

## LAW AND POLITICAL SCIENCE SECTION NEWS

Volume 1, Number 1

Association of College &amp; Research Libraries

November, 1985

## NOTES FROM THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

At the Executive Committee meeting of LPSS in Chicago a number of steps were taken to foster a more strongly-involved section membership. In response to an ACRL request, the Law and Political Science Section will undergo a review and evaluation of its activities. Roberta Palen was appointed chair of the Review and Planning Committee. More information on this Committee and its tasks for the year is to be found in this issue of LPSS News.

The Executive Committee also approved a motion to publish a newsletter twice a year, once in November and once in May. Final arrangements were made for the Chicago Program and the planning for the New York Program got under way. New appointments are: GODORT Liaison-Kate Adams; ACRL Board Liaison-Carole Larson; and Review and Planning Committee Chair-Roberta Palen. The results of the election for LPSS officers were announced. Peter Allison was elected Vice-Chair/Chair Elect; Beth Sibley is the new Secre-

tary; and Rose Mary Allen Little is Member-at-Large, serving a two-year term. The Publications Committee reported that there had been no progress on the Mersky bibliography Law Books for Non-Law Libraries and Laymen.

## SECTION ACTIVITIES

## CHICAGO PROGRAM, 1985

On Sunday, July 7, 1985, LPSS put on a most successful program on municipal reference sources at the American Congress Hotel. Chair Peter Malanchuk presided over a four speaker panel that included: Linda Benigno, Head of Reference, Municipal Reference Library of Chicago; Patricia Coatsworth, Head Librarian and Director of Publications of the Charles E. Merriam Center Library; Greg Jackson, Director of Research at the International City Management Association; and John Niles, an independent consultant associated with the development of LOGIN, Control Data Corporation's "Local Government Information Network."

Law and Political Science Section News (ISSN 0885-7342) is published twice a year by the Law and Political Science Section of the Association of College and Research Libraries, a division of the American Library Association at 50 E. Huron St., Chicago, IL 60611. First-class postage paid for at Chicago, Illinois, and at additional mailing offices. For extra copies, inquire at American Library Association, 50 E. Huron St., Chicago, IL 60611.

Editor: Natalie Schatz, Librarian, Edwin Ginn Library, The Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy, Tufts University, Medford, MA 02155; (617) 381-3273. Chair: Kathleen Gunning, University Libraries, University of Houston, University Park, Houston, Texas 77004. President, ACRL: Sharon Anne Hogan.

Production and Circulation Office: 50 E. Huron St., Chicago, IL 60611. Inclusion of an article in LPSS News does not constitute official endorsement by ACRL or ALA.

To the postmaster: Send address changes to Law and Political Science Section News, 50 E. Huron St., Chicago, IL 60611.

© American Library Association 1985. All material in this Journal subject to copyright by the American Library Association may be photocopied for the noncommercial purpose of scientific or educational advancement.

Called the Joint Reference Library until 1977, the Merriam Center Library serves both an academic constituency and a professional user community drawn from the organizations and associations that share its quarters at 1313 East 60th St. on the University of Chicago campus. These include: the International Association of Assessing Officers, the American Public Works Association, and the Council of Planning Librarians. Founded in 1930, when public administration was a progressive movement more than an academic discipline, the Library has continuously benefitted from its interaction with a network of affiliated organizations which have included the American Planning Association and the predecessors of the Government Finance Officers Association, the Council of State Governments, and the National League of Cities.

A unique collection of materials documenting the early years of public administration is perhaps the collection's most notable feature. The Library also functions as a collection of records for the various 1313 organizations and the personalities associated with them, including Louis Brownlow and three generations of Merriam's. It is best known, of course, for its monthly reference and acquisitions tool, Recent Publications on Governmental Problems (RPGP). Almost 800 periodicals, including many not indexed anywhere else, are scanned for possible inclusion in RPGP. Listings are selective and reflect the interests of 1313 researchers. Nonetheless, RPGP's coverage of books and pamphlets issued by a wide range of groups and associations has made it much in demand as a library acquisitions tool.

The Glidden-Marchus' Library Classification for Public Administration Materials, used in RPGP, was developed at the Merriam Center Library. It is used by about one hundred U.S. libraries including the Bureau of the Census Library, California's Bureau of

Governmental Research Library, and the Chicago Municipal Reference Library. Its distinguishing feature is a subject organization by topic with subdivisions by geographic unit and level of government. The Library of Congress system expects to issue a loose-leaf update of the Glidden-Marchus scheme very shortly.

