

# AWSIL news

May 2013

## CONTENTS

[Report from the Chair](#)  
[Stay tuned for the AWSL Social](#)  
[AWSL Sponsors Scholarship](#)  
[Q&A: Carin Bringelson](#)  
[WLA Scholarship 2012](#)  
[Forest Products Library](#)  
[Copyright X](#)  
[AWSL 2013 Officers](#)

### Report from the Chair

It must be spring—the orange barrels have sprouted along every freeway and snow is but a distant memory (though for a while it was touch-and-go.) Humming along in the background a little more quietly, AWSL is prepping for another year of awesome Annual Conference programming, social events, and outreach. This year's theme for the WLA Conference is Play, Create, Innovate and will be held at Green Bay's KI Convention Center, October 22-25. While we are still awaiting confirmation of programs from WLA, I can promise that AWSL has again cooked up a stellar offering. Thanks to chair-elect, Jennifer Edmonds, for thinking outside the box on programs and dreaming up what promises to be an excellent tour.



I mention "social events" above—at our recent AWSL Board Meeting, it was determined that our annual Summer Social with UW-Madison SLIS students should instead be held in early Autumn. It is hoped that this will better fit into students' availability and provide a larger forum for discussion. All are welcome to attend—please stay tuned for an announcement late this summer.

To that end, you can find and share all sorts of announcements through AWSL's social media accounts. One goal for the year is to up the activity on Facebook and LinkedIn. Content and suggestions are appreciated.

In fact, comments, suggestions, and ideas are always appreciated! Have an idea or an article for the newsletter? Let us know. Additionally, there have been discussions on presentations, possibly in conjunction with other professional library organizations—if you've a connection or an idea you'd like to develop, let us know!

We're here to enrich your professional (and social!) library world.

Cheers,  
Megan Wiseman, AWSL Chair

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Stay tuned for the AWSL Social

This year the annual AWSL member summer social at the UW-Memorial Union Terrace will be moved back a few weeks (to mid-September), to allow interested SLIS students to attend. Once the date is confirmed, we will email the membership with all the details.

This gathering is always a fun and casual way to connect with fellow special librarians—we hope you will be able to attend!

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AWSL Sponsors Scholarship to 2013 WLA Annual Conference

The Association of Wisconsin Special Librarians (AWSL) is pleased to announce it will again sponsor a scholarship to attend the Wisconsin Library Association Annual Conference, to be held October 22-25 in Green Bay.

**Criteria:** The scholarship is available to applicants who are: currently employed in a library or information agency in Wisconsin OR currently a student in library school interested in employment in a special library setting; able to communicate via the AWSL newsletter about the experiences at the conference; and currently a member of WLA and AWSL.

**Application process:** Applicants must 1) complete the scholarship application form, and 2) write a one page document explaining their reasons for wanting to attend this particular conference. Each application also requires 3) a one page letter of recommendation in support of the applicant.

**Scholarship description:** The scholarship consists of a stipend to be used toward conference expenses (registration, lodging, meals, or mileage). Details on how to apply for the scholarship will be sent to all members this summer.

Please contact Megan Wiseman at [mkw@wbb-law.com](mailto:mkw@wbb-law.com) if you would like more information or have any questions.

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Q&A with Carin Bringelson, Director of Online Content & Collections at TeachingBooks.net

**Describe your current job:** To understand what I do, you should first understand where I work. Watch a [short video](#).

So, you know all those resources (interviews, lesson plans, audio book excerpts, book trailers, name pronunciations, etc.) that are in the

[TeachingBooks.net](#) collection? Well, I'm in charge of making sure those get added to our database.

I have a lot of other responsibilities, too (like helping to keep the company running smoothly, advocating for increased user satisfaction, educating users about the services we offer, documenting policies and procedures, etc.), but "adding new resources to the database" is the one that's easiest to describe.

**Previous professional endeavors:** Right out of college I worked with tweens and teens in impoverished areas of Washington, DC. Some of them were in a junior high school; others were in a homeless shelter.

I've also worked with adults with developmental disabilities living in their own homes.

As part of my work during library school, I worked at the [Cooperative Children's Book Center](#) as the [Intellectual Freedom Information](#) Services Coordinator. I also volunteered with the [Jail Library Group](#) during that period.

**Why did you decide to work in the library profession?** I wanted to do my part to Build Community. I thought I'd be doing that as a public librarian, but it turns out I'm doing that for and with public (and school) librarians.

Wonderfully enough, Intellectual Freedom ties in directly with my social justice passions as well as my library work.

**What is the favorite part of your job?** I have many favorite parts of my job. For example, I really appreciate my excellent co-workers, of course. And our hard-working customers, too. Oh yeah, and getting to learn cool things about new children's books and young adult literature. And helping students get excited about learning and reading. And, um, helping teachers and librarians across the country celebrate the Freedom to Read by making useful collections of resources, like this one: [TeachingBooks.net/BannedBooks](#). And presenting at conferences. And and and...

**What is the least favorite part of your job?** I dislike having to correct customers when they say my name wrong. I've created an audio clip to help—and it includes an easy way to remember how to pronounce my name correctly. Take a listen at: [TeachingBooks.net/cbringelson](#)

**Do you have a role model as a librarian?** Wow, I have a lot of role models. One is Dr. Dianne Hopkins, who was my very first professor (and taught me the basics about Intellectual Freedom as well as Young Adult Literature). Then there's Ginny Moore Kruse and Megan Schliesman, who both showed me how to put Intellectual Freedom theory into practice. And another role model is Helen Adams, who does so much to promote Intellectual Freedom in the school library profession.

