

LPSS ALA Annual Conference schedule, June 21-26, 2012 Anaheim, CA

Friday, June 22

7:30-8:30 PM

Executive Committee meeting
[Disneyland Hotel, Frontier Tower,](#)
[Frontier dawRoom](#)

Saturday, June 23

8:00 –10:00 AM

All Committees Meeting
[Disneyland Hotel, Castle A&B](#)

10:30 AM – 12:00 PM

General Membership Meeting
[Disneyland Hotel, Frontier Tower,](#)
[Wilderness Room](#)

1:30 –3:30 PM

**“National Security vs. the
Right to Know”**

Social Responsibility Round Table/
LPSS conference program
[Hilton Anaheim, Pacific B Room](#)

4:00 – 5:00 PM

Discussion Group
[Disney’s Paradise Pier Hotel,](#)
[Oceanside Room](#)

Sunday, June 24

1:30 – 3:30 PM

**Marta Lange/CQ Press
Reception**

[Disneyland Hotel, Castle A&B](#)
* see ALA schedule for updates

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Publishing in Political Science Journals: Editor’s Roundtable

Lucy Eleonore Lyons, Northwestern University Library

Every year the International Studies Association (ISA) offers “Ask the ISA Editors Roundtable: Everything You Need to Know About Publishing in ISA Journals” and this year was no exception at the 53rd Annual Convention, held April 1st to April 4th, in San Diego, California.

A number of interesting trends were identified. Unfortunately, they are all negative.

- The editors lamented the fact that publishers are setting increasingly limited word restrictions. The trend of the future, it was stated, will be to post appendices on websites; that is, to place online the supplemental material that backs-up the published work. One difficulty is judging what constitutes essential evidence which should remain with the article and what is of less relevance that can go in an unattached appendix.
- Some new scholars seem unaware of the norms of academic publishing. For example, even though every journal has written policies against it in their

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Message from the Chair: Chad Kahl

Happy Spring! The season of renewal is upon us and LPSS is no different...

In July 2011, ACRL released its new strategic plan, [ACRL Plan for Excellence](#) with five year goals and objections. If you have read former ACRL strategic plans, the first thing you’ll likely notice is how the new plan is much more concise. In an effort to ensure LPSS is working to match its goals with ACRL, I asked the Review & Planning Committee to draft an LPSS strategic plan for discussion at the ALA Annual Conference in Anaheim. We want your feedback! The draft will be released approximately a month before the conference. The ALA Conference general membership meeting from 10:30 to 12:00 PM on Saturday, June 23rd will provide open time for feedback and discussion. The document will also be made available online for feedback after the conference; in addition to a summary of the feedback from the general meeting. The Review & Planning Committee will work with the Executive Committee to review the in-person and online comments before a final version is released at the end of the summer.

I’d like to thank everyone who took the time to answer the 2012 LPSS Membership Survey! Three lucky respondents were randomly selected for \$50 gift cards: Bryan Carson, Erik Estep and Kathi Fountain. I’d also like to recognize the committee members who put in the work to make the survey happen: Brian E.

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LPSS Member to Know: Roger Kossen

By Kathi Carlisle Fountain, Washington State University Vancouver



Roger Kossen is the Member to Know for Spring 2012.

Although Roger Kosson is a relatively new member of the library profession, he is a seasoned research professional and self-professed “political junkie” who intimately knows the political environment his students study. Roger is now the Social Sciences Librarian at Denison University, a private undergraduate institution in Ohio.

In his first job out of college, however, Roger served as a legislative assistant with the American Jewish Congress in Washington, DC. This was in the early 1990s, and Roger noted that none of the tools librarians have come to rely on existed at that time. There was no THOMAS and no Lexis Nexis Congressional, so Roger spent a lot of time physically tracking down his research materials. In order to get a copy of a bill, for example, Roger would have to travel to Capitol Hill and get a copy of the printed document.

After he left the American Jewish Congress, Roger got a master’s degree in public policy from Rutgers University in New Jersey (where he is

from), and then spent over a decade working as a political researcher. He began with the 1996 U.S. Senate race in New Jersey, working as a staff researcher for Congressman Robert Torricelli’s campaign. Then in 1997 Roger served as deputy research director for Ruth Messenger in the New York City mayoral race against Rudy Giuliani.

