

Inside this issue:

[Chair's Message:](#) 1
[Lynda M. Kellam](#)

[Marta Lange/
SAGE-CQ Press
Award winner](#) 1

[Member to Know:](#) 2
[Jennifer Schwartz](#)

[ALA 2013 LPSS
Program
Highlights](#) 3

[LPSS Committee
Officers 2013-14](#) 3

[Resource Review:](#) 4
[iPoll](#)



[Citizen
Participation in a
Democracy](#) 6

[Recent LPSS
Member
Publications](#) 7

[ACRL News /Notes](#) 7

[Join LPSS
Discussion List](#) 8

[Guidelines for
Contributors](#)

Message from the LPSS Chair

Lynda M. Kellam, University of North Carolina at Greensboro

Happy fall everyone! Fall has always been my favorite season. In addition to beautiful Southern weather, it is a great time to reflect on past accomplishments and future endeavors.

Looking to the past, our 2013 annual program entitled "Preparing, Sharing, & Archiving: What Scholars in Political Science and Law Need to Know & How We Can Help Them" was a great success. If you missed it, Elizabeth White wrote an overview for the September edition of College and Research Libraries News. Thank you to the program planning committee for their hard work, especially Jeremy Darrington and Lucy Lyons, the committee Co-Chairs, and to the Instruction Committee for the excellent bibliography (<http://libguides.uwb.edu/lpss2013> (see page 3 for details). Also, congratulations to Kathi Carlisle Fountain, the 2013 Marta Lange/SAGE-CQ Press Award recipient!

Looking forward to 2014, I invite everyone to our ALA 2014 Midwinter Meeting in Philadelphia. On Saturday, Jan 25th we will have a General Membership meeting from 10:30-11:30. I will send out more information soon about possible virtual access to the meeting. Also, we will have a room from 8:30-9:30 for committees that would like to meet

(Continued on page 5)



Congratulations once again to Kathi Carlisle Fountain, 2013 Marta Lange/SAGE-CQ Press Award recipient!

Kathi Carlisle Fountain, previously head of collection development at the Washington State University - Vancouver Library, has been awarded the 2013 Association of College and Research Libraries (ACRL) Law and Political Science Section (LPSS) Marta Lange/SAGE-CQ Press Award. We wish Kathi all the best in her new position as Collection Services Program Manager at the Orbis Cascade Alliance.

Kathi was presented with a \$1000 award and plaque during the 2013 ALA Annual Conference in Chicago. The award, established in 1996 by LPSS, honors an academic or law librarian who has made distinguished contributions to bibliography and information service in law or political science.

Member To Know:

By Lorena O'English, Washington State University –Pullman



Jennifer (Jen) Schwartz

Our Member to Know for this issue is Jennifer (Jen) Schwartz of DePaul University in Chicago, our LPSS website editor (<http://www.ala.org/acrl/aboutacrl/directoryofleadership/sections/lpss/lpsswebsite>) and a member of the Communications and Publications Committee.

Jen's path to librarianship included a Master's degree in history, a year teaching young children (she confesses that it was not her calling, and that she still feels sorry for those second graders...) and a job as a reference assistant at NYU that made her realize that she wanted to become an academic librarian.

At DePaul, she works in reference, instruction, and collection development, and is the liaison for both the political science department and the philosophy department. Her favorite thing about the work she does is working with students, and she loves working in a department that puts a strong emphasis on student interactions. Like many of us, however, she wishes she had more time to explore the "content" of the subject areas she work with: "So much of being a reference librarian is about process – showing people how to find the information they need. I wish I was able then to sit down and learn more about all of the different fascinating topics that come across my desk."

When asked why she became involved with LPSS, she noted, "I joined LPSS because I was new to Political Science. I was hoping it would help me learn more about the field and give me insights into collection and reference in this area – and I was right. Being a part of this community has absolutely made a positive impact on my ability to perform my job." She also notes that she really appreciates how LPSS members share good resources with each other through the Facebook page and other sources.

Jen is taking advantage of working in higher education by working on a masters' degree in HCI (Human-Computer Interaction) at DePaul, studying user experience (a valuable area of interest for librarians!). In her spare time, Jen likes to listen to her 10 year old talking about Minecraft, and make Rainbow Loom bracelets with her 7 year old. The last good fiction book she read was *Where'd You Go Bernadette*, by Maria Semple (she says it was a very funny story about some uber-wealthy misfits in Seattle). Currently she's reading Katherine Boo's *Behind the Beautiful Forevers*, and is finding it to be a very powerful book.

*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 editors at

merrill.stein@villanova.edu or
dennis.lambert@villanova.edu.

