

LPSS News Volume 12, Number 2

In this issue....Chair's Column--Cathy Doyle.....Second Annual Marta Lange/CQ Award Winner--Ron Heckart.....Marta Lange/CQ Award Nomination Procedures--Ron Heckart.....LPSS-L Instructions--Pat McCandless....Meeting Minutes from Washington DC--Brian Carpenter.....Review of UNBIS Plus on CD-ROM--Suping Lu.....Social in San Francisco--Nancy Littlejohn

Chair's Column

We had a productive Midwinter meeting in our Nation's Capital, developing plans to expand our presence on the web, selecting the second winner of the Marta Lange/CQ Award, planning programs for San Francisco and Washington, and a lively discussion of the future of political information, sponsored by our Library Instruction Committee.

Our presence will be expanding on the web this spring in a number of ways. I'm happy to announce that our newsletter editor, Maurie Caitlin Kelly, has agreed to become our web mistress. This site will contain requirements for the Marta Lange/CQ Award, our newsletter, and expanded items, such as longer reviews from the Vendor/Publisher Review Committee, the full minutes of our Executive Board meetings, committee rosters, and links to the Library Instruction Committee's pathfinders for conference programs.

Our program for San Francisco has been planned and will be entitled "The Politics of the Information Future". Look for more information on it elsewhere in this issue. Program planning began for our 1998 program in Washington, DC, which will tentatively deal with the Middle East, in keeping with Barbara Ford's international theme for her presidential year.

Our hard-working Marta Lange/CQ Award winner has found another excellent library to honor during our program this year. Ron Heckart will provide further details elsewhere in this newsletter, but I'd like to encourage you to nominate someone for this award next year. Nomination procedures can be found on the LPSS web page, so it will be easier than ever.

JUN 09 1997

I recently asked the Review and Planning Committee to complete a form for the ACRL office, showing how LPSS met the goals of the ACRL strategic plan. The committee rose to the challenge, showing me and the ACRL office that LPSS is a vibrant growing member of ACRL. I'd like to thank you for the opportunity I've had to advance the work of our group this year and thank all the committee members who have worked hard to accomplish our goals this year. If you'd like to join us next year, please attend our all-committee meeting in San Francisco or contact the incoming chair, Stephen Stillwell, for further details.

•Cathy Doyle, Chair, LPSS

Editors Note:

Please visit the LPSS Website at <http://uicdocs.lib.uic.edu/lpss/lpss.html>!!!!
At this site you will find the full text of the Vendor/Publisher reviews, meeting minutes, committee rosters, information about the Marta Lange/CQ Award, as well as LPSS programs and socials and instructions for subscribing to LPSS-L.

Instructions for LPSS-L

LPSS-L, the Sections official listserv, is the major communication vehicle for members to conduct business. However, we hope that every subscriber will use the listserv to pose questions, recommend new print and electronic tools, chat, and share information that goes beyond formal ALA business. The list resides at Ohio State University, and one may subscribe by sending e-mail to

listserv@lists.acs.ohio-state.edu

The subject line should be empty and the body of the message **MUST** contain only the following line

subscribe lpss-l Firstname Lastname

After one is a subscriber, messages can be sent to the LPSS-L list by sending e-mail to

lpss-l@lists.acs.ohio-state.edu

Please remember that both initial messages and replies to the list are sent to every subscriber, not just the individual who posted the message.

If you change your e-mail address or wish to end your participation in the list send e-mail to

listserv@lists.acs.ohio-state.edu

The subject line should be empty and the message should read

unsubscribe lpss-l

Any questions or problems concerning LpSS-L should be referred to Pat McCandless at Ohio State University Libraries at (614) 293-6151 or via e-mail to mccandless.1@osu.edu

•Pat McCandless, Ohio State University

Meeting Minutes, ALA Midwinter Conference, Washington, DC

Association of College and Research Libraries Law and Political Science Section
Executive Board Meeting, Washington DC, Hyatt Hotel, Independence Room
4:00 p.m. - 5:15 p.m. February 15, 1997

Welcome and Introductions

Cathy welcomed all current and new members of the section to the Executive meeting.

