

**ALA Midwinter 2007
Preliminary LPSS event schedule**

We are actively recruiting participation and would like to invite all members to attend our events, meet our members, find out what we do, and volunteer to participate in some of our projects. The section's business meetings will fill Saturday's schedule, while the discussion sessions will be held on Sunday.

As a special incentive to attend our "general membership meeting," attendees will be eligible to enter a drawing for valuable door prizes! Come and put your name in the proverbial hat.

Longtime committee members will notice a slight change in the way the "all committee meetings" are scheduled. We will divide the meeting time into two, with half of the committees meeting the first hour, and half during the second hour. A word of warning: the ALA program will list the time *only* for the "all committee meeting," not the individual committees. Reminders of this will be sent via the LPSS listserv as we approach January.

Saturday, 1/20/2007

Executive committee: 10:30-Noon.

Marta Lange/CQ Award committee: 10:30 am - 11:30 pm [Committee members only]

All committee meetings: 1:30-3:30

1:30-2:30pm

2006 (DC) annual program committee
Membership committee
Review & planning committee
Vendor/publisher committee

2:30-3:30pm

2007 (Anaheim) annual program committee
Publications committee
Instruction committee

General membership meeting: 4:00-5:00pm. Prizes available!

LPSS Social returns! 5:15 -- ?

Sunday, 1/21/2007

LPSS Library Instruction Discussion Group: 10:30-12:30

LPSS Research and Scholarship Discussion Session: 4:00-5:30pm

Locations TBA

Call for proposals

**Program committee plans second event
for 2007 ALA Annual conference**

Ann Marshall

This year, as a pilot project, the LPSS program committee invites our membership and other interested persons to present on a panel about blogs and related technologies at ALA Annual 2007, tentatively scheduled for Sunday, June 24. This additional panel will complement and enrich the official LPSS program, a panel of prominent political bloggers.

The intent of the pilot project is to give librarians and especially our membership an added opportunity for professional presentation, a venue to share original research and/or best practices within the section, and a structure for librarians to help librarians prepare their work for publication. Possible topics might include, but are not limited to:

- Authors and readers of blogs
- Effective use of blogs in librarianship, academia, or the classroom
- Blogging in politics, law, political science, or related fields
- The technology of blogs
- New and improved blogs and blog software
- The problems of blogs and blogging
- Searching, preserving and migrating blogs
- Ethical issues raised by blogs and blogging
- Credibility and reliability of blogs
- Blogs and the net generation
- New uses for blogs
- Beyond blogs: new tools for information sharing and research

[Continued on page 7]

Main LPSS program at 2007 ALA Annual

"Can blogs be trusted?"

Erik Estep

Blogs are everywhere in our political culture. Whether it is the controversial role bloggers played in supporting the Gulf War or how they allegedly helped defeat Joe Lieberman in the Connecticut primary, blogs have had an undeniable influence on politics.

But are weblogs a reliable source of information?

The LPSS 2007 annual program at ALA Annual in Chicago addresses this especially crucial question for librarians.

Eric Alterman, columnist for *The Nation* and author of numerous influential books on the media, will discuss his blog, *Altercation* <<http://mediamatters.org/altercation>>.

Jason Zengerle, a senior editor at *The New Republic*, will talk about his experience as a journalist covering the blogging phenomenon.

Blogging pioneer **Jessamyn West** will speak on blogs from a librarian's perspective.

Please join us on Saturday June 23, from 1:30 to 3:30 (room to be announced) for this fascinating and timely panel.

Section chair's message

Kathi Carlisle Fountain

As I write, our nation is commemorating the one-year anniversary of Hurricane Katrina's devastation, and I am reminded of my experience at this summer's ALA conference in New Orleans. The city was a remarkable host, yet the damage of last year's storm could not be ignored. It was as important to contribute to the economy as it was to bear witness to all the help the city still needs. I hope that those of you who traveled to New Orleans returned to your communities and shared your stories with colleagues, friends, and family.

