

# LPSS NEWS

Newsletter of the Law and Political Science Section  
Association of college and Research Libraries  
Volume 14, No. 1, Fall 1998

## A FEW WORDS FROM THE CHAIR:

As Chair of LPSS for 1998/99, I am looking forward to working with many of you. When I first joined ALA in 1992 after being in AALL for 15 years, I was overwhelmed by the size of the ALA conferences and the number of members. I found a home in LPSS. We are a friendly, 700-member section. It is never too late to get involved in the Section. Please contact Marifran Bustion, LPSS Vice Chair, marifran@gwu.edu, if you want to volunteer for a committee.

Some exciting changes are in the works for LPSS in 1998/99. We have reactivated our liaisons to AALL and GODORT. Merle Slyhoff has graciously consented to be our liaison to AALL and Gwendolyn Halford has volunteered to be our liaison to GODORT.

As a member of LPSS, you get the LPSS Newsletter twice each year. To keep members current with Section news more frequently than the Newsletter, members are now subscribed

to LPSS-L. Pat McCandless at Ohio State has been maintaining LPSS-L for us for a number of years. If you are a member of LPSS and are not on our listserv, please see the instructions for subscribing to the listserv elsewhere in the Newsletter.

Stephen Stillwell offered to review our By-laws and has proposed some minor changes that reflect current practice. The proposed changes are now with the ACRL By-laws Committee. We have a new editor for the Newsletter, Lucia Snowhill. Catherine Hansen and Michael Jackson are planning changes for the LPSS website.

Thank you to all LPSS members who are actively participating in the Section.

Paula Popma, LPSS Chair  
Ppopma@scu.edu

## MESSAGE FROM THE PAST-CHAIR

I would like to thank all of the members of LPSS for helping make my year as Chair a memorable one for me. I particularly want to thank three people - Cathy Doyle, who, as the Chair before me, was an inspiration and a great help; Paula Popma who, as Vice-Chair, was always at my side with a calm head and a helping hand; and Gwen Halford for all she did to help our program at 1998 Annual Conference come together.

The events since the conference have proven yet again the importance, for all Americans, in and out of academia, of the peoples and nations of the Middle East. We need desperately to understand what is going on in those nations from the

Atlantic shores of Morocco to the mountain plateaus of Afghanistan and in all the desert wastes in between. I hope that you all enjoyed and learned from the speakers at our program. Chris Datta, Lauri Irani-King, and Paul Yachnes each shared insights on this diverse and important area in the world political scene. I am sure that we can all avail ourselves of the services that their organizations and publications offer. And use as a base for further development the excellent pathfinder prepared by our instruction committee.

See you all in Philadelphia. -- Stephen Stillwell

## LET'S KEEP IN TOUCH: LPSS-L and LPSS WEB SITE

**LPSS-L**, the Section's 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.

To subscribe, send e-mail to:  
[Listserver@lists.acs.ohio-state.edu](mailto:Listserver@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

Once a subscriber, you can send messages to the list by sending e-mail to [lpss-l@lists.acs.ohio-state.edu](mailto:lpss-l@lists.acs.ohio-state.edu)

To change your e-mail address or to end your participation in the list, send e-mail to [Listserver@lists.acs.ohio-state.edu](mailto:Listserver@lists.acs.ohio-state.edu)

The subject line should be empty and the message should read:

Unsubscribe lpss-l

Please direct any questions or problems concerning lpss-l to Pat McCandless, Ohio State University Libraries, (614) 293-6151 or [mccandless.1@osu.edu](mailto:mccandless.1@osu.edu)

### LPSS WEB SITE

Watch for an announcement of the new look on LPSS-L this Fall. The LPSS web site is currently being redesigned by Catherine Hansen, our new webmaster.  
<http://www.ala.org/acrl/lpss/lpss.html>

---

## MARTA LANGE/CQ AWARD: MAKE A NOMINATION !

The Marta Lange/CQ Award recognizes an academic or law librarian who, through research, other creative activity, or service to the profession, makes distinguished contributions to bibliography and information service in law or political science. This award honors Marta Lange, 1990/91 ACRL Law and Political Science Section (LPSS) Chair, whose exceptional talents as a leader were enhanced by a wonderful collegial spirit. Her bright career was an inspiration to others and a model of professional service.

