

# LAW AND POLITICAL SCIENCE SECTION NEWS

Volume 3, Number 1

Association of College and Research Libraries

November 1987

## CHAIR'S COLUMN

Last year, the Review and Planning Committee completed the LPSS Section Review mandated by ACRL. This was a time-consuming project which yielded excellent results. Now, the chair of the section can plan the section activities based upon a framework, consisting of the statement of purpose and goals to be attained. According to the section review, "LPSS serves as an educational forum and information exchange for librarians with an interest or subject expertise in law and political science." Some of the ways to achieve this objective are: continue to provide conference programs of high quality; add depth to the newsletter through the publication of subject articles and book reviews; establish a liaison to the American Association of Law Libraries to foster a more active relationship with law librarians; and explore possible joint activities with other ACRL sections. Another goal which must be achieved in order to accomplish this very full

agenda is to expand the number of section members who are actively involved in the section. The areas of activity are many: serving on a committee; writing for the newsletter; working on planning the conference program; or serving as a liaison to other library organizations which serve librarians in the fields of law and political science.

I urge all LPSS members who will be coming to the midwinter meetings in San Antonio to attend the LPSS business meeting. We will be discussing LPSS committees and their charges. This meeting will provide an excellent opportunity for the membership of LPSS to participate in planning the section's activities over the next few years. The meeting schedule follows this article. Also, try to join LPSS members on Sunday night, January 10th, for dinner. Details about the dinner will be announced at the business meeting.

Natalie Schatz,  
LPSS Chair

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. Tel. 1-800-545-2433.

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

Subscription price, \$3.00 per year. Available from ACRL

Copyright: © American Library Association 1987.

PUBLIC POLICY ALTERNATIVE SOURCES:  
ACCESS AND USE

ACRL/LPSS Meeting Schedule,  
San Antonio, January 1988  
Executive Committee Jan. 10, 8-9 A.M.  
Business Meeting Jan. 10, 9-11 A.M.  
Publications Comm. Jan. 10 11:30  
A.M.-  
12:30 P.M.  
Review and Planning Jan. 10 11:30  
A.M.-  
12:30 P.M.  
1988 New Orleans Program 11:30  
A.M.-  
12:30 P.M.  
1989 Dallas Program 11:30  
A.M.-  
12:30 P.M.

LPSS SECTION OFFICERS

Chair: Natalie Schatz, Tufts Univ.  
Vice-Chair: Carole Larson, Univ. of  
Nebraska at Omaha  
Past Chair: Kathleen Gunning, Univ.  
of Houston  
Secretary: Christine Thompson, Texas  
A&M Univ.  
Member-at-Large (1986/88): Kate Adams  
Univ of Nebraska at  
Lincoln  
Member-at-Large (1987/89): Sandra  
Coleman, Harvard Univ.  
Publications Comm. Chair: Marta Lange,  
North Carolina State Univ.  
Review and Planning Comm. Chair: Steve  
Atkins, Univ of Illinois  
Newsletter Editor: Natalie Schatz,  
Tufts Univ.

The LPSS program at the San Francisco Annual Conference, cosponsored by the ALA Social Responsibility Round Table Alternatives in Print Task Force, attracted over 150 attendees to an exciting panel discussion on gray literature. Bill Dorman, a professor of journalism at California State University, San Francisco, opened the panel with a discussion of the character of public knowledge about alternative information. He postulated that the media set the broad limits of thinking about the most critical issues of the day: foreign policy and nuclear strategy. According to Professor Dorman, the media discourage if not actively defeat serious thinking about these global issues. He said that vital issues are trivialized in the press which defers to the concept of national security when it reports political events. Therefore, it behooves academics and librarians to seek out alternative sources of information to provide a more complete understanding of world politics.

The second speaker was Frances Moore Lappe, the founder of Food First and the author of Diet for a Small Planet (1971). Food First is an advocacy group providing alternative information through its publishing and lecturing activities on various social problems, such as poverty, hunger, and the environment. The books are written for the general population, with the emphasis on clear, scholarly analysis. Food First develops curricula for grade schools, high schools, and universities. It also prepares action alerts on specific topics. Ms. Lappe commented upon the inadequacy of LC subject headings in describing current social problems. Libraries were encouraged to support Food First and provides its publications to their patrons.

