

ASSOCIATION OF WISCONSIN SPECIAL LIBRARIANS | AWSL

A DIVISION OF THE WISCONSIN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

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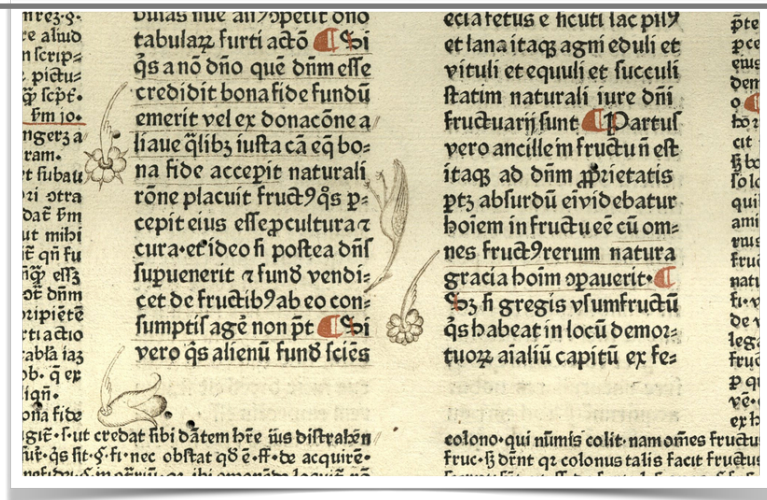
Anne Moser

NEWSLETTER

Carol Hassler

WEBMASTER

Anne Moser



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Image source: <https://onlineexhibits.library.yale.edu/s/marks-in-lawbooks/page/indexing>

Touring Online Collections

Unable to travel this year, AWSL members are not able to share their beloved explorations of libraries near and far. Instead we have been spending time in virtual library exhibits. We asked for some of your favorite online exhibits and library websites, and you shared a plethora of sites to explore!

Precedents so Scrawl’d and Blurr’d: Readers’ Marks in Law Books

<https://onlineexhibits.library.yale.edu/s/marks-in-lawbooks/page/introduction>

This is a fun exhibit from Yale Law School Lillian Goldman Law Library. The topic sounds a little dry but the photos of old law books are quite interesting and provide a window into how these books were used.



Steenbock Library Tour

Karen Dunn, Information Services Librarian at UW-Madison's Steenbock Library will host a virtual tour of the library and its unique cookbook collection.

Join AWSL and friends on Thursday February 4th at 4 p.m. for a virtual tour of the collection. Meeting details will be shared closer to the date.

Please direct questions to Amy O'Shea:
aoshea@cityofmadison.com

(Image source: <https://ecalsforstudents.cals.wisc.edu/2018/10/03/10-things-to-love-about-steenbock-library-2/>)

Next Business Meeting

The next business meeting of AWSL will take place in the spring. Watch the listserv for updates, including the location or connection details for the next meeting.

Touring Online Collections (Cont'd)

The photos and explanations of drawings used as a visual index on this page are quite clever, such as a woman pulling her hair out to mark the section on a prohibition against excessive mourning. This page includes several examples of indexing and markup:

<https://onlineexhibits.library.yale.edu/s/marks-in-lawbooks/page/indexing>

- Carrie Doyle, University of Wisconsin Law Library

The Biodiversity Heritage Library - A respite during COVID-19

<https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/>

As COVID-19 transforms our lives, our libraries, and our work, digital collections have proved to be valuable assets for work and play. One collection frequently accessed in my household is the [Biodiversity Heritage Library](https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/) (BHL).



Renard, Louis. *Poissons, ecrevisses et crabes*. 1754. Digitized by the Ernst Mayr Library, Museum of Comparative Zoology, Harvard University. <http://biodiversitylibrary.org/page/50095135>

At 58 million pages, spanning the 15th century to present, BHL is the “world’s largest open access digital library for

Call for AWSL Board Members

Are you interested in getting more involved in AWSL? Serve as AWSL Vice-Chair and collaborate with the Board on how to best serve our members. The Vice-Chair position leads to the Chair and Past-Chair positions and is a three year commitment. New vice-chairs work with the guidance and support of the current and past chairs. The board meets twice a year: once in the spring and once at the annual WLA conference in the fall. All other duties can be completed remotely. For more information contact Amy O'Shea: aoshea@cityofmadison.com

Join the Membership Committee

If you are interested in serving on the Membership Committee, please contact Carrie Doyle carrie.doyle@wisc.edu or Hannah Bunting, WLA Membership Coordinator bunting@wisconsinlibraries.org.