The LPSS program offered a needed perspective on the Katrina crisis, and we were very fortunate to hear from such distinguished speakers. A hearty thanks is due to the program planning committee, YBP Library Services, and Bernan Press for making this program possible.

Although the LPSS meetings drew only a handful of members in New Orleans, our ideas were anything but small. Several initiatives emerged, which should contribute to an organization that continues to ask for your help but also helps you in your career. Among these efforts are

- The establishment of a mentoring program by the membership committee. Contact Lorena O'English <oenglish@wsunix.wsu.edu> to get involved.
- A trial run of a peer-review panel on "Blogs and Related Technologies" will be held at annual next summer in Washington, DC. Submit your proposals by Dec. 1, 2006 to <lpssprogram@gmail.com>.
- Adding more substantive content to the LPSS website. Have ideas or submissions? Send them to Dennis Lambert <dennis.lambert@villanova.edu>, chair of the publications committee.
- Co-sponsoring a short-course workshop with GODORT at the American Political Science Association annual conference, just before Labor Day 2007, in Chicago. Bruce Pencek <bpencek@vt.edu> will be looking for ideas and presenters.

In other news, LPSS leadership are

- Discussing a new meeting arrangement for Midwinter to make it more workable. Watch for an announcement on LPSS-L.
- Considering a different format for the Marta Lange/CQ Award event. CQ Press would like to take advantage of the Washington, DC location next summer to show us their command center. (Thank you, CQ Press, for all your support!)
- Co-sponsoring the Western European Studies Section program at ALA annual 2007 on the European Union.

I want to close by extending my many thanks to the committee chairs and members who do the work of this section while trying to balance it with the rest of their personal and professional lives. We can always use additional volunteers. Please contact Kelly Janousek (janousek@csulb.edu) if you would like to continue or start serving on any of our committees. Our work and our relationships make the commitment a very worthwhile investment.

My special thanks go to Connie Salyers Stoner for all her hard work last year as LPSS chair. I hope she enjoys the casual pace of "past-chair" but is still willing to entertain my questions.

From the editor: So, what'll you have?

Bruce Pencek

What's the place of the various LPSS media -- the listserv, the website, this newsletter -- in your professional life? How well do any of them serve you as a way to influence the section's direction and tenor?

It's hard for a semiannual publication to be a *newsletter*. But this one does reach all paid-up section members, even those who spurn the LPSS listserv. So as editor I ought to continue to treat it as our publication of record for section business, archived on the website. Hence the lengthy minutes from the meetings in New Orleans; not exactly sexy, but needed.

Fortunately, print is more readable than email for long-form pieces like this issue's database comparison. Send me more. Ditto for exercises to help our users make sense of specific search tools. Condense a poster session, with some graphics.

By now, if you were interested in the 2006 program, you'll have attended it or read about it in the story Catherine Doyle contributed to the September *C&RL News*. Ann Marshall pulled together a great and well received panel. Lacking space to cover it in the depth it deserved, and averse to publishing old news as a placeholder, I chose to commit space to future events, including the call for proposals for an additional, participatory program. Or would you rather a summary in the newsletter? Would you read deep coverage of on the website, where it might complement the pathfinder?

Where do reports from outside the section do you the most good? Wendy Highby offers her take on the APSA third annual Teaching and Learning Conference, with some arguments for attending disciplinary meetings. What mix of reportage and impression, and from what meetings, interests you most? For instance, would you rather see a debate start here or on the list about how the APSA Annual is a lot more intellectually serious and ideologically variegated than ALA? What of the news that the APSA undergraduate education section renamed itself the political science education section, that the *Journal of Political Science Education* will go quarterly in 2008, or that the section leaders announced that APSA staff supports teaching and learning initiatives but the association's elected leadership is worried that education costs too much? Where to discuss the admission by our best friends in APSA that they really don't care about the retrieval dimension of information literacy?

A couple dozen usual suspects do the work of this section. We probably take too many cues from one another because we don't encounter enough from you. So use the LPSS media to make the section more useful, or at least more interesting.