**What is your favorite book of the last year?** Just one? Come on! My two most recent favorites are: [Out of the Easy](#) by Ruta Sepetys, which is a Y.A. novel about a New Orleans girl whose mother is a prostitute—and [Darkroom: A Memoir in Black and White](#) by Lila Quintero Weaver,

which is a graphic novel memoir about an Argentine immigrant growing up in Mobile, Alabama during the Civil Rights Movement of the 1960s.

**What is your dream vacation?** Yoga-cizing, reading, cooking & eating slow food, riding bike, and enjoying natural hot springs with my partner of 16 years.

What are your hobbies? Well, besides yoga, books, slow food, bike riding, and hanging out with my partner, I volunteer a lot on social justice issues (such as decreasing the prison population in Wisconsin), and nurturing a spiritual community. Currently I'm engaged with: [mosesmadison.org](http://mosesmadison.org) and [jruuc.org](http://jruuc.org).

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Report from Rachel Wedewald, our 2012 Scholarship Winner

I applied for the AWSL scholarship because even though I knew for a fact that I want to be a librarian, I was not sure of what type of librarianship I wanted to do. I was very honored to receive the scholarship, especially as an undergraduate. I am very grateful to the Wisconsin Library Association and the Association of Wisconsin Special Librarians for giving me the opportunity to attend the conference.



I attended the WLA conference last year, and I had wished I was able to stay longer! Two years ago, I also had the wonderful opportunity to attend the Wisconsin Association of Academic Libraries conference. The beauty of conferences such as, WAAL and WLA, is that it gives librarians and aspiring librarians the opportunity to network and really evolve the library field as a whole. Technology is changing, evolving everyday and it is important to keep libraries in that loop too.

When I was at the WLA conference, I attended all the AWSL sponsored events. Out of all the events, there were two events that really sparked my interest. First, was the session called "Cheerleading your Library". This session consisted of a panel of librarians in the fields of academic, public, and corporate. Even though I have had a lot of experience with academic librarianship from working at Ripon College's Lane Library, and the WAAL conference, I was really fascinated with the input from the public and corporate librarians, particularly the corporate librarian. I was intrigued with the corporate librarian since it the corporate library field is not only a very small section of librarianship, but it made me think of library work being done outside of library norms.

The second session I attended was by accident, since I arrived late to the conference due to traffic. But, anyway the session I had attended was done by a professor at Viterbo University. The session was regarding ethics and the role ethics has in the library field. I thought the session was wonderful, especially since I am a scholar and intern at the Ethical Leadership Program at Ripon College. As part of the program, we learn how ethics applies to real world situations. The session was pivotal for me as an aspiring librarian to use ethics as key part of decision making within my career.

Overall, I thought the AWSL conference was wonderful and I would love to do it again. I would also like to thank the WLA and the AWSL again for giving me the opportunity to attend the conference, I am very grateful and appreciative of the opportunity.

Rachel Wedewald

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## Forest Products Library Gets New Home

The Forest Products Laboratory (FPL) Library has spent the last year getting ready to move our entire library. We finally moved just before Thanksgiving in 2012 from the third floor into newly remodeled space on the first floor of our main building. The new space allowed us to combine two storage areas back into the main library. It is very nice to have all our collections in one location again. The new library has great lighting that is on automatic sensors that turn off when no one is in the stacks. We have spacious new workstations and we now have central air conditioning. (The air conditioning in our old space was a major issue.) The library staff is very happy with our new space.



L-R front row: Mary Funmaker, Shelley Bishop, Julie Blankenburg  
L-R back row: Crystal Schmidt, David Smith, Carra Davies



We were closed for about 10 days and then reopened for public use. We are continuing to shift things around and optimize our space. An open house was held on January 30th, 2013 to introduce our employees to the new location. There was a big snowstorm that day but we still had many folks come and visit the library.





The snowstorm



During the move

our phone numbers and addresses have stayed the same. Only our room number has changed. Come and visit if you are in Madison, WI. Here are a few pictures of our new space.

All



West side of FPL Library



Front entrance and desk of FPL Library



East side of FPL Library



Library study area, east



Library study area, west



Open house cake.

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## CopyrightX

This Spring I enrolled in Harvard Law's inaugural online course in copyright law.

**What. A. Ride.** In grad school, I admit that I avoided "online courses" like the plague. (I moved myself and all my things to Madison to attend school, what did I need online courses for?) And, while the concept interested me, MOOCs never quite seemed controlled/structured enough to hold my attention for long. Then I heard about this new CopyrightX course that Harvard was offering in conjunction with their live copyright course for Harvard Law students.

I applied. Apparently, so did thousands of others. Something in my application (or perhaps it was my availability and background) sparked their attention and I was in. I found myself one of 500 students enrolled worldwide, my discussion session a small group of about two dozen, having promised a commitment of 8+ hours per week.

The course ran for the full twelve week semester—thirteen if you count Harvard's Spring break, which our class also had to take since, after all, this was a "real" course. And real course it was: involving weekly readings, pre-recorded lectures by Professor Fisher, and live discussion

sessions (where we could sit in the chat room and punt questions to the guest speakers and stare at the backs of the heads of real live Harvard Law students.) I had a blast and was delighted to learn last week that all six "special events" have since been released online for the general public to view. You might find the last event interesting; it's on the [Digital Public Library of America](#).

But all good things must come to a close. This weekend I take my final exam. Yes, my exam—a full four-hour law course examination, at the end of which I hope to gain a certificate of participation.

But it's not about the pretty pdf they'll likely send me in a few weeks saying that I survived CopyrightX. It's about how real this class felt. I know my Teaching Fellow, I know my classmates (we're looking to have a reunion next Spring when they again offer the CopyrightX course). And, of course, I learned something.

Megan Wiseman, Librarian for Weiss Berzowski Brady LLP

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