

Preliminary LPSS event schedule, 2012 Midwinter – Dallas, TX

Saturday, January 21st

8:00 –10:00 am

Executive Committee meeting

10:30 am –12:00 pm

General Membership Meeting

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LPSS Committee Updates

Each LPSS Committee Chair has submitted an update on what their committee is currently doing.

Publications

Lynn Thitchener

The Communication and Publications Committee facilitates communication with and about the section and its activities. In addition to publishing the newsletter, the Committee maintains our LPSS listserv and listserv archives, Facebook group account, ACRL wiki and ALA Connect presence. Over the past year, the Communication and Publications Committee has also explored possibilities for hosting model LibGuides on law and political science topics. To learn more about LPSS, we encourage all members to subscribe to the LPSS listserv. Send an e-mail to: listserv@listserv.kent.edu Note: The subject line should be empty and the body of the message MUST only contain: Subscribe lpss-l Firstname Lastname.

Review and Planning

Erik Estep

The charge of the Review of Planning Committee is to “study the implications of the ACRL Strategic Planning Task Force report as a guide for future section activities.” We are

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Message from the Chair: Chad Kahl

Happy Autumn! It's my favorite time of year, leaving behind the brutal Midwestern summers and welcoming in cooler weather and beautiful fall foliage.

I hope the start of the semester/quarter has gone well for all of you. If you feel like you're just catching your breath, you're in good company. I'm struck day after day, the amount of time, devotion and professionalism that my colleagues show to our patrons every day. You see that same level of commitment when a reference question is shared on the LPSS-L listserv. Hopefully, that professionalism is enhanced by your membership in LPSS and the sharing of information and networking that the Section provides.

Despite the dismal economy, especially in higher education, Section membership grew to over 500 members this past year. I realize that many have to make tough decisions on what takes priority financially and I appreciate those who joined or renewed their LPSS membership. Please contact me, at cmkahl@ilstu.edu, if there is something LPSS can do to make your membership even more valuable.

I would like to invite everyone to participate in the [ALA 2012 Midwinter Meeting in Dallas, TX](#). On Saturday, January 21st, the Executive Committee will meet from 8:00 to 10:00 AM and there will be a General Membership meeting from 10:30 AM to noon. As has become the practice, those two LPSS Midwinter meetings

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LPSS Member to Know: Kathi Fountain

By Jodi Shepherd

Kathi Carlisle Fountain is a native of Springfield, Oregon where her family has lived since the early 1970s. She's named for her mother's best friend, Kathi's godmother. Sometimes it is confusing to have two Kathi's in the family, particularly when her father reports to her mother that "Kathi" called. She is from a small family and has one sister three years younger than her. Growing up she wanted to be a doctor of sports medicine but, when freshman year Biology went badly, plans changed. She attended college at Pacific Lutheran University in Tacoma, Washington and studied both political science and history. She was influenced by a favorite history professor in college who had received a backup MLS just in case she could not find work teaching. Kathi later completed her MLS at the University of Illinois at Champaign-Urbana. Her interest in Political Science stems from her college major and graduate school training in and experience with government documents. She first became involved in LPSS when she was hired as a Political Science Librarian at California State University, Chico with travel funds and tenure obligations. Her travels abroad have included a wonderful trip to London and an even better visit to Barcelona and northeastern Spain.

What Committees have you served on in LPSS?

I have been a member of the Membership, Program Planning, and Instruction committees as well as serving as Member at Large, Secretary, Vice Chair and Chair (2006-2007). For the past 3 years I have been the Webmaster and has worked closely with the current Chair, Chad Kahl, for the past 2 years on Web content.

How do you like your position as the LPSS Webmaster?

I have enjoyed working on web content for LPSS and am very excited that the ALA website is migrating from Collage to Drupal. The new system is much easier, and I have experience using it here at Washington State University. However, I am looking to pass on the position of Webmaster to another LPSS member in the future.

So, is that a call for anyone interested in taking over the LPSS Webmaster position?

Yes! Now it will be easier to work on the ALA website because of the migration to Drupal. For anyone looking for Professional Development, this is a great opportunity to get involved.



Kathi Carlisle Fountain is the Member to Know for Fall 2011.