Walden receives 2006 Marta Lange/CQ Press Award

Binh P. Le

Prof. Graham Walden, subject specialist for communication, Germanic languages and literatures, and humanities and social science reference at the Ohio State University Libraries, is the recipient of the 2006 ACRL LPSS Marta Lange/CQ Press Award. The award was presented June 24 at ALA Annual.

In selecting Walden for the award, the committee recognized his significant contributions to the field of librarianship through research and publications and his service to the profession and the Ohio State University.

Walden is an expert on the literature of public opinion polling and survey research. His major publications in these areas include: *Public Opinion Polls and Survey Research: a Selective Annotated Bibliography of U.S. Guides and Studies from the 1980's*; *Polling and Survey Research Methods 1935-1979: an Annotated Bibliography*; and *Survey Research Methodology, 1990-1999*. He has also published two book chapters, two peer-reviewed journal articles, and over 100 book reviews.

Walden has also served on many ACRL committees, many of which were with LPSS. He chaired the Marta Lange/CQ Press committee in 2003-04. He served as president of the Government Documents Roundtable of Ohio (1989-1990) and as a member of the program committee and the resolutions subcommittee of the Ohio White House Conference on Library and Information Services (1990). He has also served on many important committees at Ohio State, including its promotion and tenure committee.

Sponsored by CQ Press, the \$1,000 award recognizes law and academic librarians for distinguished contributions to bibliography and information service in law or political science. Deadline for nominations for the 2007 award is Dec. 1. Contact Brian Coutts (<Brian.Coutts@wku.edu> or 270-745-6111) for additional information.



From left: Kathryn Suarez of CG Press, Graham Walden, LPSS Chair Connie Stoner, Award Chair Binh P. Le.

Why attend APSA events? A Teaching & Learning Conference report

Wendy Highby

How does a parliament of political scientists compare to a stack of librarians? The ratio of male attendees to female attendees was larger. The exhibits area was smaller. But the collegiality I experienced was equally warm.

On a cold weekend in February 2006, I attended the third annual Teaching and Learning Conference of the American Political Science Association (APSA). Two portents greeted me upon my disorienting emergence from an underground Washington, DC, Metro station: a friendly local guide from the visitors' bureau directed me from the Metro stop to the conference hotel, and across the street I saw cheerful window dressing at a branch public library advertising Black History Month. So, I hoped, maybe a librarian won't be too out of place at this conference....

My recent career change from acquisitions/serials to social sciences reference librarian prompted my decision to join APSA. I was eager to learn as much as I could about the social sciences and to build my instructional skills and subject expertise. APSA offers an affordable associate membership rate for non-political scientists. As I got to know the organization, I discovered that the aims and format of the Teaching and Learning Conference were particularly inviting both to newcomers and pragmatic librarians. The event is organized around a working-group model consisting of thematic tracks. Throughout the weekend, participants are expected to attend a single track and participate actively and for the duration of the event. This model enhances camaraderie and knowledge exchange. The themes are varied, and one of them, "Teaching Research Methods," piqued my attention.

We librarians were a strong presence at the Teaching & Learning Conference, as both presenters and participants. As a newcomer to the LPS Section of ACRL, I was pleasantly surprised to see that our own intrepid LPSS members, Kathleen Fountain, Bruce Pencek, John Hernandez, and Connie Salyers Stoner, offered a workshop that reviewed the draft Political Research Competency Guidelines with the political science professors.

The moderator of the "Teaching Research Methods" track, Dr. Kim Quaille Hill, took special note of the library contingent: "Two papers in our sessions were particularly distinctive from those in past Teaching and Learning Conference workshops on this topic because they offered insight into incorporating the expertise and efforts of professional university librarians into the course."

A comprehensive summary of the conference proceedings may be accessed in the July 2006 issue of *PS: Political Science & Politics* (v39 n3, pp. 533-44).

[Continued on page 5, col. 1]

For the record

Minutes: LPSS executive committee meeting

June 24, 2006, 3:30 pm, ALA Annual New Orleans
Hilton New Orleans Riverside - Rosedown
Recorder: Ann Marshall (updated, July 16, 2006)

Present: Connie Salyers Stoner, Kathi Fountain, Lynne Rudasill, Lorena O'English, Bruce Pencek, Ann Marshall.

