

CONTENTS

Report from Your AWSL Chair
Report from Your WLA Board Liaison
What's AWSL Has Been Up To: iSchool Orientation
Getting to Know... Lexy Spry
Just What Makes a "Special Librarian"?
WLA 2018 – AWSL Programs Not to Miss
Photos From Around the World (and close to home)
Your AWSL Officers

REPORT FROM YOUR AWSL CHAIR

By Jaime Healy-Plotkin, AWSL Chair (wearing many hats)

I wear many hats in my library world and some at the same time. I am a librarian in a special library, president of my local library board, which also puts me on our library foundation board as a non-voting member, a trustee on my system library board, and a chair of this division of WLA. My role as a cataloger at the Wisconsin State Law Library involves increasing access to information and, as my library is a law library open to the public, access to information equals access to justice. When I answer questions at the reference desk for our public patrons and try to point them to resources in a more accessible way than at our location in Madison, I ask if they are able to get to a public library to use a computer or to find a common legal reference source like the Wisconsin Statutes. Small and large libraries reach out to my library for interlibrary loans and we share our items that would not fit into a typical public or academic library collection policy. The Wisconsin State Law Library links to resources through Badgerlink, a wealth of databases available through the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction (DPI). My library routes materials between Madison and our branch in the Milwaukee County Courthouse through the red bins of South Central Library System delivery service, a service that reaches our entire state between public, academic, and special libraries. I have lobbied to members of our Congressional delegation as part of the National Library Legislative Day to maintain our federal funding to the Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA), monies available through grants to our libraries for programs and services. When I chair or attend board meetings I am thinking of these multiple roles and informing others about those connections at opportune times. Libraries in Wisconsin are intertwined and connected to each other at various levels of governance, all with the common goal of providing access to information.



Focusing on this connection between libraries within Wisconsin, I want to bring your awareness to our public library systems. The public library community has been in the process for the last three years or more of researching, meeting, and talking about changes to our public library system as part of the Public Library System Redesign Project (PLSR). Although this mainly impacts public libraries by having possibly less systems in the state, greater collaboration between systems and allowing for greater efficiencies, special libraries could also feel the changes through proposed changes to delivery, resource sharing, and continuing education. If you are just hearing about it or want learn more, I suggest you check out the project's website where you can read all the committee discussions and reports, including the proposed changes at <http://www.plsr.info/> A full report to DPI will come out in December and there will be a PLSR update at the WLA Conference in La Crosse.

How does your special library interact with other libraries in Wisconsin? A big push in the library community is to share stories about how libraries transform. What are your stories? Do you combine programming efforts with a local public library? Do you engage in professional development opportunities through an academic library? I would be happy to collect your stories and share them with stakeholders whether it is part of the PLSR process or to WLA. You can email me at healyplotkin@gmail.com Special libraries can be strong and connected when we work together to share our uniqueness.

REPORT FROM YOUR WLA BOARD LIAISON

By Kris Turner, AWSL Board Liaison

The WLA Board remains hard at work trying to encourage new members to sign up with WLA. With the annual conference approaching, the Board has been pushing hard to get members to attend the La Crosse conference. We've been adding incentives such as the "Get a Member and Fly" promotion, where if you have someone sign up, you are entered into a drawing to win a gift certificate for airplane tickets! Pretty cool. I encourage you to speak with your colleagues who may not be WLA members about the perks and benefits of joining us.

The 2nd annual Leadership conference took place in August. Each year, WLA brings in respected speakers on leadership and management for the attendees. I have heard nothing but positive comments about the seminars, and the librarians that do attend always come out brimming with great new ideas for their staff. I encourage you to join us next August if you are looking to bolster your own leadership skills.

In addition, the WLA Board has continued to focus on rebuilding the WLA website. I am a member of the Communications Working Group, which has been tasked with creating the new website. We hope to have the site relaunched by November with a great new look and an easy-to-use and intuitive site that allows you to quickly communicate with fellow WLA members and leadership. Stay tuned, as WLA continues to reinvest in our association!

As always, if you have any thoughts or concerns that you would like me to share with the WLA Board, you can contact me at Kris.Turner@wisc.edu. I hope that your fall has been a great one and that you will be able to join us in La Crosse for the annual conference from October 23 to the 26th!

