

# LPSS News

Volume 9, Number 2

May 1994

## Multiculturalism in Miami

The Law and Political Science Section would like to invite you to a very special presentation this summer, sponsored by LPSS, the Afro-American Studies Section, and the Arts Section. The program, entitled "Binding Together in a Multicultural Society: Challenges for the Academy", will be held on Saturday, June 25th, from 2:00-4:00 p.m.

Until recently, it was assumed that immigrants to the United States would become part of the "melting pot," adapting to an Anglo-American culture. This assumption has clearly been challenged with the demand that we both recognize and recast ourselves as a Multicultural society. This demand and the response to it has resulted in an ongoing debate on Multiculturalism and what it means to be an American.

Dr. Sheldon Hackney, Director of the National Endowment for the Humanities, will address the issues informing this debate. Dr. Hackney will examine the dynamics between a multicultural environment and the academy, focusing on the question "Is a shared value system, which binds together members of a society, possible in a multicultural situation?" (posed by David Haynes-Bautista in the Chronicle of Higher Education, October 28, 1992). As Director of the NEH, Dr. Hackney's position in this critical debate is of great importance, as it shapes federal policy in relation to the humanities. A panel of reactors representing different viewpoints will respond to Dr. Hackney's presentation.

Dr. Sheldon Hackney is an historian of the American South. He is the author of Populism to Progressivism in Alabama, published by Princeton in 1969. Dr. Hackney served as President of Tulane University from 1975 to 1980, and as President of the University of Pennsylvania until his appointment to the NEH by President Clinton.

LPSS would like to acknowledge the financial assistance provided by ALA President Hardy Franklin and ACRL President Tom Kirk, which made this program possible.

Charles Spornick  
Emory University



## **Shot Gun Wedding and Amicable Divorces: Integration vs Separation of Government Documents and Reference Services**

The Government Documents Roundtable (GODORT) and LPSS are co-sponsoring "Shot Gun Wedding and Amicable Divorces" an intriguing program that looks at the experience of combining and separating government documents and reference services. Speakers include Jerry D. Campbell, University Librarian, Duke University; Gary Peete, Business/Economics Librarian, University of California at Berkeley; and Randy J. Olson Deputy Director and Beverly J. Norton, Government Information Specialist, Brigham Young University. The BYU speakers have had experience with combining and separating their departments which will provide the audience with one institution's experience with both integration and separation of different service areas. The program will be held Monday, June 27th from 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Anyone who is facing this challenge or a similar one, is encouraged to attend.

### **Editor Sought for LPSS News**

This issue of the LPSS News is the last for the current editor. The LPSS Publications Committee is currently seeking a replacement. If you are interested in applying for the position, please contact Patricia McCandless, LPSS Publications Committee, Assistant Director for Public Services, Ohio State University Libraries, 1858 Neil Ave. Mall, Columbus, OH 43210.

## **Call for Volunteers**

During the Midwinter meeting in Los Angeles, a new ad hoc committee on Services to the Academic Community was formed and is now seeking members. The committee will organize and provide information on law and political science to the academic community and identify areas of cooperation with other associations. If you are interested in joining this committee, please contact co-chairs Caroline Tibbetts, 1612 Forbes Quad, GSPIA/Econ. Library, University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, PA 15260 or Laura Bartolo, Libraries and Media Service, Kent State University, Kent, OH 44242 for further information.

The 1995 Preconference on Law for the Non-Law Librarian in Chicago continues to gather popular support. Co-chairs Natalie Schatz and Caroline Tibbetts are currently looking for additional members to help in the areas of media, local arrangements and the vendor fair. If you are interested, please contact them at: Natalie Schatz, Director, Edwin Ginn Library, Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy, Tufts University, Medford, MA 02155 and Caroline Tibbetts, 1612 Forbes Quad, GSPIA/Econ Library, University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, PA 15260.

### **H.W. Wilson and SilverPlatter Vendor/Publisher Review Meeting**

Representatives from the H.W. Wilson and SilverPlatter Companies will attend the Vendor/Publisher Review Committee meeting in Miami to discuss their electronic products and how they may be evaluated. All LPSS members are welcome.