1. **Strategic plan:** was posted on the web, and the URL appeared in the spring 2006 newsletter. Special thanks go to Susan Parker for all her work on this. Several copies will be made available at the general membership meeting on June 25 and membership will vote on whether to adopt the plan. If passed, the strategic plan will be in effect for 2006-2010.

2. **Bylaw changes:** include 1) add the webmaster as a member of the executive committee, 2) the immediate past chair of LPSS will serve as a *member* of review and planning committee for his/her first year term. Then, during their second year on the review and planning committee, he/she will serve as *chair* of this committee.

3. **Research competency guidelines:** The guidelines with undergo a final review period by the LPSS membership, from the end of ALA Annual until August 1, 2006. Members will be notified about this review period via the LPSS listserv. The education task force will then make any revisions or editorial changes. The executive committee will vote on the document at ALA Midwinter 2007. ACRL then will then review the guidelines. It will not be necessary for our guidelines to go through the entire procedures suggested in the ACRL tip-sheets, since our document predated the creation of the ACRL review process.

4. **Liaison appointments:** The executive committee discussed LPSS liaison needs and possible steps to formalize and/or strengthen existing liaison responsibilities. Points raised include, 1) LPSS has an AALL and GODORT liaison and would like to establish one with APSA, 2) the liaison relationship with AALL, with Merle Slyhoff as liaison, has been strong, 3) The GODORT liaison has not attended several LPSS meetings. Kathi will ask LPSS John Hernandez about his interest in serving as GODORT liaison, 4) there are advantages in having continuity with a single person being liaison over time, but there are also advantages to bringing in new people in this role. One idea is for liaisons to have a set term, with the option for reappointment, 5) Is there any money available (travel funds etc.) for liaisons? 6) ACRL/ALA have procedures and rules for formal liaisons. Connie agreed to draft language on this issue, to be reviewed at ALA Midwinter 2007.

5. **Executive committee meeting time:** In the past, executive committee meetings have been either scheduled as part of/adjacent to other LPSS Committee meetings or scheduled informally. Incoming Chair Kathi Fountain hopes to set an official and separate meeting time for the executive committee.

LPSS officer nominees

The LPSS nominating committee (Merle Slyhoff, chair; Susan Parker; Kelly Janousek) is pleased to announce the slate for the 2006-07 election.

In accordance with nominations guidelines, the order in which candidates' names appear is by random selection.

Vice Chair/Chair Elect:

Ann Marshall
Dennis Lambert

Secretary:

Mary Gilles

Member-at-Large: (one to be elected)

Brian Coutts
Evan Rusch

Minutes: LPSS general membership meeting

June 25, 2006, 10:30 am - noon, ALA Annual New Orleans
Sheraton New Orleans, Napoleon BR C1/C2,
Recorder: Ann Marshall (updated, July 15, 2006)

I. **Welcome and introductions:** Connie Salyers Stoner, LPSS Chair, welcomed the membership and presided over the meeting. All present introduced themselves.

II. **Minutes:** ALA 2006 Midwinter membership minutes were approved.

III. **Committee reports:**

Conference program planning 2006, Ann Marshall/Bruce Pencek: The 2006 program, "Beyond Katrina: Politics, Race and Law" was held the previous day, with 55 people in attendance. A member suggested that the committee pursue having the future programs audio/video taped. There were some last minute AV issues with the room, but these were resolved in time for the event.

Conference program planning 2006, Erik Estep/Ann Marshall: A subset of the program committee met and brainstormed additional speakers, to either augment blogger Joshua Micah Marshall, or as a back-up if he is unable to attend. The next deadline is August 25th, when final budget proposals must be submitted to ACRL. The program committee plans to meet via a conference call in July.

Library instruction committee, Erik Estep: Erik was not able to attend the conference, due to his transition to a new job. The bibliography for the 2006 program was very positively received.

Marta Lange/CQ award, Binh Le: a successful Marta Lange dinner and awards banquet, sponsored by CQ Press, was held the previous day, to honor Graham R. Walden, of the Ohio State University Libraries.

