

PPIRS News

politics, policy and international relations section
formerly LPSS (Law and Political Science Section)

Association of College & Research Libraries,
American Library Association

Volume 32 Number 1

fall 2016

Inside this issue:

Message from the Chair	1,3
Member to Know: Elizabeth Psychk	2-3
Vendor/Publisher Review: European Union Resource Comparison	4-7
ACRL News	8
Member News & Publications	9
PPIRS listserv	9
PPIRS Officers & Chairs	10
Contributor guidelines	10



Message from the PPIRS Chair

[David Schwieder, University of Florida](#)

Greetings,

As the title of this message indicates, the biggest news this year has been a name change for our section. Formerly the Law and Political Science Section (LPSS), we are now the Politics, Policy and International Relations Section (PPIRS). This change was motivated by a sense that the older name no longer accurately described our focus or our membership. A number of potential names were discussed, and it was felt that PPIRS best captured our current focus, as well as offering the opportunity to expand our membership, particularly through the inclusion of a policy focus. Since ACRL has lifted the limits on section memberships, efforts are underway to reach out to members of other sections that may wish to join us.

Another major change has involved the nature of our Midwinter meetings. While we have always held Midwinter section meetings in the past, declining participation, as well as concerns over the cost of attending two ALA events, motivated this change.

Accordingly, to conduct our official section business, we will be holding virtual executive and general membership meetings in January following the Midwinter 2017 meeting. However, I have reserved meeting space at the Midwinter 2017 meeting in Atlanta for section attendees who may wish to get together. The space will be available from 8:30 to noon on Saturday, January 21st. Location information will be posted in ALA Connect and on PPIRS-L as soon as it's available.

I will be attending Midwinter, along with our past chair, Roz Tedford, and we encourage all section members who attend the Midwinter meeting to stop by. Notification for the virtual meeting will be in January.

We have four major section initiatives for this year.

- The PPIRS Membership Committee will be leading an effort to solicit new members
- Completing the name change; devising a new logo, changing web pages and so on
- In light of the ACRL Board rescinding the Information Literacy Competency Standards, creating a section-specific document to apply the Framework for Information Literacy in our subject area
- A task force will continue working to resurrect Grace York's "Statistical Sources on the Web" resource

[Continued page 3](#)

Member To Know - By Shari Laster



Elizabeth Psyck

Elizabeth Psyck is the Liaison Librarian in Liberal Arts Programs and Government Documents at Grand Valley State University. In addition to PPIRS, Elizabeth is an active member of the Government Documents Round Table (GODORT) and editor of its journal, *Documents to the People*.

1. Why did you decide to join PPIRS?

I joined for a couple different reasons. I'm a liaison to our political science and international relations programs, in addition to being the government documents librarian, so a lot of what I do is tied with the work that the section does. I continually learn so much from my colleagues (who also regularly bail me out on really challenging reference questions) that I can't imagine not being a member at this point.

2. What's your favorite part of your job?

Is it cheating if I have two favorite parts of my job? First: I love solving problems – that's why I got into libraries. In the past few months I've worked on everything from facilitating access to a journal title to finding new ways to engage first year students. I'm really lucky to work in a library that encourages collaboration and work across functional and organizational boundaries, which means I get to do fun creative projects almost as frequently as working on governance issues. Second: Grand Valley State University has amazing students, faculty, and staff. Our community is really great, and I'm not just saying that. As an institution we're dedicated to student success and we all work together to make sure we're supporting students academically and personally.

3. What does a work day look like for you?

Like every other librarian, I have to say it depends on the time of year, but a brief overview of what I'm involved in right now: I start the day answering email and checking on higher education and library news. I'll prepare for whatever meetings or instruction sessions I have. For example, this week I had a meeting of the University Libraries Data and Assessment Committee and I taught an Honors National Security class. We don't have a reference desk anymore, but I often meet with students who make an appointment or drop in with research questions. Depending on what projects we have going on, I will be working on weeding or purchasing (I manage collections budgets for 5 programs, plus our FDLP program), putting up a display (this semester's is on presidential documents), or working on one of my ALA/ACRL committees. I also serve as an instruction mentor to one of our new hires, represent the University Libraries in University Academic Senate, serve as Chair Elect of the Library Faculty, and as a conduct coordinator for the university's Dean of Students office. In between all that I check Twitter to keep up with the library world and serve as the editor for *Documents to the People*.

[Continued page 3](#)

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.

