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LAW AND POLITICAL SCIENCE SECTION NEWS

Volume 1, Number 2

Association of College & Research Libraries

May 1986

LPSS CHAIRPERSON'S COLUMN

The Law and Political Science Section has begun work on several challenging new projects. As you can see, LPSS now publishes this newsletter, which is being issued twice a year in the fall and spring. The Law and Political Science Section News will include information regarding the activities of the Section and of related professional groups, as well as book reviews, bibliographies, and other articles on topics in law and political science. If you wish to submit an article or news item, please contact Natalie Schatz, Editor.

The Editor will be assisted by a new committee, the Publications Committee. In addition to working on the News, committee members will consider other possible publication projects for the Section.

Another new committee is the Review and Planning Committee. Every ACRL section must undertake periodic reviews of its past achievements and future plans. The LPSS review must be submitted to ACRL in September 1986. In considering the best way to conduct this review, it seemed that a Review and Planning Committee would be useful, both for this task and for the ongoing planning needed by the Section.

I wish to express my appreciation to the Section members who worked hard to initiate these programs, and to urge any other interested people to become active in LPSS. I would like more members of the Section to become involved in LPSS projects. If you would be interested in working on any of these committees, or if you have suggestions for additional projects,

please let me hear from you in writing or in person. Come to the LPSS Executive Board and Committee meetings in New York and begin working with us!

All LPSS members are urged to attend our Conference Program in New York on Sunday, June 29, from 2-4 p.m. This program, "Issues in Providing Legal Information to NonLawyers," will address important service concerns faced by academic, public, and special librarians. The program will be followed by a reception at which LPSS members can enjoy themselves and get to know each other.

An informal dinner group will assemble after the reception. Any LPSS member is welcome to join the Section officers in dining at a moderately-priced restaurant on Sunday evening. I would be eager to hear about good places to eat. Further information on the dinner will be made available at the conference program and reception, so reserve your Sunday afternoon and evening for LPSS! I look forward to seeing many of you at that time.

ACRL LAW AND POLITICAL SCIENCE SECTION EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETINGS

January 18, 1986:

Present: Kate Adams, Kathleen Gunning (chair), Rosemary Allen Little, Peter Malanchuk, Roberta Palen, Natalie Schatz, Beth Sibley (secretary).
Guest: Sharon Hogan, ACRL President.

1. Committee members introduced themselves and the Chair welcomed Sharon Hogan to the meeting.

2. The ACRL Board of Directors approved the LPSS budget for 1985/86. Reimbursement forms should be forwarded to Kathleen Gunning. All reimbursement requests must be submitted to ACRL office by August 15, 1986.

3. The ACRL Section Surcharge proposal was briefly discussed. The Section Surcharge Committee recommended that ACRL members be allowed to choose any two sections without surcharge and the ACRL Board approved this recommendation in July, 1985. The Executive Committee suggested another option that would allow members to choose one type-of-library section and two type-of-activity sections. The Board will consider these two options at its meeting on January 21, 1986

4. Roberta Palen, Chair of the Review and Planning Committee, reported that there was a limited response to the questionnaire distributed to members eliciting their ideas and suggestions for future LPSS goals and activities. The Committee will be meeting following this Executive Board Meeting and will discuss ways to increase member input.

5. The first draft of a strategic plan for ACRL was reviewed. It was prepared by the ACRL Strategic Planning Task Force and will be used to guide the development of ACRL between 1986 and 1990. The plan was published in the December 1985 issue of C & R L News. An open forum will be held Monday, January 20, to discuss and comment on the plan. Roberta Palen agreed to attend the forum.

January 21, 1986:

Present: K. Adams, R. Allen Little, P.

Allison, R. Palen, N. Schatz, C. Larson, P. Malanchuk, K. Gunning, M. Lange, C. Bourdon.

The Executive Board resumed discussion of items on the Agenda approved at the first Executive Board Meeting.

San Francisco Conference Program Planning Committee Report

Peter Allison, Chair of the San Francisco Program Committee, reported that the committee is considering a program on "grey literature," fugitive literature such as that produced by think tanks, contract literature, municipal reports, etc. Malcolm Hamilton, who does a column on working papers, is a possible speaker. A faculty member who uses this material for research could also be on the program.

Review and Planning Committee

Roberta Palen, Chair, reported on the work done for the section review mandated by ACRL. The committee is preparing a draft of the report which will be sent to Executive Board members prior to the New York meeting. Final revisions can be made at the Annual Conference and the report will be submitted to ACRL this summer.

The next project for the Committee will be the writing of an Orientation and Procedures Manual for Section officers and committee members. Joan Worley is liaison to LPSS from the ACRL Task Force which is working with sections to prepare these manuals.