Membership committee, Kelly Janousek: Lorena O'English represented the committee, describing and circulating a draft copy of the updated membership brochure, with a new logo. The logo was approved by a vote of the membership. ACRL will contribute funds, supporting printing costs to cover one color, but not the committee's originally planned four colors. The committee is collecting LPSS testimonials, both for the brochure and website. A mentoring program is planned and the committee is recruiting LPSS members interested in serving as mentors. The committee is working on developing a closer relationship with the New Members Round Table, with the help of ACRL liaison Adam Burling. More information about this will be distributed on the LPSS listserv. Informal exit interviews of members leaving LPSS are also planned. Members wondered if the changed fee structure (fewer section memberships included in ACRL membership) will impact LPSS membership numbers. The committee is also exploring ways to use the ALA Online Community to involve members, such as a monthly chat or discussion boards. An article about this is planned for the LPSS newsletter.

Publications committee, Dennis Lambert: The committee is pursuing adding recommended political science resources to the website and/or to link to existing resource pages. There was discussion about whether ALA/ACRL has rules about linking to other sites. Connie is working on updating the LPSS Manual and will confer with the publications committee as needed. Changes to the manual do not require official membership approval; issues with the manual can be resolved within the executive committee, as necessary. The past chair of the publications committee will remain on the publications committee for one year as a committee member following his/her term as chair, to assist with any continuity issues. Bruce Pencek is the new newsletter editor. The deadline for submissions for the fall newsletter is Sept. 10. Bruce Pencek and Erik Estep are working on a political science wiki, which could be a potential suggested resource for the LPSS website.

Review and planning, Susan Parker: The committee wrote the LPSS Strategic Plan, which was structured around the ACRL Strategic Plan. The membership voted to adopt the strategic plan, which will

[continued on next page, col. 2]

Midwinter social returns

Seattle -- home of the Space Needle, the Experience Music Project, and mighty fine beer! Come join your fellow LPSSers at the membership social immediately after the general membership meeting on Saturday, Jan. 20.

At this point we do not know where our membership meeting will be taking place, but downtown Seattle is compact enough that virtually any conference hotel will be within walking distance of the social.

The Dragonfish Café <<http://www.dragonfishcafe.com/>> is centrally located at 722 Pine Street (actually the Paramount Hotel) and serves Asian cuisine with an extensive and reasonably-priced bar menu. We'll see you there!

Virtual conversations:

LPSS membership chats start Nov. 30

Now that ALA has implemented its Online Community networking space <<http://communities.ala.org>> we have new opportunities to network and share information.

The membership committee will be inaugurating its first virtual chat: an open real-time discussion about the draft LPSS Political Science Research Competency Guidelines (available on the LPSS webpage). The online discussion will begin Thursday, Nov. 30 at noon PST (3pm EST).

Here's our chance to talk about how we might use the Guidelines and share implementation thoughts and strategies.

Since this is our first chat, we'll be figuring things out as we go. For updated information, including log-on instructions, check out <<http://www.wsu.edu/~oenglish/lpsschats.html>>.

Contact Lorena O'English (<oenglish@wsu.edu> or 509-335-2695) for more information.

Why attend APSA? continued...

I believe there are four convincing reasons to attend a conference outside the exclusive boundaries of the profession of librarianship:

(1) We act as ambassadors for the profession and marketers to the classroom professors. In several conversations at the conference, I found myself paraphrasing the common goals of academic librarians: how much we want to be of service to students and classroom professors, the fact that we can be active partners in the process of building critical thinking skills, and so on.

(2) We can re-invigorate our professional development. A new conference experience provides a refreshing change of perspective. How does the view of a political scientist differ from that of an academic librarian? Which issues are experienced in common?