**AWARD:** \$1,000 and a plaque donated by Congressional Quarterly, Inc. The jury is the LPSS Marta Lange/CQ Award Committee.

**CRITERIA:** Nominees should have achieved distinction in one or more of the following areas:

- Planning and implementing a model bibliography/information services program in a law or political science library;
- A history of contributions to the field through research, publications, and other activities displaying active participation in the advancement of law/political science librarianship.
- Service to the profession through ACRL or related regional and national organizations.
- Promotion or development of an education program for law and political science librarianship that has served as a model for other courses and programs.

**SUBMISSION PROCEDURE:** Nominations should include a letter of nomination including your name, address, and phone numbers as well as the name and address of the nominee; a narrative supporting the nomination; and a current vita. Individuals may nominate themselves or others. Send 5 copies to the LPSS Marta Lange/CQ Award Committee Chair:

**Rosemary Little, Princeton University Library, One Washington Road, Princeton, NJ 08544**

609-258-3209 (voice), 609-258-4105 (fax)

[rosemary@phoenix.princeton.edu](mailto:rosemary@phoenix.princeton.edu)

\*\*\*\*\***DEADLINE: December 1, 1998**\*\*\*\*\*

---

## ROSTER OF LPSS COMMITTEES, 1998-1999

### EXECUTIVE BOARD

Chair: Paula J. Popma, 2000  
Vice Chair/Chair elect: Marifran Bustion, 2001  
Past Chair: Stephen J. Stillwell, jr., 1999  
Secretary: Lucia Snowhill, 1999  
Member-at-large: Janice S. Lewis, 1999  
Member-at-large: Catherine Hansen, 2000

### LIBRARY INSTRUCTION COMMITTEE

Chair: Christine Angolia, 1999  
Brian Carpenter, 1999  
John Dillard, 1999  
Janice Lewis, 1999  
Allan Metz, 1999  
John Stemmer, , 2000  
Lisa Stimatz, 2000  
Paul Vermouth, 1999  
Elizabeth Williams, 2000

### MARTA LANGE/CQ AWARD COMMITTEE

Chair: Rosemary Allen Little, 2000  
Ronald Heckart, 1999  
Patricia McCandless, 1999  
Sue Parker, 1999  
Karen Rupp-Serrano, 2000  
Merle Slyhoff, 2000

### MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

Chair: Janice Lewis, 1999  
Gerri Foudy, 2000  
Catherine Hansen, 2000  
Suping Lu, 2000  
Madison Mosley, 2000  
Nancy Sosnik, 2000

### NOMINATING COMMITTEE (1999 Elections)

Chair: Cathy Doyle, 1999  
Wendell Barbour, 1999  
Patricia McCandless, 1999

### PROGRAM PLANNING COMMITTEE (ALA CONFERENCE 1999)

Co-chairs: Gabrielle Carr, Mary Reddick  
Linda Johnson  
Thomas Mann  
Barbara Norelli  
Elka Tenner  
Diann Weatherly  
Paula Popma, ex-officio

### PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE

Chair: Michael S. Jackson, 1999  
Mae Clark, 2000  
Jeanine Finn, 2000  
Catherine Hansen, 1999  
Theresa Trost, 1999  
Lucia Snowhill, Newsletter Editor

### REVIEW AND PLANNING COMMITTEE

Chair: Cathy Doyle, 1999  
Dennis Lambert, 2000  
Charles Spornick, 1999  
Judy Solberg, 2000  
Stephen Stillwell, 2000

### VENDOR/PUBLISHER LIAISON & REVIEW COMMITTEE

Chair: Atifa R. Rawan, 2000  
David Armond, 2000  
Gerri Foudy, 2000  
Janice Lewis, 1999  
Karen Rupp-Serrano, 2000  
Merle Slyhoff, 1999  
Charles Willett, 1999  
Heidi Yacker, 1999

## **LPSS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES**

### **ALA Annual Conference, Washington, DC, June 27, 1998**

**I. Welcome and introductions** Stephen Stillwell called the meeting to order at 3:30pm and welcomed all those attending. All in attendance introduced themselves.

#### **II. Approval of minutes**

The minutes of the Midwinter meeting were accepted and approved. The minutes were previously posted to the listserv and printed in the Spring LPSS Newsletter.

