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LAW AND POLITICAL SCIENCE SECTION NEWS

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Association of College & Research Libraries

May 1987



ACRL Law & Political Science Program

Co-Sponsor - Alternatives in Print Task Force, SRRT

PUBLIC POLICY ALTERNATIVE SOURCES: ACCESS AND USE

Saturday, June 27, 2-4 p.m.

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PANEL: Ben Bagdikian, Dean, School of Journalism, University of California, Berkeley

Frances Moore Lappe, Institute for Food & Development Policy

Marc Levin, Associate Librarian, Institute of Governmental Studies, University of California, Berkeley

Terry Link, Reference Librarian and Journalism Bibliographer, Michigan State University Library

A panel discussion highlighting the role of alternate sources of public policy information from advocacy groups and research institutes. Panelists will speak on: the mass media; strategies used by advocacy groups to influence opinion leaders, the mass media, and grass roots public opinion; and how libraries can identify and facilitate access to this type of fugitive literature.

Chair's Column

In the four years of my more or less active involvement with its activities, this section has come a long way. We have put on a series of successful programs and anticipate another in San Francisco. We have a newsletter in operation with an energetic editor and an involved Publications Committee to whom she has been able to turn for support. At our last business meeting a committee on publisher/vendor relations was established.

Finally, thanks to the hard work of Roberta Palen, Kathleen Gunning and many others, the section passed its ACRL review with flying colors. Congratulations to all!

The ball is now in your court. What the section accomplishes in the upcoming years will depend on the quality of thought, energy and imagination its members contribute. Our newsletter can only fulfill its promise if you make it your own vehicle for communicating with a group of special people who share your professional problems and experiences. Don't sit back and wait for the newsletter to tell you things you want to hear. Write the editor with suggestions for things you need to know about. Perhaps you have information or some special insights from which the rest of us might benefit.

Bib: 935295

Eugene Ferguson, a library representative from University Publications of America, has agreed to appear at our Sunday business meeting in San Francisco. We will try to expedite routine business to allow plenty of time for you to react to UPA's current products and services and to offer suggestions for the future. It is our hope that this will be only the first in a long series of mutually beneficial interchanges between information vendors and our members. It is my opinion that librarians need to work together with publishers and vendors to help them identify marketable products and to help us get the kinds of information resources we need.

I regret that there will be no reception following our San Francisco program. We ran into an ALA no conflict time slot among other snags. Brodart Corporation was nice enough to offer \$500 towards the cost of a reception, but we have had to decline their kind offer for this year at least. Of course, our Sunday night irregulars will almost certainly be assembling to continue our fine tradition of dinners together. Contact Beth Sibley (Moffitt Undergraduate Library, UC Berkeley, 94720) if you have any special requests.

I'm optimistic that many of you will be coming to this summer's ALA solely because of our exciting program on alternative resources in public policy. Even if that's only part of the reason, we still look forward to meeting you and urge you to become involved in section activities.

Peter Allison
New York University

ACRL/ LPSS Executive Board Meeting
ALA, Midwinter, January 18, 1987

1987 Conference Planning Committee

The San Francisco program will be held Saturday, June 27, 2-4 p.m. It is being co-sponsored by the Alternatives-in-Print Task Force of SRRT, and will be titled "Alternative Public Policy Sources: their access and use." Speakers include Ben Bagdikian, School of Journalism, UC Berkeley; Francis Moore Lappe, Director, Institute for Food and Development Policy; Marc Levin, Librarian, Michigan State University, East Lansing. Peter Allison will serve as moderator.

The 1988 Conference Planning Committee

Natalie Schatz reported for Kate Adams, Chair, who was not able to attend the meeting. The program topic will focus on some aspects of U.S. information policy, with a political scientist and/or Anita and Herbert Schiller as suggested speakers. The following issues could be addressed: the cost of government information, the decreased number of documents for distribution, and the secrecy of government information. B. Schaaf recommended broadening the focus to include international documents. He spoke of how recent budget cuts at United Nations are affecting documentation and publications with some standard titles being delayed or even cancelled. Another topic suggested by the Chair was the transformation of information into a commodity - its political and economic significance and the implications for libraries whose goal is to provide free access to information.