Roger spent the next several years working in consulting firms whose clients included a variety of Democratic candidates. After moving to Chicago to start his own consulting business in 2002, Roger realized that his client list would not sustain his career long enough. He started looking for another direction where his research skills would still be valued, started talking with librarians about their profession, and then enrolled in Dominican University’s library school to launch his new career. Librarianship turned out to be an excellent fit! After a year in a visiting position at Illinois Wesleyan University, Roger landed a position at Denison University that was well suited to his background. The library decided to make a special effort at hiring librarians who were discipline specialists to enhance their outreach efforts. Roger’s MSLIS coupled with his Masters in Public Policy and political experience made him an excellent candidate for Social Sciences Librarian. He’s been able to apply his own legislative research experience, for example, to helping students use the modern tools to conduct their own assessments.

Though his job includes “a little bit of everything,” Roger mostly enjoys working with students on their research. He’s realized that he’s now been working as a librarian long enough that his intuition leads him (and the students) in the right direction the vast majority of the time. He has also really enjoyed participating in service learning opportunities. In 2010, Roger traveled to El Salvador with Denison students serving with Habitat for Humanity. It was a good opportunity to provide outreach to students in the related course content while also doing some good in the world.

LPSS Annual Program

“National Security vs. the Right to Know”

Saturday June 23, 2012

1:30-3:30 [Hilton Anaheim, Pacific B Room](#)

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

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>.

Supporting Criminal Justice Research: The successful library instruction trifecta

By Emily Ford, Portland State University

During winter 2012 term I established a great relationship with a faculty member in one of my liaison departments, Criminology & Criminal Justice. Being a new, fixed-term faculty member he was teaching a heavy courseload, which included the major's required research methods course: Criminal Justice Research. I was lucky that he was predisposed to seek instructional support from his subject librarian: me.

The screenshot shows a LibGuide page for '3rd Person Practices'. At the top, there are navigation tabs: 'Get Started', '1st Person Practices', '2nd Person Practices', '3rd Person Practices', 'Find Articles', 'Find Statistics', 'Find Books', and 'Citing Sources'. The main content is organized into five sections:

- What are 3rd person practices?**: Explains that third-person practices use *Empirical-Observation Techniques*. Lists examples: Behavior, Physiology, Diagnostic statistics, Environmental assessments, Economic systems, Social institutions, and Political arrangements.
- Empirical-Observation Techniques**: Lists techniques like Observation, Surveys, Charts, graphs, statistics, Writing and dissemination of case studies, Statistical analysis, Quantitative research, and Opinion polls. Also lists validity criteria: Repeatable, Controlled conditions, Empirical, Logical, and Measureable.
- Research Method Resources**: Provides a link to 'Sage Research Methods Online' and notes that full-text books, handbooks, articles, and interactive mapping tools are available.
- Statistical Resources**: Includes links to 'ICPSR (Inter-university Consortium for Political and Social Research)', 'Bureau of Justice Statistics', and 'Federal Bureau of Investigation's Uniform Crime Reports'. Each link is accompanied by a brief description of the resource.
- Related Resources**: Lists 'Criminal Justice Abstracts with Full Text', 'Criminology Full Text', 'National Criminal Justice Reference Services', and 'Pew Public Opinion'.

To begin, we sat down to discuss what he envisioned for his research methods course. Over the 10 week term students learned 1st, 2nd, and 3rd person research practices. They were assigned, as groups, to use these research practices as they related to particular topics.

(Examples of topics include: sex trafficking in Oregon, restorative justice for juveniles in Oregon, and others.) We agreed that in addition to an in-person instruction session, students would benefit from having a dedicated research guide for Criminal Justice Research. To this end, I used the course's structure and some content given to me by the professor to create a course guide (in LibGuides) that reflected both course and library content.

It made sense to group the guide's pages to reflect 1st, 2nd, and 3rd person research practices. I was able to complement each practice with appropriate resources and tools to assist in student comprehension of research methodologies.

For example, on the 3rd person practices page pictured below, you can see that I included links to statistical and data driven resources, directly complementing students' 3rd person practice research.