ALA 2013 LPSS Annual Program: Preparing, Sharing, and Archiving

—Elizabeth White, University of Georgia, elwhite1@uga.edu



The Law and Political Science Section held a program entitled “Preparing, Sharing, and Archiving: What Scholars Need to Know and How Librarians Can Help Them.”

A panel of experts was gathered including Bernard Black (Northwestern University Law School and Kellogg School of Management, and Legal Scholarship Network, SSRN), Jennifer Hochschild (Harvard University and *American Political Science Review* editor), and Claire Stewart (Northwestern University Library).

The speakers talked with librarians about the complexity and range of scholarly communication issues as they pertain to scholars in political science and law, and strategies to use to engage these issues at their home institutions. Stewart presented information about the different types of open access (OA) publishing, including the difference between “green” and “gold” OA, and the implications of OA publishing for faculty. Black spoke energetically about the importance of SSRN to legal and political science scholars, and how preprints and working papers are integral to the database. Hochschild spoke primarily as an academic, and elaborated on how OA laws and fees differ a great deal from country to country, and how libraries can assist authors who do not have to time to upload preprints and working papers to institutional repositories and OA archives by offering to archive this material for them.

A general discussion followed with librarians offering solutions to the group about how to encourage more OA publishing by faculty, and ways to educate them. Ideas mentioned included universities and colleges paying author fees for OA, holding coffee talks, and having each subject librarian visit their faculty for publishing discussions.

The bibliography for this program is located at <http://libguides.uwb.edu/lpss2013>.

Text from [College & Research Libraries News](#)

LPSS Committee Officers 2013-14

Executive Committee:

Chair: Lynda M. Kellam, exp. 2014

Vice Chair/Chair Elect:

Jeremy Darrington, exp. 2014

Past Chair: LeRoy Jason LaFleur, exp. 2014

Secretary: Jodi Shepherd, exp. 2014

Member-at-large:

Mara E. Degnan-Rojeski, exp. 2014

Member-at-large:

Elizabeth Lynn White, exp. 2014

Committee Chairs:

Communication and Publications - Chair: Emily Ford, exp. 2014

Conference Program Planning Committee – Las Vegas, 2014 - Chair: Bruce Pencek, exp. 2014

Library Instruction Committee - Chair: TBA

Marta Lange/SAGE-CQ Press Award Committee - Chair: Kelly S. Janousek, exp. 2014

Membership Committee - Chair: Mara E. Degnan-Rojeski, exp. 2014

Nominating Committee - Chair: Lorena O'English, exp. 2014

Review and Planning Committee - Chair: Chad Kahl, exp. 2014

Vendor/Publisher Liaison & Review Committee - Chair: Erik Sean Estep, exp. 2014

iPoll Resource Review

By Jeremy Darrington, Princeton University

One of the most common questions a political science librarian gets is about public opinion. Do people approve of how the president is doing his job? Do they think the country is on the right track? Do they support a path to citizenship for illegal immigrants? There are many sources for public opinion data, but the king of them all is the Roper Center's iPoll database.

iPoll is a question-level archive of opinion, and it is massive—it contains more than 600,000 questions from the beginning of scientific polling in 1935 to the present. It boasts a wide range of content providers, including most Gallup polls (more than 2600); thousands of polls by ABC, CBS, NBC, and Fox News; surveys by the New York Times, Washington Post, LA Times, and Wall St. Journal; Iowa polls, California Field Institute polls, Roper Reports, and Harris Polls; polls from advocacy groups, like AARP and the Kaiser Family Foundation; and many more. While the Roper Center does collect some international polls—notably a few thousand surveys from the UK, Canada, France, and Germany—most are older, and they are not searchable at the question level. The heart of this database is U.S. public opinion.



Searching in iPoll is straightforward. You can use Boolean operators (no need to capitalize) and truncation (%). The search form allows you to limit by date or choose from a list of topics and survey organizations. With a recent update to iPoll, you can now filter your results list by decade or by type of data. You can also easily do another search within your results list or re-run previous searches. From your results list, you can also view and export topline results—the summary breakdown of responses to a question. One of iPoll's great strengths, however, is that it provides access to more than just topline survey results. Researchers have three options for deeper data analysis. First, they can download full survey datasets and codebooks in ASCII or SPSS format for thousands of studies in iPoll; these are identified as RoperExpress datasets. Second, iPoll has a rapidly expanding selection of questions—more than 100,000—that allow for basic online analysis of responses through cross-tabulations of standard demographic data; these are known as iPoll+ questions. Finally, the Roper Center recently incorporated Survey Data Analysis (SDA) software to allow users to produce their own crosstabs online without needing to use SPSS/Stata/SAS, etc.; these are designated as RoperExplorer datasets. With the recent update to iPoll, users can now select one or more of these analysis options to narrow their list of results. In order to download datasets or do online analysis with RoperExplorer, users must create a free personal account and be signed in; personal logins are not required to search, view summary results or iPoll+ crosstabs, or export small numbers of topline results as .txt or .csv files.