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Chair: Peter Allison. President, ACRL: Hannelore Rader.

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Meeting Schedule, San Francisco, 1988

The Chair announced section meeting times for San Francisco. The Executive Board will meet Sunday, June 28 8-9 a.m. followed by a business meeting 9.30-11 a.m. with subcommittee meetings at 11:30 a.m. -12:30 p.m. There was a suggestion that subcommittee meetings be held before the business meeting, so that committee members could report on accomplishments or seek advice and/or approval on appropriate items. However, the general consensus was that the newsletter fulfilled this purpose. The Chair may want to consider a schedule change for the 1988 meetings.

New Business

The Chair asked if there were other projects on which the section should be working besides sponsoring programs, publishing a newsletter and conducting ongoing work of the standing committees. Suggestions included: addressing the need for better indexing of reference volumes as well as for more complete guides to large research collections available in microform; liaison work with other professional groups with similar interests (e.g., American Association of Law Libraries); sponsoring programs every two years instead of annually; and inviting publishers/vendors to speak about their publications or products. This last suggestion evoked the most interest and response. A subcommittee on publisher/vendor relations was established, and Connie McCarthy, Roberta Palen and Judy Solberg volunteered to serve on it. Gail Reinertson from University Publications of America was mentioned as a speaker. The Chair will invite her to attend and speak at the business meeting in San Francisco.

The meeting was adjourned at 11 a.m.

SELECTING A CORE COLLECTION OF LEGAL MATERIALS

A core collection of legal materials usually includes some primary legal materials (sources of the law itself), secondary materials that are used to access or explain the law, and reference materials. In this short space I will address some general issues to be considered in selecting and maintaining a core law collection and identify some publications that will be helpful in that process.

A very high percentage of law publications (including almost everything in a core collection) is serial. This is because the law changes daily as legislatures enact statutes, agencies issue regulations or decisions, and courts decide cases. The importance of maintaining a current collection and discarding outdated materials unless they are needed for historical research cannot be over-emphasized. A current collection in this context means one that contains the law that is in force at present, whether a 1987 statute or an 1827 court decision. Outdated law can be dangerous, especially to the layman who may be operating in the legal system without the advice of an attorney.

Because law materials are largely serial, they are also quite costly to maintain. It is possible to run up substantial costs very quickly, both directly from the book budget and indirectly for space needed to house them and in staff time for maintenance. Knowing your audience becomes essential. Laymen who need legal information for personal reasons may use quite different materials from the history, philosophy or economics scholar, and will certainly use them in a different way.

Most law publications are geared to the specialist. Both a certain level of legal knowledge and a particular intellectual approach ("thinking like a lawyer") are assumed by the authors, editors and publishers. This is one of the primary reasons for the long history of law for the layman publishing. Related to this is the way legal publishing is organized. The two major legal publishers of primary materials, West and Lawyer's Co-op, each publishes within a system devised to tie together all the company's publications. While these systems are useful for the law student or lawyer, other factors such as research aids, editorial approach and even shelf space required are more important when making choices for a core collection in a non-law library. For information on specific competing titles such as the United States Code Service (Lawyers' Co-op) and the United States Code Annotated (West), see Cohen, Legal Research in a Nutshell, described below.

I. Checklists and supplementation information. The following are useful in determining whether the holdings of a particular title are current and complete.

Hein Annual Checklist of Statutes (State and Territorial)
Buffalo, William S. Hein & Co., Inc.

This annual publication is a volume by volume listing of what is current for all published state and territorial codes. The latest pocket part supplementation is also given. It is very useful for checking completeness. Because it is an annual, accuracy diminishes as the year goes by.

Current Publications in Legal and Related Fields. Littleton, CO,
Fred B. Rothman & Co.

