



ANSS CURRENTS

Anthropology and Sociology Section
of the Association of College & Research Libraries

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MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

Anne Larrivee

Photo credit: Anne Larrivee



Greetings! Whether you are new or old to the Anthropology and Sociology Section (ANSS), I hope this section makes you feel welcome to share and receive ideas, network, and find professional development opportunities. To all of you who serve on ANSS committees and discussion groups, I wanted to send my sincerest appreciation for all of your dedication. Volunteer efforts are the main reason why ANSS membership continues to grow. In the past five years, we have grown from around 400 members

to over 600 members. Thanks to all for being involved!

During 2017 ALA Annual, ANSS held a discussion of whether our section name should also include representative terms for criminology and criminal justice. In October 2017, ANSS membership sent a survey out to explore alternative naming ideas. Out of the 74 respondents, 62% were in favor of a name change but there was not a strong consensus about new names. ANSS executive took feedback from the membership survey, and from a virtual meeting, and came to the conclusion that it was better to change the ANSS charge rather than the name. After gathering member feedback through ANSS-L, the charge was sent to the ACRL board for approval. We should hear back soon. The proposed charge states: *Supports the study of those aspects of library service that require knowledge in areas of human and societal studies such as anthropology, sociology, criminal justice or criminology and other related fields.*

ANSS has had discussions for the creation of a suite of ANSS LibGuides. Committee chairs can request LibGuide access when they are ready to display content.

If you are attending ALA Annual in New Orleans, please consider attending the ANSS / PPIRS co-sponsored conference program titled: *Southern Food Culture and Politics*. Save the date for Saturday from 1-2 pm. I also want to mention a few upcoming reminders and agenda items. Do you want to participate in ACRL 2019? Deadlines for papers and workshops are May 4, 2018 and October 12 for posters. Also, on April 25, ALA launched its new platform for ALA Connect; check out the new look.

-- Anne

ANSS PROGRAM AT ALA ANNUAL 2018

THE SOUTHERN FOOD CULTURE & POLITICS PROGRAM

Saturday, June 23rd
1:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.



The Southern Food Culture & Politics program (co-sponsored with ACRL-PPIRS) at ALA 2018 will take place on Saturday, June 23, from 1-2 pm (location TBD). The program will delve into political and cultural issues as they relate to the celebration of the food, drink and the related culture of the South and features two panelists. Liz Williams is a founder of the Southern Food and Beverage Museum and President of the National Food and Beverage Foundation who researches and writes about legal and policy issues related to food and foodways. Susan Tucker recently retired as the Curator of Books and Records for the Newcomb Archives and Vorhoff Library at Tulane University which has approximately 300 unique collections, many of which document the history of women and gender in the Gulf South including culinary history. Southern food culture will be discussed and participants will understand how librarians and archivists can play a part in preserving food culture anywhere in the world. A [LibGuide](#) to support the program is available now.

PRELIMINARY ANNUAL MEETING SCHEDULE

2018 New Orleans

Friday, June 22

Possible ANSS	
Outing/Tour	afternoon
ANSS Social	7:30-9:00 pm

All-Comm. (session 2)	10:30-11:30 am
Soc. Lib Discussion	10:30-11:30 am
ANSS Program	1:00-2:00 pm
Cri. Just. Lib. Discussion	4:00-5:00 pm

Saturday, June 23

Conf. Prgm. Planning (New Orleans, 2018)	8:30-9:30 am
Conf. Prgm. Planning (Washington, DC, 2019)	9:30-10:30 am
All-Comm. (session 1)	8:30-10:00 am

Sunday, June 24

Nominating (2019)	9:00-10:00 am
Anthro. Lib. Discussion	4:00-5:00 pm

Monday, June 25

Executive	8:30-10:00 am
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COMMITTEE REPORTS

CONFERENCE PROGRAM PLANNING COMMITTEE – 2018, NEW ORLEANS

Ilka Datig & Susan Smith, Co-Chairs

The Conference Program Planning Committee for New Orleans, 2018 met virtually several times over the past year to plan the 2018 conference program. We have been working extremely closely with our counterparts in PPIRS-ACRL (Politics, Policy and International Relations Section). Together we developed a program entitled *Southern Food Culture & Politics*. This program will be a panel discussion regarding the political and cultural issues related to food policy and preservation of knowledge about food in the South.

Although our program was not accepted by ACRL as an official ALA forum (it was a very competitive year) we are moving forward with the program. It will take place on Saturday, June 23, from 1-2 p.m. (location TBD). Our panelists include a founder of a museum focused on southern food and beverages and an archivist who oversees a culinary collection that documents the influence of women and the diverse cultural heritage of the region's culinary history. The committee is also working on creating a pathfinder LibGuide to accompany the conference program, which will include relevant resources and library collections. We hope you will join us for this intriguing program in New Orleans!

LIAISON COMMITTEE

Richard Freeman & Triveni Kuchi, Co-Chairs

The Liaison Committee convened virtually on January 30. The current ANSS liaisons—Juliann Couture (AAA), Hailey Mooney (ASA), and Melissa Chomintra (ACJS)--reported on their activities with their respective professional associations. The committee thanks and applauds them for their valuable efforts in

engaging and participating with members of AAA, ASA, and ACJS to increase presence and build strong relationships. Members of the Liaison Committee also briefly discussed issues and problems raised by the liaisons. In addition, the Committee is planning recruitment of the AAA liaison, whose 3-year term is ending on June 30, 2018. Please take a moment to read the ANSS Liaison reports and updates on ANSSWeb. The committee also invites suggestions for programs and activities.

ACRL - AMERICAN ANTHROPOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION LIAISON REPORT

Juliann Couture, University of Colorado Boulder

The relationships I built in AAA over the past few years have positioned me to have a meaningful and productive annual meeting experience primarily centered around the ACRL strategic area of research and scholarly environment. In late November, I attended the AAA Annual meeting in Washington, D.C. with the goal of continuing the conversations around open access and scholarly communication issues and to participate in meetings related to my appointment on the Publishing Futures Committee (PFC). Additionally, the area of student learning continues to be a main priority for me since this has been a challenging area in which to build partnerships.

As a member of the PFC, I gain valuable insight into the publishing aspect of a scholarly society and see firsthand how societies are grappling with how to grow and respond to changes in the publishing environment. One main item of discussion at this year's meeting was centered around the need for an anthropology repository, particularly after the [takedown notices](#) that were disseminated in October. In November, there was discussion on how AAA might build a disciplinary repository and what features such a repository might contain. I was appointed to a subcommittee to examine

these issues, and we are currently exploring repository options with the aim of submitting a recommendation to the AAA Executive Board by May.

One of the rewards of attending the AAA Annual meeting is the opportunity to have discussions with many in the anthropology community ranging from other librarians to researchers to journal editors. This year was no different, and I was fortunate to meet up with a group of people interested in anthropology and open access. Much of the conversation centered around how to make anthropological research more widely available and what some of these models might look like. How might we make OA more sustainable in terms of time and funding when these efforts take so much of both? This discussion occurred just after I learned that *HAU: Journal of Ethnographic Theory* was moving to The University of Chicago Press. I will be participating in a conversation with academic library leaders in April to discuss how libraries could support scholarly societies in moving towards a more open system of scholarly communication.

While at the annual meeting, I identified sessions to attend that related to library issues and trends. One panel tackled research related to data and algorithms while another explored user experience and design work that anthropologists carry out in a variety of settings. Another panel explored teaching in and across disciplines which drew on faculty from a variety of higher education institutions. Another panel discussed anthropological podcasting and how some are using podcasting as a way to dig into anthropological issues in more depth, while others aim to make anthropology more accessible to the public. Some podcasts mentioned were [AnthroPod](#) and [This Anthro Life](#).

Due to schedule conflicts, I was unable to attend this year's Teaching Anthropology Interest Group meeting. The group has been relatively quiet since last year's meeting but I had hoped to use the annual meeting as way to deepen my connections with the group. While I have had great success connecting with scholarly communication issues within AAA, developing deep relationships around student learning in anthropology has been a continuous challenge. I have been working

with the ANSS Instruction and Information Literacy Committee on the companion documents but have not been able to create the connections I aimed to as liaison.

I welcome any questions or comments you have regarding the connections I have built between ACRL and AAA. I am approaching the end of my liaison term and expect there to be a call for AAA liaison applications in the near future. It has been a rewarding experience and I am so grateful for the opportunity to connect with a scholarly society. If you are interested in learning more about the liaison program or the work that I have done as AAA liaison, please reach out by sending a message to juliann.couture@colorado.edu.