iPoll does have some drawbacks. Its coverage of contemporary international public opinion is weak, so users will need to look to other sources for foreign or comparative opinion. The new option to filter results by decade is helpful but somewhat arbitrary, as many useful trends will cross decade lines. A date slider, similar to the one in Summon or EBSCOhost databases, would be more useful.

[\(Continued on page 5\)](#)

Review of iPoll [\(Continued from page 4\)](#)



There are no options for creating visualizations or charts, which would aid users in spotting patterns in question responses over time; perhaps more importantly, there is little guidance to help users identify relevant time-series questions or construct queries in ways that will account for subtle variations in question wording over time or across organizations.

The Roper Center has pulled together a number of these relevant time series questions in their “Topics at a Glance” feature (with links to run fully constructed searches in iPoll), but unfortunately, this feature is somewhat hidden under the Quick Links menu on the main Roper Center site. Once a user has entered the iPoll database, these links are no longer visible. The same is true for handy links to time-series questions on congressional and presidential approval, as well as links to concise overviews of survey administration and analysis, and to Roper’s collection of national, state, and primary exit poll datasets.

These are relatively minor quibbles, though. iPoll is a gem of a database and absolutely essential for researchers studying U.S. public opinion. Academic annual membership fees range from \$1200 for Associate’s degree-granting institutions to \$6150 for universities that grant more than 50 PhDs in a year. I find this an absolute steal; but even if you’re pinching pennies, iPoll is well worth it.

Chair’s Message [\(Continued from page 1\)](#)

in-person, but feel free to meet virtually. If you are a committee chair, please share your agenda and meeting time with the group through ALA Connect.

I am also excited about our proposed program for ALA 2014 Annual Conference in Las Vegas, Nevada entitled “Whiskey’s for Drinkin’ but Water’s for Fightin’: Water Politics and the Flow of Information”. We will send out information soon!

In the coming months Jeremy Darrington, our Vice-Chair/Chair-Elect, will ask you to volunteer your time and experience to our committees. I hope you will consider this opportunity and help out! If you are new to LPSS, volunteering is a great way to learn about the organization and meet everyone. Remember that without you, our wonderful members, LPSS would not exist!

Finally, don’t forget our communication tools including our website (<http://www.ala.org/acrl/lpss>), Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/groups/2233618422/>), and listserv.

Can’t wait to see you all in 2014 in Philadelphia or Las Vegas!



Citizen Participation in a Democracy

Terry Link, Michigan State University

After my decade long sabbatical from the profession, my recent return to the field of libraries has me once again responsible for political science and public policy. My first article for a library publication was a September 1984 (irony) article for **Library Journal** on *Political Elections: The Library Role*. The nearly 30 year hiatus between that article and this one has seen significant change in the profession and in my life's work. The exponential increase in access to information has us working harder to develop tools to help people more effectively sift through the haystacks for the information they desire at their fingertips.

That is the intent of two of the new library guides I've developed for our users in recent months. The role of citizen participation in a democracy has been getting more attention and as Paul Hawken's *Blessed Unrest* (2007) and Michael Edwards' *Small Change: Why Business Won't Save the World* (2010) hint, and as the Arab Spring has demonstrated, citizen activism is alive and making change. My guide to [Citizen Participation](#) is an attempt to organize entry points into the topic for both citizens and scholars. It should be noted that I conceive of the role of citizen as broader than just the role of voting and communicating with elected officials, as important as these are.

The most robust portion of the guide is the tab on "Methods and Approaches". While most political science departments focus on the application of democracy in the formal governing sector, little effort has been expended to teach the many varieties of approaches being tried by organizations in communities across the globe. Serious studies, including the recent [Democracy in Motion: Evaluating the Practice and Impact of Deliberative Civic Engagement](#) (Oxford University Press 2012), show that scholars in political science, communication, and sociology are examining these approaches with increasing interest as we expand the notion of democracy in practice. Jane Mansbridge notes, "a healthy deliberative system is one in which relevant considerations are brought forth from all corners, aired, discussed, and appropriately weighed." (p.11) ([Deliberative Systems: Deliberative Democracy at the Large Scale](#), Jane Mansbridge and John Parkinson. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2012).