The Chicago Municipal Reference Library is an agency of the City of Chicago. Although it is not an archive, its primary mission is the filing, indexing and preservation of all official city documents, including pamphlets, maps, news releases and reports prepared for city agencies by outside consultants. The Library prepares a checklist of Chicago documents that also includes the publications of Chicago Transit, the Board of Education, and other independent local taxing authorities. Copies of the checklist are free on request. In addition to municipal documents, the Library also collects monographs and periodicals in relevant areas of public administration such as housing, transportation, law enforcement, and criminal justice. Pertinent state reports, trade books on Chicago, annual reports from local banks and watchdog groups are also collected. Eighty percent of the Library's holdings are cataloged via OCLC.

Major activities of the Library include updating the municipal code (the Library's most often requested item) via a cardfile of new ordinances drawn from the city council's Journal of Proceedings. Indexes are also prepared for certain important local journals, such as the Chicago Lawyer, which are not indexed by any of the commercial indexes. Over 2,500 articles per month are added to a Chicago clipping file that is drawn from over forty neighborhood papers as well as the Chicago Tribune, the Chicago Sun-Times, the New York Times, and the Wall Street Journal. In order to back up this heavily-used resource and ultimately preserve space for future

growth, the clipping file has been microfilmed through 1980.

The International City Management Association is a professional association made up of high-ranking, non-elective city managers. It is more than sixty years old, has a staff of seventy, and serves seven thousand members. It is second only to the U.S. Census Bureau as a source of local government research.

ICMA's goal is to provide the kinds of information its members need. The staff regularly surveys both members and elected officials to determine changing local government data needs. Managers are primarily interested in data that permit them to meaningfully compare their situation with that of other jurisdictions. Scholars, whose interests are frequently more longitudinal and multifaceted, often request ICMA data in tape form in order to manipulate the raw data for their purposes.

Eighty percent of the material in the Municipal Yearbook, ICMA's most popular publication, is not published elsewhere. However, many of the tables are really reconfigured versions of Census data. ICMA independently conducts six to eight nationwide surveys each year. It also makes occasional arrangements to publish statistics gathered by other researchers.

As the Census Bureau cuts back on its data collecting efforts, ICMA will have less data to report for its members. It plans instead to put greater emphasis on an array of new services. These include: management information reports, which will provide practical, state-of-the-art advice on how to survey public opinion, plan for capital expenditures or comply with the provisions of the Fair Labor Standards Act; a quarterly survey of new innovations in local government; a new magazine focused on current issues in public management; and an electronic

network aimed at local government officials. In the future, more emphasis will be placed on providing data specially tailored for the needs of individual members. City managers will be able to designate the localities or jurisdictions with which they would like to compare themselves. In a similar vein, a data inquiry service by telephone will be offered to interested members.

Now used by over four hundred people in two hundred fifty organizations, LOGIN is part of a growing trend toward computer-based professional networks providing both information retrieval and messaging services. Designed to serve the needs of an end-user community of professional decision-makers, LOGIN emphasizes verbal descriptions of projects, both ongoing and completed, together with the names of contact people connected with these "innovations." Because the system is not designed to serve the needs of students or scholars, no attempt has been made to market it to academic libraries.

A key feature of the network is its "quest response exchange" whereby individuals can query the network about potential solutions to a particular problem and receive responses both through the network and via mail or phone. So far there have been over five thousand queries, more than seventy-five percent of which have received some sort of response. LOGIN offers its users access to Urban Affairs Abstracts as well as executive summaries of selected topical publications from experts and organizations in the area of public administration. Members who contribute useful material to the network receive compensatory credit against their network bill. In addition to an on-line newsletter, an electronic bulletin board, and computer conferencing facilities, LOGIN is also providing a range of auxiliary networks devoted to special topics such as federal funding reports, and

legislative and regulatory updates.

Peter Allison  
New York University

#### NEW YORK PROGRAM, 1986

Planning for the New York Program is underway. The topic of the session will be "Issues in Providing Legal Information to Non-Lawyers." A panel of speakers will discuss: selecting a core collection, ethical considerations, online issues, and how far to go in providing information and staff training. This program will be co-sponsored by GODORT. The Program Committee is soliciting names of speakers. If you have any suggestions, please contact: Natalie Schatz, Ginn Library, The Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy, Tufts University, Medford, MA 02155.