ACRL - AMERICAN SOCIOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION LIAISON REPORT

Hailey Mooney, University of Michigan

The main focus of my liaison work right now is supporting the project to author a Disciplinary Companion Document for sociology to the *Framework for Information Literacy for Higher Education*. I have been working closely with the Instruction & Information Literacy Committee as a contributing member of the Sociology subgroup. We are in the thick of it—identifying the connections between the *Framework for Information Literacy* and the *Sociological Literacy Framework* and drafting various ways to best present the material. Once we have a complete draft, I will look into facilitating engagement with members of the ASA Section on Teaching and Learning (STL) in a collaborative process to review and revise the Disciplinary Companion Document. The goal is to arrive at a final document that is endorsed by both ACRL and ASA.

I submitted a proposal for a workshop at the upcoming ASA Annual Meeting (August 11-14, Philadelphia) as part of the Teaching and Learning Symposium. The workshop would introduce the *Framework for Information Literacy* and the draft Disciplinary Companion Document in the context of planning for a typical research assignment. Participants would have the opportunity to reflect on their own teaching while

providing us with feedback on the content and utility of the draft Disciplinary Companion Document. However, the proposal was not accepted as a workshop; it was accepted as a poster presentation. This will still provide the opportunity to engage in discussion with ASA members, but additional mechanisms for gathering feedback will need to be considered.

The poster presentation is titled “Find and Cite Three-to-Five Sources: Applying the Sociological Imagination to Critical Information Literacy.” I will be presenting the poster along with co-author Paula Dempsey, who is also on the Sociology subgroup of the Instruction & Information Literacy Committee. Consistent with the spirit and purpose of the Disciplinary Companion Document, the presentation will show how applying the sociological perspective to the common assignment requirement to find three-to-five sources can contextualize and enrich the literature research process. There are two key sociological perspectives that we are utilizing: (1) the “sociological imagination” or “sociological eye,” which is the distinctive disciplinary viewpoint, and (2) a social problems approach.

Applying the sociological perspective to information literacy has already impacted my professional development and instructional practice. In order to share my reflections, I am also planning a presentation at the upcoming LOEX Conference (May 3-5, Houston) on the topic of “‘Fake News’ and the Sociological Imagination: Theory Informs Practice.” This presentation will build from both the Disciplinary Companion Document project and my work with the development of a “fake news” class at the University of Michigan. Although this is not an activity in direct connection to ASA, it is an opportunity to discuss the meaningful connections between sociology and librarianship.

Finally, it is worth noting that I attended the [SocArXiv symposium](#) at the University of Maryland in October 2017. This is not an official ASA activity, but many involved with SocArXiv are sociologists and ASA members. The SocArXiv is supported by the Center for Open Science and the University of Maryland. It is actually intended as a preprint server for all of the

social sciences, not just sociology. There is plenty of room for volunteers to help with its ongoing development.

I look forward to seeing many of you during the upcoming conference season. If you are attending ASA, please let me know so we can plan a librarians’ get-together. I will send a note out to ANSS-L closer to the ASA Annual Meeting date to coordinate. Please also feel free to [reach out to me](#) anytime to discuss ACRL-ASA liaison activities and related initiatives.

INSTRUCTION AND INFORMATION LITERACY COMMITTEE **Elizabeth Fox and Priscilla Seaman, Co-Chairs**

The Instruction and Information Literacy Committee held its Midwinter meeting on January 31. Most members attended, and the committee was pleased that Anne Larrivee was able to join us. Our major topic of discussion centered around the committee’s ongoing project of creating companion disciplinary documents for the *ACRL Framework*, keeping in mind the approaching deadline of June 30, 2018, by which we have promised to deliver our draft documents.

Our committee has chosen to attack this project by dividing members into subgroups based on the three disciplines represented in ANSS: anthropology, criminal justice, and sociology. Each subgroup is meeting throughout the year, sharing documents, meeting minutes, and discussions with the larger committee. At the Midwinter meeting, each subgroup reported progress and perplexities. Interestingly, the subgroups have developed unique approaches to the creation of their companion disciplinary documents, reflecting the needs and perspectives of each discipline. In the end, the committee will likely produce three separate documents that stand apart from one another, but will use the *Framework* as their guiding light. Additionally, each subgroup is working closely with the professional organizations within their fields.

The Criminal Justice subgroup is creating assessments that point back to the Certification Standards of the Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences (ACJS), while

mapping these standards to the *Framework*. The Sociology subgroup is focusing on finding common ground and avenues of collaboration with sociology teaching faculty with the goal of integrating standardized information literacy into the sociology curricula. The Anthropology subgroup is experimenting with using a frame-by-frame approach to create examples in which the frames can be applied to anthropological knowledge and instruction.

A last point of discussion centered around the broader question: “Who is the audience of the companion disciplinary documents?” It was the opinion of some that the erstwhile *Information Literacy Competency Standards* were intended as a guide for newer librarians, whereas others felt that the audience of the companion disciplinary documents might be teaching faculty who are looking for guidance and a better understanding of information literacy. Either way, our committee looks forward to ALA Annual with a certain amount of foreboding anticipation.

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

Susan Silver and Rui Wang, Co-Chairs

The Membership Committee met virtually on Feb 12, 2018. Membership statistics were reviewed and it appears that ANSS is growing, with over 600 members as of December 2017. A membership survey was deployed on February 20. Survey results will be shared with section members either before or at ALA Annual. Four ANSS members attended the Social in Denver. We are planning to once again have a joint social with PPIRS at ALA Annual in New Orleans, with HeinOnline sponsoring the event. Look for the announcement with details later this spring.

PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE

Mimmo Bonanni & Allison Ringness, Co-Chairs

The ANSS Publications Committee met virtually on January 22, convened by co-chairs Mimmo Bonanni and Allison Ringness. The committee welcomed new members Nidia Isabel Banuelos, Sarah Dahlen, Quinn Galbraith, and Steve Rokusek. We discussed website

statistics from the 2017 calendar year, which show an overall increase from 2016 in the total number of views, visitors, and average visits per day.

In updates, Erin Pappas will continue to maintain the ANSS-L listserv, Allison Ringness will continue to edit the ANSS website, and Mimmo and Allison will continue to update Facebook and Twitter as committee co-chairs. The committee reviewed content for the Spring 2018 issue of *Currents* and deadlines for the issue. Under new business, the committee talked about the ANSS Executive proposal for a website task force to assess needs like storage and platform (WordPress or others). The committee will determine if the website is meeting the needs of ANSS committee members as a first step, and will make recommendations to Executive before moving forward with a task force. The committee also examined the implementation of a standard file-naming convention for the website, and digital storage for ANSS working documentation. Allison and Mimmo also reported on the development of a Chair/Co-Chair step-by-step checklist guide document for current and future chairs of the committee. *Currents* co-editor Louisa McMurray is rolling off her position this year, and we are currently looking for a co-editor for *Currents*. Please email co-chairs Mimmo Bonanni (mimmo@asu.edu) or Allison Ringness (alringness@icloud.com) if interested.

RESOURCE REVIEW & BIBLIOGRAPHY COMMITTEE

Sue McFadden, Chair

The Resource Review & Bibliography Committee met virtually on March 13. Regular members in attendance included Sarah Dahlen, Tom Durkin, Sue McFadden, Virginia Pierce, Nicole Tummon, and Wade Kotter.

Members discussed reviews for the upcoming Spring issue of *ANSS Currents*. The peer review format, discussed at the virtual 2017 Annual meeting, supports the committee’s work and documents practice. The schedule for review of draft articles for Spring 2018 follows:

- Mid March: peer review begins
- Peer review completed by end of March

- End of March: submissions to *ANSS Currents* editors

The members discussed a plan to use Google Docs to peer review the shared submissions. The chair will manage this activity. Additionally, the group decided the Spring 2018 issue is to be the first time a shorter, abstract-style article could be submitted for an ANSS-related resource.

The following planned reviews were moved to Fall 2018 *ANSS Currents*:

- Criminal Justice--Diane Fulkerson
- Alexander Street Press Video collections--Helen Clements

The RRBC seeks article suggestions for review through ANSS-L and personal suggestions. You may also contact committee chair Sue McFadden at smcfadde@iue.edu. Every issue includes two to four review articles from the perspective of ANSS resources. If you wish to contribute a review article or resource abstract for *ANSS Currents*, a couple of online documents are helpful:

- [Guide to Editing ANSS Currents](#)
- [Guidelines for Analyzing Bibliographic Resources for ANSS Currents](#)

The planning spreadsheet and the peer review policy are on ALA Connect and open to the public. One item not discussed at our last meeting, because of limited time, was the use of the section's LibGuide to provide information to the public. In the future the committee will use this tool to submit articles, share committee resources, and support the ANSS mission and the committee charges. This discussion will be on the Annual meeting agenda.