Law and Political Science Section News

Marta Lange has agreed to chair the Publications Committee, which will work with Natalie Schatz, Newsletter Editor.

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.

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Chair: Kathleen Gunning, University Libraries, University of Houston, University Park, Houston, Texas 77004. President, ACRL: Sharon Anne Hogan.

Claims and address changes should be sent to the ALA/ACRL office at the address above.

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Nominating Committee, LPSS

The Nominating Committee for the 1987 elections has identified candidates and will contact them shortly.

ACRL Activity Section Council

Peter Allison represented LPSS at the Activity Section Council meeting. The meeting consisted mainly of reports from sections. In general discussion it was agreed that ACRL needed to get information to sections regarding their new members.

ACRL Board Liaison Report

Carole Larson gave a detailed report on the first ACRL Directors Board meeting at the conference. Items of particular interest to LPSS are:

- 1) the upcoming vote on the ACRL section surcharge
- 2) the possibility of requesting funding through ALA Goal Awards
- 3) the possibility of establishing an ACRL suite at conferences
- 4) the possibility of ACRL's changing its policy for funding conference programs of the sections.

ACRL Law & Political Science Section Program

ISSUES IN PROVIDING LEGAL INFORMATION TO NON-LAWYERS

Sunday, June 19, 2-4 pm
New York Hilton, Beekman Parlor

"We are in this also: the public information activities of AALL"

Glen Peter Ahlers
Assistant Director
Washburn University of Topeka
School of Law Library

"Selecting a core collection of legal sources"

Vivian Campbell
Assistant Law Librarian for Collection Development
Fred O. Dennis Law Library
Georgetown University Law Center

"Reference service or legal advice - where to draw the line"

Robin Mills
Librarian
Law Library
Emory University

"Setting up legal reference workshops: the Massachusetts experience"

Marnie Warner
Law Library Coordinator for the Child Court
Commonwealth of Massachusetts

A panel discussion focussing on how non-law librarians can respond to legal reference questions. The panel will discuss: selecting a core collection of legal sources, ethical and legal considerations in providing information, and the outreach activities of the American Association of Law Libraries, Legal Information Service to the Public Committee.

Reception sponsored by BRODART
Sunday, June 29, 4-6 pm
New York Hilton, Murray Hill Suite

ACRL LAW AND POLITICAL SCIENCE SECTION
ALA ANNUAL CONFERENCE, 1986
NEW YORK CITY

Executive Board:

Sat., June 28: 9 - 11 a.m.
Tues., July 1: 2 - 4 p.m.

Conference Program & Membership meet-
ing: Sun., June 29: 2-4 p.m.

1986 Conference Program Planning Com-
mittee: Sun., June 29: 11:30 - 12:30

1987 Conference Program Planning Com-
mittee: Sat., June 28: 11:30 - 12:30

Publications Committee:
Sat., June 28: 8 - 9 a.m.

Review and Planning Committee:
Sun., June 29: 9:30 - 11 a.m.

Review & Planning Committee Report

The Review and Planning Committee met at ALA midwinter to discuss the future of LPSS. Nearly a dozen members of LPSS participated in the lively discussion.

Because there are fewer members in LPSS than in some of the other ACRL sections, it is easier to find opportunities for active participation. Participants agreed that there are more ideas for activities than there are members able to work on them. The Section needs to recruit more members.

Many LPSS members are also members of GODORT. Programs at past ALA conferences have been jointly sponsored with GODORT units and have been highly successful. Although LPSS should continue to cooperate with GODORT, the section should seek to join in activities with other ACRL or ALA units, as well.

Law librarians are an important part of LPSS. In order to encourage more law librarians to join and become active in LPSS, the section should provide brochures about LPSS to hand out at American Association of Law Librarians conferences as a recruitment device. LPSS can offer a forum for discussion of mutual interests and, since

law is of interest to many librarians, those with a special knowledge of legal materials can provide librarians with information on access to the law.

The group agreed on the usefulness of a handbook for the Section. A loose-leaf manual can define the role of LPSS. It can also provide information on planning and carrying out activities, on the policies and procedures of functioning as an organization, and on the working relationships with ACRL and ALA.

A document will be ready for discussion at the ALA annual conference in New York. Comments are welcome. If you wish to voice your interest in LPSS, or to express concern, please come to the meetings of the Section. They are open to all, and all have an opportunity to speak.