(3) This may be an opportunity to collaborate with our own institution's political science professors, both as attendees and possibly presenters. The collaborative nature of the Teaching and Learning Conference is a relatively new and different trend for APSA. Librarians, on the other hand, are old hands at collaborative ventures. This aspect makes it a natural fit for us. The pragmatic focus of the Teaching and Learning Conference, with direct application to the classroom and internship setting,

Minutes, continued...

be in effect for 2006-2010. The committee will make some very minor editorial changes to the plan, e.g. more action-oriented language. The strategic plan may impact the manual. The strategic plan can be reviewed every year.

Vendor and publisher relations, Fadi Harissi Dagher: Members of the committee were not able to attend ALA annual. The committee has been working on a review of LexisNexis as compared to Westlaw.

IV. Education task force report, Barbara Norelli: Barbara was not in attendance, but submitted a report. The rubric associated with the Research Competency Guidelines was reviewed by a small group of highly engaged political science faculty at the APSA Teaching and Learning Conference. Some faculty were interested in assessment issues, such as how the outcomes might be measured. The membership will have one final chance to submit any suggested changes to the Research Competency Guidelines; details will be posted on the LPSS listserv in July.

V. Liaison reports: The liaison to AALL, Merle J. Slyhoff, will submit a report. There was no report available from a GODORT liaison.

VI. Old business

LPSS Strategic Plan: was adopted by a vote of the membership. See the Review and Planning Committee meeting minutes above for more details.

APSA activities and travel award 2007: Connie submitted a proposal to ACRL for travel funds to support an LPSS member to attend APSA in 2007. It is not yet known whether ACRL has approved this funding request. Incoming Chair Kathi Fountain will pursue this funding in the upcoming year. A task force is being formed to plan a pre-conference at APSA 2007, and members are being recruited to participate on this task force.

Political Information Day 2006: The membership voted in favor of abolishing Political Information Day. The consensus was that too much paperwork was required and that it was difficult to plan a successful day of events.

VII. New business

Sections Council report: 1) ACRL Information Literacy Advisory Committee has developed a "Tip Sheet for Developing Subject-Specific Information Literacy Standards." In reviewing the LPSS guidelines, ACRL will take into consideration how far along our section is in this process. 2) ACRL Annual Conference Programs Task Force for Improving and Extending Professional Development Opportunities at ALA Annual Conferences shared a discussion guide with Leadership and Sections Council. Several recurring issues have been identified that they want membership to discuss and give input. For example one issue is that there are too many competing programs during annual conferences. For purposes of discussion, several scenarios were shared to help with discussion.

VIII. Adjournment

differs from the more traditional Annual Meeting of APSA that focuses upon promulgation of political science research.

(4) Finally, though I have not yet done so, I'd like to attend the larger-scale APSA Annual Meeting (traditionally held around Labor Day) in order to vary my emphasis from process to content. Much of our energy as librarians deals with the research process. APSA Annual Meeting attendance could allow for a much-needed foray into research content. It seems we never have enough time to hone our subject expertise. What are the hot topics in the subject area? Where is political science research headed?

I encourage my fellow political science librarians to join APSA and attend the conferences. Cross-pollination of professions, especially in the cold days of February, can be a most rejuvenating and warmly collegial experience. To access conference information, go to the APSA website: <<http://www.apsanet.org/conferences/>>.

Database comparison***Worldwide Political Science Abstracts vs. International Political Science Abstracts***

Barbara Hillson and Barbara Morgan

Political science librarians have two major indexing/abstracting database options for scholarly literature: *Worldwide Political Science Abstracts (WPSA)* and *International Political Science Abstracts (IPSA)*. When faced with selecting one of these electronic resources as a subscription database, how does a librarian sort through the content? Many factors may impact the decision, but we hope that the following comparisons will help to shed light on the features and foibles of these two major products.

BACKGROUND and HISTORY of the PRODUCTS

WPSA brings together the merged backfiles of two earlier abstracting and indexing services: IFI/Plenum's *Political Science Abstracts*, published 1975-2000, and ABC-CLIO's *ABC PolSci* which was issued 1984-2000. The publisher, CSA, states that the focus of the merged database is on more global coverage and expanded inclusion of titles published outside the United States. We accessed the database through the CSA Illumina vendor interface.