In addition to including the research practices pages, the professor and I agreed to include more general library research content on the guide--such as the "find" pages (find books, find articles, find statistics) and the "citing sources" pages.

Further complementing the creation of this course guide was the presence of a library widget in the course's D2L home page. Mike Flakus, Lead Web Programmer at Portland State's Library, wrote code that displays a link to the most relevant research guide for each course. This

The screenshot shows a 'Library Resources' widget. It includes a search bar with the placeholder text 'Find books & more...' and a 'Go' button. Below the search bar is a link to the 'Course Guide for CCJ 380 Criminal Justice Research'. At the bottom, there are icons for 'Ask Us!' (email, chat, phone, text) and a link to 'Visit the PSU Library Website'.

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Chairs Message (Continued from page 1)

Coutts (chair), Alberto Herrera, Dennis K. Lambert, Amalia Monroe-Gulick and Lisa Norberg. The survey responses are being used to improve the section and its programs. The feedback will also help inform the drafting of the new LPSS strategic plan. The results of the survey are available [online](#).

LPSS has two exciting projects that I wanted to specifically mention:

It's election season! That's true every year, but with the Presidential election, we often get asked for assistance on finding election information. With that in mind, LPSS is working on an Elections guide. Please keep an eye on the LPSS listserv and Facebook page for its availability.

LPSS has received permission from former Marta Lange/CQ Press Award winner, Grace York, to assume responsibility for the upkeep on her phenomenally useful *Statistical Resources on the Web*. Currently, LPSS is exploring collaboration with other ALA/ACRL units on this project. A working group will be formed to work on transitioning the resource. More information will follow on the listserv.

Before I close, I'd like to make a plug and mention a great professional opportunity and resource. A number of years ago, I was able to chair a conference program that organized a session on civic engagement. Based, in part on that experience, I have been a member of the advisory board for ALA Center for Civic Life. Much of the work of the Center has focused on increasing the roles of libraries as a center of more civil discussion of public issues, taking advantage of the trusted role of libraries that many libraries play in communities, the outreach and public service focus of libraries and a recognition of the importance of many of the skills that we teach our patrons, namely the information literacy skills to identify issues, research them and use the information effectively. To make it easier for libraries to play a central role in guaranteeing a civil, civic discussion, the Center is offering training on how to host public issue forums. This civic educational method requires the participants to read background information about an event, come together and civilly discuss a topic. Information on webinars, including archived presentations, on hosting, convening and moderating forums can be found at [the Center web site](#).

CJ Research (Continued from page 3)

meant that the course guide I created was automatically linked on the home page of the course. (For more information about the D2L widget see [presentation slides](#) by Amy Hofer and Mike Flakus for their lightning talk given at [Online NW 2012](#).)

Having this link at students' fingertips and at their course home page, reminded them of the course guide each time they logged into do readings, upload assignments, or communicate with their professor. Paired with an hour and 45 minute instruction section with the 60 student class, the course guide was a smashing success. Students told their professor they appreciated the guide in addition to my instruction session.

Moreover, our course guide statistics show that the course guide was accessed 880 times during the term, and that, of all the linked library resources from the guide, students most heavily used Criminal Justice Abstracts, Criminology Full Text, Sage Research Methods Online, and Google Scholar. Second to the course's home page, the "find articles" page received the most hits.

I attribute the success and high usage of this course guide to a trifecta of library instruction: buy-in and collaboration with the course instructor, placing resources in the students' online learning environment, and a physical presence in the students' classroom. In the future I hope to replicate and improve upon this trifecta of library instruction.

Author Note: the code for the widget for research and course guide integration to D2L with LibGuides was released. For more information see: <http://library.pdx.edu/systemsteam.html>

Editors Roundtable (Continued from page 1)

instructions to authors, a growing number of scholars send their manuscripts to more than one journal at a time. Although duplicate submissions are often discovered during the review process when a single reviewer receives the same manuscript from multiple journals, this violation causes extra work for reviewers and editors.

- Described as a “career-burner” is the increasing practice of sending to a second journal an unrevised manuscript which was already reviewed and rejected by a first. Several editors pleaded for authors to have respect for the unpaid, overworked reviewers and for the review process itself. Authors were urged to remember that someone spent time providing feedback which should be taken into consideration; i.e., read the reviews, revise the work, and then submit elsewhere.