Send comments to: Roberta Palen,
Chair LPSS R+P Comm. Head, Gov't. Pub-
lications, Chicago Public Library, 425
N. Michigan Ave., Chicago, ILL. 60611

LAW AND POLITICAL SCIENCE
SECTION OFFICERS

Represents librarians and special-
ists in the fields of law and political
science.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

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Roberta Palen, Chicago Public Library

CHAIR, PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE:
Martha Lange, Univ. of Houston, (713) 749-7348

EDITOR, LAW AND POLITICAL SCIENCE SECTION NEWS: Natalie Schatz

PRECONFERENCE ON UNITED NATIONS COLLECTIONS AND DOCUMENTATION

On Friday, June 27, 1986, the United Nations will sponsor a one-day conference, including lectures, tours and demonstrations, aimed at librarians drawn to New York by the annual conference of the American Library Assoc.

Staff from the Dag Hammarskjold Library and other sections of the UN organization will address topics of interest to all librarians who work with United Nations publications. Topics to be covered include:

- * The collecting scope of the Hammarskjold Library, how it is structured to serve its primary clientele, and what its posture is toward the external scholarly community.
- * Preservation and archival microfilming efforts planned or underway at the Hammarskjold Library.
- * The United Nations statistical system, including an examination of the present and future availability of UN statistics in machine-readable form.
- * The UN depository program: how it works, what libraries receive, and what responsibilities they assume.
- * The UN document classification system and its relationship to the organization of the United Nations.
- * The indexing of United Nations documents and the development of the UN's online system, UNBIS.
- * The United Nations as a source of treaty information.
- * The relationship of the United Nations to its satellite bodies.

* Sources of United Nations publications produced outside headquarters. Aside from lectures and discussion, participants will have opportunities to tour the Hammarskjold Library, see demonstrations of UNBIS, and attend a reception sponsored by the UN Publications Office. There will be no charge to participants. Attendance will, however, be limited by the size of the facilities available.

Interested librarians are urged to register as soon as possible by writing or calling the External Relations Office, Dag Hammarskjold Library, Room L382C, United Nations, New York, NY, 10017, (212) 754-7444.

SOURCES OF GREY LITERATURE IN PUBLIC POLICY

Appropriately enough, what we call "grey" or "fugitive" literature is not easy to define. In a recent essay in the August 1984 IFLA Journal, D. N. Wood suggested that the most useful definition was anything "not available through normal bookselling channels."

In public policy, grey literature comes in two basic shades: policy recommendations and program evaluations. Some policy recommendations are quite explicitly pieces of political or special interest advocacy. These are written and packaged in order to present a succinct and persuasive case to decision makers or those perceived to have influence with decision makers.

A second genre of policy recommendations, frequently termed "studies," "occasional papers," or "working papers," adopts the format of a scholarly article, but rarely reappears in that medium. These publications are characteristic of organizations that seek external funding for all or part of their activities based on expertise and scholarly objectivity rather than on the basis of the causes they advocate. Research institutes of this sort see their own publications series as a public relations activity.

Program evaluations are occasionally undertaken by advocacy groups or research institutes. However, most of this work is done for governmental agen-

cies by specialized contractors, who are accustomed to working under externally dictated terms in a fee-based, customer service relationship.

Very little appears to have been written about the role of grey literature in the policy process. Similarly, its importance has not been widely acknowledged by writers on public policy literature. It is almost completely ignored by all the contributors to Stuart S. Nagel's Basic Literature in Policy Studies: A Comprehensive Bibliography (JAI, 1984). Similarly, Robert Goehlert does not address selection sources for grey literature in his chapter on "Economics and Political Science" in Patricia McClung's recently published Selection of Library Materials in the Humanities, Social Sciences and Sciences (ALA, 1985). Goehlert does mention the Economics Working Paper Bibliography in a section he devotes to the selection of reports, papers and documents. For titles not listed here, he appears to recommend that selectors rely on serendipity.

Despite these suggestions that fugitive literature is not worth the chase, I am unconvinced. It frequently contains information not easily located elsewhere. Some of the very scholars who fail to mention it in their essays in Nagel's bibliography, cite grey literature plentifully in their own work.

Discovering the existence of grey literature, ordering it, cataloging it, and finding a way to make it available in a timely and durable fashion, have been major headaches for most libraries that try to cope with this material at all. Because many of the producers of grey literature are, at best, indifferent to selling physical copies of the reports they produce, library selectors do not always receive announcements of such publications.

In the list that follows, I have attempted to indicate some of the more or less useful sources that do provide access to grey literature in one or more areas of public policy research. I have not mentioned all the indexes that include some grey literature; Excerpta Medica includes some in Section 36, Health Economics, for example. The U.S. Government indexes I do cite seem

at least potentially scannable.

Additionally, some libraries may already be receiving many of the publications listed here through standing orders or depository arrangements in their engineering or documents collections. With the exception of the Urban Institute's Policy and Research Report, which is clearly something more than a publisher's brochure, I have listed only sources that cover more than one publisher. I am sure that I have omitted many useful titles. Perhaps some of you will submit additions that can be printed in a future issue of this newsletter.

