**Message from the LPSS Chair**

Jeremy Darrington, Princeton University

With this edition, *LPSS News* is now in its 30th year of publication! My thanks and congratulations to our co-editors, Merrill Stein and Dennis Lambert, and to all the previous editors for their dedication and work in promoting LPSS through the newsletter. For decades, political science and law librarians have come to LPSS looking for training, professional development opportunities, and support. That’s why I joined LPSS as a new political science librarian a few years ago, and LPSS has provided all those things for me. What I hadn’t anticipated, though, was gaining such a supportive group of colleagues and friends, dedicated professionals who freely give of their time and expertise to support the section and each other. I know from talking to many of you that mine is not an isolated experience. As section chair and as a librarian who found a home in LPSS, my sincere thanks to all of you who make LPSS the wonderful community it is.

If you’re new to LPSS, welcome! The key to getting the most from your LPSS membership is to do something with it—ask a question (or answer one!) on our listserv, LPSS-L; connect with us on Facebook or Twitter (@LPSS_ACRL); volunteer for a committee or to help with other new...

**Making the Most of Social Media**

If you haven’t noticed, many organizations are using social media, including the US government! The President tweets, NASA shares spacey images on Instagram, ACRL regularly posts on Facebook, and the Open-World Leadership Center is pinning things to Pinterest! If you are part of the 72% of adults that use social media you already know the motivations, but have you reflected on social media’s limitations?

As an information professional, you likely depend on a reliable collection of information sources to serve the research needs of your population. Don’t forget that using social media can clue you in to new and unique information streams. By connecting with like-minded accounts, you may discover events and resources you never knew about, or have a chance to monitor the discourse on current events or disciplinary interests. For LPSS members this might mean engaging with organizations such as...
Member To Know - By Elizabeth L. White

Lynda Kellam

Our Member to Know for this issue is Lynda Kellam from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro Libraries, and chair emeritus of LPSS. Originally from Greensboro as well, Lynda attended UNCG for college and her MLIS. She also has a Masters in Political Science from the University of Wisconsin, Madison.

Lynda attended Library School thinking she would be a public librarian, but decided to switch to academic librarianship because of her subject interests. She considered being a Russian Bibliographer (she has a minor in Russian), but upon graduation decided to broaden her interests, and got her current position and liaison areas based on her Masters in Political Science.

At the University of North Carolina at Greensboro Libraries she is the Data Librarian and her primary duties have her assisting social sciences and health sciences users with Census data, ICPSR data, and subscription numeric data sources. She has also become the contact person for the research data management outreach efforts on campus, which means she has more contact with UNCG’s scientists. In addition, she is the government information librarian and she supports Political Science and allied fields like Peace and Conflict Studies, Environmental Studies, and Law. Not surprisingly, she says that interacting with such a broad range of users is her favorite part of her job. To facilitate communication she uses Facebook, Twitter, and Google Voice for text questions. On top of her Libraries duties she teaches a class in the Political Science department.

Lynda feels that her job duties made her a natural fit with LPSS. She has enjoyed interacting and forming relationships with the members, and she feels her work with LPSS has been transformative as it has broadened her network, especially after gaining a leadership role. The network has been great because she can call on colleagues for assistance in her work.

In her very little spare time, Lynda enjoys the very Librarianesque pursuit of reading. She has been taking history classes at UNCG, and she recently read *The Luminaries* by Eleanor Catton, which she enjoyed. She also reads non-fiction related to her duties, and recommends *Making the World Safe: The American Red Cross and a Nation's Humanitarian Awakening* by Julia Irwin.
Chair’s message continued from page 1

initiatives; and come introduce yourself at our general membership meeting at ALA Midwinter or Annual. If you have suggestions, questions, or are looking for ways to get involved, please contact me (jdarring@princeton.edu) or another section officer (you can get our contact info by visiting our ACRL page and logging in with your ALA account). There’s a place for you here!