Speaking of opportunities, what do you think of LPSS as an opportunity to be involved?

LPSS is a very small, intimate group with a lot of possibilities to be involved in a big way. I certainly found my home in ALA with LPSS and it was easy to make a contribution. I think it is a win-win situation. LPSS needs people who want to make a difference and involved members can contribute towards their Professional Development.

Is there something you have been involved in with LPSS that you feel has made a contribution?

Yes. I worked on the Political Science Research Competency Guidelines and I believe they have made a contribution to LPSS and to the Political Science discipline. We were the first group to apply the ACRL Information Literacy Competency Standards to a discipline. Since we completed the guidelines, ACRL has created a framework for evaluating and adopting such documents from committees.

You also have a terrific website, "Political Advocacy Groups: A Directory of United States Lobbyists" <http://pag.vancouver.wsu.edu/>. Tell me about it.

I started it in 1997 when I began at Creighton University. It is a project that I have worked very hard on and it is highly used- 5,000 visits last month. The State Department, embassies and several Angel and Blackboard sites have linked to my site, so I would like to keep it going. I have two new librarians, Roger Kosson from Denison University and Emily Keller from the University of Washington, who have joined the project.

Are you planning on going to ALA this year?

I haven't decided yet. My son will be 2 ½ by then, so it would be fun to go to Disneyland. I have also applied to the Harvard Leadership Institute and I am waiting to hear if I was accepted.

Finally, what do you see in the future for LPSS?

Chad has good ideas for profiles and awards to highlight LPSS and its members. I would like to see more people join LPSS and participate in committees and projects. There is a small group of very dedicated people but if there was a way to expand our membership that would be ideal. Also, we could take advantage of new ideas and energy that new members bring.

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will be hybrid; I will be chairing a physical meeting in the Lone Star State (Dallas location TBA) and there will also be an online, participatory platform. More details, such as physical location and online meeting requirements will be shared via the LPSS communication tools: *ALA Connect*, *Facebook* and the *LPSS-L*. The LPSS committees will also be meeting virtually; more information to follow on the same LPSS communication tools.

One of the things that will be discussed at the ALA Midwinter Meeting is how LPSS will work to meet the strategic goals from the [ACRL Plan for Excellence](#), effective on July 1, 2011.

Speaking of LPSS communication tools, a reminder that information about LPSS can be found at the following places:

- **Website:** <http://www.ala.org/acrl/lpss>

Hosts historical section information such as past award winners, newsletters, chairs, official publications.

- **Facebook:** <http://www.facebook.com/groups/2233618422/>

Social media site for event notices, member-initiated discussions, photos from events, etc.

- **ALA Connect:** http://connect.ala.org/acrl_lpss

Home to current committee and conference related documents, such as meeting agendas, conference schedules, event notices.

- **ACRL wiki:** <http://wikis.ala.org/acrl/index.php/LPSS>

Offers access to an interactive, wiki version of the *Political Science Research Competency Guidelines* and Committee wiki sites.

Furthermore, I have asked that every LPSS Committee Chair to include a description of their work in this issue of the newsletter. You can find the committee information on pages 1 and 6.

Lastly, I would like to thank the 2011 ALA Annual Program Planning Committee for the great program, "The Legal Consequences of Environmental Crises: What Librarians Need to Know about the Gulf Oil Spill." A pathfinder/bibliography (thanks to the Instruction Committee) can be found on the [LPSS Conferences & Events web page](#).

Submit a proposal for ACRL 2013

The ACRL 2013 Conference committee invites you to submit a proposal for ACRL 2013: *Imagine, Innovate, Inspire*. The conference, to be held in Indianapolis, April 10-13, 2013, will feature the best and brightest ideas in academic librarianship. Imagine, innovate, and inspire your colleagues and others in the higher education community with proposals that explore the most dynamic and challenging issues and ideas facing academic and research librarians today.

Session formats Proposals are sought for a variety of formats including contributed papers, cyber zed shed presentations, panel sessions, preconferences, virtual conference webcasts, workshops, poster sessions, and roundtable discussions. [Session format descriptions are online](#).

How to submit Proposals must be submitted via the Program Proposal Form, available online at www.acrl.org/acrlconference (click "Program").