IPSA originated in 1951 and is currently published by the International Political Science Association under the auspices of the International Social Science Council and with the support of UNESCO, the Fondation Nationale des Sciences Politiques and the American University of Paris. We accessed the database through EPSCOhost.

BACKFILE COVERAGE

WPSA offers back files dating to 1975, according to the CSA vendor profile. But using the date refinement in CSA Advanced Search mode, we found some articles that dated back as far as the 1960s. Abstracts are available even in the earliest bibliographic records.

IPSA coverage goes back to 1989. However, EBSCO has committed to digitizing all print issues for 1975-1988 by the end of March. EBSCO is considering digitizing the issues for 1951-1974.

INDEXED CONTENT

In *WPSA*, the total number of records in the database is listed as over 473,000 as of August 2006; more than 20,000 records are added annually.

Serials: CSA says that journal articles make up 80% of *WPSA* content. Product literature states that 1,636 serial titles are monitored as of 2006; two thirds of these serials are publications from outside the United States. International distribution of the indexed journals shapes up as 50% from Western Europe, 33% from North America, 6% from South and Central America, 8% from Australia, Asia, Middle East and Africa, and 3% from Eastern Europe.

Each publication monitored receives a level-of-coverage rating based on the scope of the material included. "Core journals" are published by political science associations, groups, faculties, and institutions, and/or have the term *political science* in their titles. All substantive articles appearing in these journals are abstracted and indexed, and citations are provided to the book reviews published therein. "Priority journals" are drawn from related social sciences (eg, economics, international relations, law, public administration, sociology) that consistently address topics of political science relevance, and in which political scientists regularly publish. More than 50% of the substantive articles appearing in these journals are selected for coverage. "Selective sources" include journals from related social sciences that occasionally publish works by political scientists. Fewer than half of the substantive articles appearing in these journals are covered.

Other print document types: Other content such as book chapters is also indexed: reviews (5%), dissertations (1%), book/book chapters (9%). *WPSA* also contains a collection of over 74,000 websites selected by the databases editors. Most of these websites are from governmental and educational organizations and think tanks. The vendor guide states that these websites are reviewed monthly with a rate of only 2% dead links.

In *IPSA*, the total number of records in the database is approximately 124,500 as of August 2006; over 8,000 records are added annually.

Serials: According to the editor of the *IPSA*, 1,194 serial titles are currently being monitored. The selection guidelines used for inclusion are that scholarly articles are chosen over informative articles; the major journals in the field of political science are covered in full; and studies from countries in which political science is not well developed or about countries on which information is scarce are treated less selectively.

Yearbooks: Approximately 30 yearbooks are covered using the same selection criteria as for serials.

FOREIGN LANGUAGE and INTERNATIONAL CONTENT

Materials from 33 languages are indexed in *WPSA*. In addition to English, also included are Western European languages as well as Arabic, Chinese, Hebrew, Japanese, Russian and Turkish. The CSA vendor guide notes that titles are always translated into English, and an English abstract is provided "whenever possible."

Materials from 26 languages are indexed in *IPSA*. In addition to English, there are 21 Western European languages and Arabic, Japanese, Korean and Turkish. Of the approximately 95% of records that include abstracts, most are written in English. All

titles in languages other than English are translated into English, but the original language titles (except for Arabic, Japanese and Korean) are included as well.

International distribution of the indexed journals is approximately 61% from Western Europe, 26% from North America, 8% from Australia, Asia and Africa, 2% from Eastern Europe, and 2% from South America.

SUBJECT CONTENT

In *WPSA*, the major subject areas included here are government/political systems, public administration, history and theory of political science, international relations and research methodology. Policy studies areas include a range of issues such as economic policy, environmental policy, trade, and defense policy.

IPSA covers political science broadly understood, including public administration, constitutional law, and public international law according to the editor. The subject areas are method and theory; political thinkers and ideas; political and administrative institutions; political processes (public opinion, attitudes, parties, forces, groups, elections); international relations; and national and area studies.