WHAT'S AWSL HAS BEEN UP TO: iSCHOOL ORIENTATION

August 30 at the iSchool on the UW-Madison campus

Report by Jaime Healy-Plotkin

AWSL members Kris Turner and Jaime Healy-Plotkin helped welcome the latest crew of iSchool students to the University of Wisconsin-Madison at the iSchool orientation and organization fair on campus. Kris and Jaime promoted WLA membership, activity within AWSL, and shared knowledge of professional organizations for these aspiring librarians. Many students were interested in archives, which of course can be a part of a special library! We also invited the students to apply for our AWSL scholarship to attend the WLA conference as what can be better than a chance of a free ticket to networking within the Wisconsin library community. We look forward to connecting with the students in future programs and gatherings to help our membership grow.



Kris Turner and Jaime Healy-Plotkin at the iSchool orientation/organization fair

GETTING TO KNOW... LEXY SPRY

Interviewed By Amy O'Shea



Can you tell us a little bit about your educational and professional background?

I have a B.A. in German language and literature and an M.A. in Library and Information Studies. I worked for six years as a knowledge manager for UW-Madison and I've been with Widen, where I presently work, since January 2015.

What do you do in your current position?

I am a learning experience designer and facilitator. This means I design experiences for our customers to learn how to use our products (Widen is a software company). Most of my work focuses on our digital asset management system. I script, storyboard, produce, and edit videos, I wrote content for our website, I design trainings and visit customers in person, and I teach workshops.

Did your MLS prepared you for your current position? How?

Metadata is the backbone of a digital asset management system, and I focused on metadata and information architecture during grad school. I also learned quite a bit about helping people learn about technology, through two practica on library instruction and through a course on Pedagogical Theory and Practice for Information Professionals.

Would you encourage other information professionals to go into digital asset management? If so is there anything they should focus on during their education that would facilitate this job choice?

Yes, I would! The skills to organize information is really not held by other professionals. Organizations of all sizes need the brainpower that information professionals possess. Having a person to help organize and shepherd an organization's information is so valuable to the bottom line!

What "items" of value, or experiences of value, could a professional organization offer you?

I'm interested in starting a business and consulting, so courses, experiences, etc. on that topic would be of interest.

JUST WHAT MAKES A "SPECIAL LIBRARIAN"?

By Andrea Coffin

For seven years, I was an academic metadata librarian and when I moved into my position as a Community Liaison / Service Specialist with WiLS, I no longer had a library. For a while, I struggled with my librar-identity. Could I still be a librarian if I had no books or bib records or electronic resources or metadata to manage? Well heck yes! The Association for Wisconsin Special Libraries welcomes information professionals of all types to share their successes and challenges, to connect with colleagues formally and informally, and to provide support to those of us making our own way through the field. Consider stopping by to see what we're about and how you're about it, too, at noon on Wednesday, October 25th at the WLA Annual Conference in La Crosse. We hope to see you there!

WLA 2018 –SEE YOU THERE!

Report by Jaime Healy-Plotkin

Excite Ignite Invite is the theme for the Wisconsin Library Association Conference in La Crosse running October 23 through October 26. WLA is looking to “ignite your creativity and inspire you as you engage your community.”

Excite: Be a part of the Wisconsin library community. Get to know other librarians. Learn from the variety of programs during the conference.

Ignite: Advocate for libraries and librarians. Vote for politicians who will side with funding for libraries. Partner your special library with a community organization to ignite excitement in libraries.

Invite: If you have not join WLA yet, please do so! Invite your librarian friends to become a member of WLA. We of AWSL invite you to the WLA Conference and to join us for the business meeting on Wednesday October 24th at noon.

Join us for the AWSL sponsored tour of Health Sciences and Patient Education Libraries at Gundersen Health System on Wednesday October 24th. Meet the school bus outside the Radisson at 1:30pm for a ride to see this special library.

For more information on the conference, check out WLA’s website for details at <http://wla.wisconsinlibraries.org/events-conferences/annual-conference/wla-conference-home>

I hope to see you at the WLA Conference in La Crosse!

PHOTOS FROM AROUND THE WORLD (AND CLOSE TO HOME)

From Amy O'Shea... While visiting Jim Thorpe, PA this summer we took a break from site seeing to enjoy the Dimmick Memorial Library. A beautiful historic library named after its founder, the well-stocked and cozy children's area was a hit with my three year old. The fact that you could still access the upper balcony level was a hit with me! *All photos by Amy O'Shea*





YOUR AWSL BOARD

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