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REPORT FROM YOUR AWSL CHAIR

By Jaime Healy-Plotkin, Wisconsin State Law Library, Cataloger
Chair of the Association of Wisconsin Special Librarians

Where have all the special libraries gone?

AWSL represents the small and mighty libraries of Wisconsin. Corporate, state agency, law firm, academic, archives, and other libraries all fit within our categorization of special libraries. Librarians, information managers, and archivists need to speak up for our libraries and the importance of our specialized collections and the access to its information.

Remember when Oscar Mayer was in Madison and it had a library or CUNA Mutual's library which focused on business research for its employees? Corporate libraries are fading away. Law firm libraries are letting go of librarians, justifying that expensive databases and online resources are comparable to trained humans. State agency libraries have diminished over the years as I discussed in my spring 2018 Note from the Chair (http://wla.wisconsinlibraries.org/images/aws/AWSL_Newsletter_Spring_2018_final.pdf). In the last year the Legislative Reference Bureau had half of its staff eliminated (see the related article from the Isthmus in May 2018: <https://isthmus.com/news/news/is-the-legislative-reference-bureau-abandoning-its-duties/>). After review by consultants and input by stakeholders, the University of Wisconsin-Madison Libraries plan to consolidate many of the smaller libraries and specialized reading rooms as seen in its Facilities Master Plan. (<https://www.library.wisc.edu/about/administration/facilities-master-plan/>)

Libraries are a successful product of their efficiency. We collaborate with other libraries and institutions to show our strengths. However, we become threatened when our usefulness is not tangible. We have all heard the questions "do people still use libraries" or "isn't that what Google is for?" Does your library have a unique collection and is there a staff member diligently working to make that material accessible or does it simply sit on a shelf in a locked room? So how do we dispel those questions? One solution is advocacy. As librarians, we

want to assist patrons and make our materials accessible and our stakeholders need to understand that importance. Share your stories, market your successes, and shout when you can about your collections. The American Library Association's (ALA) Frontline Advocacy for Corporate, Government and Other Libraries is a helpful tool for you to use to show your value:

<http://www.ala.org/advocacy/frontline-advocacy-corporate-government-and-other-libraries>

This is not a new initiative or idea as ALA's 2009-2010 president Dr. Camila Alire pushed out this campaign and it is still relevant today. Check out the toolkit as it has exercises, advocacy plans, and sample messaging tools to help your library with advocacy.

Shout, share, and speak up for special libraries.

REPORT FROM YOUR WLA BOARD LIAISON

By Kris Turner, AWSL Board Liaison

It remains a privilege to represent AWSL on the WLA Board. My term is suddenly approaching its end, so if you are interested in running for the three-year term of AWSL Board Liaison, please let me know. It is a great opportunity to learn more about WLA, network with Wisconsin movers and shakers and advocate for special libraries.

The Board has continued to tackle a variety of questions and issues, ranging from membership drives to volunteerism to website updates to dealing with pushback about the location of this year's conference at the Kalahari.

First, membership grew last year thanks to the efforts of not just the Board but all members. Thank you for reaching out to your fellow librarians and getting them on the WLA train! However, we now have to keep these new members engaged and involved. Because of a technology error, there were many renewal notices that were not sent out to the members. If you or a colleague have not received a renewal notice, please feel free to reach out to me. We want you to be involved and to keep you abreast of all the great things going on in Wisconsin Libraries.

Second, the WLA Board is always on the hunt for volunteers for committees. If you would like to get involved in helping us keep our membership involved, created a new website or engaging with newer members, I would be happy to connect you with the right people. While I love working with all my fellow special librarians, this is a cool chance to work with academic and public librarians as well. I have gotten a ton of practical ideas from these folks that I have brought back to my own library, so the volunteering really helps me out professionally as well as helping WLA.