REVIEW & PLANNING COMMITTEE

Helen Clements, Chair

These are the highlights from our virtual meeting of February 5. Members present were Helen Clements (chair), Anne Larrivee, Katie Anderson (note taker), Jill

Conte, and Susan Smith. Wayne Sanders was unable to attend.

Although the Conference Program Planning Committee submitted a proposal for our customary program at the upcoming Annual meeting, it was not accepted due to revisions in the guidelines for inclusion of programs and a large number of entries. The Conference Program Planning Committee is working with our sister section, Politics, Policy, and International Relations Section (PPIRS) for a panel discussion event. This will be discussed more at Executive as the group is looking to confirm the time.

The 2019 ACRL Annual meeting was discussed briefly. ANSS donated its unused operating funds for 2016-2017 to ACRL to help fund a scholarship to attend ACRL 2019. We received a warm thank-you from the ACRL leadership.

A design for our ACRL LibGuides has been selected and approved. We discussed the possibility of a permanent ANSS 101 LibGuide. There was also a suggestion that the guide contain a link to Joyce Ogburn's bibliography. We also discussed the need for general policies for LibGuides before we move forward. Some of the needs include expectations for updating, the responsibility of each committee chair for the guide, and that each committee have only one LibGuide. There is a need for general standardization, such as in the format and guidelines for the content.

Membership is up! We have over 500 members as of the latest report before the Midwinter meeting. Kudos to all working on retention and recruitment. The Membership Committee contacted dropped members. Many of the responses were from people who were retiring or whose job assignment has changed, indicating that people are satisfied with their membership. Rising costs of ALA membership and conferences are also having an impact.

We will be taking a survey of ANSS membership soon. Susan Silver reported that the survey will be distributed in time for results to be reported by the Annual meeting.

Regarding the ANSS web site, Chair Anne Larrivee would like to put a task force together to look at ideas for possible new, ad-free hosting sites. Some cost-effective possibilities, such as Box and Google Docs, can be explored.

We also discussed working toward a memorial scholarship honoring our former Chair, Pauline Manaka, who passed away in 2017. An official scholarship would have specific ACRL guidelines and a 20% administrative fee. ACRL's award task force will convene at the Midwinter meeting so an award discussion can take place after they meet. Another option would be to invite ANSS members to donate in Pauline's name for ACRL 2019. We will wait for the task force for further discussion.

At the 2017 Annual meeting, there was a proposal to change the name of ANSS to reflect its broader focus. (We now have an official liaison for criminology/criminal justice, who is identified with the Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences.) Many were in favor of the change, as reflected in postings on ANSS-L. Anne Larrivee, ANSS Chair, coordinated the discussion. Despite numerous comments, there was no consensus on what the new name might be. Instead, the section charge was updated to better reflect the membership. The Executive Committee voted to accept the change in the charge, which will read: "Supports the study of those aspects of library service that require knowledge in the areas of human and societal studies such as anthropology, sociology, criminal justice or criminology and other related fields."

We discussed the possibilities for archiving ANSS correspondence and other records. Box and Google Docs were mentioned as possible platforms. Questions raised included:

- Who would be responsible for maintenance of these records?
- Do we need an archivist position in ANSS?
- Do other sections have an archivist position? (Helen volunteered to look at the positions in other sections.)

In further discussion, we noted that the All-Committees Meeting format was acceptable, and we plan to continue it. In this format, all section committees hold their meetings at the same time to free up more time for attending programs, ANSS Discussion Group meetings, and other ALA functions. The exception is the Nominating Committee, which holds closed meetings.

Katie Anderson, incoming Chair, reported that she is catching up on the committee appointment process, and she will be seeking more volunteers.



RBMS 2018 CONFERENCE

EARLY BIRD DEADLINE MAY 18!

CONVERGENCE

NEW ORLEANS, LA

TUESDAY, JUNE 19, 2018-

FRIDAY, JUNE 22, 2018

New Orleans is a hotbed of convergences, ones so powerful that its lineage includes a dish as delightful as gumbo and a storm as destructive as Hurricane Katrina. This conference will focus on the idea of convergences including our field's preparedness for increasing environmental vulnerabilities, our readiness for the inclusion of different people and cultures in our outreach and leadership, and, finally, our willingness to democratize all of our materials. Early registration rates end May 18!

<http://conference.rbms.info/2018/>

SUBJECT AND BIBLIOGRAPHIC ACCESS COMMITTEE

Shonn Michael Haren, Chair

The 2017-18 Academic Year was a productive one for the Subject and Bibliographic Access Committee. During this period we published Cataloging Q&A posts on ANSSWeb on the following topics:

- What is VIAF?
- What subject headings are commonly applied to anthropological and sociological works about the phenomenon of human migration? Are there subject headings focused on immigration, emigration, and refugees?
- What are LC demographic group terms and how are they used?

- What are the LC subject headings and name authorities for cataloging works dealing with Nazism?

In the coming months we will be tackling questions dealing with regalia costume and dress, cultural diffusion and appropriation, time, and how the Board on Geographic Names (BGN) is used by catalogers. Stay tuned!

This will be my last report as SBAC Chair, as I will be rolling off the committee at the end of my ALA membership in April. I would like to thank the current and former committee members for their service. It has been a lot of fun.



DISCUSSION GROUP REPORTS

ANTHROPOLOGY LIBRARIANS DISCUSSION GROUP

Tom Durkin and Rachael Muszkiewicz, Co-Conveners

For our virtual Midwinter meeting, the Anthropology Librarians Discussion Group was pleased to invite anthropologist John Hawks to speak about his recent research into human evolution at Rising Star Cave in South Africa. We welcomed 13 attendees to our forum conversation on Tuesday, February 13.

John Hawks is the Vilas-Borghesi Distinguished Achievement Professor in the Department of Anthropology at University of Wisconsin–Madison. Since 2013 he has been working with Lee Berger of the University of the Witwatersrand as a member of a team that has recovered more than 1200 hominin specimens from the Rising Star Cave system in the Cradle of Humankind, South Africa. Dr. Hawks is an expert in population dynamics and the process of natural selection on both genes and morphological traits. His research has demonstrated the potential of open science approaches during paleoanthropological fieldwork.

During the forum Dr. Hawks discussed his use of library collections and services, and he gave his thoughts on open access publishing, scholarly blogging, and his experiences with online teaching. He spoke on how making the project available to the public affected both public and academic perceptions of paleoanthropology. The *Homo naledi* research team published their research in [eLife](#), a peer-reviewed open access scientific journal affiliated with the Howard Hughes Medical Institute, the Max Planck Society, and the Wellcome Trust. The 3D scans of the original *Homo naledi* fossils

can be found at [MorphoSource](#). Dr. Hawks has a popular and well-known [blog](#) where he discusses issues relevant to his research and publishing. In 2014, he also worked to develop a new massive open online course called “Human Evolution: Past and Future” through Coursera.

Discussions at the end of the presentation focused on open access and its impact on academia, as well as the value academic culture places or does not place on citizen science.

A recording of the discussion is available on [YouTube](#).

SOCIOLOGY LIBRARIANS DISCUSSION GROUP

Jill Conte and Susan Silver, Co-Conveners

The Sociology Librarians Discussion Group met virtually on Friday, February 16 to discuss social media and public communication in sociology and the implications for libraries. Many academic sociologists today are increasingly engaged in conversations outside the traditional realm of scholarly communication. In addition to monographs and scholarly journal articles, some scholars now generate new forms of intellectual output on various social media platforms or in popular media. These new scholarly products and conversations, with their growing political and academic significance, create a unique set of opportunities and challenges for the discipline and for libraries alike. The group discussed in greater detail specific issues related to impact/citation metrics, promotion and tenure, peer review, open access, institutional repositories vs. "open" repositories vs. discipline-specific repositories, and the value of public engagement in academia.

