

May 2016

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## REPORT FROM YOUR CHAIR

As spring makes its traditionally wild swing through Wisconsin, I must follow suit, saying welcome, thank you, and goodbye all at once. I welcome our new members, those I have met since becoming a member and chair, and any others who may have joined. A new position, as processing archivist in a public library, is taking me to South Carolina, so I must say goodbye.

Most of all, I would like to express my appreciation to AWSL. My time as vice chair and chair has been not only fun, but I am sure helped prepare me for my move to a new position. While packing belongings, I ran across an essay I wrote while in college about joining an organization and my internal, albeit tongue-in-cheek, angst about not wanting to be a member of any organization that would have me as a member. Fortunately, I conquered that reluctance years ago, and my appreciation for membership and participation on each board, committee, and association continues to grow.

I mention this as an unabashed plug for recruiting new members, one of our goals. AWSL, as part of WLA, gives members a chance to present programs at a statewide conference. This is a chance to digest and articulate a project or an idea or even a dream. Simply put, this is terrific opportunity.

In a leadership role, planning socials and tours offers members a chance to connect with colleagues and stretch planning skills. These opportunities have helped me, and I hope my example will be of use to other members. I believe smaller groups, particularly ones that build relationships between departments, or between librarians, archivists, and museum curators, can prove particularly valuable.

As challenges and opportunities continue to arise, those relationships will continue to benefit everyone by providing members with experiences, networks, and ideas to meet those challenges and recognize and seize those opportunities.

In this newsletter, you will get to know Amy O'Shea, and learn about the opportunities to get to know other members of AWSL, what we are doing to work with the WLA board for you, and how to get to know other members of AWSL and the community: at the summer social, the fall social, and at the programs at the WLA conference.

Thank you all,  
Christina Johanningmeier

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## REPORT FROM YOUR AWSL SCHOLARSHIP WINNER

By Emma Babler

This past November, I was lucky enough to attend the 2015 WLA Conference on a scholarship from AWSL. This was my first library conference and it was very exciting to be around so many other librarians of all types!

The first activity on my agenda for the conference was to attend an AWSL meeting, where I was introduced to AWSL members and officers and got to see how the meetings are set up and the duties of the officers, and hear about past and upcoming AWSL activities. I also asked for (and received, of course) some excellent input on conference sessions I was planning on attending.

I was able to attend quite a few conference sessions on each day of the conference—some highlights included:

A Wednesday **“Notable Books Marathon session”**- where various librarians gave short, 4- minute summaries of selections from ALA Notable Books and WLA Readers' Section Literary Awards books. I appreciated that these summaries did an excellent job at piquing interest in each book (via summaries, excerpts, reading aloud, etc.) without “giving it all away.” I added several books from this session to my “to-read” list!

A Thursday **WorldCat session** by AWSL member Rachel, which explicated how to use the WorldCat FirstSearch replacement, WorldCat Discovery. This was an excellent session for me as I often use FirstSearch in one of my student library positions. I appreciated that Rachel explained everything very clearly and gave both positives and negatives to the new system.

A Thursday session by AWSL member Kris, who talked about **making library websites usable** and accessible, using the University of Wisconsin Law School Library's website as a case study. I was in law school at the time that the website switched over, so it was neat to be able to experience this changeover in real time.

Overall, I had an excellent time at this conference and I am so glad for the opportunity provided to me by the AWSL scholarship. It was great to meet other librarians and library students and hear about new innovations and ideas in librarianship today. Thank you!

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## **AWSL TAKES OVER THE 2015 WLA CONFERENCE**

Another year and another busy conference for AWSL. This year, we presented two programs, a tour, a social and a business meeting. The conference was held at the Madison Marriot West (located in Middleton) from November 3<sup>rd</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup>.

The first event was our business meeting. As always, we had a productive meeting and a tasty meal at Sprecher's. We introduced our scholarship winner, Emma Babler, discussed our plans for the coming year, debated projects to undertake and I passed the gavel to our current chair, Christina Johanningmeier. I think it is safe to say that few other groups in WLA know how to have such an enjoyable business meeting!