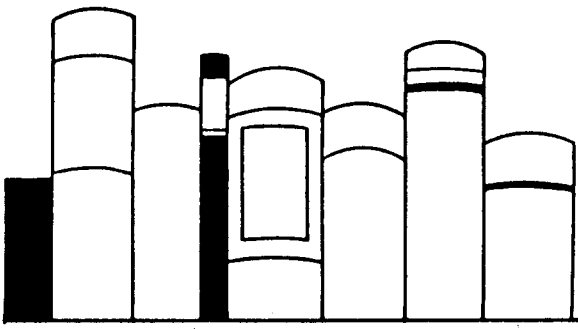
Marc Levin, the next speaker, is the librarian at the Institute of Governmental Studies, University of California at Berkeley. He explored the issue of access to gray literature. Although this literature is fugitive and ephemeral, it is influential in the political process by providing analysis of public interest subjects which can offer new solutions. He described a number of public policy research organizations which publish monographs, periodicals, working papers, and discussion papers on diverse subjects. Typically, the publications are printed on poor quality paper and may be typed or photocopied for the sake of rapid dissemination. Libraries need to give policy research literature greater prominence. There are three areas of professional activity in which librarians can make this possible: collection development, bibliographic control, and research endeavors. In the area of collection development, Mr. Levin recommended standing orders whenever possible. He also advocated agreeing to receive as gifts the unsolicited material that faculty often receive, and developing outreach programs within the local community. As to bibliographical control, Mr. Levin said that PAIS and GRAI are the only indexes that provide access to gray literature. The low priority of cataloging gray literature should be changed to high priority, with full bibliographical citations, on OCLC and RLIN. During the question and answer period, a representative of PAIS urged the audience to give PAIS input on materials to be indexed.

The final panelist, Terry Link, Michigan State University Library, addressed the issue of how public libraries and smaller academic institutions can collect and make available public policy information. He urged librarians to work around budget constraints by actively writing

for free literature. Librarians can develop current use files and use microcomputers to provide access to information. At his university, Mr. Link and faculty from the departments of journalism and anthropology do a public access cable program on social issues. He pointed out that librarians can be gatekeepers to information. Discrimination against minority views exists everywhere and we should work to overcome this.

During the discussion period, a number of sources of gray literature were mentioned and a representative of the National Security Archive, which is creating data-bases of declassified federal documents described the project.

Kate Adams  
Univ. of Nebraska



## THE BOOK SHELF

EDITOR: Judith Nixon, Purdue University

World Encyclopedia of Peace. Pauling, Linus, Honorary Ed. in Chief. Pergamon Press: New York, 1986.

Published during the fortieth anniversary of the United Nations and the International Year of Peace the World Encyclopedia of World Peace is a wonderfully useful and timely publication. Published as a four volume set, the first two volumes of the encyclopedia contain signed scholarly articles on issues concerning peace. The topics range from the general, "Arms Race, Dynamics of," to "War, Prediction of," to the specific, such as biographies of top military figures, people active in foreign policy, and the peace movement. The breadth of coverage is excellent.

Volumes three and four contain the full text of treaties, a chronology of the peace movement, biographies of Nobel peace laureates, a list of peace institutes and organizations, and indexes of all four volumes.

Caroline Tibbetts  
University of Delaware

Guide to Popular U.S. Government Publications. Compiled by LeRoy C. Schwarzkopf. Littleton, CO: Libraries Unlimited, 1986. 432p. \$28.50.

This catalog of government publications is geared to the general reader rather than to the professional or the technician. It includes approximately twenty-nine hundred current, inexpensive or long-term popular interest titles. Updating Newsome's New Guide to Popular Government Publications (Libraries Unlimited, 1978), it includes documents issued between 1978 and 1985.

Entries are arranged alphabetically by title under main topics and subtopics, such as "Careers" and "Drug - Abuse". All the bibliographic information that readers and librarians would need to know to acquire the publication is provided in each citation. Its topical arrangement and its title and subject indexes make it a very handy ready reference tool that I would keep close to Bowker's Books In Print.

It also includes a "Publications Catalogs" Appendix which lists approximately 250 additional current subject bibliographies.

I find it valuable as an annotated bibliography, as a finding tool or key to issuing agencies (often the only source from which to obtain the publication), and as a referral stepping stone to sources for further study for public and college libraries.

Jose Luis Sanchez  
George Washington University

Kurian, George, Thomas. Encyclopedia of the Third World. 3rd ed. New York: Facts on File, 1987. 3 vols. 2342p. \$175.00

This third edition of the encyclopedia provides information on 126 Third World countries. Kurian defines the Third World as "the politically non-aligned and economically developing and less industrialized nations of the world". This revision incorporates changes up to June 1, 1986 and includes four more countries than the second edition did.

Information on each country is arranged according to a standard classification scheme detailed in the introductory notes. Thirty-five categories covering a wide range of data from basic facts to human rights and culture are included, allowing for comparison between countries. An index is included.