SEARCH INTERFACE

For *WPSA*, CSA Illumina offers a basic search as well as advanced search, which indexes 22 fields and codes. These include publication type, author affiliation, corporate author, language, and source. Searchers may also choose limits such as "journal articles only" or "English only." Users can also customize the results per page and choose short format or full format.

For *IPSA*, the EPSCOhost interface provides a basic search with a single search box which searches the title, author, abstracts, and subject fields. Advanced search permits searching in the following fields: all text, author, title, subject terms, abstracts, ISSN, ISBN, publication name, and accession number. Limits are date, publication, author, and English language. There is also an expand feature that allows the user to search for related words, search within the full text of the articles, as well as automatically *and* search terms. And an option to narrow results by subject is available on the left side of the search results screen.

VALUE-ADDED FEATURES

WPSA

- **Thesaurus:** Users can choose an interactive thesaurus search of over 3,000 standardized political science terms. The vendor guide notes that all records added since 2000 are indexed using this thesaurus.
- **Cited reference linking:** References cited in the bibliography are included for citations to core journals in political science, added to the database since 2001, and for all journals added since 2004. Each reference may also have links to an abstract and/or to other papers that cite that reference.
- **Scholar profiles:** This new feature offers the researcher a list of profiles of noted scholars who are authorities on the subject searched. Included are affiliation, research interests and publications.
- **QuickBib:** Using the print, save, and e-mail tab allows the user to create a QuickBib of the citation in a number of formats such as MLA, APA, Chicago, and so on.

IPSA

- **Visual search:** Users can have their results sorted by topic in an interactive visual map.
- **Choose databases:** Allows users to search more than one EBSCO database at a time.
- **Indexes:** Researchers may browse a list from any of the following fields: author, entry date, ISBN, ISSN, publication name, subject terms and year of publication.

SUMMARY OF MAJOR DIFFERENCES BETWEEN WPSA and IPSA

The coverage of *WPSA* is more extensive and includes more serial titles: *WPSA* goes back to 1975 while *IPSA* begins in 1989; *WPSA* monitors 1,629 serial titles whereas *IPSA* monitors 1,194. Approximately 30 yearbooks are also monitored by *IPSA*. In addition to serials, *WPSA* includes book chapters, book reviews, dissertations, and websites plus added features such as cited reference linking and scholar profiles. *WPSA* adds 20,000 records annually; *IPSA* adds 8,000 records annually. *WPSA* has thesaurus searching capability, and one can search by original language; neither of these is available in *IPSA*.

[Contribute to pilot program at 2007 ALA Annual, continued...]

Proposals will be selected based on their originality, thoughtfulness, timeliness, importance to field of librarianship, and fit with the program theme and with the other panelists.

The deadline for submitting proposals is Dec. 1, 2006. Presenters will be notified shortly after ALA Midwinter.

Applications should include: a 200-400 word written proposal, title of the presentation, presenter name(s), phone number, email address, mailing address, affiliation, and job title.

Submit your proposal to the LPSS Program Committee at <lpssprogram@gmail.com>.

Actual schedule and availability of equipment for presentations depend on ALA.

We hope that you'll help us with this new initiative by encouraging others to submit a proposal; consider submitting a proposal yourself.

Send any questions to Ann Marshall at <ann.marshall@rochester.edu>.

LPSS News
ACRL – American Library Association
50 East Huron Street
Chicago, IL 60611-2795

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

IN THIS ISSUE

ALA Midwinter preliminary schedule	1
Call for proposals for panel at Annual	1
2007 LPSS program: 'Can you trust blogs?'	1
Chair's message	2
Editor's note	2
Walden received Lange/CG award	3
Why attend poli sci conferences?	3
Meeting minutes from New Orleans	4
Officer nominations	4
Post-meetings LPSS social returns	5
Online forum on IL guidelines set for Nov. 30	5
Poli sci index/abstracting database comparison	6

© 2006 American Library Association
ISSN 0885-7342

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 60611-2795.

<<http://www.ala.org/ala/acrl/aboutacrl/acrlsections/lawpolisci/lpsshomepage.htm>>

Editor: Bruce Pencek
Virginia Tech
bpencek@vt.edu