## From the Bibliographies Committee

### Current Law Index

Current Law Index, v1--, 1980--, Published by Information Access Company, 362 Lakeside Drive, Foster City, California 94404.

#### Criteria

##### A. Scope

Current Law Index (CLI) indexes English language law reviews and law-related periodicals from the United States, Canada, the United Kingdom, Ireland, Australia and New Zealand. The editors of CLI maintain that all articles, case notes and book reviews from the journals covered are fully indexed. However, some journals contain news items in addition to feature articles. These are indexed only if they are judged to have "permanent value". Items of "little reference value", such as meeting announcements, tourism and lifestyle stories are generally excluded.

##### B. Does the publication fulfill its stated purpose?

The absence of a full editorial statement on scope, goal or intended audience seriously limits any attempt to evaluate the stated purpose. Overall, however, the publication does provide comprehensive indexing for a large number of English language law and law-related journals.

##### C. Coverage

CLI indexes over 700 English language law and law-related journals from the United States, Canada, the United Kingdom, Ireland, Australia, and New Zealand. Coverage includes academic reviews, bar association journals, speciality journals, and selected journals treating allied disciplines such as criminology and accounting. The journals are chosen for inclusion by the Committee on Indexing of Periodical Literature of the American Association of Law Libraries. Richard Leiter, current chair, reports that they receive approximately 50 new journals each year for consideration in CLI. The Committee selects all academic and scholarly journals, in addition to those of general interest to the legal community. They tend to reject those publications that are extremely narrowly focused and those of interest to only a specific locality.

##### D. Format

###### 1. Subject, Author/Title, Table of Cases and Table of Contents

CLI is divided into four sections: subject index, author/title index, table of cases and table of statutes. A list of journals indexed is also included. Subject headings are assigned by indexers from a controlled list. The list is modified where headings are unsuited to periodical indexing or do not conform to current terminology. There are many terms used which are not authorized subject headings. These are included in the subject index with "see" references to all authors in a multi-authored piece; book reviews are indexed by author and title of the reviewed work, as well as the reviewer. Indexers also assign a grade to each review ranging from A to F, to reflect the reviewer's evaluation of the book. The table of cases includes references to articles or case notes that provide a significant analysis of a particular case; therefore, not all cases cited in the articles are indexed. Each case name has two entries, one in the plaintiff-defendant format, the other inverted with the defendant's name first. The Table of Statutes also only cites articles in which a substantial treatment of a particular statute can be found.



## 2. Cumulative indexes and frequency of cumulations

The CLI is published monthly. The March, June and September issues are quarterly cumulations. The twelfth issue of the year is an annual cumulation which has been issued in two parts since 1987. Part A includes the Subject Index and Part B contains the Author/Title Index as well as the Tables of Cases and Statutes.

## 3. Binding

CLI is published in paperback with the exception of the annual cumulation which is sewn, laminated hardbound.

## 4. Print size and legibility, typeface

The print is quite small, but readable. Use of upper case letters, indentation, bold face type and italics help to differentiate elements of the citation.

## 5. Style

The bibliographic citations are clear and contain title, author, volume, page, date and name of journal; no abstracts are available. Full journal titles are used.

## 6. Availability of on-line or CD versions

The Legal Resource Index database, which includes all the CLI material, is available for on-line retrieval on LEXIS, WILSONLINE, Dialog and BRS. LegalTrac, a CD-ROM product, provides all the material available in CLI from 1980 to present on one compact disc.

## E. Frequency-time lag

According to the editors, the time lag for the inclusion of most journals is from 6 weeks to 3 months from the time that Information Access receives the journal. A random sample of 50 citations indicated that 84% were indexed within one year, 11% were indexed within 6 months and 5% were indexed within 3 months. The more prominent academic law reviews receive first priority indexing while others are indexed as they are received.

## F. Editing, typos, use of cross-references

The editing is well-done; there are very few typos or other errors in CLI. Extensive "see" and "see also" references direct the user to an authorized heading under which material on the subject is indexed.