Build Your Library's Professional Skills...

by bringing an ACRL RoadShow Workshop to your campus, chapter, or consortia. Led by expert presenters, these one-day immersive workshops engage participants and help academic librarians learn new skills and strengthen existing competencies. Current workshop topics include:

- Assessment in Action
- Engaging with the ACRL Framework
- Intersections of Scholarly Communication and Information Literacy
- Research Data Management
- Scholarly Communication
- Using the Standards for Libraries in Higher Education



For more information about each of these workshops, including program descriptions, sample schedules, and a list of presenters, visit www.ala.org/acrl/roadshows.

ANSS MIDWINTER SOCIAL 2018

The ANSS Midwinter 2018 Social was held at Stout Street Social in Denver on Friday, February 9th.



Photo credit: Anne Larrivee



Photo credit: Anne Larrivee



Photo credit: Anne Larrivee

ACRL PRECONFERENCE @ 2018 ALA ANNUAL CONFERENCE: BIG EASY ROADSHOW

Join ACRL in New Orleans for the full-day preconference *Assessment in Action: Demonstrating and Communicating Library Contributions to Student Learning and Success*, an ACRL RoadShow offered in conjunction with the 2018 ALA Annual Conference on Friday, June 22, 2018.

Higher education institutions of all types are facing intensified attention to assessment and accountability issues. Academic libraries are increasingly connecting with colleagues and campus stakeholders to design and implement assessment that documents their contributions to institutional priorities. In this day-long preconference on strategic and sustainable assessment, participants will identify institutional priorities and campus partners, design an assessment project grounded in action research, and prepare a plan for communicating the project results. This preconference is based on the highly successful [ACRL Assessment in Action program](#) curriculum.

Complete details, including a full program description, learning outcomes, and registration materials, are available [online](#).





NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

NEWS

ACRL Anthropology and Sociology Section (ANSS) is currently seeking applications for the ACRL/ANSS Liaison to the American Anthropological Association (AAA). Liaisons serve a three-year term (July 1, 2018-June 30, 2021); are responsible for outreach, education, and communication between AAA and ACRL; help form strong cross-organizational relationships; and advance the interests of ACRL and ANSS. Complete details are available on the ANSS Website at the [Field Notes blog](#). Applications are due on May 8, 2018.

ANSS Newsletter has an opening for co-editor. Do you have editing prowess? Do you enjoy editing other people's documents? There is a new opening for role of co-editor with ANSS Newsletter staff. The work takes place twice per year, in the spring (April) and fall (September). The position involves editing submissions to the newsletter. If interested, please send an email to the co-chairs of the Publications Committee, Mimmo Bonanni (mimmo@asu.edu) or Allison Ringness (alringness@icloud.com).



ARTICLES

OPENING THE "BLACK BOX": ALGORITHMIC BIAS AND ITS IMPLICATIONS FOR SOCIAL SCIENCE LIBRARIANS

Shonn M. Haren

Library Instruction Coordinator, California State Polytechnic University, Pomona
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This is the second of two articles exploring the way in which the tools we use to find resources as social science librarians are changing, as well as the implications of those changes for the fields of anthropology, criminal justice, and sociology. The first installment of this series explored the continuing relevance of Library of Congress Subject Headings (LCSH) (Haren, 2017). This article will consider discovery layers, the algorithm-driven technologies that are increasingly sidelining the use of LCSH in library catalogs. It will discuss the benefits and drawbacks of these tools, as well as the public misperception of algorithm-driven tools as purely objective in their selection and ranking of results. Finally, it will consider the implications of these benefits, drawbacks, and misperceptions for the social sciences in general and for social science librarians in particular.

Discovery layers are tools that "search a unified index of providers from a single certain point" (Reidsma, 2016). By simultaneously searching a library's catalog and a selected number of a vendor's indexes, which closely mirror an institution's database holdings, discovery layers provide the user with a relatively seamless search experience in which books, articles, dissertations, and other resources can all be accessed from a single search using a single tool. As noted

by Vaidhyanathan (2011), this setup replicates "the reductive simplicity and orderliness of Google's interface," thus making it particularly attractive to students who have grown up accustomed to Google's single search box for everything (p. 190). While discovery layers do provide users with a simplified, seamless search experience, it is also a heavily mediated one. Discovery layers are proprietary, driven by vendor algorithms, and reliant on vendor tags for the classification of the materials to which they provide access. Indeed, in many cases the "subject" filter in a discovery layer does not provide LCSH as an option, relying instead on vendor- or author-supplied keywords. Such an omission is perhaps understandable, as LCSH have been primarily applied to monographs, with alternative forms of classification being more recently applied to articles by vendors as they were added to databases. As libraries have transitioned toward this single-search model, LCSH has described a steadily diminishing percentage of the total holdings retrieved.

As noted above, search results in discovery layers are determined by algorithm. Dormehl (2014) defines an algorithm as a series of systematic instructions designed to filter and select information (p. 1). Steiner (2012) further explains that algorithms "act like complex decision trees" that break down problems with multiple variables into a series of binary decisions. Such codes take into account all of the possible decisions that could be made using a set of variables, and do it extremely fast (pp. 6, 17). Algorithms have been present in every generation of automated search tools. The earliest online catalogs all used algorithms to retrieve results, and in many cases LCSH were one of several types of metadata that could be specified as search criteria. However, as code belonging to the catalog or database vendor, algorithms have always operated as an unseen component in our search interfaces. Unlike the majority of our tools, such as LCSH, which are governed by a transparent set of rules and regulations and open to user commentary and revision, algorithms are proprietary, making their inner workings privileged information available only to those who design, maintain, and own them.

This opaque characteristic of algorithms, in which users are dazzled by an interface's results and convenience without an invitation to view how the system works are what Vaidhyanathan (2011) refers to as the "the black box of technological design" (p. 52). Under these circumstances, the "complex, mysterious and unknowable" processes inherent in algorithm-driven queries leave users reliant on its decisions without being able to tell if those decisions are correct or are the "result of distorted or biased policy or even erroneous facts" (Dormehl, 2014, p. 152). While such opacity might be disconcerting in and of itself, the fact that algorithms, particularly search algorithms, do not merely retrieve results, but evaluate which results are worth retrieving and rank those results according to a standard of relevance, should raise concerns. As noted by Gillespie (2014), such evaluative assumptions involve not only criteria that are hidden from the user, but also the ways in which those criteria are weighed and measured, and which criteria are added or overruled under certain circumstances (p. 176).

While the "black box" nature of proprietary algorithms is intentional, it is not necessarily sinister. Gillespie (2014) explains that, "Insight into the workings of information algorithms is a form of power: ... For most users their understanding of these algorithms may be vague, simplistic, sometimes mistaken" (p. 185). In an earlier (2012) discussion of Twitter's algorithms for determining trending tweets, Gillespie further explains that "Revealing the 'secret sauce' of their algorithm in greater detail risks helping those who would game the system." However, protecting trade secrets from those who would either not understand them or actively misuse them is only one of the reasons for the lack of transparency in algorithmic systems. As noted by Barrocas (2013), "But even if these algorithms were somehow manifest, would we find that they are nonetheless inscrutable? What if some algorithms are so complex that they are inherently unknowable?" (p. 6). In many cases, the inner workings of an algorithmic system would be sufficiently complex that under circumstances of perfect transparency their workings might be incomprehensible to all but their designers. Indeed, Evgeny Morozov has argued that in the case of institutions such as Google, the systems may "have grown so complex that no Google engineer fully understands [how they] operate" (as quoted in Dormehl, 2014, p.

226). Under such circumstances it could be argued that, having input our search terms into the system, we are effectively taking the results provided on faith.

Gillespie (2014) directly addresses this implicit faith in algorithms, stating that “the technical character of the algorithm is positioned as an assurance of impartiality...” (p. 168). However, he argues that this assurance is a “carefully crafted fiction” as no search system is entirely hands-off and impartial; they all require carefully coded interventions for specific circumstances, such as Google’s exclusion of child pornography from search results, or the exclusion of dissident political voices from search results in China (p. 179). Such interventions are value judgments, which have to be coded into the algorithm based on decisions made by human actors. This illuminates the often-overlooked truth about algorithms, and algorithm-driven search tools: that while the execution of our search queries by the machinery may be unbiased, the code that drives that execution was not written by an unbiased machine but rather by a person with their own set of biases and prejudices. Therefore, algorithms can reflect the biases of their creators, particularly in the ways they sort and hierarchically rank search results according to a standard of relevance or importance (Dormehl, 2014, pp. 150, 223).