Political scientists are more productive and global than ever before, but there is also an increase in small niches of expertise. Hence, for each resubmission of a manuscript, the pool of reviewers becomes smaller. While this is handy for detecting some of the problems above, the effects of those offenses are exacerbated in this new environment.

It would be a wrong impression to think that these issues dominated the discussion. By far, the majority of the forum consisted of questions from the audience and helpful advice and encouragement from the panelists.

The Chair, J. Sterling-Folker (University of Connecticut), co-editor of *International Studies Review* (ISR), noted that every journal has its own focus. Hence, the talk began with each editor briefly stating the mission of each journal. ISR, for example, primarily publishes analytical review essays that cover the existing literature as well as new agendas in a broad range of topics. The primary scope of *Foreign Policy Analysis*, represented by Editor A. Cooper Drury (University of Missouri), in contrast, is research on decision-making and policy broadly as long as the work is not policy evaluation or prescriptive. Quite different from these is *International Political Sociology* (IPS). As Editor J. Huysmans (Open University) explained, IPS reaches out to scholars who are not usually published in other ISA journals. Such scholars may submit non-English manuscripts that will be translated, if accepted, and works that use untraditional reporting styles.

The importance of these and other mission statements was soon in evidence. As K. Rasler (Indiana University), editor of *International Studies Quarterly* (ISQ) noted, a

manuscript may be rejected not because it is of poor quality, but because it is not a fit for the journal to which it was submitted.

On the subject of special issues, it was interesting to hear that each article is evaluated separately. Hence, proposals for special issues rarely survive due to the rejection rate of the single pieces involved. Likewise, it was of interest to learn that ISR, which publishes book reviews, does not accept unsolicited reviews because the editors cannot know what the reviewer’s relationship to the author might be. ISR also does not review non-English books, because of a lack of available resources. The amount of books available to review greatly outnumbers the amount that can be reviewed. The editor noted that some preference is given to new scholars as it is the junior professors for whom reviews are most important.

While ISQ usually only publishes works by graduate students who have either published before or are co-authoring with an established scholar, Editor Paul F. Diehl (University of Illinois-Urbana Champaign), reported that about ten to fifteen percent of articles in *International Interactions* are by graduate students. The editors of both of these journals cautioned new authors against these frequent first timer’s errors: (1) an overemphasis on the technique of methodology which overwhelms the theoretical argument; (2) weak causal mechanisms; (3) mismatching micro theory with macro evidence; (4) the presentation of more results and tables than necessary; (5) the lack of a new contribution; and (6) the major failing of not having had a first review by a colleague or advisor. All of the editors nodded to that last piece of advice as editors do not want to be the first to provide such commentary. As one said, terribly unpolished pieces are the “first to go down in flames.” If they even get to a reviewer, that person will most likely get irritated and decline to provide useful feedback.

But how can a young scholar find a first set of eyes if the scholar is in a small institution wherein international relations is not prevalent? These ideas were set forth: (1) network via panels and section meetings at conferences, including smaller regional conventions, to connect with peers and seniors and (2) contact mid-level professors who do similar work and demonstrate a connection to their work.

Although the roundtable participants were all editors of ISA journals, what they had to say was of relevance to scholars and librarians within all subfields of political science... and, more broadly, relevant to librarian-scholars within all fields of librarianship.

Marta Lange Award/CQ Press

Honoring John Eaton

Law Librarian and Associate Professor at the E.K.
Williams Law Library, University of Manitoba

Sunday, June 24, 2012

1:30-3:30 PM

[Disneyland Hotel, Castle A&B](#)

More information about the CQ Press/Marta Lange Award can be found at <http://www.ala.org/acrl/aboutacrl/directoryofleadership/sections/lpss/lpsswebsite/awards>.

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!

Guidelines for contributors

The deadline for the next edition of the *LPSS News*, subject to decisions by ACRL, will be around Oct. 10., 2012.

Email articles, illustrations, and correspondence to 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 to be 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. The [LPSS website](#) is the official repository of official reports and meeting minutes.

[Newsletter Archives](#)

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