Deadlines

May 11, 2012 –Proposals due for contributed papers, panel sessions, workshops, and preconferences

November 9, 2012 - Proposals due for cyber zed shed presentations, poster sessions, roundtable discussions, and virtual conference Webcasts

Complete details about the conference are online at www.acrl.org/acrlconference. Questions about the Call for Participation or ACRL 2013 should be directed Margot Conahan at (312) 280-2522 or e-mail mconahan@ala.org.



Call for Nominations

Marta Lange/CQ Press Award

This award in honor of Marta Lange, LPSS Chair 1990/91, recognizes annually an academic or law librarian who, through research, service to the profession, or other creative activity, makes distinguished contributions to bibliography and information service in law or political science.

Membership in LPSS or ALA is not required for nomination. Please consider nominating a worthy colleague.

Details about the award and Marta Lange are available at <http://www.ala.org/ala/mgrps/divs/acrl/awards/martalangecq.cfm> and <http://www.ala.org/ala/mgrps/divs/acrl/about/sections/lpss/lpssawards.cfm>.

Award

\$1,000 cash and a plaque donated by CQ Press.

Criteria

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

Planning and implementation of a model bibliography/information services program in a law or political science library

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

Submissions

Electronic submissions are required. Individuals may nominate themselves or others.

Nominations should include a letter of nomination including the name, address, and phone number of the nominator and the nominee as well as a narrative supporting the nomination, and a current curriculum vita.

E-mail the nomination documentation to the award committee Chair, Nadine Hoffman, Bennett Jones Law Library, University of Calgary, at nadine.hoffman@ucalgary.ca. For additional information, contact the award Chair or Megan Griffin at (312) 280-2514, mgriffin@ala.org.

Submission Deadline: Friday, December 2, 2011

Guidelines for contributors

The deadline for the next edition of the *LPSS News*, subject to decisions by ACRL, will be around March.10. Expect to receive that *News* by mail about late April For next fall's edition, figure September and late October, respectively.

Email articles, illustrations (*at least* 300 dpi resolution), and correspondence to the editor at jrshepherd@csuchico.edu.

Length: most articles should run fewer than 400-600 words.

Write in short paragraphs. Use the most direct, energetic style you can muster. Have a point, and don't be reluctant to have a point of view, too. Write as an analyst or critic, or at least as a journalist, not a booster.

Write articles that are useful to the membership. The format and publication frequency make features, not old news, the strength of the newsletter. The LPSS listserv is the best place to post, discover, and comment on breaking events. Our website is the natural location of our official reports and meeting minutes. The LPSS wiki will become what you make it.

Book Review:**Finding the Law: Legal Research for Librarians and Paralegals**

Bryan M. Carson

Scarecrow Press, 2011

\$65

0-8108-8105-5 | 978-0-8108-8105-1

“Finding the Law: Legal Research for Librarians and Paralegals” by Bryan M. Carson uses a unique philosophical approach to teach principles of legal research. Law students, librarians, and paralegals are generally taught in three very different ways—despite the fact that all three groups need to know the same information. In many law schools, the first-year legal research and writing class emphasizes legal reasoning. Most legal research and writing classes for paralegals emphasize legal procedure and writing while minimizing research. Library science courses on law librarianship are generally built around annotations and lists of legal sources, with little or no discussion of writing.

There are certainly reasons why these differing approaches have developed. Law students need to understand the substance of the law and must have the ability to reason, to “think like a lawyer.” Both law students and paralegals need to learn how to write. It is necessary for paralegal students to become innately familiar with the workings of motions and briefs and with legal procedure. The role of the librarian usually ends once the research has been assembled, at which point the paralegal or lawyer will take over. So there is probably little reason to teach librarians how to write briefs.

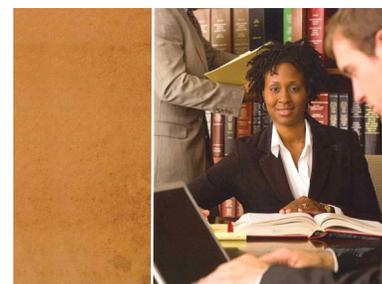
However, these three philosophies of teaching legal research mask the fact that all three fields can benefit from the other approaches. Law students have an entire curriculum that teaches them to “think like a lawyer,” yet all too often the research process is given short shrift. Paralegals must perform complex research before beginning to write. And the biggest problem that librarians face when performing legal research is not understanding legal procedure.