Recent experiences by ANSS members regarding ProQuest databases demonstrate the shortcomings of the black box in action. In November of 2017, in a series of posts on both the EBSS-L and ANSS-L listservs, a number of librarians shared stories of issues with ProQuest databases. These databases had returned results that, on their face, appeared to have nothing to do with the keywords entered into the initial search query, as these terms did not appear in the results’ titles, abstracts, or tags (K. Pendell, email to EBSS-L November 7, 2017). It was determined that these results were provided due to a default setting in the ProQuest databases that, in order to maximize the number of potential results, searched those terms in the full text of every article in the database regardless of their relevance (W. Kotter, email to ANSS-L November 8, 2017). While this default setting could be turned off, this was only possible in the administrative module, with vendor representatives apparently unwilling or unable to conceive of why allowing an easier or wider access to this setting might be beneficial (L. Olson, email to ANSS-L, November 7, 2017). Other posters echoed this concern at the vendor’s sacrificing relevance in favor of sheer volume of results. Among these other concerns, they noted the combining of the specialized subject terms from the Sociological Thesaurus with subject terms from all of their other databases, making it “impossible to identify relevant sociological subject terms via browsing results” (H. Mooney, email to ANSS-L, November 8, 2017). While demonstrating the real-world effects of an algorithmic black box on the daily operations of social science librarians and the scholarship they support, this exchange also illustrated a principle alluded to by both Dormehl (2014) and Vaidyanathan (2011) in which the default settings of a search tool are as effective as (and far less invasive than) coercion in dictating user behavior.

While the implications of such functional design biases of discovery systems are troubling, the possibility of inherent bias manifesting in search results and suggestions as discussed by Reidsma (2016) are even more disturbing. Reidsma, a librarian at Grand Valley State University (GVSU) noted a series of troubling instances of bias in search suggestions while testing his institution’s new discovery layer (Summon, provided by ProQuest) in a 2016 blog post. Reidsma focused his study on a new reference tool provided in Summon called “Topic Explorer.” This tool provided “dynamically display[ed] background information for more than 50,000 topics. Summon provided this information through reference sources subscribed to by GVSU, such as Gale Virtual Reference Library, or online sources such as Wikipedia. Using the “query expansion” tool, Summon would automatically match users’ keyword queries with additional terms to return results from technical literature, such as suggesting the term “myocardial infarction” when users input the term “heart attack.” As Reidsma notes, the algorithm in Topic Explorer essentially would suggest to the user “this is what you are looking for.”

While this system worked well overall, Reidsma did note that for a number of searches, Topic Explorer would supply seemingly aberrant suggestions to the user, such as the inaccurate and possibly misogynistic suggestion of “women in

the workforce” as the suggested topic for a query on “stress in the workplace.” In response to these unusual results, Reidsma performed a study, using the first 8,000 queries in Summon that produced a Topic Explorer entry to determine the nature and frequency of these uncharacteristic results. Of the 8,000 queries collected, Reidsma flagged 561 as being inaccurate, with the majority of these inaccuracies due to a pattern of words in the query that were exactly or highly similar to those in a the particular title suggested by Topic Explorer. However, 54 of the queries that Reidsma flagged provided suggestions that were potentially biased in nature. While such a small result (only .68% of all queries collected) might not raise alarms in and of itself, Reidsma observed that the queries in question dealt overwhelmingly with topics such as gender, LGBT issues, race, Islam, and mental illness, with contemporary biases (misogyny, homophobia, racism, islamophobia, etc.) being reflected in the suggestions provided. These biased results reflect the arguments made by Ekstrom (2015) who stated that, “...behind every algorithm is always a person, a person with a set of personal beliefs that no code can ever completely eradicate.” Ultimately, the implicit biases either intentionally or inadvertently encoded into the system unravel the pretense of algorithmic objectivity. The tool itself may be unbiased, but the coding that governs its decision-making may not be and such encoded biases call into question the quality and objectivity of the tools’ search results in general.

The implications of Reidsma’s study for social science researchers and librarians are troubling. Algorithm-driven suggestions from a discovery layer revealed implicit bias in areas dealing with gender, race, and religion, key areas of study in Anthropology, Criminal Justice and Sociology. While the suggestion module in question could be turned off (as Reidsma’s institution eventually did) the fact that such biases could appear to affect search results in one tool should make us reconsider the amount of trust we place in the objectivity of all of our algorithm-driven search tools. If a suggestion tool such as Topic Explorer could provide students with erroneous and biased results, what prevents the discovery layer itself from providing our students with biased and erroneous search results, or worse, excluding useful results due to biased judgments written into its search algorithms? As long as our primary search tools remain “black boxes” there’s really no way to know. Thus, we should view the results provided by these tools, and the methods by which those results were provided, as critically as we might view the judgment of a cataloger in assigning LCSH, and demand similar standards to ensure their objectivity.

Vaidhyanathan (2011) states, “When we choose to rely blindly on a pervasive, powerful gatekeeper that we do not understand we are destined to make monumental mistakes” (p. 80).

In order to avoid such mistakes, information professionals specializing in the social sciences have a duty to be forcefully and consistently engaged with our vendors. As the primary customer base for these search tools, we should demand a higher degree of accountability and responsiveness from them. There should be greater transparency regarding the algorithms used to select, sort, and rank search results, and clarity regarding the criteria used to weigh those rankings. We should expect greater responsiveness from vendors when concerns regarding their system’s default settings are raised, and we should play a larger role in the construction and maintenance of their classification systems. To demand any less of those whose services we have purchased, and into whose hands we have placed the information needs of our users, is to fail in our responsibilities to those users and to our profession as a whole.

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SEARCHING FOR RECENT ANTHROPOLOGY AND ARCHAEOLOGY PUBLICATIONS

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Here at Berkeley's George and Mary Foster Anthropology Library, we support researchers who are searching the literature for their coursework or in support of field observations. Yet we regularly find that one of our most basic roles--that of mentor for students in finding anthropological literature--has been one of the most challenging.

As many librarians do, we have anthropology students start searching for articles in *Anthropology Plus*, an EBSCO database which can be searched alongside the general *Academic Search Premier*. We note that *AnthroSource* hosts articles from 32 journals published by the American Anthropological Association. Depending on students' focus, we may mention broader medical or humanities databases such as *PubMed*, *JSTOR*, or *Web of Science*. We have them find books in our catalog and borrow through interlibrary loan. And we also mention Google Scholar for searching and citation chaining, while cautioning about the broad indexing that leads to less relevant and lower quality results.

Yet in classes and individual consultations, we still watch students struggle to find even a handful of highly relevant sources. This is true even when we *know* that there's a body of literature out there (say, on bride abduction in Central Asia) and when we know of key researchers (Cynthia Werner, Noor Borbieva) on that topic.

So if we're not seeing these articles in the databases, how can anthropology students themselves find books and articles written by researchers in their fields? Other than pointing them to our long campus list of databases and suggesting they try the ones flagged as anthropology, what can we do? In this article, we'll talk about what we learned when searching key databases for articles by our own faculty members and how that changed our advice for students in the field.

Background and Methods

The George and Mary Foster Anthropology Library is one of 25 libraries at the University of California, Berkeley. Founded in the 1950s, it has a collection of 80,000 volumes, about half of which are in nearby off-site storage. The library supports a department of 27 anthropology and archaeology faculty members, 100 grad students, 100 majors, and many more undergraduates taking an elective or core course.

This year, a team of librarians in the social sciences at UC Berkeley have been studying the references in faculty publications to better understand what foreign languages are being used in research, and whether we're effectively supporting faculty research with our current purchases. For this project, we compiled a list of publications by Berkeley anthropology faculty, published between 2013 and 2017. Because finding anthropology research can be so difficult, we noted which databases indexed each publication on our list. We hoped that by learning where a faculty member's publications could be found, we'd get a better sense of where students were likely to find relevant publications--and where a search for those same articles would be fruitless.