#### **III. Committee Reports**

##### **A. Library Instruction**

John Stemmer reported that a pathfinder for the LPSS program is on the web and that handouts will be available at the program tomorrow. The committee will be discussing the balance of instruction with networking and knowledge of non-electronic sources at its midwinter meeting.

##### **B. Marta Lange Award (Cathy Doyle)**

Cathy Doyle reported on a very successful award lunch sponsored by Congressional Quarterly (CQ) right before the All Committee meeting. She thanked Judy Solberg for all her work in arranging the luncheon. The Marta Lange Award Committee would meet the following day. The recipient of this year's award is Laura N. Gasaway, Director of the Law Library and Professor of Law, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill.

##### **C. Membership (Jan Lewis)**

An updated brochure has been printed and is ready for distribution. ACRL publishes a new brochure for each section every three years. It was suggested that the brochure be included in letters to new members, and also be distributed to prospective members, AALL academic law librarians that belong to ACRL, and through GODORT.

ACRL section membership is expected to drop in the next couple of years, since ACRL members will be able to select 2 sections instead of 3 to be included in their membership. We will need to advocate to keep LPSS as one of the top two choices for members.

The committee is developing a survey of the membership to find out what the membership wants and needs from LPSS. Suggested topics for questions included top priorities for LPSS, suggestions for programs and activities, work related challenges, content for the LPSS webpage, listserv and newsletter, and other interests LPSS should cover. There was discussion on whether or not the questions should be open-ended, and whether the survey should be disseminated by mail or via the listserv. The committee would like to compile results by the midwinter meeting. There was concern about the cost of the survey. LPSS is entitled to 3 sets of labels for members per year, and the postage costs are already included in the budget.

##### **D. Nominating (Cathy Doyle)**

There is no report from this committee. The committee is not meeting at this conference, but will have a report for the midwinter meeting.

##### **E. 1998 Program (Stephen Stillwell)**

The program "Bridging an Understanding: The U.S. and the Middle East" is scheduled for tomorrow (Sunday, June 28), and will feature three speakers from organizations dealing

with information exchange between the U.S. and the Middle East. Speakers are Christopher Datta (USIA), Dan Siskin (Middle East Research and Information Project), and Paul Yachnes (Middle East Institute).

##### **F. 1999 Program (Gabrielle Carr)**

Next year's program, "Politics of Scholarly Information in the New Millennium", will be cosponsored by the ARL Office of Scholarly Communication. Speakers have already been identified:

Mark Capaldini, CEO of CIS

Jerry Goldman, Northwestern University

Ann Okerson, AUL, Yale

John Unsworth, Director of the Institute for Advanced Technology in the Humanities, University of Virginia

The committee is asking for \$1100 funding for two of the speakers. The others will already be attending the conference. ACRL really likes the concept of the program, but is asking all sections to cut their program budgets. LPSS will consider moving funds from its operating budget if necessary.

There was brief discussion about whether or not LPSS should sponsor a session at the ACRL conference in Detroit, but it was decided to concentrate on the annual conference instead.

##### **G. Publications (Michael Jackson)**

The committee discussed content and structure for both the web site and the newsletter. Catherine Hansen has agreed to serve as webmaster and to make up a prototype web site based on discussion. Lucia Snowhill has agreed to be editor of the newsletter. In both cases, the committee is looking at increasing the content. The committee will also be exploring possibilities for providing news items regularly on the listserv. It was agreed that the newsletter should continue to be issued in print for a couple of years in addition to making it available on the web site. The committee welcomes suggestions on both the web site and the newsletter. Lucia Snowhill will contact ACRL about publication deadlines and notify members on the listserv to submit items for the next newsletter.

##### **H. Review and Planning (Judy Solberg)**

Stephen Stillwell will write a thank you letter to Rick Capelli for the CQ sponsored lunch, and will ask the ACRL President to do the same. CQ is willing to sponsor the lunch again, so it should be added to the conference schedule as a regular event. Now that the lunch is becoming an established event, procedures and regular budget allocation should be created. The Marta Lange Committee will arrange the lunch, coordinating with ALA catering and CQ. It was suggested that we invite our ACRL Board liaison and the ACRL President to future lunches. It was suggested that there be a brief overview of activities of the section at the luncheon.

To improve the All Committee meeting, it is suggested that there be a brief general meeting before breaking out into the various committees to welcome new attendees, explain the various committees and their functions, and to make introductions.