Next year, the section is turning 40, and we should celebrate LPSS’s longevity and accomplishments. (In fact, I think we’ll even have a party!) But LPSS also has a bright future, and we have lots going on. We recently gave the Instruction Committee a new name and expanded charge as our Professional Development Committee to focus on new ways of helping you develop your subject expertise and professional skills. Our 2015 ALA Annual Program Committee has been hard at work on a program proposal with two other sections about mass incarceration and prison policy, and our 2014 Program Committee pulled together a fascinating forum on water policy in the Colorado River Basin (be sure to check out the program pathfinder). Our Communications and Publications Committee and Membership Committee are exploring new ways to reach out to and engage both section members and others interested in our work. And our Vendor/Publisher Liaison and Review Committee is working on providing new and more frequent resource reviews. In addition, LPSS will be working on updating our Political Science Competency Guidelines in conjunction with ACRL’s coming update to its information literacy standards. We’ll also be exploring fundraising opportunities to support section initiatives and the possibility of an LPSS scholarship to support research or attendance at the Annual conference.

With all the tremendous work happening in the section, there’s no need to wait until next year to celebrate. So, put on your party hat, grab some cake, and give a cheer for LPSS! Huzzah!

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<th>LPSS Executive Committee:</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jeremy Darrington (Chair, exp. June 30, 2015)</td>
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<td>Rosalind Tedford (Vice-Chair, exp. June 30, 2015)</td>
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<td>Lynda Kellam (Past-Chairperson, exp. June 30, 2015)</td>
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<td>Jodi Shepherd (Secretary, exp. June 30, 2015)</td>
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<td>Sarah Hogan (Member-at-Large, exp. June 30, 2016)</td>
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<td>Elizabeth Lynn White (Member-at-Large, exp. June 30, 2015)</td>
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<td>Sara Arnold-Garza (Social Media Coordinator, exp. June 30, 2015)</td>
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<td>Loretta R. Parham (Board Liaison, exp. June 30, 2015)</td>
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<td>Megan R. Griffin (Staff Liaison, exp. June 30, 2015)</td>
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<td>Communication and Publications - Chair: Emily Ford, exp. 2015</td>
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<td>Professional Development/Library Instruction Committee - Chair: Lynn Marie Thitchener, exp. 2015</td>
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<td>Marta Lange/SAGE-CQ Press Award Committee - Chair: Mary Oberlies, exp. 2015</td>
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<td>Membership Committee - Chair: Elizabeth Lynn White, exp. 2015</td>
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<td>Nominating Committee - Chair: Chad Kahl, exp. 2015</td>
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<td>Review and Planning Committee - Chair: Leroy Jason LaFleur, exp. 2015</td>
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<td>Vendor/Publisher Liaison &amp; Review Committee - Chair: Annelise Sklar, exp. 2015</td>
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the American Political Science Association on social media, joining Facebook groups of students studying political science at your institution, or even following government agencies and organizations that are related to our librarian work.

However, this landscape of like-minded social media connections might also be an echo chamber or create a Filter Bubble, shutting out perspectives with which you don’t agree or haven’t considered. If this concerns you, you might be interested in Balancer, a Chrome Browser plug-in that provides feedback about your online reading habits.

It is also important to remember that while social media can effectively communicate to community members who are engaged online and with their phones, not all community members are empowered to do so. So how can organizations use these communication channels responsibly, maximize their usefulness, and make up for social media’s limitations? Certainly not all communications from organizations should come from social media. There still remain essential, more traditional means of communicating that are not owned or controlled by a third party company. Newsletters such as this one, listservs, and less ephemeral traditional publications remain important communication avenues for organizations.

You may have noticed that LPSS itself has a Facebook page and a Twitter account (@LPSS_ACRL). These accounts are meant to serve as community platforms for members of LPSS, where communication and information sharing can come from across the membership, or new discoveries and connections can be made. Of course, these aspirations can only be realized, and the communities made rich, through the participation of the membership. Facebook's algorithm, EdgeRank, more frequently displays “popular” or highly accessed posts over those that get little traffic, essentially shutting down the voices of quieter and smaller communities. With Twitter, too, voices that aren’t as loud or frequent may not be heard by followers. One way to lessen the impact of external algorithmic processes is manually check on a feed every so often. In Facebook you can look on the far-right menu (or look for the menu bar icon in mobile versions) and select “Law and Political Science Section (ACRL)” to see the entire feed. You can also click on the little gear icon to change your group settings or make the group one of your favorites, thus pushing it up in the EdgeRank system for your feed. On Twitter, you can do a search for LPSS_ACRL as an account name to view all tweets and conversations.