Touring Online Collections (Cont'd)

biodiversity literature and archives” with the goal of telling the rich story of life on earth. It is filled with digital treasures on the biodiversity around the world and in our backyards.

A consortium of libraries worldwide provide their digital materials free of charge to the BHL portal. BHL works with copyright owners to obtain permission to include their work under Creative Commons licenses. The portal contains a full range of digital material types: reports, photographs, maps, illustrations and more.



Monsters! Physica Curiosa

<https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/page/41531385#page/816/>

In my day job, I think quite a bit about the intersection of art and science and a visit to their collections is one way that I

About AWSL

The Association of Wisconsin Special Librarians (AWSL) is a division of the Wisconsin Library Association. Established in October 1986, AWSL exists to focus on the activities and issues of special libraries and librarianship and to provide a forum for exchange of ideas among persons involved with special libraries and collections.

Membership

Membership is open to all WLA members who are special librarians or who have an interest in special libraries. Anyone who maintains a specialized collection of materials is considered a special librarian -- whether they're a trained and certified librarian managing a library's special collection, or a person in charge of specialized materials in a church, museum, prison, hospital, corporation, foundation, newspaper, government office, or other organization.

Join AWSL

Make the most of your WLA membership and join AWSL through the WLA website:

www.wisconsinlibraries.org/awsl

Touring Online Collections (Cont'd)

expand on how I think about the two disciplines. The scientific illustrations they post are both beautiful and inspiring and always tell an interesting scientific story from a new perspective.

All of the content is available free of charge through the BHL portal: biodiversitylibrary.org. A fun way to follow them is through their very robust social media presence. They have a [beautiful FLICKR site](#) and busy [Facebook](#) and [Instagram account](#). Follow them and you might get hooked.

- Anne Moser, UW Wisconsin Water Library

Forest Atlas of the National Forests of the United States

<https://search.library.wisc.edu/digital/AFPLAtlas>

This is a digitized collection of hand-colored maps that shows where different species of trees grew in the United States. The pages have different dates so some of the maps are from 1913 up to 1928. It's a great historical resource.

-Julie Blankenburg, USDA Forest Service



Cercocarpus ledifolius Nuttall - curl-leaf mountain mahogany
United States. Forest Service
ca. 1913

Collection	Ecology and Natural Resources
Media	1 image

★ Save to Lists

U.S. Forest Service Legacy Collection at Oregon State University

<https://ir.library.oregonstate.edu/catalog?q=U.S.%20Forest%20Service%20Research%20Legacy>

This collection includes most of the Pacific Northwest

Touring Online Collections (Cont'd)

Research Station publications, most of the Pacific Southwest Research Station publications, and the old mimeo series of the Forest Products Laboratory publications. This site also includes general forestry items.

- Julie Blankenburg, USDA Forest Service

Common names database of world timbers

About: https://www.fpl.fs.fed.us/research/centers/woodanatomy/commonnames_overview.php

Search: https://www.fpl.fs.fed.us/search/commonname_request.php

This database of common and scientific names of trees around the world links to factsheets about each species. Some factsheets are very specific and others are general - like the one for oak which is general to all the species in the *Quercus* group.

- Julie Blankenburg, USDA Forest Service

Forest History Society photograph collection

<https://foresthistor.org/research-explore/photo-collection/>

This is a wonderful collection of historic forestry photographs from all over the United States.

- Julie Blankenburg, USDA Forest Service

Treesearch

<https://www.fs.usda.gov/treesearch/>

This collection features all electronic documents from U.S. Forest Service Research Stations.

- Julie Blankenburg, USDA Forest Service

Get Out the Vote! Campaigning for the U.S. Presidency

<https://rnc.library.cornell.edu/vote/index.html>

An online exhibit exploring voting and election history in the United States

- Amy O'Shea, Olbrich Botanical Gardens

Touring Online Collections (Cont'd)

