

AWSIL news

October 2012

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Report from the Chair

Hello AWSL Members,



Fall is my favorite season by far...beautiful weather, fun holidays, football weekends, and—of course—excitement around the annual WLA conference. I hope to see many of you at this year's event in La Crosse, later this month (October 23-26)!

The theme this year, Libraries for the Common Good, serves as a reminder of the vital role that librarians play in creating and sustaining healthy communities. This theme is woven throughout program content, including the keynote address from Lewis M. Feldstein, former president and CEO of the New Hampshire Charitable Foundation. Lewis will explore libraries' emerging role as a "third place" (separate from the two usual social environments of home and the workplace) where people of disparate backgrounds come together.

Thanks to the efforts of our Vice-Chair/Chair-Elect, Megan Wiseman, AWSL is sponsoring several dynamic programs, profiled later in this newsletter. And the AWSL board was very pleased to offer their annual conference scholarship, to an AWSL member either currently working in a library or information center or a student interested in special librarianship. I'd like to congratulate Rachel Wedeward on being awarded the scholarship. Rachel plans to attend the AWSL business meeting on Wednesday at 12:15 p.m. It will be fun to meet her and hear about her plans for the future.

A final thank you to Editor Bob Shaw and Graphic Designer Sheila Zillner for their dedication to providing this publication for our membership. I hope to see you in La Crosse!

Sincerely, Molly Hamm, AWSL Chair

2012 Wisconsin Library Association Annual Conference



There is still time to register for the 2012 WLA Annual Conference, October 23-26, Radisson Hotel, La Crosse. Your 2012 Vice-Chair/Chair-Elect, Megan Wiesman, has assembled several fantastic programs and tours, profiled below. In addition, we hope that AWSL members will be able to attend the annual business meeting, and a member social hour. Here are the details:

The AWSL Annual Business Meeting

Wednesday, October 24th, from 12:00-1:00 p.m.

Three Rivers Lodge Riverview Restaurant (in the Radisson Hotel)

The AWSL Member Social Hour (serious business!)

Wednesday, October 24th from 5:30-6:30 p.m.

Three Rivers Lodge Riverview Restaurant (in the Radisson Hotel)

AWSL-Sponsored Programs at the 2012 Annual Conference

Open Source on a Budget, Wednesday, October 24th, 10:45 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

Speaker: Dorothea Salo, Faculty Associate, UW-Madison SLIS You might have heard all sorts of things about open source software. Perhaps you've heard how wonderful the open source community is, or maybe you've instead swapped horror stories of working with non-tech-supported programs.... Come learn how open source really can be a viable option for techies and non-techies alike!

Cheerleading for Your Library, Wednesday, October 24th, 2:15 p.m.-3:00 p.m. Panelists: Sandy Grams, Adult Services Librarian, Greendale Public Library; Jessica Newman, Undergraduate Services Librarian, UW-Madison Steenbock Memorial Library; Lora Bray, Librarian, Credit Union National Association, Madison Three librarians walk into a conference... A panel consisting of an academic, a public and a corporate librarian will discuss how they market their library. How much do we have in common? What can a law librarian learn from a public librarian? Can the marketing tactics from a university library appeal in some way to a library board? Join us as we search for common threads — marketing is often about creative angles. See if you can't come away with some new ideas.

Tour the Upper Midwest Environmental Sciences Center Thursday, October 25th, 8:45 a.m. – 10:00 a.m. Lisa Hein, Research Librarian, USGS/Upper Midwest Environmental Services Center, La Crosse Join Lisa as she shows everyone around the United States Geological Survey Library and Archives. Supporting the UMESC scientific staff in their work fighting invasive species and monitoring the health of the Upper Mississippi River, the library provides essential research support to the facility in La Crosse.

Can I Answer That? Assisting Customers with Legal Information Questions Friday, October 26th, 8:45-10:00 a.m. Connie Von Der Heide, Director of Reference and Outreach Services, Wisconsin State Law Library, Madison In July 2010, a survey by the American Bar Association indicated that 60% of judges had seen a

significant increase in pro se (self-represented) litigants, with the economic downturn quite possibly being a factor. With more and more people doing their own legal research, are you prepared to handle their requests? This information session, led by a 15-year veteran of the Wisconsin State Law Library reference staff, will provide some "best practices" tips for assisting customers who have legal reference questions, and a look at several good sources of legal and government information available on the Web.

AWSL Hosts Third Annual Summer Social

Summer Social

Nine special librarians and graduate school students gathered on July 10th at the UW-Madison Memorial Union Terrace to share some collegial conversation and enjoy a lovely summer late afternoon by the lake. Members came from near (on-campus offices) and far (Neenah, Milwaukee) for laughter, refreshments and time spent catching up with old friends and meeting new friends. We were happy to be joined by two UW-Madison School of Library and Information Studies students who shared with us their enthusiasm, interests and plans for the future. The social is a great way to network with other special librarians in a fun and beautiful setting. I'm already looking forward to next year.

Q&A with Jennifer Edmonds, Knowledge and Research Manager at ERDMAN



Describe your current job: I work for a firm that designs, builds, and provides strategic consulting for healthcare facilities. I respond to requests for research and communicate relevant news and trends to all parts of the company. Due to the range of services we provide, I am lucky to be able to research a spectrum of disciplines that includes healthcare, architecture, real estate, and construction.

Previous professional endeavors

I graduated from University of Wisconsin-Madison in the MLIS program in 2011, just prior to assuming my current role. My experience during undergrad included working the circulation desk for a Madison Public Library. During graduate school I was lucky to have a variety of reference experience with the Wisconsin Historical Society and the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction. I also assisted a library school professor in analyzing data from her field research.

Why did you decide to work in the library profession?

What more perfect career could there be for a Virgo? I love to sift and winnow information and, in librarianship, I saw a chance to help people to go forth and achieve their goals.

What is the favorite part of your job?

My favorite parts of my job are the variety of requests I receive, the freedom I have in determining how to best assist my constituents, and the feeling of connecting people with the exact information they wanted or maybe didn't know they wanted until I provided it.

What is the least favorite part of your job?

With some frequency I receive requests for very specific data and sometimes that data isn't available, even when we are willing to pay for it. It's never very much fun to spend time searching and have to tell someone I wasn't able to locate what they want.

Do you have a role model as a librarian?

At the risk of sucking up to the current chair, I've been really fortunate to work alongside Molly Hamm during my first year out of school and in my current position. We work together to serve our company and I have the privilege of being able to defer to her with all types of questions and challenges that she is already familiar with. She's also built up an arsenal of skills in her other roles that function well for an info pro working in a business environment. I'm inspired by her ability to please our patrons and her professionalism.

What is your favorite book of the last year?

I recently read Cleopatra: A Life, which was excellent. The book contained so much detail that it balanced out the typical labels that are applied to as a historical female figure, but still allowed Cleopatra to be an enchanting character.

What is your dream vacation?

I would love to backpack through Thailand and enjoy the beautiful temples, beaches, and food.

What are your hobbies?

Entertaining my toddler keeps me pretty occupied when I'm not working, but I also really enjoy visiting the Farmers' Market and cooking and watching strange documentary films. I can tell you quite a bit about hand fishing and ski jumpers.

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