## G. Overall usability

The CLI is easy-to-use and well-organized. The format expedites access through the use of numerous, well-considered subject headings, subdivisions, "see" and "see also" references. The explanation as to why, in years prior to 1991, some subdivisions were capitalized and others were not was unsatisfactory and continues to trouble some users. Two editors informed me that it was a "characteristic of production". The small print and the spacing of bibliographic citations could be improved upon.

## H. Cost and cost history

The cost of CLI in 1991 was \$462.00; in 1992 the cost was \$474.00.



I. Summary of positive aspects

CLI coverage is extensive and includes many specialized law and law-related journals. Although there are no abstracts, full title and citation are provided for each entry. The plethora of subject headings, subdivisions, "see" and "see also" references allow CLI to be used easily by sophisticated, as well as unsophisticated library users. The actual subject areas covered permit its use by law students, professors, practicing attorneys and others who are generally interested in the social sciences. While limited only to cases and statutes discussed in detail, the Table of Cases and Statutes are extremely useful.

J. Suggested changes

A full editorial statement of the scope, goal and intended audience should be contained in CLI. In addition, the selection criteria used by the Committee on Indexing of Periodical Literature would be of interest to librarians. It would greatly enhance access to increase the size of print and include a space between each bibliographic citation. However, this should not be done at the expense of the number of entries, subject headings, subdivisions, "see" and "see also" references or full journal title citations. Before 1990, a useful feature in the list of journals indexed was the inclusion of the date on which CLI began indexing each journal; this should be reinstated.

K. Comparison with Index of Legal Periodicals

The H.W. Wilson Company has improved their product considerably since the American Association of Law Librarians withdrew its support for Index to Legal Periodicals (ILP) and established CLI. However, CLI remains the index of choice for most libraries. ILP indexes 600 journals while CLI indexes considerably more journals. In addition, ILP only indexes articles of 5 pages or more and case notes, bibliographies, biographies and notes of legislation must be at least two pages long to be included. The major difference between the two exists in the subject headings; the subject headings used in ILP are listed in the front of each volume, but they are not based on the Library of Congress or Sears subject headings. Moreover, there are fewer cross references in ILP. For example, in CLI, an entry for the Gulf War, 1991 will direct the user to Persian Gulf War, 1991. ILP includes nothing under Gulf War. Subdivisions are also virtually non-existent in ILP, although the editors indicate that more will be included in future volumes. ILP is available on-line in LEXIS, WHISTLE, and WILSONLINE. WILSONDISC provides access to ILP on CD-ROM. H.W. Wilson also produces WILSEARCH which is a menu-driven on-line system that provides access to much of the same data available through the WILSONLINE system, but requires no prior experience or training.

This review was prepared by Barbara Morgan of the University of Massachusetts, Amhurst for the Bibliographies Committee and is one of a continuing series of reviews of sources in political science and law prepared by the committee. Our next issue will feature a review of Selected Rand Abstracts.

## LPSS to Establish Internet Listserve

During the LPSS Business Meeting in Los Angeles Pat McCandless of Ohio State University agreed to moderate an LPSS listserv. This forum will include such basic documents as the LPSS by-laws, the roster of officers and committee members, and schedules of meetings for upcoming conferences. In addition, pathfinders prepared for annual conference meetings by the Library Instruction Committee will be available for downloading. As more of our members become members of the Internet society LPSS hopes this will become a valuable new way to keep in touch with developments in law and political science. The next issue of the newsletter will contain an article describing the listserv in detail.



## Minutes from the Los Angeles Executive Board Meeting

Ron Heckart reported that proposed by-laws revision will be on the Spring ballot. They will simplify and clarify several items.

LPSS has \$400 available for clerical expenses, reported Charles Spornick. The newsletter has been funded for two issues this year.

**Review and Planning**--The section's five year review is due in September 1994. Possible goals for the report were discussed, including sponsoring programs with other divisions and scholarly associations.

**Bibliographies**--Brian Carpenter reported that two reviews were approved.

**Miami Conference Planning**--The program's topic and speaker, Sheldon Hackney, have been selected. Two sections have agreed to be co-sponsors.