The Strategic Planning document needs to be completed, indicating ways LPSS activities relate to the ACRL Strategic Plan. Areas to be covered are building the relationship with CQ and membership opportunities, expanding our web site, making the committee membership forms more readily available, and ensuring that the newsletter editor is an active, participating member of the section.

#### **I. Vendor/Publisher (Atifa Rawan)**

The committee reviewed its charge, and decided to include all information formats in its reviews. The committee will review more timely products, and will include summaries on reviews from other sources. An article reviewing EuroCat will be submitted for the next newsletter, and future articles will include reviews of Academic Universe and CIS Compass.

#### **J. Liaisons**

Gwendolyn Halford will be our new liaison to GODORT. There is no current liaison to AALL.

#### **IV. New Business**

##### **A. Listserv**

There was discussion about whether or not every member should be on the listserv and how to maintain the list. Currently only 110 members are on the listserv. Paula Popma has a complete list of LPSS members, which

includes e-mail addresses. Since it is ALA policy to be inclusive, it was decided to include all members on the listserv, with the option to unsubscribe. There will be an opening letter explaining the change. The list will need to be moderated for a time during the transition. Paula Popma will work with Pat Candless to set up the complete listserv and will write the introductory letter to all members.

#### **B. ACRL Leadership Council**

ACRL is revising its Strategic Plan, which currently runs through 2001. The Council discussed a timeline for working on the new plan. LPSS discussed whether or not to revise the section's strategic plan before or after the overall plan is finalized. It was recommended that we monitor the ACRL process and work with our plan as needed as that process moves forward. There will be focus groups at midwinter 1999 about the strategic planning process.

It was noted that the LPSS bylaws need minor revisions. Stephen Stillwell will review them and report by midwinter. Any changes must be approved by the ACRL Board and then the LPSS membership.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:10pm.

Submitted by Lucia Snowhill, Secretary

## **PROPOSED LPSS BY-LAWS CHANGES**

After Paula Popma and I attended the ACRL Leadership Forum on at ALA in Washington DC, we realized that we should look at the LPSS By-laws. I volunteered to do so, and the following are the changes I propose. Discussion and comments welcome. EDITOR'S NOTE: There will be discussion at the All Committee Meeting, ALA Midwinter, January 30. Any changes must be approved by the ACRL Board and then the LPSS membership. Proposed changes are now with the ACRL By-Laws Committee. The complete text of the current By-laws are on the LPSS web site, (<http://www.ala.org/acrl/lpss/lpss.html>)

-- Stephen Stillwell, Past-chair

#### **Article I - Name**

Change period to comma and add: "a division of the American Library Association."

**Justification** - ALA is mentioned later on in the by-laws, should be included at the beginning.

#### **Article IV - Meetings**

Add as last sentence: "All meetings are conducted in accordance with the policies of ACRL and ALA."

**Justification** - Explains order of business without duplicating long and involved statements from policies and by-laws of the two parent organizations.

#### **Article V – Officers, Section 2.**

Delete final sentence that reads: "A vacancy in other offices shall be filled by election, except for secretary, which shall be filled by an appointment made by the chair."

Add new final sentence as follows: "Vacancies in other offices shall be filled by appointment made by the remaining elected officers."

**Justification** - Election cycle works against timely filling of vacant positions. New elections are held too frequently to fit in by-elections.

#### **Article VI - Committees**

Delete final sentence that reads: "The chair may appoint committee chairs for specific problems and projects which have been approved by the membership."

#### **Article VI – Committees, continued**

Add new final sentence as follows: "In addition to the Executive Committee, LPSS will have those committees deemed appropriate for its smooth operation by the membership. Committee chairs and members shall be appointed by the vice-chair / chair-elect."

**Justification** - Clarity and correction to actual procedures. Chair does not appoint.

#### **Article VIII - Nominations and Elections, 2nd paragraph**

Delete final sentence that reads: "Ties will be determined by vote of the Executive Committee."

Add final sentence as follows: "Ties will be determined according to ALA policies."

**Justification** - ALA does not refer ties to the LPSS Executive Committee but determines the winner by lot. Correction to actual procedures.

#### **Article X - General Provisions**

Change phrase "ACRL Constitution and Bylaws" to "ACRL Bylaws."