C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T
Publication Title	Journal/Book Title	Fac Pub Type	Type	Google Scholar	Scopus	Web of Science	Dept Website	Academia.edu	Anthro Plus	Anthro Source	CV online	JSTOR	PubMed	Project Muse	IBSS	Column1	Academic Source Complete
Demands of the day: On the logic of anthropological inquiry		Cultural Anthropology	Book	1				1									1
Foucault's Untimely Struggle	A Companion to Foucault	Cultural Anthropology	Chapter	1	1												
France in Morocco: Technocosmopolitanism and middling modernism	Revisiting the Colonial Past in Morocco	Cultural Anthropology	Chapter			1	1										
Grazing to Gravy: Faunal Remains and Indications of Genízaro Foodways on the Spanish Colonial Frontier of New Mexico	International Journal of Historical Archaeology	Archaeology	Article	1	1	1		1	1								1
Site Interiography and Geophysical Scanning: Interpreting the Texture and Form of Archaeological Deposits with Ground-Penetrating Radar	Journal of Archaeological Method and Theory	Archaeology	Article	1	1	1		1	1							1	1
The color of transformation: Investigations into heat treatment of Natufian artifacts from Hayonim Terrace (Israel)	Mediterranean Archaeology and Archaeometry	Archaeology	Article		1												
A horse-travel approach to landscape archaeology	Historical Archaeology	Archaeology	Article	1	1	1			1							1	1
Raiding Frontier of Colonial Northern New Mexico	Historical Archaeology	Archaeology	Article					1									
Pobladores of New Mexico's Final Colonial Frontier	Archaeology of the American Southwest	Archaeology	Chapter					1									
The Berkeley-Abiquiú Collaborative Archaeology (BACA) Project	Kiva	Archaeology	Article					1									
Hiding in Plain Sight: Engineered Colonial Landscapes and Indigenous Reinvention on the New Mexican Frontier	Rethinking Colonial Pasts Through Archaeology	Archaeology	Chapter	1				1									
Prelude to the Anthropocene: Two new North American Land Mammal Ages (NALMAs)	Anthropocene Review	Archaeology	Article	1	1			1									
Disappearing mangroves: The epistemic politics of climate adaptation in Guyana	Cultural Anthropology	Cultural Anthropology	Article	1	1	1			1	1						1	1
Imagining the Ordinary in Participatory Climate Adaptation	Weather Climate And Society	Cultural Anthropology	Article	1		1											
Entrepreneurial Selves: Neoliberal Respectability and the Making of a Caribbean Middle Class	Hahr-Hispanic American Historical Review	Cultural Anthropology	Review	1		1											1

Figure 1: Spreadsheet of publications by faculty member's subfield, type, and where found.

To compile this list, we searched each faculty member's name in indexes such as *Google Scholar*, *Scopus*, *Web of Science*, *PubMed*, *JSTOR*, *Anthropology Plus*, *AnthroSource*, and *Academic Search Complete*, and noted which publications appeared and whether the database classified it as an article, book, chapter, or review. (We limited the search to 2013-2017 to capture recent articles, and at times, we used location or topic to find researchers with common names.) We then clustered the results by the researcher's self-described focus of archaeology, cultural anthropology (including one linguist), or medical anthropology (including one biological anthropologist), to better understand how research is indexed by subfield. Below, we report our results and the implications for assisting students in their searches.

Results from Our Project

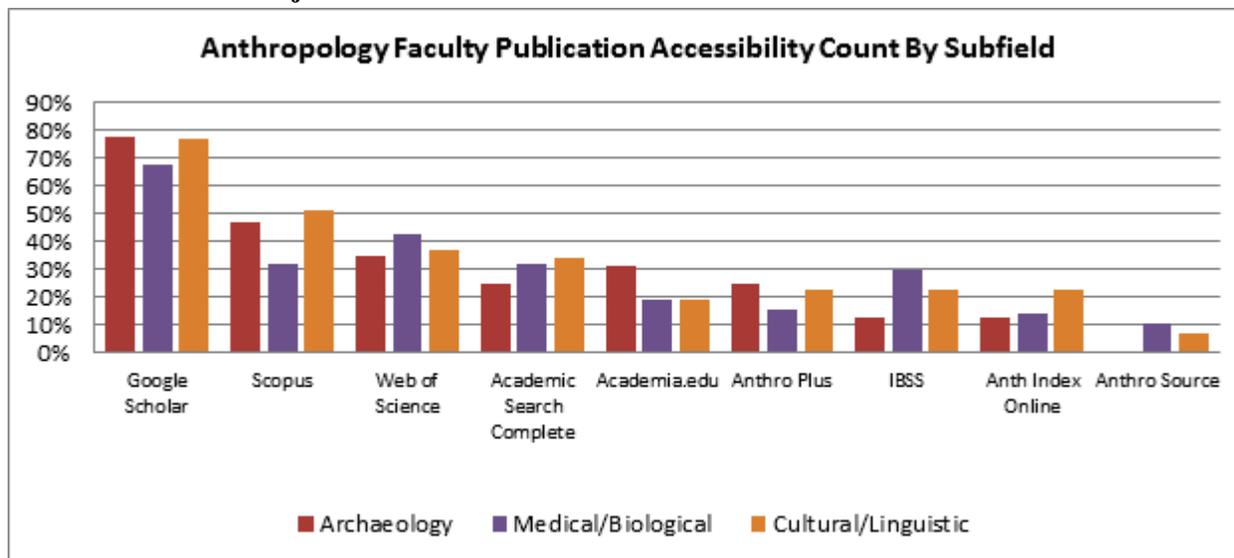


Figure 2: Indexing rates of publications by databases.

Even in this limited set of anthropologists, we found that coverage of publications varied by subdiscipline. The discipline-specific *Anthropology Plus* indexed 25% of our archaeologists' publications, 23% of cultural anthropologists' publications, and 16% of medical anthropology publications, while *AnthroSource* indexed only 1%, 7%, and 11%, respectively.

At the suggestion of anthropology librarian Wade Kotter, we also considered *Anthropological Index Online*, a free index available if your university can't afford subject specific databases. We found that AIO indexed our cultural and medical anthropologists nearly as well as the paid *Anthropology Plus*, but was less effective for our archaeological publications; it also has the weakness of not including searchable abstracts or links to full text.

Although we appreciated the quality and focus of results in disciplinary databases, we found a greater proportion of our publications in *Google Scholar* and *Web of Science*. Perhaps because archaeology depends heavily on book chapters (see below), we were three times as likely to find our archaeologists' publications in *Google Scholar* as in *Anthropology Plus*.

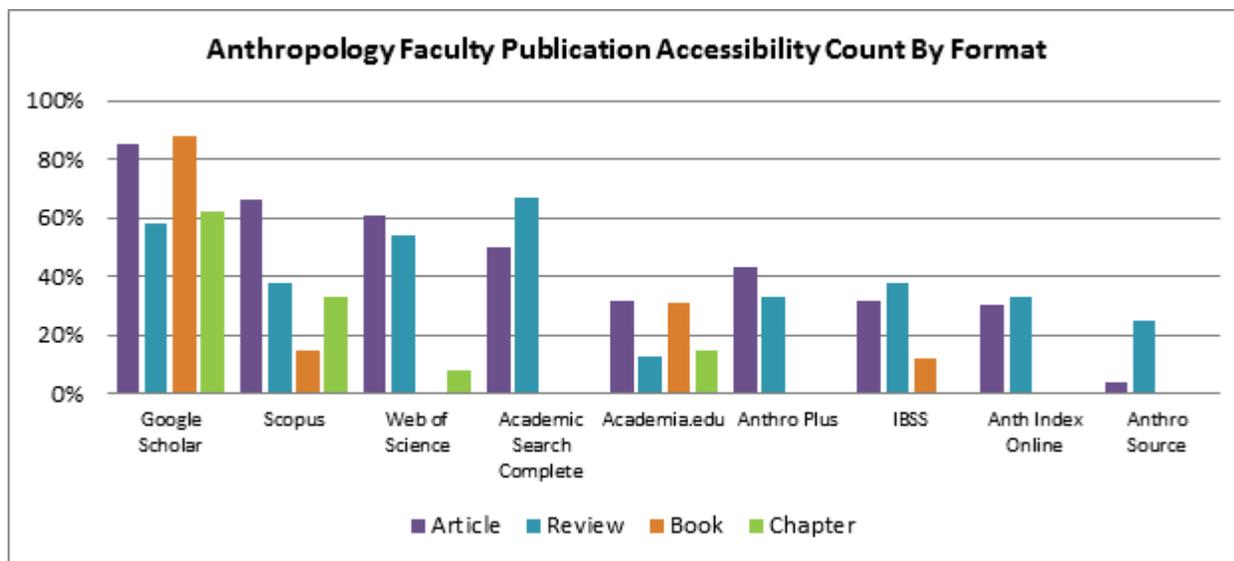


Figure 3:
Accessibility
of
publications
by format.

We also considered where each type of research output could be found. While *Anthropology Plus* was the best disciplinary database, finding 43% of articles and 33% of book reviews (*AnthroSource* had only 4% of articles and 25% of reviews), we were surprised to realize it did not index books or chapters.