I. Approval of the Minutes

The minutes for the Annual Conference in New York were approved

II. Report from the Chair

a. New All Committee Format

The new All Committee format has been well received. One modification suggested by the committee and approved at New York was the elimination of the membership meeting

and incorporating its functions into the Executive Committee meeting which will meet from now on, immediately following the All Committee meeting.

b. ACRL News

Meeting Time for San Francisco--ALA has made clear that the All Committee meeting must end at 4:00 pm so it will not conflict with a no conflict' scheduled event. The San Francisco program was to have been from 2:00 to 5:30p.m. After some discussion about what could be done to allow the program to run its full time, a suggestion was made to have the program from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. Cathy will discuss this possibility with ACRL Programming Committee.

From the ACRL Leadership Council, ACRL President Bill Miller has stated that ACRL Standards will be updated. ALA is also starting a Sunset Policy through the Committee on Organizational Operations (COO). This committee will be reevaluating the ACRL Programs Committee. All sections and round tables of ALA will receive a letter asking them to re-evaluate all liaisons and how often should this process be reviewed. At the ACRL Conference coming up in April in Nashville, there will be a Pre-Conference on Telecommunications. ACRL will be looking at the possibility of increasing dues for its membership. The 1998 Annual Program in Washington will be "Facing the Millennium". It will be a pre-conference for academic librarians concerning training them on library advocacy and how to effectively meet with legislators. The ALA Washington Office is looking for Literacy Volunteers please check with Cathy or Stephen if interested. ACRL Activities Section Council is planning to broaden the scope of their meetings so that all ACRL sections chairs can be invited to attend the meeting.

III. Committee Reports

a. 1997 Program Planning--Cathy Doyle

Cathy reported the planning for the San Francisco program continues to go well. " Politics of the Information Future" which will take place on Sunday 2:00-4:00 p.m. in San Francisco. This program, a joint effort of LPSS and LITA's Imagineering Interest Group, have also secured Science Fiction writers Dr. Jerry Pournelle, Mr. Pat Murphy and Mr. Poul Anderson as speakers for the program.

b. 1998 Program Planning--Stephen Stillwell

Stephen reported the Washington DC program committee is soliciting volunteers to join the committee. In keeping with incoming ALA Chair Barbara Ford's Local Touch, Global Reach theme the program will focus on the Middle East with possible speakers from the State Department Library, the Islamic Center and the United States Information Agency's Middle East section. The ACRL African-Asian Middle East Section has shown interest in co-sponsoring this event.

c. Library Instruction--John Stemmer

John reported that the Library Instruction meeting during the All Committee format was very productive. They are now working on the pathfinder for the San Francisco program and deals with various issues including Authenticity, Copyright, and Piracy and how Science Fiction has dealt with these issues. Their discussion group will be held on Sunday, February 16 at the DuPont Plaza Hotel from 2:00 to 5:30 in the Plaza Room. The discussion topic will be "Politics of the Information Future".

d. Marta Lange/CQ Award--Ron Heckart

Brian reported GODORT continues to look at the implications of the changes to Title 44 of the United States Code which deals with distribution of Government Publications by the Government Printing Office. At the GODORT Federal Agency Update held this morning, GODORT members learned about new federal web sites that are being created and about the increasing frequency of government serials being bought by Commercial publishers.

•Brian Carpenter, Secretary, ACRL/LPSS

Evaluation of UNBIS PLUS on CD-ROM

GENERAL DESCRIPTION

UNBIS (United Nations Bibliographic Information System) Plus on CD-ROM, published by Chadwyck-Healey, is a compact disc product that provides bibliographic access to ten databases of the United Nations documents and non-UN publications held at the UN libraries in New York and Geneva, including access to the full-text of resolutions, the voting records, the citations to speeches, and bibliographic citations to monographs, serials, journal articles, and publications of governments and international organizations. UNBIS Plus can be regarded as the CD-ROM equivalent to UNDOC United Nations Documents Current Index which was published quarterly in print and issued annually in microfiche until January 1997.

