate resource for a grieving colleague or friend. Some thoughts include:

- Give a hug
- Don't avoid interacting with the grieving person
- Grieving people are looking to feel safe again
- Show up – stop by office, go for a walk with them, be there
- Check-in regularly – ask “How are you today?” There will be good days and bad days
- Anticipate needs – for example, don't just mention the possibility of going on FMLA, help find the necessary forms
- Understand the grieving person may not be okay for some time and that is okay

Thank you to Kati for sharing her story in such a brave and honest way, and for presenting this session so that others can learn how to help grieving colleagues and friends. I learned a lot.

Tour of the Wisconsin School for the Deaf Library and Museum

By Carrie Doyle

One of the highlights of the recently completed 2022 WLA Annual Conference was a trip to Delavan to tour the Wisconsin School for the Deaf Library and Museum. Librarian Nell Fleming led forty attendees on an interesting and informative tour of the library, the museum, and various places around the school where Nell has curated displays of historical materials and artifacts.

It was a special treat when some WSD students came to the library to meet our group and share with us a few of their favorite books. Another highlight was learning the rich history of the school and of people who lived and worked there. The Wisconsin School for the Deaf is quite a unique resource. It was clear from listening to Nell, and from watching her and other staff members interact with students, that employees and supporters alike are very dedicated to the mission of the school and its students.

The materials in the WESP-DHH Educational Resource library are intended for use by Wisconsin residents who are deaf, hard of hearing, or deafblind, their families, students, and professionals. Materials can be found in the library catalog (<https://wsdlibrary.follettdestiny.com/>) and may be requested through your public library.

Our host and tour guide, Nell Fleming, has a “missed connection” request. One of the tour attendees mentioned to Nell that the attendee knew of some WSD, or maybe Delavan, related materials that might be of interest. If you are that attendee, could you please contact Nell at nell.fleming@wsd.k12.wi.us? Thank you!



Librarians tour the Wisconsin School for the Deaf Library at the 2022 WLA Annual Conference

More information Wisconsin School for the Deaf Library can be found online at <https://wesp-dhh.wi.gov/wsd/library/>

More information about Wisconsin School for the Deaf History and Museum can be found online at <https://wesp-dhh.wi.gov/wsd/about/museum/#museum>

Report of the AWSL Representative to the WLA Board of Directors

By Carrie Doyle

Intellectual freedom has been a topic of much discussion and activity for the library world at large and for the Wisconsin Library Association. Following the lead of many library groups and associations, WLA recently issued a Statement on the Freedom to Read and Intellectual Freedom. There is a link to the statement on the Intellectual Freedom Resource webpage, which includes many great resources for information and guidance around intellectual freedom-related matters.

The revitalized Intellectual Freedom Special Interest Group (IF SIG) in particular has been doing great work. Currently led by Kristina Gomez, the IF SIG holds virtual meetings monthly. The Intellectual Freedom SIG will next meet in January 2023, date to be announced. I encourage you to watch your email for the meeting announcement and link. This SIG is organized and is ready to do important work.

The IF SIG has created three work groups: Needs Assessment, Support Network, and Training. The work groups will explore ways the SIG can address the intellectual freedom-related needs of Wisconsin libraries and library workers. Please contact the IF SIG at intellectualfreedomsgwi@gmail.com if you are interested in joining a work group, or if you are interested in co-chairing the group in 2023.

The work of the Intellectual Freedom Special Interest Group is a good example of how WLA offers opportunities for community and collaboration around topics of importance to libraries and their communities.

Other WLA activities around intellectual freedom include the adoption of “A Resolution in Support of Library Workers and Intellectual Freedom”, which was submitted by AWSL member Steven Rice and was voted on by the membership at the WLA Annual Conference in November. At the November meeting of the WLA Board of Directors, the Board voted to create an Intellectual Freedom Task Force to examine the intellectual freedom needs of the Wisconsin library community and develop a set of recommendations for the WLA Board on possible activities, strategies, and tools to address the needs of library practitioners. It is anticipated that the task force will start work in early 2023.

Resources at the National Brewery Museum Library

By Len Chylack

The Brewery Database, begun in 2003, contains over 37,000 breweries with over 8,500 photographs of brewery building and artifacts that operated in the United States over the past 300 years. Dale Van Wieren spends hours every week updating the database for new micro-breweries and researching older forgotten breweries. Otto Tiegs and Tim Bowers are constantly adding photos to the database.

The Library Database, began in 2007, and contains over 1,500 books with several hundred waiting to be cataloged. There are many rare books in the database. Greg Meyer and Karen Curran work on updating the library database every week. The library has received, on loan, from the Museum of Beer and Brewing in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, many rare books and research studies from the collection of Karl Strauss and the Siebel Institute of Technology.

Archiving Brewing Industry Journals began in 2014 with the archiving of over 352,000 pages of *American Brewer*, *Brewers Digest*, *Modern Brewing Age*, *Western Brewer*, *Beverage Journal* and *Brewers Journal* that were obtained from the Beer Institute in Washington, D.C. at a cost of over \$33,000. The Beer Institute archiving was completed in 2016, with the help of Rich Wagner who took bound volumes of the Journals from the Beer Institute in Washington, D.C. to a professional scanner in upstate New York and then transported the volumes from upstate New York back to Washington, D.C. many times. This scanning was done by a professional scanner because the Beer Institute only

allowed us to have the books for 30 days and we were unable to scan 50,000 pages in 30 days. The library website currently has the *Western Brewer Journals* from 1876 to 1905 and will add another 10 years by the end of 2022 which is almost half of the 85 years of the *Western Brewer Journal*. Bob Pirie constantly searches for missing Journals.

Rare Books are currently available at the library in Potosi, Wisconsin. Library policy does not permit rare books to be either checked out of the library or mailed to members. The library currently has five rare books on the library website for viewing and is currently at work to make all books in the library database prior to 1924 available online. Many of the rare books in the collection were obtained because Larry Moter, Jr. loaned the library many of his rare books for archiving. The library currently has twenty-nine rare, public-domain, books archived.

The Brewery Information Kiosk located in the library in Potosi, Wisconsin has access to the brewery database, and is updated daily. This is a very popular kiosk for visitors at the museum. Visitors can look up the breweries that operated in their hometown and look up the beer their dad drank. Visitors can look up the microbreweries currently operating where they live or where they are going to visit.

Oral Histories are available on the library website. There are eight oral histories of people who had a significant impact on the U. S. Brewing Industry, on collectibles, on salvaging brewing equipment, or on securing historical artifacts. We encourage everyone to produce their own oral histories of breweriana collectors, beer barons, brewing industry executives, etc. and send them to Len Chylack to place on the library website.

Film and Audio Archives began in 2009, and collects, restores and conserves audiovisual media of the U. S. Brewing Industry films, documentaries, television & radio commercials, training, and hops production. The media library contains over 3,400 Beer TV commercials, representing over 80 breweries and over 7,000 Beer Radio commercials, representing over 60 breweries.

U. S. Brewing Industry Research Center is operational at the library in Potosi, Wisconsin. This is a multi-generational project with the goal of providing in one place the sum total of all the history of the United State Brewing Industry.

Share Your Stories & Pictures!

By Carol Hassler

Do you have a story to tell about your library or collection? How are you helping your users? What programs are you offering, or what does your space or collection look like? Send us your stories and pictures to include in our next newsletter! Email the newsletter chair, Carol Hassler, at carol.hassler@wicourts.gov