This is a critical gap in coverage, given what archaeologists have told us about the importance of chapters in their discipline. Even our library catalog often lacks searchable chapter titles and authors, meaning that students using a typical search strategy of anthropological databases plus book catalog may not realize what they're missing. *Google Scholar* had the best coverage of chapters, but they're hidden among dross and you can't facet a search by publication type. *Scopus* was a distant second.

Reflections

This project has already changed our advice to students and faculty in anthropology. We direct fewer researchers to *AnthroSource*, as its high quality but limited coverage of articles and reviews makes it less useful as a starting search. Even *Anthropology Plus* missed all chapters and many substantial articles by our researchers. We found that core anthropology and archaeology publications often turned up in medical, food studies, geographic, sociology, history, or neuroscience journals or books, meaning that students need to use general databases along with other specialty indexes to find anthropological works.

Although we knew book chapters were important, we hadn't realized the impact of their absence in most indexes. While skeptical of *Google Scholar's* attempts to widely index gray literature, which dilutes search results, we found more chapters there than anywhere else. (In one case, it tagged an epigraph attributed to our professor as the chapter's author, though, indicating how page-specific the algorithm for finding chapter authors must be!) *Scopus* was more easily searchable, but given *Google Scholar's* wider coverage, we'll recommend it for students needing chapters in addition to the standard "five peer-reviewed articles" for an academic paper.

Although we'd recommended them, we had an intuitive sense that *JSTOR* and *PubMed* weren't as fruitful even for searches in medical anthropology, and we indeed saw few enough results that we dropped them from our graphs above. Finding that *Scopus*, *Web of Science*, and the *International Bibliography of Social Sciences* performed relatively well, we are now more likely to recommend them to anthropology researchers.

This project did have its limitations. First, our department has a strong focus on cultural anthropology, archaeology, and medical anthropology, meaning that these results may not apply as well to primatology, folkloristics, or linguistic

anthropology. Second, the sample size was small. And third, searching by author is useful (if the author's publications aren't in the database, a subject search won't pull that article) but is an imprecise estimate of whether students can find these same articles with a subject search.

Still, having a better sense of the value of our indexes has shifted which databases we recommend to students in classes, consultations, and LibGuides. We now recommend a broader set of databases, as well as alternate sources when researchers need to find chapters in edited volumes. We have also come to believe that we need to push subscription databases to better index subfields outside of cultural anthropology, and book chapters in particular.

Finally, this also gives us something to take back to our faculty, who believe their reputation precedes them. While Berkeley anthropologists are prolific and well-known, their works remain hidden even in a systematic search. Without open access articles, institutional repositories, better indexes, and academic networking sites such as ResearchGate or Academia.edu, there's no guarantee their work will be found. Even the brightest insights will be inaccessible unless we ensure that anthropological and archaeological research is well-indexed, sustainably preserved, and easily searchable on the Internet.

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ACRL BOOKS

ACRL publishes a range of books to assist academic librarians in developing their professional careers, managing their institutions, and increasing their awareness of developments in librarianship, providing timely, thought-provoking, and practical content and research to academic and research librarians worldwide. Some recent titles:

- *Applying Library Values to Emerging Technology: Decision-Making in the Age of Open Access, Maker Spaces, and the Ever-Changing Library* [linked to: <https://www.alastore.ala.org/content/applying-library-values-emerging-technology-decision-making-age-open-access-maker-spaces-and>]
- *Framing Information Literacy: Teaching Grounded in Theory, Pedagogy, and Practice* (Publications in Librarianship #73), 6-Volume Set [let's link to the set in the Store here, and each individual volume below; if the links aren't live yet, let's use a "Coming soon!" burst]
 - Volume 1: Research as Inquiry
 - Volume 2: Information has Value
 - Volume 3: Searching as Strategic Exploration
 - Volume 4: Information Creation as a Process
 - Volume 5: Scholarship as Conversation
 - Volume 6: Authority is Constructed and Contextual



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RESOURCE REVIEW

TDAR: THE DIGITAL ARCHAEOLOGICAL RECORD

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Reviewed: March 2018

Publisher: Digital Antiquity (<https://www.digitalantiquity.org/>)

URL: <https://www.tdar.org/>

Cost: Searching is open to any user. Downloading content is free for registered users. The database has no registration fee. Uploading new content costs \$10 per file (up to 99 files) and \$5 per file for uploading over 99 files.

Coverage Dates: The database web site does not explicitly describe the overall coverage of the database.

Introduction

The Digital Archaeological Record (tDAR) database “is an international digital repository for the digital records of archaeological investigations,” maintained by the Digital Antiquity organization. Digital Antiquity is “a multi-institutional, non-profit organization dedicated to ensuring the long-term preservation of irreplaceable archaeological data.” It is affiliated with the University of Arkansas, Arizona State University, The Pennsylvania State University, the SRI Foundation, Washington State University, and the University of York. The database was originally conceived of by a 2006 National Science Foundation-funded archaeology and computer science team led by Keith Kintigh and K. Selçuk Candan, both from Arizona State University. The Digital Antiquity organization has continued to receive support from the NSF and the Mellon Foundation.

The database serves two broad functions. It is a digital repository used by researchers for storing and presenting the research data created during archaeological investigations, potentially for reuse by other researchers, and also to fulfill grant-funding agency requirements. Researchers who wish to contribute to tDAR can upload a variety of research files, including datasets, documents, images, geospatial data, and archaeological and geological sensor technologies (such as GPS data or soil resistivity data). The database also presents a substantial volume of bibliographic citations for the “gray literature” of archaeological reports (such as site reports) produced by archaeologists. Many of these reports are uploaded by researchers, but a large portion of the citations originate from the National Park Service’s National Archaeological Database (NADB). NADB merged with tDAR in 2011 and contributes 350,000 bibliographic citations to tDAR content. This database is not focused on indexing research articles published in scholarly journals.

All data in tDAR is carefully curated by Digital Antiquity. They provide a system of multiple backups, file checking, and data migration. For some file types, in addition to archiving the original files uploaded, tDAR/Digital Antiquity will also transform files into archival quality files. For example, Microsoft Excel files are also maintained as CSV (Comma Separated Value) files.

Search Interface

Any user can access tDAR to search and discover resources in the database. The search interface has a basic mode and an advanced mode. The basic search mode accepts simple keyword searches. In this basic mode, spaces between terms appear to be interpreted as a Boolean AND operator. In the advanced search mode (see *Figure 1*), the user can choose a field (such as institution or site name) to search within. The user can submit a complex search from multiple search boxes logically connected with the ALL or ANY search operators. Advanced searches can be filtered by “Object Type,” such as “document” or “dataset,” and can be sorted by options such as relevance, date, and title. The advanced search offers a very interesting map-based search. Users can draw a square around a geographic area, and the search results are all related to that region. This map-based tool can also be combined with search terms in the search boxes to produce complex searches. Search results are displayed as a list of titles that can be clicked on in order to view the full record. Search results also display the search string used and a map location if one is relevant.

Indexing/Subject Access

As described above, some metadata (such as creator, institution, and site name) displayed in records is indexed to link together similarly tagged records. The search interface also provides users with the option to search using a controlled vocabulary for these fields: investigation (project) type, site type, material type, and culture. The search interface displays the entire controlled vocabulary in a collapsible hierarchical tree. For example, the site type vocabulary includes terms for “house mound” and “petroglyph” among many other choices.

Choose Search Terms

Include in results

Site Names

Geographic Keywords

[+add another search term](#)

Narrow Your Search

Object Type

Document Collection GIS Data Integration

Dataset Coding Sheet 3D & Sensory Data

Project Image Ontology

Limit by geographic region:



Sorting Options and Submit

Sort By

Figure 1: Advanced search mode.

RecordFormat/Layout

The records in tDAR generally have copious metadata and descriptions (see *Figure 2*). Depending on how the metadata was incorporated into tDAR, database records display the record title, creator, site or project name, year, and an abstract if one exists. Creator and site/project are displayed as clickable links to other records. If the record is part of a larger collection of records, the record collection name is displayed as a clickable link to all of the materials in the collection. Similarly, records also display clickable metadata, such as culture, time period, geographic region, and institution. For records associated with radiocarbon dates, those dates are all listed in the record. Records that describe datasets display a grid that describes each dataset column and whether coding sheets exist for the data.