This book is intended to bring together the three philosophies under one cover. The goal is to bring legal reasoning and “thinking like a lawyer” to paralegals and librarians, while simultaneously teaching procedure for librarians and research sources for paralegals. The book contains background essays and annotations of legal sources, along with practical recommendations for conducting research.

Dr. Carson is the Coordinator of Reference and Instructional Services at Western Kentucky University

Libraries.

Brian E. Coutts



FINDING THE LAW

LEGAL RESEARCH FOR
LIBRARIANS AND PARALEGALS

BRYAN M. CARSON

Connect with other Law and Political Science Librarians -- Join the LPSS Discussion List

To subscribe send an e-mail to:

listserv@listserv.kent.edu

Note: The subject line should be empty and the body of the message MUST only contain: Subscribe lpss-l Firstname
Lastname

Did you know that LPSS-L has a searchable archive?

Archives of LPSS-L are maintained at Kent State University and updated every week. Messages are arranged by date, and searchable by keyword, with archives dating back to August 2007. To access the LPSS-L archives, point your Web browser to <http://listserv.kent.edu/archives/lpss-l.html>.

The LPSS-L Archives are available only to subscribers to the LPSS-L list. The first time you access this URL, you will be prompted for your email address (as your account ID) and a password of your choice. You will need to reply to the email to confirm access. Add the LPSS-L archives to your knowledge base. You never know when you might need it!

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going to focus with a laser like intensity on one of the goals or objectives of the report and come up with a recommendation on a future section activity. Hopefully, this discrete work will allow for a tangible result.

LPSS Membership Committee

Brian Coutts (chair), Alberto Herrera, Dennis Lambert, Lisa Norberg, Amalia Monroe-Gulick

The primary role of the LPSS Membership Committee is to encourage new membership in the section while promoting active participation of current members in the work and activities of the section. To accomplish this committee contacts those members whose section membership has lapsed as well as recent members to promote their involvement in the organization. The committee also plans and hosts the section social at the ALA annual conference in June and creates and updates the section brochure.

New initiatives include the development of a section survey which we hope to conduct in November, 2011; plans for LPSS representatives at the new ACRL member events (ACRL 101) at future ACRL conferences; and the expansion of the use of LPSS-L and LPSS Facebook to promote membership.

A long term project is to continue to work with the list of political science and law librarians who are not members of LPSS to recruit new members.

The chair serves on the ACRL Membership Committee.

Vendor Publisher Review Committee

Mara Degnan Rojas

The Vendor / Publisher Review Committee is working on compiling a list of links to online help for standard political science and law databases. Time permitting, the committee will also work to compile a list of people at vendor companies to contact about political science and law resources. We will also update and expand the information from the 2009 Annual Conference discussion group session, "Political Science Databases and Publishers Roundup: EBSCO, ProQuest and Sage.

ACRL Excellence in Academic Libraries– Nominations Due Friday, December 2

Will your library be the next winner of the ACRL Excellence in Academic Libraries Award? If you think the answer could be "Yes," please read on!

The ACRL Excellence in Academic Libraries Award, sponsored by YBP Library Services, recognizes one outstanding community college, college, and university library each year for the accomplishments of librarians and other library staff as they come together as members of a team to support the mission of their institution.

Nominations are currently being accepted for the ACRL Excellence in Academic Libraries Award, and are due on December 2, 2011. If you think you work in an outstanding library that deserves recognition, please review the guidelines for preparing a nomination on the ACRL Web site under 'Awards & Scholarships.'

Is there an LPSS member whom you'd like to know better through a profile in the LPSSNews?

Is there a member you could profile in 500-600 words who

would interest the rest of the section?

Email your suggestions to the editor at <jrshepherd@csuchico.edu>.

The LPSS website is the official repository of the minutes of the meetings of the LPSS executive committee and of the general membership. Get the gritty details of LPSS in action at <<http://www.ala.org/acrl/lpss>>.

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