Speaking of volunteers, the website development continues. There is good news though – we have managed to migrate the existing pages from their current server on GoDaddy to the MemberClicks environment – this is a gigantic step in the right direction since we can now update the template for all the pages at once. The next step is to review all the pages and make sure they are up-to-date and have correct links. Once that is finished, we hope to get the page up and running. While the project has taken much longer than anticipated, there are positive signs. Keep the faith!

Finally, you may have heard the concerns about the Kalahari location for the upcoming conference. The Board had a long and fruitful conversation about the valid concerns of cultural appropriation that some members felt uncomfortable with. While it is not feasible to move the conference financially, the Board is actively seeking new locations for the future that fit our price point and membership. In the meantime, the Conference Planning Committee has gone above and beyond to seize the chance to discuss race and cultural appropriation in this setting. Check out the programs and keynote this year for just a few examples. If you have concerns about this, please let me know and I will pass it on to the WLA Board for discussion and resolution.

It is hard to believe that this is my last spring newsletter update as AWSL Board Liaison. I have truly learned a lot. I encourage you to get more involved as my time in AWSL has really helped me both personally and professionally. As always, I am happy to answer any questions that you may have about AWSL or WLA. Have a great spring!

REPORT FROM YOUR WLA MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE REP

By Carrie Doyle, AWSL Membership Committee Rep

The WLA Membership Committee is working on creating profiles for typical membership “genres” and what the value is for their membership. To that end, I would love to hear from you. What value do you find in your WLA membership? Do you find value in the opportunity to learn from and network with fellow librarians at conferences? Do you find value in the opportunity to attend AWSL tours and socials? Do you value this newsletter, the WLA newsletter, and other opportunities to learn about what is happening in the library community?

One value that might be unique for special librarians is that WLA is local. Special librarians often have the opportunity to belong to national professional organizations that more closely align with our subject expertise. However, travelling to those national conferences can be cost-prohibitive. It is less expensive, less time-consuming and easier to travel to Wisconsin Dells for a day to or two to network with Wisconsin librarians at the WLA conference. True, not every session is going to be directly relevant to our everyday work as special librarians, but many library issues are universal and we can learn from how public and academic librarians deal with those issues. Plus, it can recharge our batteries to just be with other librarians, no matter where they work.

That is one example of how WLA brings value to me as a special librarian. I would love to hear your examples.

You can contact me at carrie.doyle@wisc.edu or carrie.awsl@gmail.com or 608-890-4575.

Thank you!

FALL 2019 WLA CONFERENCE RECAP

By Jaime Healy-Plotkin, AWSL Chair

A day at WLA

It was a gorgeous fall day in La Crosse for the Wisconsin Library Conference Annual Conference. The trek from Madison to La Crosse enabled me to see the beauty of an autumnal Wisconsin day, with frost on the fields, roadkill on the side of the highway, a full moon setting and a bright sun rise.



The annual conference gives you the opportunity to network with fellow librarians, talk about ideas, and meet with vendors. I saw and had the chance to chat with colleagues including former classmates from library school, fellow board members, and my system's director who appreciates an informed board member. I had the opportunity to speak to several vendors and exhibitors including WiLS to discuss a digitization project for the Wisconsin State Law Library, talk with the architects at OPN who are designing the new Pinney Library in Madison, and catch up staff at the iSchool booth. However, since I was chatting and networking with so many people in the exhibit area, I did not have the chance to sit down at a program and learn more about libraries.

During the WLA Annual Conference, two program were presented by AWSL members Kris Turner and Anne Moser.

AWSL WLA Program – Public Speaking Tips for Introverts

Kris Turner

AWSL is more than just special librarianship – we also focus on topics that are of interest to any public or academic librarian. This year, one AWSL program focused on a topic that is a consistently requested program – public speaking tips for librarians that consider themselves introverts. The presentation was well-attended with just under 50 people in the audience. Kris Turner, the WLA Board Liaison to AWSL, presented on the topic.