Koster-N Horizon 11 Flotation

Part of the [Koster Site, IL \(11GE4\)](#) project

Creator(s): [Andrea Boon](#) ; [Sarah Neusius](#)

Year: 2011

Summary

Faunal identifications from flotation made by Andrea Boon as part of her MA thesis research. There are no other flotation bone identifications for this horizon.

This Resource is Part of the Following Collections

[Prairie Peninsula](#)

Cite this Record

Koster-N Horizon 11 Flotation. Andrea Boon, Sarah Neusius. 2011 (tDAR id: 402398) ; doi:10.6067/XCV8QF8VM5

Restricted Access Some or all of this resource's attached file(s) are **not** publicly accessible. They will be released on Mar 4, 2021

Data Set Structure

Measurement Column
 Count Column
 Coded Column
 Filename Column
 Integration Column (has Ontology)

Table Information: Hor-11-BoonFlotation

Column Name	Data Type	Type	Category	Coding Sheet	Ontology
# Item	BIGINT	Count	uncategorized	none	none
Comments	VARCHAR	Uncoded Value	uncategorized	none	none
Anml Mod	BIGINT	Coded Value	uncategorized	Boon Hor 11 Animal Modification	Fauna Gnawing Ontology
Cult Mod	BIGINT	Coded Value	uncategorized	Boon Hor 11 Cultural Modification	Fauna Worked Bone Ontology
Wthrng	BIGINT	Coded Value	uncategorized	Boon Hor 11 Weathering	Fauna Weathering Ontology
Prox	BIGINT	Coded Value	uncategorized	Boon Hor 11 Proximity	Fauna Proximal-Distal/Portion Ontology



Downloads 1

Restricted Access Some or all of this resource's attached file(s) are **not** publicly accessible. They will be released on Mar 4, 2021

Hor-11-BoonFlotation.xlsx
 (221.48kb)
 Translated version Hor-11-BoonFlotation_translated.xlsx
 (364.31kb)
 Data column(s) in this dataset have been associated with coding sheet(s) and translated:

[Request Access, Submit Correction, Comment \(requires login\)](#)

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Basic Information

RESOURCE PROVIDER

Indiana University Of Pennsylvania

DOI

doi:10.6067/XCV8QF8VM5

LANGUAGE

English

TDAR ID

402398

Figure 2: Record display.

Document Availability

Many datasets and site reports are restricted (as expected for archaeological data), but release dates and contact names are prominently listed. For resources that are already open, the record provides a link to the document or dataset for downloading. Users are prompted to log in before downloading documents or data.

Accessibility

The database appears visually accessible. For example, there were no instances of red/green text links that might be hidden to colorblind users. Each record in the database appears to have a non-session permanent link, making references back to tDAR data straightforward. The links to records were submitted to [WAVE: Web Accessibility Evaluation Tool](#). No critical problems were identified, but there may be page coding that could warrant additional review.

Help

The database provides a help page with links to useful information about both searching and uploading data into the repository. Tips for the basic and advanced searches are helpful, and include information on filters and sorting. The help file provides an interesting data dictionary for the whole database. Unfortunately, the help file makes use of in-page frames. This sometimes makes the page formatting/layout in the help file confusing to look at, and some content is hard to see.

Overall Review

The Digital Archaeological Record database appears to be an extremely useful tool for archaeological researchers, such as professors, graduate students, and field researchers. Though similar databases, such as the Archaeological Data Service, exist for archaeologists working in Europe, there is currently no equivalent tool for researchers of North American archaeology to archive their research data and site reports for presentation to their colleagues. The Digital Archaeological Record database presents a robust set of search tools and well-constructed record-level metadata. Because a very significant portion of the objects in the database require special permission to obtain access, this database might not be the best first destination for casual researchers or undergraduates who lack a channel for gaining permission and access to the materials.

DIGITAL ARCHAEOLOGICAL ARCHIVE OF COMPARATIVE SLAVERY (DAACS)

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Reviewed: March 2018

Publisher: The Thomas Jefferson Foundation

URL: <https://www.daacs.org/>

Cost: Free web access

Coverage Dates: The database web site does not explicitly describe the overall coverage of the database.

The Digital Archaeological Archive of Comparative Slavery (DAACS) is a free web-based resource which was created to “foster inter-site, comparative archaeological research on slavery throughout the Chesapeake, the Carolinas, and the Caribbean.” It is a collaborative effort led by archaeologists, historians, and scholars from related disciplines at U.S. and Caribbean research institutions who are interested in making this type of data more widely accessible to researchers. This initiative is one of the first of its kind and aspires to “serve as a model for the use of the Web to foster new kinds of scholarly collaboration and data sharing.” One of their primary goals is to further the study and understanding of slave-based societies that evolved during the colonial and antebellum periods in the Atlantic World.

DAACS allows researchers to compare artifact assemblages and archaeological site data across more than 80 different archaeological sites by viewing data by site or by performing searches using its powerful database. Researchers can browse collections by site using the Site Research Summaries under the Archaeological Sites tab. These summaries are organized by Overview, Background, Before You Begin, Features, Chronology, Harris matrix, Maps & Images, and Bibliography sections specific to each site. Archaeological data contributed to the project comes from sites in Maryland, Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Barbados, Dominica, Jamaica, Montserrat, and St. Kitts and Nevis. Some of the archaeological data included in DAACS comes from excavations conducted at Thomas Jefferson's homes at Monticello and Poplar Forest (Virginia), George Washington's Mount Vernon (Virginia), Andrew Jackson's The Hermitage (Tennessee), James Madison's Montpelier (Virginia), Robert E. Lee's family plantation at Stratford Hall (Virginia), and Lord Baltimore, Charles Calvert's Mattapan (Maryland).

The DAACS database is a relational SQL database with detailed data on over 2 million artifacts, 50,000 excavated contexts, and thousands of objects, including 3D Laser-scanned artifact images. One can perform searches in the DAACS database by Artifact, Site Information, Document, Mean Ceramic Date, Object, Context, or Image, which allows for refined queries. Query results can be viewed online or downloaded into the researcher's preferred statistical and mapping applications. For more information on the Database, one can visit its [About](#) page.

The screenshot shows the DAACS website home page. At the top left is the DAACS logo, and to its right is the text "Digital Archaeological Archive of Comparative Slavery". Below this is a navigation bar with links: "Archaeological Sites", "Query the Database", "About the Database", "Research", "About DAACS", and "Sponsors". On the right side of the navigation bar is a search box labeled "Search the Site..." with a "SEARCH" button. The main content area features a large image of a ceramic cup on the left. To its right is a text block with the heading "Explore. Analyze. Discover." and a "Learn More >" button. Below this is a "Featured Galleries" section with four gallery cards, each containing an image of an artifact and a brief description: "New Street, Port Royal", "The South Grove Midden", "The Triplex", and "Colonoware". A "View All Galleries >" link is located at the top right of the gallery section.

Figure 1: The DAACS home page.

A Research section includes a Galleries segment which highlights the types of artifacts recovered from archaeological sites whose data was included in the DAACS database. These images allow researchers to view unusual and exceptional examples from these collections, such as this reconstructed Colonoware bowl found in South Carolina. Colonoware are handmade low-fired ceramics attributed to enslaved Africans, and also Native Americans, which are found in many colonial period contexts from Virginia to the Carolinas. More than 135,000 Colonoware sherds have been meticulously

and systematically cataloged and are included in the DAACS searchable database to provide the largest research collection of its kind.



Figure 2: Example of colonoware bowl, reconstructed from sherds found on Yaughan Plantation, South Carolina.

Other types of colonial period artifacts, as well as images and maps of excavations, are also included in this section. These images, along with other data, may be used following the Creative Commons copyright license explained on the [Guidelines for Use](#) page.

Also in the Research section is an extensive bibliography of all works referenced throughout the DAACS site. There are hundreds of articles, unpublished papers, primary sources, and books relating to slavery, archaeology, and colonial America which may serve as an excellent resource for academics and students, as well as librarians. Along with these sources are theses and dissertations which have utilized data accessed through the DAACS site in their research. There are links to the full text of many of these theses and dissertations. Also included are the full text of nearly fifty Presented Papers and Scientific Posters on slavery in the Atlantic World.

The DAACS research program began in 2000 and has been developed and maintained by The Department of Archaeology at Monticello with financial support from The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, The Thomas Jefferson Foundation, the National Endowment for the Humanities, The Reed Foundation and others. The project is ongoing, so new archaeological data are added regularly. To learn more about the project and this great resource for students and researchers in the fields of anthropology and history, visit the [DAACS web site](#).

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