Delete period and add to sentence: ", and those of ALA."

**Justification** - ACRL merged its bylaws and constitution, so we refer to a non-existent document.

## HOW ARE WE DOING? PLEASE COMPLETE THE LPSS MEMBERSHIP SURVEY

How are we doing? The Membership Committee of the Law and Political Science Section wants to find out what you think about LPSS activities and get your suggestions for future programs and services. Please take a few moments to read the following description of current LPSS activities and answer our survey questions. Results will be reported in *LPSS News* and on the listserv.

LPSS is a section of the Association of College and Research Libraries. Its purpose is to serve as an educational and information exchange for librarians with an interest or subject expertise in law or political science. Current activities include annual conference programs, preparation of literature guides and web pages to support the programs, publication of a semi-annual newsletter, review and critique of major resources in law and political science, and sponsoring discussion groups.

Please complete this survey on the web (<http://saturn.vcu.edu/~jlewis/survey.htm>) or copy and use the form below and mail it to:

Jan Lewis, James Branch Cabell Library, Virginia Commonwealth University, Box 842033, Richmond, VA 23284-2033

Thanks for participating.

1. What do you think LPSS's highest priorities should be?
2. What kinds of programs and activities would be most useful to you?
3. What are your biggest work-related challenges and how can LPSS support you in meeting them?
4. What aspects of LPSS are currently of help to you?
5. If more LPSS committee work could be done outside conferences and meetings (through email and web page development, for example), would you be likely to increase your involvement in the section?
6. What features would you like to see on the LPSS web page?
7. What features would you like to see in the LPSS newsletter?
8. What features would you like to see on the LPSS listserv?
9. What other professional and/or volunteer groups work well for you and why?
10. Do you concentrate on law, political science, or both?  
Please check one.  
Law  
Political Science  
Both
11. Are you interested in serving on any LPSS committees? Check all that interest you.  
Conference Program Planning  
Library Instruction  
Membership  
Nominating  
Publications  
Review and Planning  
Vendor/Publisher Review  
Marta Lange/CQ Award
12. Is there anything else you'd like us to know?; If so, please tell us!
13. Name (needed if you are interested in serving on a committee):

## EUROCAT ON CD-ROM

Co-published by the Office for Official Publications, European Communities, Chadwyck-Healey and ELLIS Publications. [Luxembourg: Cambridge: Maastricht, Netherlands. *In North America*: chadwick-Healey, Inc., 1101 King Street, Alexandria, VA 22314-2944] 1993:1--. Published quarterly. Each issue is fully cumulative.

### Scope and stated purpose

*Eurocat* is a catalog of European Union (EU) publications, documents, selected texts and legislation published in the *Official Journal* of the European Union L Series, and European Court of Justice C Series information. *Eurocat* on CD-ROM has been developed to meet the needs of the public and the professions for information on EU legislation, policies and activities.

*Eurocat* is compiled from four databases – CATEL, Celex, SCAD and Abel. EU publications and documents indexed consist of monographs, serials, final documents series (COM), European Parliament (PE), Economic and Social Committee documents (CES), and selected texts such as legislation in force (records related to texts published in the OJ, L series). Legislative record types include agreement, corrigenda and notices relating to cases before the Court of Justice. Case records relate to notes of the progress of cases published in the OJ, C Series. Case records in *Eurocat* are classified under the headings ECJ case registration, ECJ case judgment, ECK case order or ECJ case removal. Inside these broad limits *Eurocat* coverage increases with each successive quarterly CD-ROM edition, as the publisher obtain access to wider sources of information.

### Coverage

Except in the case of legislation in force, where records of pre-1985 material are included, *Eurocat* covers material published since the beginning of 1985. *Eurocat* attempts to provide a single source of data from four databases of the EU institutions – ABEL, Catel, Celex, and SCAD. The principal source of data comes from the CATEL database, which is the primary bibliographic database of the Office of Official Publications. Its records are derived from the printed catalogues, the monthly and annual indexes for the OJ, and all legislation and case registrations and case judgments published in the OJ L and C Series. Items selected from the SCAD and Celex databases complement those from CATEL. The SCAD database contains references to more than 250,000 documents on community legislation, official publications, articles, and opinions from the two side of industry. SCAD also scans over 1,500 commercial and professional journals and includes abstracts of articles on EC affairs. Celex, the official EU law database, covers treaties and international agreements, regulations, directives and decisions, case law, preparatory acts including proposals, opinions, and national measures implementing directives. Celex provides records from pre-1985 legislation still in force, all its annotations of legislation, some of the subject indexing for the legislation, and its classifications according to a system familiar to users of the *Directory of Community Legislation in Force*. ABEL provides the latest legislative information including the table of contents of the *Official Journal L Series* and is updated daily. In addition to these four databases, *Eurocat* incorporates *EUROVOC*, the EU's nine-language thesaurus. *EUROVOC* serves as an indexing vocabulary for the majority of records in *Eurocat*.