I. U.S. GOVERNMENT SOURCES

As the principal funder of policy studies, and the audience most of this literature seeks to influence, the federal government appropriately maintains the largest repositories for this sort of material.

Government Reports Announcements & Index (GRAI)

GRAI is issued fortnightly by the National Technical Information Service (NTIS). It costs \$375, but is available free to depository libraries. Category 5: Behavioral and Social Science and category 6E: the Clinical Medicine segment of Biological and Medical Sciences, are the most fruitful sources of policy studies. Libraries with specialized interests might find a subscription to one of NTIS's Abstract Newsletters an economical alternative to GRAI. Everyone complains that the NTIS listings aren't timely. The problem unfortunately seems to lie with the contracting agencies.

Resources in Education (RIE)

This non-journal half of the ERIC index provides the broadest available coverage of education's immense grey literature. Coverage even includes items obtained by ERIC Clearinghouses that were not federally funded. Unfortunately no clear categories distinguish policy literature from other educational materials. Scanning the corporate author index is perhaps the quickest way to scout for pertinent titles.

Journal of Human Services Abstracts

Project SHARE, a National Clearinghouse for Improving the Management of Human Services, survived the budget axe longer than similar efforts. I haven't, however, seen an issue more recent than Fall 1984. It listed and abstracted both journal articles and grey literature; most of the latter seem to have been available from NTIS as well.

Energy Abstracts for Policy Analysis

This is a subfile of DOE's Energy Research Abstracts. It provides fairly good coverage of grey literature, much of which can be found in DOE microfiche collections in depository libraries.

II. QUASI-GOVERNMENTAL SOURCES

CIS Congressional Index

This privately produced index is valuable in our context for its indexing by title and corporate author of the quantities of grey literature that has actually been preserved within the pages of Congressional hearings and other committee documents.

Government Publications Review (GPR)

Government Publications Review publishes an annual "Notable Documents Section: An Acquisitions Guide." Columns by Fred Schmidt on Technical Reports, David Parish on State Publications, and Ronald Heckart on Local Publications may each include grey literature in the public policy area.

III. NON-GOVERNMENTAL SOURCES

Communications Book Notes

This monthly, edited by Christopher Sterling from the George Washington University Communications program, is very useful for grey literature in media, telecommunications, and, to a lesser extent, information policy.

Journal of Human Resources: Education, Manpower and Welfare Policies

The "Books Received" section contains frequent listings of grey literature in all areas covered by the subtitle.

Journal of Policy Analysis & Management

The Journal contains a regular section, edited by Malcolm Hamilton, Librarian at the Kennedy School of Government, listing new "Working Papers." It is biased toward products of large research institutes and university affiliates. It eschews advocacy pieces and contractor research. It does not provide price or address of publisher. Organization is by publisher but subject scope is quite broad.

Public Administration Review

PAR has a regular section of reviews on TOPS, "those other publications." This and the annual listing in GPR are the only sources that selectively highlight important state government policy studies.

Quarterly Strategic Bibliography

This bibliography has an "Other Documents" section devoted to grey literature. Sadly the coverage doesn't reach much beyond Adelphi Papers, RAND studies, and NTIS reports. Given the prevalence of grey literature in this subject area, QSB's coverage is disappointing.

Rural Sociology

A regular feature, the "Bulletin Index," edited by Stephen B. Lovejoy, covers Agricultural Extension reports and other grey literature across a broad range of topics of possible relevance to the rural sociologist. Topics include: population, labor force, migration, natural resources, recreation, community organization and change, and agriculture and rural problems.

Urban Affairs Institute. Policy and Research Report.

Policy and Research Report highlights key findings from the Institute's on-going research and provides the only listing I know of for the Institute's working papers, which must be ordered through the Clearinghouse, not the Urban Institute Press.

Peter Allison
New York University

VIEWS FROM READERS

This is the second 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 (poor) to 5 (excellent) 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.

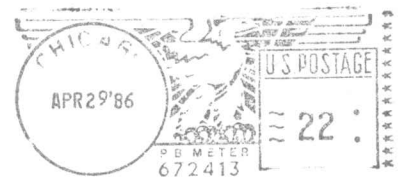
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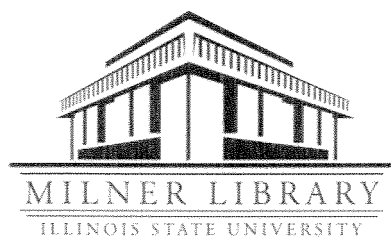
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