The two programs that AWSL presented this year were put on by Christina Johanningmeier (our current chair) and Kris Turner (past chair). Kris presented on designing and testing library websites. Christina discussed cataloging as outreach in her session. Both programs were very well-attended! I'm glad we were able to discuss two very different topics with so many other interested librarians.

The AWSL social took place in the Madison Marriot West bar, and proved a good time for all. We had a few drinks, talked about everything but libraries (we have lives outside of AWSL, you know!) and connected with public and academic librarians. Afterward, we visited our colleagues at the SLIS and SOIS reunions.

Finally, AWSL-sponsored a tour of the Wisconsin Historical Society. The tour, as always with AWSL tours, was at capacity and was a highlight of the entire conference. The Historical Society had several different 'stops' on the tour and covered a wide range of topics, archival items, and locations. It was a great tour and AWSL is grateful to the Historical Society staff who so generously donated their time to providing the attendees with insight into their beautiful collection and building.

The following pages exhibit several of the stops along the tour. It was a great experience, and AWSL looks forward to setting up more tours at future WLA conferences!

Thank you to everyone who helped organize, presented or attended the conference. If you ever have any ideas for or would like to be more involved in planning AWSL's contribution to the WLA conference, please let an AWSL officer know. It is a great experience, fun, and easy!

- Kris Turner, AWSL Past Chair



*On the left, from front to back: Christina  
Johanningmeier, Anne Moser,  
Amy O'Shea, Emma Babler;  
On the right, from front to back: Lisa Abler,  
Kris Turner, Carrie Doyle...Join us next time!*



*Showing off select archives from the Wisconsin  
Historical Society's collection*



*A collection of Historical Maps from the Closed Stacks*



*The Reading Room, busy and beautiful!*

## REPORT FROM THE WLA BOARD OF DIRECTORS AWSL LIAISON

Report from the WLA Board of Directors AWSL Liaison

WLA's mission statement is:

The Wisconsin Library Association engages, inspires and advocates for library workers and supporters to improve and promote library services for the people of Wisconsin.

The 2016 Strategic Plan lists goals in support of WLA's mission. The strategic plan can be found under the "About" tab on the WLA Website.

The goals are listed below, briefly.

1. Sustain progress from 2014-15
2. Support membership growth
3. Highlight 125th Anniversary of WLA
4. Increase conference attendance
5. Enhance the volunteer experience
6. Refocus WLA legislative strategy
7. Increase financial stability
8. Roll out of the Leadership Development Institute
9. Administer technology upgrades

I encourage you to visit the website to learn the several objectives for each goal. WLA President Pamela Westby encourages all WLA units and individual members to consider what we can do to further the goals in the Strategic Plan.

In pursuit of the goal of supporting membership growth and increasing communication, WLA will be bringing back the dormant WLA newsletter. Do you have something cool going on at your library that others would be interested in learning about? Or an idea or thought you would like to share? All members are encouraged to submit an article and/or photos for submission to the WLA newsletter. And of course, the AWSL newsletter welcomes submissions, too! In fact, AWSL will be forwarding our newsletter to Barbara Hernandez, a marketing specialist working for WLA who will be editing the WLA newsletter, for possible inclusion in the WLA newsletter. This is a great opportunity to share the remarkable things special libraries/librarians do every day. Let's get the word out! Please contact Carrie Doyle (carrie.doyle@wisc.edu, 608-338-2142) with ideas.

The WLA Board has been tackling another topic related to membership. There are a few units that have been inactive for an extended period. The Board has been discussing what to do about this. The bylaws provide for what units have to do to stay active. The Board can vote to sunset inactive units and the process has been started for some units (LUERT, for example, for which I serve as Board Liaison). Many of the units have quite a few members. What can/should WLA do for the people who still belong to the unit? How can we fill that need? One idea is to perhaps move to more informal groups that don't need officers, etc. Memberclicks is a social media tool that could work for letting people connect with others with similar interests but most people find it too clunky to use. Other ideas include creating Google Communities (like DPI's Wisconsin Public Libraries Communications) or

perhaps special interest groups that require less structure. Please let me know if you have any ideas on how WLA can serve members of units that are currently inactive.