#### REVIEW AND PLANNING COMMITTEE

ACRL has initiated a mechanism whereby all sections will be reviewed periodically "to ensure that each is active and is receiving necessary support, and to seek identification of problems that the unit may be having within the ACRL organizational structure." LPSS is scheduled to be reviewed during September, 1986. In view of this, Chair Kathleen Gunning appointed a Review and Planning Committee at the ALA annual conference in Chicago. The Committee will prepare the review of the section required by ACRL and will develop plans for future LPSS goals and activities.

In recent years, the section has become more active, as evidenced by at least two highly successful programs at ALA. But committees are more than programs. The Review and Planning Committee hopes to determine goals towards which we might work and to identify activities which can be un-

dertaken to make LPSS an exciting section to belong to and a section which will further our professional development.

The Committee is looking for ideas -- what do you, the members, want? Why have you joined LPSS? What do you want to receive from the organization? What can you give to LPSS? Should LPSS even exist? Why or why not? In sum, where are we going and how are we going to get there?

For those who wonder how a section is reviewed, there is a set of questions which each section must answer.

1. What is the unit's charge or purpose?
2. What were the unit's (current year) goals and how did these goals relate to the unit's charge or purpose?
3. Briefly describe the plans or activities the unit undertook to achieve these goals.
4. What specific actions or activities did the unit take? How successful and/or effective was the unit in fulfilling its charge and achieving its goals?
5. What budgetary or staff support or other support did the unit require from ACRL this year?
6. What are the unit's goals for next year and plans for achieving those goals?
7. What budgetary or staff support or other support will the unit require from ACRL next year?
8. How can ACRL help to make your unit more effective? Can you identify obstacles which have reduced your effectiveness?
9. At what point in time does the unit anticipate fulfilling the charge or achieving the purpose mentioned in number 1 above? Should the dissolution of the unit be considered at that time?

Send your ideas, comments, and suggestions for the future of LPSS to the Review and Planning Committee Chair: Roberta Palen, Box 294 Univer-

sity Station, Syracuse, New York 13210 (home address).

#### RECENT PUBLICATIONS

##### SOURCES FOR U.S. LAW

If students seem baffled by technical definitions of legal terms found in Black's Law Dictionary, try using The Guide to American Law (St. Paul: West Publishing Company, 1984). This multi-volume reference defines and describes legal principles, provides information on prominent individuals, and discusses historical movements and events. Federal regulatory agencies and departments are briefly described.

Definitions and descriptions are written in non-legal terms. Numerous illustrations are informative and interesting; check those for "nonconforming use" and "abandonment."

The Guide promises to be useful in filling the gap between a legal dictionary and a general encyclopedia. Students should be less frustrated and librarians grateful for this set.

Roberta Palen  
Syracuse University

The following works are some which law and political science librarians may wish to consider adding to their reference collections. They have proved helpful in locating fugitive facts and should fit into most reference budgets.

Cohen, Morris L., and Berring, Robert C. How to Find the Law. 8th ed. St. Paul, MN: West Publishing Company, 1983. This is the latest edition of a standard introduction to American law. The opening chapters describe the American system of law and how it works. Later chapters concentrate on particular sources of

legal information, such as looseleaves or reporters. How to Find the Law is a good introduction to how the different legal resources fit into one framework.

Dornette, W. Stuart, and Cross, Robert R. Federal Judiciary Almanac works well as a biographical directory, with information on current federal judges of the Supreme Court, Circuit and District Courts, and special courts such as the Tax Court. It also provides comprehensive information on each court, including statutory authority, addresses and telephone numbers for the courts, times and places of holding court, and statistics and maps for the courts. The information on the special courts can be especially useful.

Foster, Lynn, and Boast, Carol. Subject Compilations of State Laws: Research Guide and Annotated Bibliography. Westport, CN: Greenwood Press, 1981. Nyberg, Cheryl, and Boast, Carol. Subject Compilations of State Laws 1979-1983: Research Guide and Annotated Bibliography. Westport, CN: Greenwood Press, 1984. As is stated in the Preface, these books grew from questions like "What are all the states' laws on \_\_\_?" The arrangement is similar in both works. The first part is a research guide to preparing a subject compilation of state laws. (The update by Nyberg and Boast includes information on compiling states' regulatory law.) The major part of both works consists of an annotated bibliography of compilations of state laws arranged by subject.