Winter Wonderland: George Balanchine's *The Nutcracker*®

<https://www.nypl.org/events/exhibitions/nutcracker>

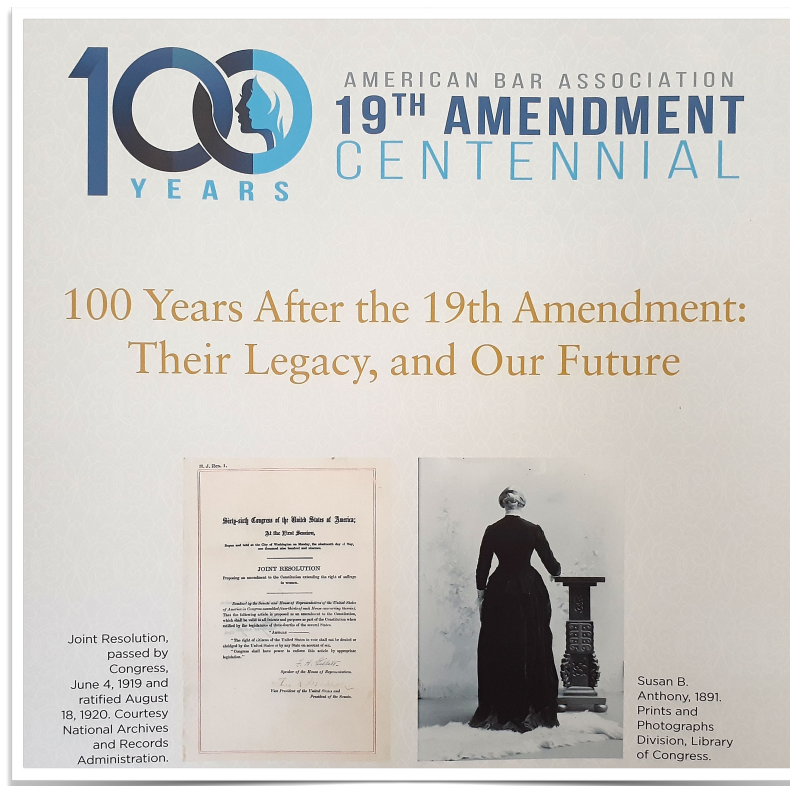
I'm a big fan of the New York Public Library and am missing my annual winter tradition of seeing *The Nutcracker*.

- Amy O'Shea, Olbrich Botanical Gardens

University of Wisconsin Law Library Hosts 19th Amendment Centennial Exhibit

By Carrie Doyle

The University of Wisconsin Law Library is currently hosting an American Bar Association [traveling exhibit](#) commemorating the centennial of the [19th Amendment](#), which guaranteed and protected the constitutional right to vote for women.



The ABA exhibit, “100 Years After the 19th Amendment: Their Legacy, and Our Future,” consists of six large freestanding banners and is on display on the 5th floor of the Law Library near the entrance. It is expected that the exhibit will remain at the UW Law Library until sometime in January 2021.

The exhibit was curated by the Library of Congress and features historic photos and artifacts, detailing the story of the battle for ratification and outlining the challenges that remain. The exhibit was awarded the 2019 GDUSA American Graphic Design Award.



Organized by the ABA’s Standing Committee on the Law Library of Congress, the exhibit chronicles the history of the women’s suffrage movement, continuing battles for women’s equality, and legislation intended to expand voting rights and accessibility for all Americans. The final panel of the exhibit notes that a century after the ratification of the 19th Amendment, voter disenfranchisement continues and lawyers, judges, and others continue to pursue justice.

(Photos by Carrie Doyle)

Library Services During a Pandemic Webinar

By Amy O’Shea

In June, AWSL organized and co-hosted with South Central Library System’s professional development wiz Jean Anderson, a Covid-19 pandemic planning webinar entitled *Sharing Best Practices for Reopening Special Libraries*. Amy Crowder of the Wisconsin State Law Library, Eileen

Library Services During a Pandemic Webinar (Cont'd)

Serverson at Gundersen Health System's Library and Patient Education Services, and Amy O'Shea at Olbrich Botanical Garden's Schumacher Library presented their preparations, plans, and concerns around reopening special libraries during a pandemic. Rotating staff schedules, removal of high touch points, and gallons of hand sanitizer were discussed, along with the ability to remain flexible in light of an ever changing situation. Approximately 40 people attending the webinar and it can still be viewed online:

<https://scls.typepad.com/programs/2020/06/sharing-best-practices-for-reopening-special-libraries.html>

AWSL Winter Tour (Virtual)

By Amy O'Shea

Karen Dunn, Information Services Librarian at UW-Madison's Steenbock Library, will be hosting a virtual tour of the library and its unique cookbook collection. Plan to join AWSL and friends on Thursday February 4th at 4 p.m. for a first time virtual tour of the collection. Meeting details will be shared closer to the date. Please direct questions to Amy O'Shea: aoshea@cityofmadison.com



Member News

Carrie Doyle selected as an Unsung Hero

AWSL member Carrie Doyle has been selected as one of 20 Unsung Heroes for this year's December 10th virtual event hosted by the Wisconsin Law Journal.