Units serve as valuable places for networking with people of common interests and/or work situations. All units depend on the work of volunteers to keep the unit viable. I'd like to offer my sincere thanks to all AWSL volunteers, past and present, for providing the space and tools for special librarians to advance our professional development. I'd especially like to thank Anne Moser, who is currently both Newsletter editor AND Webmaster for AWSL, and who has held just about every other position in AWSL at one time or another. Without volunteers like Anne, there would be no AWSL.

In conclusion, please know that my role as WLA Liaison is to help WLA help you. WLA is genuinely interested in serving its members. Please share with me any ideas or comments you may have, either by email (carrie.doyle@wisc.edu) or telephone (608-338-2142).

Thank you!  
Carrie Doyle

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## **AWSL MEMBER HIGHLIGHT: Q AND A WITH AMY O'SHEA**



**Name:** Amy O'Shea

**Position:** Associate Online Librarian, Globe University

**Describe your current job:** The Globe Education Network has 500 online students, as well as residential students at 26 campuses, all who utilize chat reference throughout the day. One of the main responsibilities of my position is to staff our library's chat reference service on the weekends and in the evenings, times when non-traditional students are doing their homework.

**Previous professional endeavors:** Four years as Special Librarian at the Wisconsin Veterans Museum, student worker in ILL and technical services, childcare provider, typesetter, fish monger.

**Why did you decide to work in the library profession?** My first experience working in a library was at Portland Community College. I was a student assistant at the circulation desk and in the computer lab. This was when I realized that I really enjoyed working in the library and decided that I should become a librarian. I was working on my associate's degree, only two years into a seven year

educational journey, but it was well worth it. I thoroughly enjoy this profession, learn something new everyday, and look forward to evolving with the field for many years.

**What is the favorite part of your job?** I really enjoy working with students. After being one for so long I find it very rewarding to assist our students. Each new reference question is like a scavenger hunt for information, and I always end up learning something new.

**What is the least favorite part of your job?** I actually really enjoy all aspects of my current position. I am still adjusting to working solely online, and from home, so not seeing colleagues face to face is a new challenge. I've been looking for additional professional development opportunities to help combat isolation. AWSL has been great for providing a local library community!

**Do you have a role model as a librarian?** I do not have a role model per se, but I have a lot of amazing mentors who have been instrumental to my educational and professional path. I am very grateful for the lessons they have taught me; each one has helped shape who I am today.

**What is your favorite book of the last year?** I have literally been reading one book for the last year: *Quicksilver* by Neil Stephenson. It's long, I have a toddler, and I read in fits and bursts. So I guess it's my favorite book of the last year.

**What is your dream vacation?** I like to daydream about bike trips and tours. Besides visiting bike friendly cities like Amsterdam or Copenhagen I'd love to do an Anne of Green Gables bike tour on Prince Edward Island. Visiting Highclere Castle, the setting for Downton Abbey is also on the list.

**What are your hobbies?** I am creating an edible landscape in my yard. So far I've planted highbush cranberries, two types of Elderberry, filberts, raspberries, a plum tree, a quince tree, currents, gooseberry, aronia, horseradish, rhubarb and lingonberries. This year I plan to put in serviceberries, and maybe a paw paw tree.

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## CALL FOR AWSL LEADERS

Are you looking for a (relatively) painless way to beef up your resume? Would you like to work more closely with librarians who understand what it means to work in a special library? Would you like to find out how much fun special librarians can be? We're looking for volunteers to serve in leadership roles in AWSL. The annual election is usually held in October, but it's not too early to start thinking about how you would like to take the next step in your professional development.

Please consider running (or nominating someone else for) the following positions:

**Vice-Chair/Chair-Elect: a three year commitment.**

The first year, you will serve as the AWSL representative to the WLA Annual Conference Programming committee, plan a conference program and submit all necessary forms and proposals for the annual conference. The Vice-Chair also helps to plan social events throughout the year, like a summer-time social and library tour.

The second year, as Chair, you will plan the agendas for and run two business meetings a year, and write a column for the semi-annual AWSL newsletter.

The third year, as Past-Chair, you get to take it easy. You do identify nominees for AWSL positions and help mentor the Vice-Chair and Chair, but for the most part your work is done.

**AWSL representative to the WLA Board of Directors: a three year commitment.**

You will attend six day-long meetings a year (attendance can be via conference call); vote on resolutions; help make decisions about the direction of WLA. You will learn a ton in this position.