The April and October issues include checklists of the latest bound volume, advance part, and supplement for federal and state statutes, regulations, agency and court reports, court rules, digests and encyclopedias for both the U.S. and Canada. It covers a wider range of materials than the Hein publication and is more frequent, but does not give complete inventories. Current Publications is an expensive subscription if needed only for this purpose. It is available in many law libraries.

Publishers' representatives can also be helpful in determining whether a publication is current and complete. They are usually quite knowledgeable and can be a useful source of information about the differences in various publications. However, always remember that their primary purpose is to sell books.

II. Legal Research Manuals.
There are a number of useful legal research manuals. Several general titles are listed here. In addition there are manuals for many of the states.

Cohen, Legal Research in a Nutshell, 4th ed. West, 1985.

This is the best legal research guide for non-law libraries. Cohen explains the legal system and legal publications in clear, relatively non-technical language. There are several useful appendices. It is also relatively inexpensive.

Chanin, Specialized Legal Research. Little, Brown, 1987.

This is a new manual, recently published in loose-leaf form. Unlike the others listed here, it addresses research in specific subject areas such as federal securities regulation, federal income taxation, and copyright law. There are useful annotated bibliographies within the text as well as a "General Bibliography of Specialized Legal Research Sources" which includes bibliographic articles as well as books.

The following three titles are often used in law school legal research and writing programs, and are considered standard works.

Cohen and Berring, How to Find the Law, 8th ed. West, 1983.

Mersky and Jacobstein, Fundamentals of Legal Research, 3rd ed. Foundation Press, 1985.

Price, et al., Effective Legal Research, 4th ed. Little, Brown, 1979.

III. Bibliographies. In addition to the bibliographies described below, there are many bibliographical articles published in Law Library Journal, the International Journal of Legal Information, and other legal periodicals.

Bibliographies of legal publications and documents for about half of the states have been published for the Government Documents Special Interest Section of the American Association of Law Libraries. They are available for \$5.00 each. A list is available from Christine Corcos, Case Western Reserve University Law Library, 11075 East Blvd., Cleveland, OH 44106.

Also useful are:

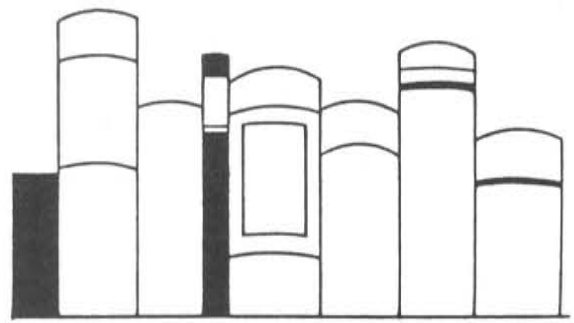
Fisher, Guide to State Legislative Materials, Rev. ed. Rothman, 1983.

This guide contains publication information, including sometimes hard to find addresses and phone numbers, for many state law publications.

Reams, et al., American Legal Literature: a Guide to Selected Legal Resources. Libraries Unlimited, 1985.

Although somewhat dated now, this annotated bibliography of works published between 1969-1984 is particularly useful to a non-law library because almost half of the entries are for sources for the layman. It is a good source of information on law for the layman publishers.

Vivian L. Campbell
Georgetown University Law Center
Library



THE BOOK SHELF

EDITOR: Judith Nixon, Purdue University

Parsons, Stanley B., William W. Beach, and Michael J. Dubin.

United States Congressional Districts and Data, 1843-1883.

Westport, CT: Greenwood Press, 1986.

This work is the second of a multi-volume reference work that aggregates census data by congressional district. Although the first volume devoted over half its space to biographical matter, the authors chose to omit this data in the present volume because by the 1840's the Biographical Directory of the American Congress provided this information. Similarly, district boundaries for this period are covered in another reference work.

In this volume the authors have emphasized the statistical description of districts, taking advantage of the transitions to more descriptive censuses. Parallel data are presented for the decades 1850-1870. The authors state that they believe this work will be particularly valuable for studying the areas of legislative behavior and aggregate election analysis.