You may be thinking, “Why should I post on Facebook rather than sending a query to the LPSS mailing list?” Well, you could, of course - the addition of new modes of communication doesn’t mean that old ones aren’t useful. You may find, however, that Facebook offers a way to have a different sort of conversation - more casual and fluid, but also with more possibilities for give and take, and for sharing the broad range of experiences and resources that are relevant for law and political science librarianship (with the occasional funny meme thrown in for kicks). It also allows questions to be revisited over time, as posts aren’t deleted the way we delete email from our overflowing in-boxes.

With this in mind, as LPSS continues to utilize social media, we ask that members engage to help us boost our content, and get it in front of more eyes. If you have a burning question, post it! If you find some great information, share it! If you like what someone says, hit the “Like” button, or even better, comment and help keep the conversation - and the information - flowing. We think we’re a great section, and want others to know it!

By: Sara Arnold-Garza is LPSS’s current Social Media Coordinator (@sarnoldgarza on Twitter); Lorena O’English is LPSS’s immediate past Social Media Coordinator (@wsulorena on Twitter); Emily Ford is Chair of the LPSS Communication and Publications Committee (@femilyr on Twitter)
ACRL Marta Lange/SAGE-CQ Press Award – Call for Nominations

Do you know an academic or law librarian who through, research, service to the profession, or other creative activity, makes distinguished contributions to bibliography or information service in law or political science? If so, consider nominating him/her for the LPSS Marta Lange/SAGE-CQ Press Award.

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.

The award recipient receives $1,000 and a plaque sponsored by SAGE-CQ Press.

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 for the nominee. Individuals may nominate themselves or others.

Nominations are due by **December 5, 2014**.

For more details about the award or to learn about previous recipients, visit [http://www.al.org/acrl/awards/achievementawards/martalangecq](http://www.al.org/acrl/awards/achievementawards/martalangecq).

Mary Oberlies, Chair, Marta Lange/SAGE-CQ Press Award Committee

Congratulations once again to Brian E. Coutts, professor and head of the department of library public services at Western Kentucky University, who was awarded the 2014 Association of College and Research Libraries (ACRL) Law and Political Science Section (LPSS) Marta Lange/Sage-CQ Press Award at an ALA Annual Conference luncheon in Las Vegas on Sunday, June 29, 2014. As one award nominator put it, "Like Marta Lange, he’s a model of professional service and inspiration to others."
When the CIA's Open Source Center discontinued the World News Connection feed at the end of 2013, many librarians wondered if other products on the market could fill the void for international news in English. In continuing with our newly launched review series, the Vendor Publisher/Liaison and Review Committee reviews six databases for international news content.

Nadine Hoffman, Catherine Morse, and Annelise Sklar (Chair) on behalf of the 2014-2015 LPSS Vendor/Publisher Liaison & Review Committee

Vendor/Publisher Liaison & Review Committee: New Databases Review

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<th>Database</th>
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<td>WorldNews.com</td>
<td>Daily</td>
<td>200+ countries</td>
<td>Updated daily</td>
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<td>CNN-Newsroom</td>
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<td>Al Jazeera</td>
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Vendor: Access World News (gateway) | Location: Media Library | Number of Databases: 6

When the CIA's Open Source Center discontinued the World News Connection feed at the end of 2013, many librarians wondered if other products on the market could fill the void for international news in English. In continuing with our newly launched review series, the Vendor Publisher/Liaison and Review Committee (Vendor/Publisher Liaison & Review Committee) reviews six databases for international news content.
Continued from page 7

Overall, all six of these databases include a good selection of international news in English, but only BBC Monitoring provides a translation service similar to that of World News Connection. Happily for libraries that already subscribe to one of these major aggregators, BBC Monitoring content is included in four of the other five databases reviewed: Access World News, Factiva, LexisNexis Academic, and ProQuest International Newsstand. All five of these news aggregator products are more similar to each other than different, and a library’s ultimate selection(s) will most likely have less to do with the news content included than it does a general leaning towards one platform and the ability to cross-search across multiple databases.

**Access World News** (Readex) is has a straight-forward interface that makes it easy for any level of user to search news reported around the world or from a single country or source. Its only major drawback is the email export feature, which merges multiple articles together into one file, which might not be helpful to users. Users searching for BBC Monitoring content should search the “BBC Selected Wire Articles.”