Presenting on public speaking for the first time is a daunting task. The audience expects the presenter to be a good public speaker but also one that can relate to concerns about speaking in front of an audience. The presentation started with a brief review of introvert characteristics and then transitioned into practical tips that emphasized how prepared introverts actually are for public speaking. With the right mindset, introverts can become powerful public speakers due to their inherent ability to listen and plan effectively. The audience took part in several improvisational games designed to improve the skills needed to think quickly on your feet. The presentation ended with guidelines learned from experience about public speaking and methods for focusing nervous energy the day of the event. The audience then asked a series of great questions about particular public speaking problems and concerns.

The presentation seemed to be well-received and was hopefully a useful addition to the attendee's conference.

AWSL WLA Program – The Art and Science of Water

Anne Moser

Anne Moser, a WLA AWSL member since 2006, offered a program at the 2018 annual conference that reflects both the value of the annual conference and illustrates an example of the unique attributes and responsibilities of a special librarian.

For Moser, an academic librarian that works in a special library at the UW Madison, the fall conference is a fantastic opportunity to present on programs and activities that may be of interest to librarians in a variety of library settings. This year her program highlighted recent work where her library brought together the seemingly disparate disciplines of art and science with the goal of inspiring a science – informed public. The mission of the Wisconsin Water Library at UW Madison includes providing outreach to all Wisconsin residents to bring awareness and knowledge about the issues facing our Great Lakes and Wisconsin waters. In recent years, the library has brought art into that conversation. At the WLA conference, she presented a brief context on art and science and libraries and then described four art and science projects the library has led. Two of those projects, on lake sturgeon and on underwater photography, are currently available for loan to any library in Wisconsin. Moser can deliver the exhibit, provide support in mounting it and offer programming ideas and speakers for anyone interested in the two collections. To learn more about the two exhibits, Moser can be reached at askwater@aqua.wisc.edu

Also see the article below detailing the AWSL tour of the Gundersen Health System Libraries. We hope to see you at the next WLA Annual Conference which takes place from October 8 to 11, 2019 at the Kalahari in the Wisconsin Dells with a larger slate of programming tailored to special librarians.

FALL 2019 WLA CONFERENCE LIBRARY TOUR

By Jaime Healy-Plotkin, Chair of AWSL

Eileen Severson, Supervisor of Library and Patient Education Services at Gundersen Health System, led ten interested librarians through the maze of hallways, elevators, stairways, and a skyway of Gundersen Health System in La Crosse during the WLA Conference. The tour was coordinated by AWSL to showcase a special library near the conference location. Our first stop within Gundersen was the showpiece of their library locations. The John & Nettie Mooney Patient Education Library is located off the main entrance of the Hospital. This space is comforting and welcoming for patients to learn more about their medical needs with chairs and a fireplace inviting anyone to sit and read or speak with a librarian.

Our second location on the tour was the John & Nettie Mooney Library - East with the Stanek Cancer Library, located in the Hematology/Oncology waiting room on Level Two of the East Building, across the street from the Hospital and accessible by a skyway. This area is no longer staffed by a librarian, but patients are able to pick up a phone and connect directly to a librarian in the Hospital. Resources related to cancer and other health issues plus access to a computer is available in this area.

Our final stop was at the Adolf L. Gundersen, MD, Health Sciences Library, a library space in the basement of the Hospital. This space is tailored to providers and employees to research medical resources, find a fun book in the Baker and Taylor collection, or quietly study. It is open to patients during operating hours and is accessible to health providers at all times with after-hours privileges.

The tour participants asked detailed questions to learn more about the users, resources, and history of the libraries. Eileen highlighted several services the librarians provide. The library recently started a partnership with the La Crosse Public Library to allow longer staying patients to receive deliveries of public library materials to their hospital room. The Patient Education Librarians produce brochures and publications to help educate patients. The library locations also have Little Libraries outside of their doors for patients to be able to take a book with them during their appointments.