TECHNICAL ASPECTS

UNBIS Plus is supported by a standard software which was developed by Chadwyck-Healey and also supports other Chadwyck-Healey CD-ROM products. Although MSCDEX CD-ROM extensions version 2.1 or higher are recommended, the software also supports a variety of other network protocols which incorporate an MSCDEX equivalent, in particular, SCSI Express and Corel SCSI based networks. UNBIS Plus can be networked without additional cost to non-profit organizations on a single site. Other organizations and all institutions wishing to network it between two or more sites should apply for a network license. There are step-by-step installation instructions in the user manual which are demonstrated in such a clear way that no DOS experience is required. The software for the package is installed from the diskette. At each search point, there is on-line help which offers two options: Help on Data, which describes the content of the specific database and search options; and Help on Functions which contains a lengthy introduction to search functions.

SEARCH FEATURES

There are three types of fields users may select to conduct a search. Keyword fields contain the individual words or numbers from a given field, for instance, subject keyword, title keyword, author keyword, and keyword in text. Keyword fields can be searched either by typing the word(s) directly into the searchbox, or by selecting a word from an alphabetical index (accessed by pressing <?>). Phrase fields include the authorized name of an organization, geographic name, subject term, document number, UN session numbers, agenda numbers, resolution numbers. In the keyword and phrase fields, the user can

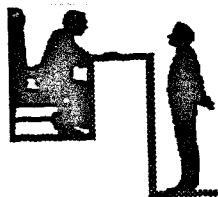
conduct a search by entering a single search term, a truncated search term, or combined search terms. Search terms can be combined by using the Boolean operators AND, OR, and NOT, which are represented respectively by <+>, & and <->. In the keyword fields, search terms can be combined by proximity searching or adjacency searching. Truncation, which is represented by an asterisk, is not applicable in the date fields. Records may be printed or downloaded easily using the instructions available on the screen.

ADVANTAGES AND DRAWBACKS

The primary advantage of UNBIS Plus is that it provides convenient access to the United Nations documents and other international organization publications. These advantages become even more significant with the demise of the print UNDOC index. Thus, UNBIS Plus is an indispensable bibliographic tool. However, UNBIS Plus also has some drawbacks. Due to the use of a controlled vocabulary, users will have to be familiar with the terms used by UNBIS. In addition, there is no on-screen menu or clear indication to suggest the time span of the documents and publications covered by UNBIS Plus.

• Suping Lu, University of Nebraska, Lincoln

LPSS Needs You!



"But Your Honor, I'm too busy to get involed in LPSS!"

It's time for all you unseen, silent members of LPSS to get involved! There's plenty to do, plenty to learn, and plenty of fun. Come to the social on Friday, June 27th and to the All Committee Meeting on Saturday, June 28th! You Are Welcome!

The Politics of the Information Future

Be sure to join LPSS in San Francisco as we join with LITA's Imagineering Interest Group to speculate on the Politics of the Information Future on Sunday, June 29th, from 2-4pm. Our speakers will be the award-winning science authors Jerry Pournelle, Paul Anderson, and Pat Murphy. They will present a variety of perspectives on a topic that's hot today with such issues as the Communications Decency Act and campus politics we will be dealing with today and in the future. This has been a popular program in the past, so be sure to come early for a good seat!

•Cathy Doyle, Chair, LPSS

Come join the membership of LPSS for an informal social!

This is an excellent opportunity to meet colleagues and get involved in the Law & Political Science Section.

When:

Friday, June 27, 5:00-7:00pm

Where:

**White Horse Tavern
Hotel Beresford, 635 Sutter Street (near Mason)**

What:

The White Horse Tavern is an authentic replica of an Old English Pub. Shuttle to the Pan Pacific Hotel and walk one block north on Mason to Sutter. Or, walk to the Cartwright Hotel and walk one blockwest.

Remember: Cash Bar

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