Herman, Edward. Locating United States Government Information: A Guide to Sources. Buffalo, NY: William S. Hein & Company, 1983. An outstanding guide to government information sources, this book uses a workbook form that can aid in self education. Reproductions of government documents and reference sources help in illustrating the actual appearance and use of these items.

Reden, Kenneth R. and Vernon, Enid L. Modern Legal Glossary. Charlottesville, VA: Michie Company, 1980. This work does not propose to supplant the standard legal dictionaries like Black's Law Dictionary, but merely to complement them. Definitions are not limited only to legal terms, but include organizations and agencies, foreign terms, and important cases. The writing style is casual and entertaining.

Tim J. Watts  
Valparaiso University

#### SOURCES FOR INTERNATIONAL LAW

Encyclopedia of Public International Law. Published under the auspices of the Max Planck Institute for Comparative Public Law and International Law. Amsterdam: North Holland Publishing Company, 1980-. This monumental work is a major contribution to scholarship in the field of public international law. So far seven of the twelve volumes have been published. Each of the volumes is devoted to a specific topic, making it difficult to locate specific articles within the Encyclopedia. However, that problem should be alleviated when the index is published. The articles, prepared by scores of leading international scholars (the text is in English), are clearly written and contain impressive bibliographies. Articles vary greatly in length depending upon the topic. The Encyclopedia is comprehensive in scope including volumes on such topics as Decisions of International Courts, Peace Treaties, International Organizations, Human Rights, the Individual in International Law, and the Law of the Sea. This set should be purchased by any library with a specialty in international law.

Gross, Leo. Essays in International Law and Organization. Dobbs Y, NY: Transnational Publishers, 1984. This two-volume work, a

selection of papers by Professor Gross, was published on the occasion of his eightieth birthday. Professor Gross is well known for his cogent writings and teachings on the subject of the theory and practice of international law. Through his scholarship, Gross has made a lasting contribution to the development of more effective international institutions. He has contributed the most among his colleagues to the literature of the International Court of Justice; there are a dozen articles on the Court in this collection. Another area of his interest, well-represented in this set, is the development of international law by the United Nations. This book will be a standard reference source for students of international law.

West's International Law Bulletin. West Publishing Company, v. 1, 1983-. \$60 per year. Quarterly. What did international lawyers use for news of their field before West introduced the International Law Bulletin? This quarterly publication contains many valuable and varied features. Each issue has two solid articles on current topics in international law, as, for example, the Bhopal tragedy, and International Commercial Arbitration. These articles are written either by practicing jurists or professors of law. Other features are: Developments in Research, Commercial Law Changes, Foreign Investments around the World, Laws and Cases, and Conferences. Librarians will undoubtedly appreciate the sections on New Publications, Book Reviews, and the selection of articles from International Law Reviews. Each issue contains a great deal of timely information. West's International Law Bulletin is a must purchase for every law school library.

Natalie Schatz  
Tufts University

VIEWS FROM READERS

This is the first issue of Law and Political Science News. We want the newsletter, published twice a year, to help LPSS members receive information on the section, its activities and members. In order to meet this objective, we need your thoughts and opinions. Please fill out the form below and send it to:

Natalie Schatz, Editor, Edwin Ginn Library, The Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy, Tufts University, Medford, MA 02155.

-----

1. On a scale of 1 (excellent) to 5 (poor) this issue of LPSS News contained the information I need \_\_\_\_.

I feel this way because \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_.

2. Topics I would like to see included are: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_.

3. I would be happy to help with future issues of LPSS News by writing an occasional piece.

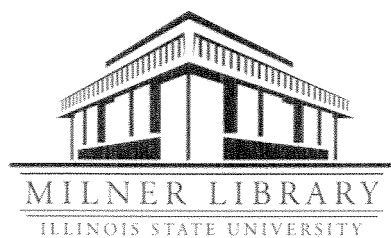
Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone ( \_\_\_\_ ) \_\_\_\_\_

NOTICE: The copyright law of the United States (Title 17 U.S. Code) governs the making of photocopies or printouts of copyright materials. The person using this system is liable for any infringement.

The digital reformatting of this document has been provided by Illinois State University's Digitization Center located in Milner Library.



ILLINOIS STATE  
UNIVERSITY