**Chicago Conference Planning**--Since LPSS is hosting a preconference in 1995, a reception to celebrate LPSS's 20th anniversary is being planned.

**Pre-Conference Planning**--Co-chair Caroline Tibbetts said meetings with the ACRL board have been scheduled for this meeting. Speakers have been invited and RASD might co-sponsor the conference.

**Library Instruction**--A pathfinder is being prepared for the Miami program. Copying costs are a concern, reported Chair Bill Orme, due to the large number of people expected.

**Membership**--Membership is down slightly, according to chair Cathy Doyle. Letters have been sent to all new members and members who have dropped the section. A reception will be held in Miami and an orientation session will be planned for a future conference.

**Publications**--There is now a newsletter editor and two issues will be published.

## Minutes from the Los Angeles Business Meeting

**ACRL Activities Board**--The group discussed enlarging its membership to include type of library sections. This recommendation will be taken to Jacquelyn McCoy for further discussion.

**Bibliographies**--Brian Carpenter reported that two vendors will be invited to their Miami meeting to discuss ways of effectively evaluating their compact disc products, to add to the printed reviews of law and political science indexes and abstracts.



**Miami Conference Planning**--Charles Spornick noted that ALA has granted \$3,300 for the program. It will be co-sponsored by the Afro-American Librarians section, the Arts section and GODORT.

**Chicago Conference Planning**--A breakfast celebrating the 20th anniversary of LPSS is planned on Saturday morning before the Executive Board meeting. All past chairs of LPSS will be invited and a history of the section will be presented.

**Library Instruction**--The midwinter discussion "Internet Resources for Law and Political Science" went well, despite a last minute location change, according to chair Bill Orme. The committee is creating a list of sources to be sent to the newsletter and an Internet listserve.

**Membership**--Stephen Stillwell, jr. reported that a social is planned for the Miami conference. Library schools in the area will be contacted, inviting students to our program.

**Nominating**--Chair Stephen Stillwell, jr. reported that nominations for LPSS officers will be made at Annual Conference.

**Publications**--Address changes to the LPSS manual need to be sent to Chair Pat McCandless as soon as possible.

**Review and Planning** --The committee is completing work on the draft five-year review of the section, which will be sent to the Executive Board before the Miami meeting.

**Pre-Conference Planning**--Caroline Tibbetts reported that the ACRL Board was very excited about our pre-conference. Co-sponsorship will be provided by RASD and PLA and AALL will be asked to endorse the program. The committee is actively seeking new members. ACRL will publish the speakers' papers.

**Ad hoc Committee on Services to the Academic Community**--Goals for the committee were discussed. The Association of Professional Schools of International Affairs (APSIA) will be contacted. Executive Board members will attend APSIA meetings on the East and West Coast.

In new business, the name of the Business meeting was changed to the General Membership meeting. The Bibliographies Committee's name was changed to the Vendor/Publisher Review Committee. These changes were approved by the Executive Board.

The Executive Board also decided to create a LPSS listserve, which will be moderated by Pat McCandless at Ohio State University. This listserve will consist of rosters, past pathfinders, news ideas, and conference information.



## Schedule of Meetings at Annual Conference

### Saturday, June 25th

Executive Board	9:30 a.m.-11:30 a.m.
Chicago Program Planning	11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.
Miami Program Planning	11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.
<b>Binding Together a Multicultural Society</b>	<b>2:00 p.m.-4 p.m.</b>

### Sunday, June 26th

Review and Planning	9:30 a.m.-11:00 a.m.
Vendor/Publisher Review	9:30 a.m.-11:00 a.m.
Library Instruction	2:00 p.m.-5:30 p.m.

### Monday, June 27th

Publications	8:30 a.m.-11:00 a.m.
Membership	11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.
Preconference Planning	2:00 p.m.-5:30 p.m.

### Tuesday, June 28th

General Membership Meeting	9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.
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**The LPSS Social  
will be held**

**at the Garden Lobby Bar of the Fontainebleau Hotel**

**Friday, June 25th, 5:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m.**

**See you there!!**

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