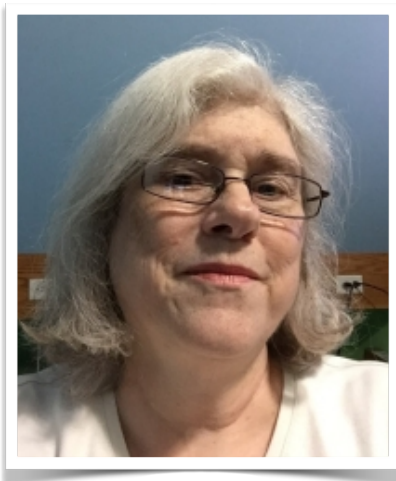
The award is intended to honor legal support professionals who contribute to the success of their organizations. The Wisconsin Law Journal is honored to once again present Unsung Heroes in 2020, with a special publication and a virtual awards event.

Carrie is the Head of Acquisitions and Serials Librarian at the University of Wisconsin Law Library. Congratulations, Carrie!

Member News (Cont'd)

Julie Blankenburg Retires

After 34 years, Julie Blankenburg is retiring from the Forest Products Laboratory Library at the end of December 2020. During her time there she converted the library from a card catalog to an online catalog, started purchasing eJournal subscriptions and eBooks, and moved the library from the 3rd floor to the 1st floor of her building into a newly remodeled space.



She continues to enjoy the reference questions but will not miss the bureaucracy. Due to various circumstances, it is not expected that a new person will be hired for about 6 months. Julie will be volunteering part-time to help keep things running until then. She will miss all the wonderful people she works with and her library colleagues around Madison and around the country.

After retirement she looks forward to finishing some house projects, doing a lot of gardening, and helping her husband with the farm and maple syrup business that he started a few years ago when he retired. You can visit them at the Hilldale Farmers Market (Saturdays) and the Monroe Street Farmers Market (Sundays). Crafts and beadwork are also in her future. She is also interested in working part-time but will

wait until after the COVID-19 pandemic has resolved before finding new library and information opportunities. Digitizing collections for posting to the web is one of her future interests.

Chair Report

by Amy O'Shea

Greetings All,

Who would have imagined that the pandemic would still be going on, more dire than ever, ten months since the first safer-at-home orders last March? Not me! I re-read my chair report from the spring and noted the tone of optimism and the hopefulness that library services would be happening - in a somewhat altered form - sooner rather than later. Sadly, my small special collection remains closed to the public and will stay that way until we enter Phase 3 of [Forward Dane](#), the phased reopening plan for Dane County. I know now, after 10 months of pandemic reality, that library services will eventually resume with all the best practices I had planned to put into play in my last report, only a year or so later than I had originally hoped.

Chair Report (Cont'd)

Like most organizations, WLA pivoted to a virtual conference this past fall, and AWSL board members met via Zoom. Librarians throughout the state struggle with how to provide services safely whether in a special, public, or academic library. We are all working to connect with our patrons while keeping them, and ourselves, safe. Librarians have met the challenges of the pandemic with all the creativity I anticipated and I applaud us. With a vaccine on its way there is the hope that things will begin to look better as the days lengthen and we head once more into spring. Until then I wish you all good health, perseverance, and optimism.

Virtual Library Tours and Exhibits

Unable to travel this year, AWSL members are not able to share their beloved explorations of libraries near and far. Instead we have been spending time in virtual library exhibits.

- In the spirit of the elections this past November, I visited Cornell University Library's digital exhibit [Get Out the Vote! Campaigning for the U.S. Presidency](#). Being a big fan of the New York Public Library and missing my annual winter tradition of seeing *The Nutcracker*, I also enjoyed NYPL's [Winter Wonderland: George Balanchine's The Nutcracker](#) exhibit.

WLA Virtual 1-Day Conference

By Carrie Doyle

On Wednesday, November 11, 2020, I attended WLA's first ever Virtual 1-Day [Conference](#). The conference was billed as an effort to stay connected with WLA's membership and the purpose was to "reconnect, rejuvenate, and revitalize." It was a success!