**BBC Monitoring Library** is the native interface for BBC Monitoring, which translates news articles and reports from around the world into English. BBC Monitoring content is also included in Access World News, Factiva, LexisNexis Academic, and ProQuest International Newsstand, but the rep tells us that content provided on the native platform runs deeper, including unique BBC-written reports covering all media sources, including social media, that are not included in the aggregators. Coverage on the BBC Monitoring Library platform starts with 2006.

The Academic version of **Factiva** is available from ProQuest on the same Dow Jones interface sold to corporate clients. It includes more news sources than any other products we review, but the academic version does have some newspaper title restrictions due to licensing rights (either embargo or not available). The interface is also a little tricky for a novice, though it is powerful for a power user.

**LexisNexis Academic** includes more news content than any source but Factiva and provides nice features like proximity searching, “send to cloud” export (which sends articles to Dropbox or Google Drive) and “spreadsheet download” (which allows a user to download search results as a spreadsheet). Many librarians were pleased to learn BBC Monitoring content is included, but pre-2005 BBC Monitoring content was pulled from the “Major World Publications” and the “All News” aggregated source searches. BBC Monitoring content is findable only through the source directory. Because LexisNexis is a complex source with news, legal, and business content, each with separate search interfaces, casual users unaware of the “Search by Content Type” button are sometimes stymied about how to start.

**EBSCO** sells two versions of **Newspaper Source**: the Plus version offers more titles indexed and more full-text sources. The vast majority of titles covered come from the United States. They are updated continuously throughout the day, but how quickly updates are available depend on license agreements with individual newspapers, news wires, television and radio programs. Coverage also varies widely depending on the source. Fewer full text titles are included than in the other aggregators reviewed, and this is the only of the five aggregators reviewed that does not include BBC Monitoring content.

**ProQuest International Newsstand** is ProQuest’s international companion to products like ProQuest Newsstand. It is fully integrated with the other databases on the ProQuest Platform, which is generally straightforward to use. Of particular note, the ProQuest news interface now includes an obituaries search. Content-wise, International Newsstand doesn’t really differentiate itself from its competitors, with more full text titles than EBSCO but less than the other three aggregators. BBC Monitoring content is included starting with 1998.

**Note from the editors:** The previous table has been formatted for best viewing within the publication. Links may not work as shown. For a more functional copy of the table, please contact one of the committee contributors listed at the beginning of p. 6.
Recent LPSS Member Publications & News

Publications -

Jeremy Darrington (Princeton University) -
- Darrington, J. (2014). Collecting to the Core—International Relations. Against the Grain, 26(3), 76-77.

La Loria Konata (Georgia State) -

Section news –
- View the program pathfinder about the 2014 ALA Annual Conference in Las Vegas, NV—“Sharing” Water and Information: Water Policy in the Colorado River Basin with featured speaker, Pat Mulroy.
- The Professional Development Committee is currently evaluating its new charge, and is working on a survey to get feedback from the membership to prioritize issues for the committee to work on in the future. —submitted by Elizabeth L. White.

Retirement: Alberto Herrera Jr.

Alberto, who retired in September, served most recently as Diversity Services/Reference Librarian, Raynor Memorial Libraries, Marquette University. Earlier, he held positions at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee and the Library of Congress.

Alberto shared this with the editors: “Among the most enjoyable activities of my library career was membership and participation in ACRL’s Law and Political Science Section, where I served on the Membership Committee and helped staff an information table for New Members Night at ACRL Conferences in Philadelphia and Indianapolis. The social events at conferences were great fun and the LPSS list-serve was one of the most useful lists I have belonged to, with many colleagues willing to help with members informational needs. . . . I look forward to retirement but know I will miss LPSS and my colleagues, its friendly and informed members.”

Call for Award Nominations

Academic/Research Librarian of the Year
$5,000 and a plaque
Sponsored by YBP Library Services
Information for many other award opportunities can be found on the ACRL web site: http://www.ala.org/acrl/awards or by contacting Chase Ollis at (312) 280-2521 or collis@ala.org

Excellence in Academic Libraries Award
$3,000 and a plaque
Sponsored by YBP Library Services
Guidelines for Contributors

The deadline for the next edition of the LPSS News, subject to decisions by ACRL, will be around mid-October 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.

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!

Newsletter Archives