AWSL would like to thank Eileen and her staff for the chance to see this special library. For more information on the Gundersen Health System libraries, see their website and the link to their catalog:

<http://www.gundersenhealth.org/patients-visitors/library/>



Eileen Severson, Supervisor of Library and Patient Services at Gundersen Health System, greets the librarians of the AWSL special library tour on October 24th.



The John & Nettie Mooney Patient Education Library



The John & Nettie Mooney Patient Education Library



The John & Nettie Mooney Patient Education Library



The Adolf L. Gundersen, MD, Health Sciences Library

MEET A FUTURE LEADER: STUDENT PROFILE

Morgan Witte, iSchool student and PA Librarian, Wisconsin Water Library at UW Madison

What or who inspired you to be a librarian?

After graduating with a science undergraduate degree, I realized that I loved researching science, but didn't actually love doing scientific work. I've always been drawn to service-oriented roles and was missing the individual connections I'd built with people in past jobs. Librarianship seemed like a perfect fit, where I could still use the scientific knowledge I gained to support others.

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

I attended Drake University in Des Moines, Iowa, for my undergraduate degrees in Environmental Science and Spanish with an overarching concentration in Public Health. Each of those areas of study have served me well as I work toward my MLIS from UW-Madison. In grad school, I've focused on resources for non-traditional students in higher education, including instruction and community outreach. I'm graduating in December 2019.

What are your goals after graduation?

To get a job! But seriously, I'm genuinely looking forward to full time work in a profession I feel so strongly about. I'm hoping to find a position where I can continue to learn and grow professionally while still tapping into my background in health and human services.



What are your hobbies?

I enjoy almost anything that involves being outdoors! I love to bike, hike, run, and kayak, but I believe nothing beats taking a long walk on a sunny day. On less sunny days, I like to snuggle up with my three pets and a good book.

What is your favorite book of the last year?

I have two favorites that I've read in the last few months: *The Last Girl* by Nadia Murad, and *The 7 1/2 Deaths of Evelyn Hardcastle* by Stuart Turton. Although they have drastically different plot lines and writing styles, I couldn't put either one down!

One piece of advice for others considering this profession?

Reach out to working librarians for informational interviews! This is how I ultimately decided that librarianship was the right profession for me, narrowed down my focus in grad school, and got offered my current job. Informational interviews are invaluable and librarians are thrilled to have an excuse to brag about how awesome their job is!

JOIN US FOR AWSL'S ANNUAL SUMMER TOUR!

This year we will tour Schumacher Library at Olbrich Botanical Gardens on **Wednesday August 21st, 2019**. We'll meet at 4pm, tour the library and collection, explore the conservatory and then take a stroll in the outdoor gardens. An informal social will follow at The Biergarten at Olbrich Park, right across the street.

What: Tour of Schumacher Library

When: Wednesday August 21st, 2019 – 4 p.m.

Where: Olbrich Botanical Gardens, 3330 Atwood Ave. Madison, WI (Note: OBG is accessible by bicycle via the Capital City Trail)

Why: Because it's always fun to see a new library!

Who: Everyone is welcome to attend

AWSL MEMBERS TRAVELS

Carrie Doyle, AWSL member extraordinaire, took a recent trip to Nashville, Tennessee.

This spring I had the opportunity to attend Quiltcon2019 in Nashville, TN with my sister. I am no quilter but my sister is and it was wonderful to spend two days marveling at the beautiful and impressive modern quilts with her. We also found some time to explore Nashville and, of course, one of the things I had to do was go to the library. We must look the library type because some fellows hanging out in front of the Main Library seemed to know just what we were looking for and even rushed to hold the door open for us.