It was nice and oddly comforting to see WLA Executive Director Plumer Lovelace onscreen with his calm, reassuring demeanor and encouraging words. WLA Sherry Machones was welcoming and excited to share the conference experience with attendees while at the same time wishing we could all meet in person.

I know the WLA Board, staff, presenters, and a host of others worked very hard to put this conference together on a tight timeline. As someone who still struggles with video meetings, I was impressed that the virtual conference came off with very few glitches that I could see. Well done, all.

The keynote speakers offered thanks and congratulations for all that librarians do for their communities at all times, but especially during the pandemic. The sessions I attended were varied and well done.

WLA Board member Katherine Clark presented a video that featured several librarians talking about why they belong to WLA and offering advice applicable to both young librarians starting out and more seasoned professionals who are ready to take their professional involvement to the next level. Some of the advice offered was quite inspiring, as was hearing how much each speaker valued their involvement with WLA.

I particularly enjoyed the Awards Ceremony. Several award winners filmed short acceptance videos that were heartfelt and sometimes funny. Each winner spoke of how grateful they are to be part of the library community.

Watching the virtual conference made me grateful to be part of WLA and the library community, too. Kudos to everyone involved.

The inspiring day was topped off by the WLA Foundation Fundraiser, Virtual Trivia. It was great fun. AWSL's own Kris Turner was the host and he did a terrific job. It was all top notch, from the questions asked, to the amazingly eclectic play list, to the banter between questions. Kris kept us bopping and thinking and having fun. It was a great way to end the day.

WLA Board Liaison Report

By Kris Turner

Happy Holidays to all you AWSLers! Obviously this is a December unlike any that we've experienced before, but I sincerely hope that you are able to find some joy and happiness this season and know that we'll get through this pandemic together. Librarians are a resilient bunch, but the WLA Board knows how difficult it can be to work under such stressful and complicated conditions. If you take nothing else away from this report, please know that WLA is here to support you, your libraries, and all that you do for your communities.

Since my last report, it feels like so much has happened and yet at the same time so little. Our last newsletter was sent out in early May, after the pandemic had already changed our world but before we knew just how much change and uncertainty awaited us. As far as the WLA world goes, you know that the in-person Annual Conference in Green Bay was replaced by a one-day virtual conference. I was very sad to see the cancellation. The Board had a difficult time making the call after so much work had already gone into it. Bottom line: it was the right call to cancel. Our virtual conference went well – we had over 170 members register for it and I heard nothing but good things for our presenters.

More good news on the Conference front – the Green Bay committee has largely remained intact and will take their skills forward to planning a 2021 conference. The Green Bay location has kindly rescheduled the Annual Conference and the 2022 location (Lake Geneva) agreed to wait a year after we initially pegged them as our 2021 spot. On top of that, the Board has created a Virtual Conference committee that is preparing to take over if the conference must be held virtually next fall. I hope we

can see each other in the fall, but of course we simply do not know what will happen yet. If we are virtual, you will still have access to the same high-quality WLA programs and events that you've come to expect.

Financially, it doesn't come as a surprise that WLA is fighting uphill to maintain memberships. I encourage you all to stay involved with WLA, get your colleagues on board and have them attend conferences. WLA offers wonderful networking and educational opportunities for Special Librarians especially. If you have someone that is interested in becoming a member (or is already a member and wants to become a leader), then please feel free to connect them with me so I can answer their questions or concerns. My email is Kris.Turner@wisc.edu and I'm always happy to speak with prospective WLA members or leaders!

Along the same lines, the WLA employees are working virtually and will remain that way for the foreseeable future. WLA had previously been renting space from the SCLS consortium. As the office has moved to a virtual environment, the search for a company that can take over the lease continues.

Finally, I hope that you are all doing well and staying safe and healthy. I want to reemphasize that the WLA Board (and AWSL in particular) is here to help you stay connected and social. Personally, I find it tough to be stuck at home without seeing all your smiling faces at work or at a conference. We're always open to ideas about remote socializing events, so please reach out if you want to get a meet-up going. The AWSL Board is already working on one, but the more, the merrier!

Happy New Year to you all, and thank you again for the opportunity to serve as your Board Liaison.

Share Your Stories & Pictures!

Do you have a story to tell about your library or collection? How are you helping your users during the current health crisis? What programs are you offering, or what does your space or collection look like?

Send us your stories and pictures to include in our next newsletter! Email the newsletter chair, Carol Hassler, at carol.hassler@wicourts.gov.