The best single print guide to the richness of methods and approaches is Peggy Holman's [The Change Handbook](#) (2nd Edition, 2007) which introduces more than 60 methods for engaging groups in constructive discussions. A nice guide to the various methods helps the user to choose the more effective approaches based upon the where the approach is to be applied. The [National Coalition for Dialogue and Deliberation](#) is the chief network of practitioners who facilitate community group work, where ongoing conversations take place regarding the use of methods and processes for specific needs, including an accelerating flow of the use of online approaches.



The screenshot shows the MSU Libraries website interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with the MSU Libraries logo and the text "MSU LIBRARIES | Guides". Below this is a horizontal menu with tabs for "General Info", "Resources", "Research Help", "Using the Library", "Computers", and "Contact". Underneath the menu, the breadcrumb trail reads "MSU Libraries » Guides » Citizen Participation". The main heading is "Citizen Participation" with tags: "activism, government, policy, political science". A descriptive sentence follows: "Covers political, social, environmental and economic activities aimed at building a better and more democratic and sustainable society".

Finally, the Citizen Participation guide also has separate tabs for citizen participation in different spheres – Economy/Consumer Issues, Environment/Nature, Social/Cultural, and Political. These tabs point users towards information sources on participatory budgeting, boycotts/buycotts, socially responsible investing, conscientious consumption, volunteering, and living green. It is not meant to be comprehensive but simply a structural entrée into an arena that impacts all of us.

My work stands on the shoulders of many and since we're all in this together, your suggestions for additions or changes are welcome.



Recent LPSS Member Publications

Ford, Emily (2013). Defining and characterizing open peer review: a review of the literature. *Journal of Scholarly Publishing*, 44(4), 311-326.

Lyons, Lucy Eleonore and John Blosser (2012). An Analysis and Allocation System for Library Collections Budgets: The Comprehensive Allocation Process (CAP). *Journal of Academic Librarianship*, 38(5): 294-310.

Apply for ACRL Immersion '14 (Teacher and Program Tracks)

ACRL is currently accepting applications for the Information Literacy Immersion '14 Program ([Teacher](#) and [Program](#) tracks) to be held July 20-25, 2014 at Champlain College in Burlington, VT. [Immersion '14](#) provides four-and-a-half days of intensive information literacy training and education for academic librarians. Immersion allows you to embrace your educational role by embarking on a path of teacher development and pedagogical inquiry in a community of practice for academic librarians devoted to collaborative learning, individual renewal, and instructional effectiveness.

Acceptance to Immersion '14 is competitive to ensure an environment that fosters group interaction and active participation. Complete program and track details, along with application materials, are [available online](#). The application deadline is **December 6, 2013** and notifications will be issued in February 2014. Questions concerning the program or application process should be directed to Margot Conahan at (312) 280-2522 or e-mail mconahan@ala.org.

Bring the ACRL Standards Workshop to You

Bring the one-day workshop, "*Planning, Assessing, and Communicating Library Impact: Putting the Standards for Libraries in Higher Education into Action*," to your campus or consortia. The workshop is led by one or two expert presenters at locations across the country upon request. Libraries in higher education are increasingly required to demonstrate their value and document their contributions to overall institutional effectiveness. The [Standards for Libraries in Higher Education](#) is a framework for library planning and assessment that can be used for a variety of circumstances including annual planning, program review, and accreditation self-study. Through presentation, discussion, and group activities, learn how to use the Standards to communicate your library's impact. Contact Margot Conahan, Manager of Professional Development, at mconahan@ala.org; 312-280-2522, to discuss dates and locations, pricing, and for complete workshop details.

Call for Award Nominations:

- **Excellence in Academic Libraries Award**
\$3,000 and a plaque
Sponsored by YBP Library Services
- *** Academic/Research Librarian of the Year**
\$5,000 and a plaque
Sponsored by YBP Library Services

Information for many other award opportunities may be obtained on the ACRL Web site:

<http://www.ala.org/acrl/awards>

OR by contacting Chase Ollis at (312) 280-2521 or collis@ala.org

DEADLINE: December 6, 2013



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 mid-April, 2014.

Email articles, illustrations, and correspondence to merrill.stein@villanova.edu and dennis.lambert@villanova.edu

Length: suggested maximum 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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ALA Connect: wikis.ala.org/acrl/index.php/LPSS

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Dennis Lambert dennis.lambert@villanova.edu



Portland, March 25-28, 2015

Submit a proposal for ACRL 2015!
The Call for Participation will be available November 2013.
Watch the [ACRL website](#) for details!