It is apparent from the acknowledgements and the section on methodology that a great deal of research went into the preparation of the data and maps for this volume. Although the variables chosen for inclusion were necessarily selective, they add a valuable source of data to the literature. This work should be in any reference collection where demographic or legislative research is done.

Jan Spahr
Newman Library
Virginia Tech

Public Office Index, Vol. 1. Compiled by Keith L. Justice. Jefferson N.C.: McFarland & Co., 1985. 181 p. \$19.95 ISBN 0-89950-137-0 LC 84-43216

The researcher who is looking for the most elementary information about America's presidents, vice presidents, cabinet officers, and Supreme Court justices often needs to consult two or more sources. Keith Justice's rationale for compiling Public Office Index was to make such basic information available in a single-volume format. His compilation includes an index of administrations, showing which cabinet members and vice presidents served which presidents, lists of succession for each office, biographical lists with dates of appointment or inauguration, birth and death, and other pertinent dates. His work also gives the researcher a list of succession for Supreme Court justices, along with comparable dates. Justice's Public Office Index is logically arranged, well formatted and easy to use. The binding is first rate. Any researcher using such a source is concerned with completeness and accuracy. The volume meets the first criterion very well. It falls down somewhat on the second. A random comparison of biographical dates for Supreme Court justices in Justice's work and three standard reference sources: Dictionary of American Biography, Who Was Who In America, and Congressional Quarterly's Guide to the U.S. Supreme Court reveals errors in Justice's work. John Jay died May 17, 1829, not July 23, 1800; William Strong was born May 6, 1808, not March 6, 1806; and Willis Van Devanter died Feb. 8, 1941, not Feb. 8, 1951. Had the eighteenth justice to be appointed to the Supreme Court, Gabriel Duvall, used the spelling Duvall, not Duval. The reviewer's random check of every tenth item throughout the remainder of the book did not show errors in the other lists.

Dena Clark
Auraria Library
University of Colorado at Denver

Biographical Dictionary of Marxism. Robert A. Gorman, editor. Westport, CT : Greenwood Press, 1986.

"This volume contains biographical essays for over 210 Marxian philosophers and activists from almost fifty nations on five continents." Seeking to minimize the risk of redundancy and aiming at a near equal balance between philosophy and strategy, between theory and praxis, editor Robert A. Gorman has included only the major orthodox Marxist theorists (materialists) to afford equivalent coverage to Marxist practitioners involved in the implementation of materialist analysis to concrete national conditions. Extensive coverage is granted Third World Marxists, whose practical contributions "have retooled materialist Marxism for the postcolonial liberation struggles in Africa, Asia, and Latin America - without, however, altering its philosophical base."

Biographical Dictionary of Marxism should be in the library of every college or university where History, Philosophy, or Social Studies are taught. It should be alongside the Biographical Dictionary of Neo-Marxism, for they cross-reference and complement each other with non-materialist Marxists. Their virtues include: 1) concise essays that directly assess the contribution and importance of the entrants within the context of Marxist philosophy and politics; 2) the inclusion of Third World Marxists not covered elsewhere; 3) short two-part bibliographies of primary works and secondary sources for every entrant as a guide to further study; 4) excellent introductory essays that set or frame the context, giving the reader a focused foothold within the vast openness of the history of ideas.

Jose Luis Sanchez
George Washington University

Carter, Lief H. Contemporary Constitutional Lawmaking: The Supreme Court and the Art of Politics. (Pergamon Government and Politics Series). New York: Pergamon Press, 1985. 217p. \$29.50.

This book would serve as a good supplementary text for a constitutional law course at the upper undergraduate level. With seven well drawn chapters dealing with such topics as interpretive and normative theory, political jurisprudence, and the Supreme Court and politics, Professor Carter has created a concise academic study which could be read with value not only by the academic, but the upper level student as well. He makes research done on the Court by Dworkin, Rawls, Murphy, Ely, Chayes, Bork, Perry and other such legal scholars palatable and comprehensible for the novice, yet organized creatively enough to keep the attention of the specialist. The book is a good survey of the Court's political role over the past two centuries.