*Eurocat's* broad subject headings are: Customs union and commercial policy; Agriculture, fisheries and forestry; Employment and labor; Social questions; Law and procedures; Transport; Competition and undertakings; Finance; Economic questions—customer protection; EU institutional questions; External relations; Energy ; Regional policy; Environment; Scientific and technical research; Information, education and culture; and Statistics

### Format

*Eurocat* is available on CD-ROM (one disk conforming to ISO9660) with a user manual and a quick reference guide. It has a number or browse and search indexes such as keyword, subject, titles, author, corporate author, date of legislation, date of publication, document reference number, ISBN/ISSN, EU catalogue number. Searches can be combined using Boolean operators AND, OR and NOT. Records are retrieved in reverse chronological order and can be sorted further using any of the above indexes. The corresponding records of other language editions can be instantly displayed. A special feature of *Eurocat* on CD-ROM is that it links the different language versions of the same document, so that one can switch between them. From a single search in any of the Union languages (except Greek), users can display the titles and references to all available language versions of a particular document.

### Document Delivery

*Eurocat* is linked to EPMS by ELLIS Publications, an official document delivery agent for the Office for Official Publications of the European Union. An integrated order form on the CD-ROM enables users to order the following items, from the first issue to the latest, in all available EU languages: *Official Journal* L, C and S Series, COM Final documents, ECOSOC/CES documents and opinions, ECJ and CEC DG IV unpublished reports, and reports of cases before the Court of Justice and the Court of First Instance. Users can order copies of the complete journal, a specific document or piece of legislation, or part of a document such as an annex or table. The majority of documents are sent within 48 hours from receipt of the order. Users can simply telephone, fax or write their inquiry to EPMS by/ELLIS Publications, PO Box 1059, 6201 BB Maastricht, The Netherlands, Telephone +31 4457 2275, Fax +31 4457 21 48. EPMS will quote a price and then supply the document. Ellis Publications quotes the prices for document delivery as .75 Guilders per pages (1994/95+), 1.25 guilders per page (1993 or older); complete document 20.00 guilders; minimum order 35.00 Guilders. This reviewer does not have much experience with *Eurocat* document delivery services and is not aware of FTP and/or e-mail options as mode of transmission.

### Availability and subscription rates

*Eurocat* is not available in paper format, but only as a CD-ROM on a single site by educational institution and public libraries. In order to network between two or more sites, institutions are required to apply for a network license.

The subscription rate is \$789 per year (excluding delivery). Subscriptions may begin with any quarterly issue.

### Frequency/time-lag of publication

The publishing time lag seems to be three to four months after the date of each current issue. Multi-language items may even be longer (six months to a year).

### Editing, typos, use of cross-referencing

*Eurocat* is not the product of independent cataloguers working with original text in one language. The publishers combine various specialized primary catalogues and other bibliographical media sources in one single standard format. *Eurocat* relies mainly upon cataloging material, which originates from Union institutions and bodies, irrespective of the publisher. At the same time the publishers are striving to make necessary changes in the source material which they may notice during *Eurocat's* editorial process, or which may be drawn to their attention by users. *Eurocat* contains numerous records with limited coverage of available catalogues and bibliographies.

### Overall usability

*Eurocat's* arrangement is relatively easy to understand. In order to search the CD-ROM, chooses a database of a specific language choice, then a search form (i.e. standard search, detailed search, and number search. A standard search includes six fields: title words, subjects, corporate source, author, and document type and publication year. Detailed search contains the standard search form plus additional fields for more complex searching. Number search combines all the fields containing numeric references. Other features include browsing the index, truncation, and printing/saving. Online help is available at any time. It is easier to start with a simple search first, then add terms to the query to narrow the search. Search fields include word in title, subjects (using words and phrases from EUROVOC controlled vocabularies), corporate source, author, document type, publication year, classification, series, catalogue number, ISBN/ISSN, OJ number, Celex classification, legal citations, document numbers and reports, microfiche number and date of exact publication of *Official Journal* entries. Records include title, corporate author, publication date, series title, ISBN/ISSN, catalogue number, price, language versions, format, classification, and subjects.