A valuable addition to this revision is the inclusion of films in the bibliography section for each country. Unfortunately, film dates are not included in citations. Another welcomed addition is the note on the status of women that has been incorporated in the population description.

Encyclopedia of the Third World overlaps some of the other standard reference books such as The European Year Book or The Statesman's Year-Book, but overall its coverage is more extensive. It would be a good starting place for an undergraduate doing a research paper. Recommended for academic libraries, especially undergraduate collections.

Judy Solberg  
University of Tennessee

White-Collar Crime Reporter. Connecticut: Meekler Corporation, 1987-11 issues/year. \$189.50.

This specialized monthly journal provides information and analysis on current developments in white-collar law practice. Some issues treat one topic and others have a number of articles. Future topics to be covered are tax issues, mail and wire fraud, grand jury practice, and internal corporate investigations. The journal is too new to be included in periodical indexes. Format allows issues to be filed in three ring binders.

The journal accepts only original manuscripts. The authors in the issues examined have good professional experience as well as scholarly expertise. Articles are analytical, clear, and well documented. Topics are narrow, but lively, e.g., "A Lawyer's Guide to the 1986 Money Laundering Control Act of 1986" by Roanne Mann is a sharp, clear discussion of new offenses in sections 1956 & 1957. She also provides a good analysis of unclear language in strategic places which could be a problem to defense lawyers and prosecutors.

This is a good journal for libraries needing in-depth treatment of white-collar crime which is geared to the needs of lawyers, teachers and students in law, business law, and criminal justice studies.

M. Brooks  
John Jay College of Criminal  
Justice

World Encyclopedia of Political Systems.  
Edited by George E. Delury. New York:  
Facts On File; Harlow, Essex, UK: Long-  
man, 1984. 1296p. 2 volumes. \$120.

This reference work examines political systems and major parties of 169 nations and eight dependent territories. The focus is on each country's political situation as of mid-1982. Each article is signed; most of the contributors are political scientists.

The format is fairly standard: each article opens with a discussion of the country's system of government; regional government is briefly discussed; and the electoral system is described. The section on the party system covers parties in law, organization, campaigning, and brief histories, policies, and membership of major parties. Opposition and minor parties are noted. The coverage includes political actors such as economic groups, the military, and numerous social groups. Each article closes with a discussion of the country's prospects. A selected bibliography of books, periodicals, and government documents is provided; citations are from the 1970s and 1980s.

The encyclopedia is clearly formatted and is easy to read. Tables and charts contain useful material. Articles vary in length, due to the importance of the country rather than the nature of the political system. The index is thorough and well referenced. The "List of Acronyms" is a handy source for the researcher and librarian.

Much of the material in the encyclopedia can be found in varying detail in Europa Year Book, Political Handbook of the World, or Political Parties of the World. However, this source provides a clear, well organized discussion of political systems and parties useful to the generalist and to the researcher in comparative politics. Recommended for academic libraries.

Kate E. Adams  
University of Nebraska-Lincoln

Knafila, Louis, ed. Criminal Justice History: An International Annual, Vol. VII, 1986. Westport, CT: Meckler Pub. Corp., 1987. 223p. \$49.50

This volume is part of a series which began in 1980 in which authors submit original manuscripts on subjects related to the history and analysis of crime and criminal justice in any geographical area or period in history. Material includes interesting social history for background information. It is international in scope and represents the viewpoint of scholars from varied disciplines, e.g., law, sociology, anthropology, etc.

The series is indexed in American History and Life; Historical Abstracts, Part A & Part B; and Essay and General Literature Index.

Articles, essays, and titles reviewed are on narrow topics, but the subjects are interesting, colorful, and sometimes exciting. For example, this volume contains "Edwin H. Sutherland's White-Collar Crime in America: An Essay in Historical Criminology" by Gil Geis and Colin Goff; the authors use previously unpublished archival material to provide new insight into how Sutherland conducted his research. R.F.E. Weissman's book review of Pictures and Punishment: Art and Criminal Prosecution During the Florentine Renaissance is a wonderful description of this book which analyzes the north Italian ideas of justice and punishment through special works of art such as "Effigies of Shame" which were used to ridicule certain types of offenders.

This is a good purchase for academic libraries; useful for social science collections as well as law and criminal justice. No index.