It might have been more beneficial to have a more expansive table of cases for further legal research, but the book does have other special features. Indexing is good, but the most important section is called "References". This section is nine pages long and contains a bibliography of the most important publications--monograph and serial--concerning the Supreme Court published over the last thirty years or so. Most of the references are the works of the current "big guns" in the field. Professor Carter's book provides a complete overview of the Court's role in society as interpreted by some of America's best scholars.

This book would be a good purchase for most libraries but would be of special importance to all academic libraries at every level. Highly recommended.

Michael Vocino
University of Rhode Island

The Soviet Union and Eastern Europe.
Edited by George Schopflin. New York: Facts on File, 1986. 637 p. \$40.00.

Western Europe. Edited by Richard Mayne. New York: Facts on File, 1986 699 p. \$40.00.

These titles are part of Facts on File's Handbooks to the Modern World series. The scholarship of each of the two reviewed volumes is very good if not excellent. Each of the volumes contains detailed basic information about each country in the geographic area being surveyed. There is also a section on basic comparative statistics, which is very convenient and useful. The greater part of each of the books is devoted to lengthy articles dealing with specific topics of regional importance. The chapters in the volume dealing with Western Europe discuss topics ranging from Western European political integration to the economic character of Western Europe. Articles of special note in the Soviet volume include topics on religion, the legacy of the Prague Spring, and an article dealing with national minorities in Eastern Europe.

The only problem with these volumes is that much of what they include can be found in other locations and, at better prices and in better formats, as for example, the entire series of geographical area surveys produced by Europa Publications Ltd. Europa Publications are much more expensive but they also include much more in terms of detailed information as well as the survey articles.

Librarians should not overlook other less expensive publications which also give much the same basic information on geographic regions and countries, such as the Statesman's Yearbook and the even less expensive--possibly free, depending on your source--Background Notes produced by the U.S. State Department.

Michael Vocino
University of Rhode Island

Hurwitz, Leon. Historical Dictionary of Censorship in the United States.
Westport CT: Greenwood Press, 1985.

In the 50 page Introductory Essay to the dictionary, Hurwitz surveys the subject of censorship and identifies four categories: political censorship, community censorship, constitutional censorship, and moral censorship. The main body of the work is organized alphabetically by main entry, with cross references provided. Entries include court cases, statutes, organizations, events, concepts, regulations, films, and publications. The approximately 1,000 entries range in length from one paragraph to two pages. This reference source contains an index, which is thorough and specific, and useful appendices: a Chronology of events, cases, and regulations, a Table of Cases, and a Selected Bibliography. One of the strengths of this work is the background material provided on individual cases. The author, who writes from the public policy perspective, has provided both an overview and specific examples of a subject that is of critical importance to academics, lawyers, librarians, and students. This dictionary should be in the collection of any academic or law library.

Kate Adams
University of Nebraska-Lincoln

Encyclopedia of the American Constitution. Leonard W. Levy, Ed. in Chief. 4 vols., New York: Macmillan, 1986.

This is a four volume encyclopedia on the Constitution that, according to the editors, "seeks to fill the need for a single comprehensive reference work treating the subject in a multi-disciplinary way." Arranged in alphabetical order, articles range from one or two paragraphs to several pages in length. The articles have been written primarily by historians, lawyers and political scientists. The approximately 2,100 articles cover the following five subjects: concepts of Constitutional law; biographical studies of individuals who have influenced the making of Constitutional law; court decisions; statutes, treaties and other public acts; historical periods in Constitutional law. There is an alphabetical list of articles in the front and a full index in the back of the fourth volume.

This is a very handy reference tool, especially considering the timeliness of its publication during the bicentennial of the Constitution. Anyone interested in the many facets of Constitutional law or constitutional history will be interested in this set.

Caroline Tibbetts
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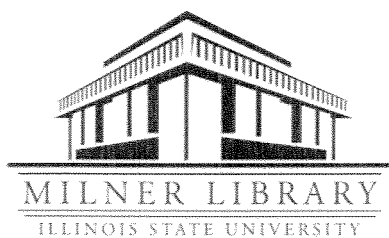
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