**Secretary: a one year commitment.**

Attend two AWSL business meetings a year and take minutes; distribute the minutes to AWSL leaders and the AWSL website coordinator for posting to the AWSL webpage.

While not an elected position, we are also looking for someone who would be interested in taking on the duties of Web Coordinator. Your duties are to post the AWSL minutes and newsletters to the webpage and undertake other maintenance (usually minimal) as needed.

**Please contact Kris Turner or Carrie Doyle if you would like more information about any of these positions. A call for volunteers will go out to AWSL members later this summer.**



*Photo by Jeff Miller, UW*

## **AWSL TRAVELS: LIBRARIES FROM AROUND THE WORLD**

We love our profession very much and even on vacation, some of us may even drag along our traveling companions and loved ones to visit libraries during our travels. AWSL has decided to document the libraries our members visit around the world. Here is our next installment of AWSL Travels. We invite your submittals! Just send them to Anne Moser [akmoser@aqu.wisc.edu](mailto:akmoser@aqu.wisc.edu)



Morgan Library,  
Colorado State  
University  
April 2016

Submitted by Anne Moser

Grand Rapids  
Public Library  
Grand Rapids, Michigan  
November 2015

Submitted  
by  
Anne Moser





Burlington Public Library  
Burlington Vermont  
September 2015

Submitted by Anne Moser

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## **UPCOMING EVENTS**

### **Wednesday June 22, 2016 – Special Library tours at UW Madison**

Watch for an email soon from your division with details.

### **Sunday August 21, 2016 – WLA Foundation Summer Benefit**

See page at end of newsletter and look for further details soon.

### **September 2016 – TBD**

Second special library tours, sponsored by AWSL. Details to follow.

## **YOUR AWSL BOARD**

### **AWSL Chair**

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Wisconsin Historical Society, Madison, WI  
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### **AWSL Chair-Elect**

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### **AWSL Past-Chair**

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### **AWSL Secretary**

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### **AWSL Liaison to the WLA Board**

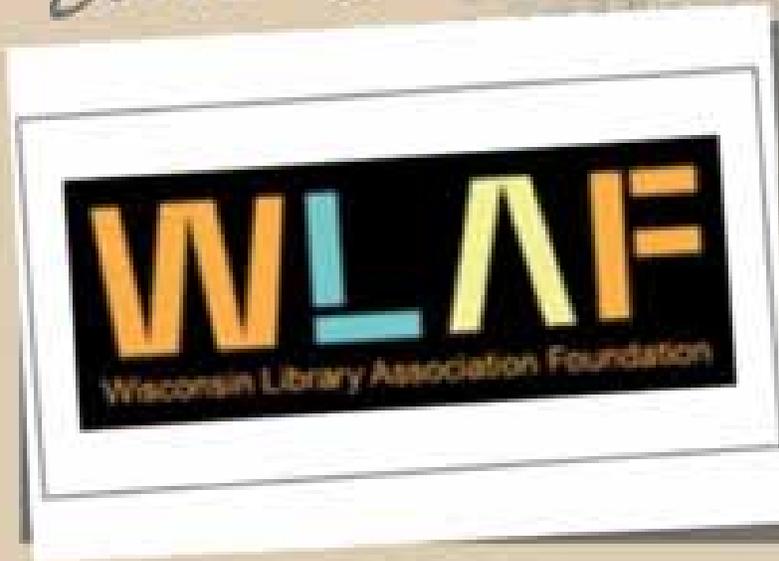
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MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR WHAT WILL BE ONE OF  
THE BEST EVENTS OF YEAR!

Save the Date



WLA FOUNDATION SUMMER BENEFIT

WHAT IS IT? WHERE IS IT? HOW DO I GET IN?  
ALL OF THESE QUESTIONS WILL SOON BE REVEALED!

WHO IS WORKING ON THIS?

JEN GERBER, JEAN ANDERSON, JENNIFER WILLIAMS,  
TIM POWERS, ALTON MULTHAUF, JOHN DEBACHER,  
CARRIE DOWLE, PLUMER LOVELACE, AND TOM KLEMENT.

SUNDAY AUGUST 21, 2016