It is an impressive door (see photo below). The whole library is impressive. The Main Library opened in 2001 but it was built in a style that makes it seem older than that. At 300,000 sq. ft., it is huge! The library has several grand features, like an outdoor courtyard, complete with a water fountain, and a large reading room. I was struck by the Civil Rights Room, which features the Civil Rights Collection and exhibits like a symbolic lunch counter that tell about the struggles of African-American citizens in Nashville in end segregation in schools and at lunch counters and other public places. One of the leaders of the lunch counter sit-ins was Fisk University student (later U.S. Congressman) John Lewis. A copy of his Nashville Police Dept. Arrest Record on exhibit is a powerful symbol of the struggle, but I was even more moved by the Ten Rules of Conduct that are written on the counter surface and were written by John Lewis Bernard Lafayette and carried by protesters during the sit-in demonstrations. Some of the rules were; do not strike back or curse if abused; do not laugh out; do not leave your seat until your leader has given you permission to do so; love and non-violence is the way. I would think it would be very hard to keep calm and non-violent when confronted with the hate those students experienced. I wonder if I could have done it.

Photos (all credits to Carrie Doyle)



Nashville Public Library Front Door



Reading room



Ceiling Panel



Courtyard

April 2019

WK. DAY Monday	DATE 3-4-63	NASHVILLE POLICE DEPT. NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE ARREST RECORD	TIME 9:43PM	ARREST NO. 346-347-348
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NAME Lewis, John Robert	MC SEX RACE M O B	D. O. B. 2-21-40	AGE 23
RESIDENCE Rt 2, box 225	CITY Troy	STATE Ala.	
ALIAS OR NICKNAME none	OCCUPATION student	PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT Fisk University	
HGT. 5'5"	WEIGHT 145	EYES brown	HAIR black
NEAREST RELATIVE & ADDRESS Eddie Lewis, father		REMARKS <i>Chrg to Criminal Court Class 3-4-63 9:30pm</i>	
PLACE OF ARREST Cross Key Restaurant	PROSECUTOR John Chiles	PROS. ADDRESS 922 Westview Drive	
VIO. CITY CODE CHAPTER 26-16 (disorderly conduct per sit in law)		SIGNATURE OF PERSON RECEIVING PROPERTY AT TIME OF RELEASE Sgt. Smith, Peach, G. Kidwell,	
SECTION 26-56 (resisting arrest)		OFFICERS K. Perring, F. Wade, J. Anderson	
TCA section 39-1101 subsection 7, and code section 62-211			
PROPERTY FOUND ON PRISONER CASH \$ 5.00		OTHER ARTICLES billfold, tie, belt, ring	
PROPERTY REC. BY eb	BOOKED BY trm	COURT Room 3-5-63	CAR LEFT AT

HISTORY SHEET																																					
NAME John Robert Lewis	DATE 2-10-62																																				
ADDRESS 1000 Wilson Road, Troy, Ala.	ALIAS																																				
EYES br	OCCUPATION Student																																				
HAIR black	DATE OF BIRTH 2-21-40																																				
COMPLEXION Dark Brown	BORN WHERE Troy, Ala.																																				
TEETH good	WORK WHERE																																				
BUILD med	HEIGHT 5'5"																																				
WEIGHT 140																																					
OFFICERS Don Blake, BIRD, BIRD	OFFICERS John Stephens																																				
DISPOSITION Comp to Cr. Justice Dept	62-211-101																																				
REMARKS Father - Eddie Lewis, Troy, Ala.																																					
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SCARS & MARKS None Visible																																					
11-30-60 - Bruise on the knee (left) (Healed) 11-21-60 1-18-63 - Bruise on the knee - Cont. of (Healed) (Cont. of 11-21-60)																																					

John Lewis arrest record

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

August 21st, 2019 – 4 p.m.

Tour of Schumacher Library (Olbrich Gardens, Madison)

October 8-11, 2019

Kalahari Resort & Convention Center, Wisconsin Dells

YOUR AWSL BOARD

Chair: Jaime Healy-Plotkin

Chair Elect: Amy O'Shea

Past, Past Chair: Lisa Abler

Secretary: Brianna Wolbers

AWSL Liaison to the WLA Board: Kris Turner

AWSL Committees

2019 Conference Planning - Amy O'Shea

Newsletter - Anne Moser

Webmaster - Anne Moser