Marvie Brooks  
John Jay College of Criminal  
Justice

Public Interest Profiles, 5th ed.  
Edited by Douglas J. Bergner. Wash-  
ington, D.C.: Foundation for Public Af-  
fairs, 1986. \$180.00

This looseleaf publication provides descriptions of public interest groups. Each profile includes the scope, purpose, method of operation, and current concerns of the organization described. Recent publications and periodicals are also listed. Additional information includes the board of directors, source of funding, and whether or not the organization is, or is not, affiliated with a Political Action Committee (PAC). Finally, some statements as to the effectiveness and political orientation of the organization (quoted from published sources) are provided.

Although the index to this work is really just an alphabetic list of the organizations included, some subjects access is provided by the arrangement into the groups: Business/Economic, Civil/Constitutional Rights, Community/Grassroots, Consumer/Health, Corporate Accountability/Responsibility, Environmental, International Affairs, Media, Political/Governmental Process, Public Interest Law, Religious, and Think Tanks.

The seventy-seven pages of introductory essays in provide an authoritative background to interest groups in each of the twelve categories covered. An introductory essay, "The Sources of Public Interest Activism", by Seymour Martin Lipset traces the sources, development, and diversification of these influential organizations.

The feature I do not like about this work is its three-ring binder, which is unsuitable for use in libraries. The price is high, but this should be in libraries whose clientele includes political scientists.

Jan Spahr  
Virginia Tech

National Legal Bibliography. Peter D. Ward and Margaret A. Goldblatt, ed.  
Buffalo, NY: William S. Hein, 1984.

This bibliography is a logically constructed compilation of the acquisitions of twenty-five U.S. law libraries, geographically balanced from among seventeen states and the District of Columbia. With the exception of the Los Angeles County Law Library, all are academic libraries. The bibliography is issued quarterly and cumulated into annual volumes. The annual cumulation is a multi-volume set. A subject index, with extensive see also references, is the logical starting point for most users. The complete bibliographic citation for each acquisition appears in the jurisdiction by country volumes, subdivided by topic. A name index volume and a subject index volume complete each annual set. The citations are very detailed, including such information as Library of Congress card number, International Standard Number, series title, bibliographies, and the catalog utility and its appropriate control number. Each entry shows which of the twenty-five law libraries has acquired that item.

Since law in the 1980s impacts every segment of society, lawyers and students of law need to keep abreast of many subject areas and this fact is apparent from the myriad subject areas in which the law libraries purchase. Sponsored by the American Association of Law Libraries, the National Legal Bibliography will prove equally useful in nonlaw academic libraries, both for the serious scholar and the undergraduate doing term paper research.

Dene Clark  
Auraria Library  
University of Colorado at Denver

Congressional Committees, 1789-1982: A Checklist. Compiled by Walter Stubbs. (Bibliographies and Indexes in Law and Political Science, No 6.) Westport, CT: Greenwood Press, 1985. 210p. \$35.00

The purpose of Congressional Committees, 1789-1982 is to gather in a single source the names and provenance of all Congressional committees dating back to the First Congress. Included are standing committees, select and special committees, select and special joint committees, and statutory joint committees. Honorary, ceremonial, and housekeeping committees were excluded, as were subcommittees.

Entries are arranged alphabetically by a key word in the title of the committee. A subject index is also provided. Each entry includes the committee, name, SUDOCs number if there is one, date of the committee established, and the resolution or public law creating it. Name changes and termination dates are also given, together with their authority.

Other information included is a list of dates of Congressional sessions and a chronological list of committees.

This book should facilitate the work of documents librarians and others researching work done by Congressional committees.

Jan Spahr  
Virginia Tech

Law and Political Science Section News  
ACRL/ALA  
50 East Huron Street  
Chicago, IL 60611-2795

The Dynamic Constitution: A Historical Bibliography. Edited by Suzanne Robitaille Ontiveros. (ABC-Clio Research Guides: no. 19.) Santa Barbara, CA: ABC-Clio, 1986. 343p. \$32.50.

This useful bibliography provides access to the literature about the United States Constitution published between 1974 and 1985. The work contains 1,370 citations from periodicals, books, and dissertations. Periodical citations, which comprise 70% of the listing, are annotated. Approximately 5.5% of the citations are from publications outside the United States.

The opening chapter discusses the historiography, bibliography, and overview of the Constitution. The four following chapters are arranged chronologically: "Early Experiences with Constitutionalism, 1778-1787;" "The Convention and Ratification of the Constitution, 1787-1790;" "Development of the Constitution, 1790-1900;" and "Development of the Constitution, 1900-1985." There is an extensive, eighty page subject index, which indexes persons, corporate bodies, events, cases, acts, concepts. An author index is also provided. The U.S. Constitution is included as an Appendix.

This bibliography should be added to the collection of every academic and law library.

Kate Adams  
University of Nebraska-Lincoln