### Summary of positive aspects

A free 60 day trial is available. Trial package consists of disc, installation software and user manual.

*Eurocat* brings together over 450,000 records from four databases of official publications of the European Union.

*Eurocat* requires minimum hardware and software: IBM PC 286, 386, 486, PS.2 or 100% compatible with at least 640K RAM (500K RAM free). Hard disk with at least 2 MB free, Hercules monochrome, EGA or VGA monitor, MS-DOS 3.1 or higher, CD-ROM drive and controller card with Microsoft CD-ROM extensions 2.1 or higher.

A step-by-step user manual and quick reference guide. The manual includes installation procedures, database menu, search form, function keys and database structure display and output fields.

The subscriber permanently owns the CDs and older disk are not returned to the publisher.

User and technical support are available at the toll-free number.

The CD-ROM is easy to use for experience specialists and first time users alike.

### Suggested changes

More careful editorial work needs to be done to insure records are consistent and accurate. It is recommended that fields in records be standardized. For example, it is not clear on the screen what is the official title of a record.

It is recommended that publishers go back to its initial records (1993) and incorporate materials from other than just three original databases (CATEL, SCAD, and Celex).

Most European Union publications are now available online immediately. Since currency is deemed a highly desirable feature, it would greatly benefit users if the time lag for this product was reduced. It would be useful if this product was updated monthly, for example.

It is recommended to provide users with choices between an internet WWW and the CD-ROM version.

It would be extremely useful for bibliographic records to indicate existing URL addresses or mode of access for EU publications and documents.

*Eurocat* has a number of ways to display document numbers. These numbers are explained in detail in the User's Manual. Unfortunately, *Eurocat* does not include EU Depository Numbers in the program. It would be useful to add EU Depository Numbers.

Through an agreement between OCLC and the Office for Official Publications of the European Union, there are plans to add EU publications to the online union catalog. In addition, free access to EUDOR database is making it difficult for *Eurocat* to compete in the market, especially if major changes are not made. EUDOR is a free database available via WWW from the Office of the Official Publications of the European Union. EUDOR provides the current day's issue of the *Official Journal*, and is planning to provide information back to 1952. EUDOR also provides document delivery via FTP, fax, mail, and email. *Eurocat* would be more marketable and useful to users if full-text information was made available online on a monthly basis for considerably lower subscription price than the Lexis/Nexis database to libraries and other institutions.

Reviewed by Atifa Rawan, University of Arizona, Tucson, January 1998

### LPSS NEEDS YOU!

Need to beef up your resume with professional activities? Join an LPSS committee! Plenty of opportunities to get involved! Contact Marifran Bustion, LPSS Vice Chair, marifran@gwu.edu or watch for the October **C&RL News** for information and a volunteer form.

**ALA MIDWINTER TENTATIVE MEETING SCHEDULE**

\*\*\*Please check the ALA web site for final schedule\*\*\*

Sat. Jan. 30, 1:00 - 4:30 pm  
LPSS All Committee meeting, including general membership meeting

Marta Lange/CQ Committee meeting  
Sun. Jan. 31, 11:30 am - 12:30 pm  
Closed meeting for committee members only

LPSS Library Instruction Discussion Group  
Sun. Jan. 31, 2:00 - 5:30 pm  
Do you have in the minutes what their topic was?

LPSS Social /Happy Hour  
Friday, Jan. 29, 5:00 - 7:00 pm  
Details will be announced on LPSS-L. Please come and meet us!

© 1998 American Library Association

LPSS News is a publication of the Law and Political Science Section, Association of College and Research Libraries, American Library Association, 50 East Huron Street, Chicago, IL 60611. Editor: Lucia Snowhill, snowhill@library.ucsb.edu

**LPSS/ACRL  
50 East Huron Street  
Chicago, IL 60611**

**Nonprofit Org.  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
American Library  
Association**