[Continued from page 2](#)

4. What do you consider to be your biggest challenge in your career?

This is a really challenging question for me, because I have a lot of support from both my library and university, and the greater library community, so my challenges aren't work related. I could talk about the larger issues in higher education (changing demographics, decreased funding for public institutions, etc.), but personally my greatest challenge is self-care and self-compassion. Like so many of us, I love my career, I love my job, I love what we do in libraries and in professional organizations. I have a habit of wanting to do everything because I honestly find it interesting and rewarding. I'm also an introvert, in the sense that while I love being around people and socializing or working in teams, I find it exhausting. This, plus my love of being involved, can very quickly lead to burnout, which is a very real problem in librarianship. I've had to very carefully carve out a work-life balance that works for me and my family (i.e. my husband and cats). You'll never hear me claim that I've got it all together, especially not right now when I'm scrambling to get a very late issue of my journal out the door while also spending 25% of my purchasing budgets and joining Junior League to try to make more friends outside work, but I do my best to pay attention to when I need to drop something or when I have to say no, even if it's an amazing opportunity. I've got at least another 35 years to work and in order to cultivate a long productive career, I know I need to take care of myself. I'm at a point in my career where I feel comfortable enough to talk about these types of challenges and also feel it's my responsibility to help my colleagues know they aren't alone if they feel overwhelmed or anxious or tired. Which is to say, thank you to all of the amazing people who helped me realize that.

5. I know you're an enthusiast of many, many things! What are your top five favorite things in the universe right now?

Anxiety Aids Planner Stickers: Renee's stickers keep me sane. (www.anxietyaids.ca)

Genre fiction, specifically romance novels and cozy mysteries, with a side of horror

Office toys

My Day Designer planner

Live tweeting *Tiny House* shows

[Continued from page 1](#)

Members who wish to get involved are welcome, and can email me at dschwieder@uflib.ufl.edu for more information.

As always, thanks to all the Section members who give so freely of their time and effort.

A special thanks to Roz Tedford, our past chair, who led a good year with much progress on important matters, including the name change.

For now, I hope things are going well for all members, and I hope to see you in Atlanta or online.



European Union Resource Comparison



Introduction

By Nadine Hoffman (Chair), Carol Spector, Earl Shumaker, Allison Gofman, and Nicholas Wyant on behalf of the 2016-2017 LPSS/PPIRS Vendor/ Publisher Liaison & Review Committee.

Following the regular presence of the European Union (EU) in international news over the past months, many researchers and students may be looking for substantial information related to the EU. Our committee has developed a non-comprehensive review of sources that may aid researchers in finding legal, historical, and statistical information (along with some others) related to the EU as an entity.

The EU creates a political, economic, and social union between its 28 member states. While Britain recently voted to withdraw, it continues to be a member for at least the next two years as it develops and submits plans to the Union. Alongside the decision-making bodies within each nation, the EU has seven decision-making bodies (institutions) with power over all member states: [European Council](#), [Council of the European Union](#), [European Parliament](#), [European Commission](#), [Court of Justice of the European Union](#) (CJEU), [European Central Bank](#), and [European Court of Auditors](#).

[Europa](#) is the official website of the EU. This site provides comprehensive coverage of the EU and is maintained by the Communication department of the European Commission.

Legal updates related to the EU can be found on [EUR-Lex](#) which provides the official daily journal of developments in legislation, information, and notices in official EU languages. It also covers EU law, national law, legislative procedures, and user-friendly features like summaries, statistics, and budget.

While the EU has a Court of Justice, it is also worth noting the existence of the [European Court of Human Rights](#), a court adopted by all 47 members of the Council of Europe to address human rights violations. Updates can be found in the freely-accessible [HUDOC](#) (European Court of Human Rights) database, which includes the full text of cases, press releases, and statistics.

Our review focuses on several in-depth websites containing publications with highly relevant material. It is not meant to be comprehensive, but should aid researchers and the librarians assisting them.

Europa is the official website for the European Union (EU). All of the information provided at the EU website and EU institutions is available in the language of all member countries. The website is broken down into 8 categories: About the EU; EU by Topic; Living, Working, Travelling in the EU; Doing Business; EU Law; Documents and Publications; Kids' Corner; and Teachers' Corner. There is also a "Newsroom" including press releases (accessible by date, topics, and source), videos, and photos. Users are provided with the number of documents that appear in these broad categories. At the "Teachers' Corner", teachers will find "Hot Topics", "Best Teaching Resources Links", and resources broken down by age group. The EU Law link provides access to the EUR-Lex database. "Statistics and Opinion Polls" comprise the third segment of "Documents and Publications".

[Continued page 5](#)

[Continued from page 4](#)

These statistics are available through [EuroStat](#). These statistics can be accessed by subject, or by an available A-Z list. There is also a section of "Most Consulted Statistics." Last, the fourth type in the "Documents and Publications" section is a section of libraries and archives connected to the EU. This includes libraries of the EU institutions, digital libraries such as [Europeana](#), national libraries, and EU media libraries.

Europa is a good starting point for information about the workings of the EU and its institutions, as well as information about member nations and their role in the EU. It is also an excellent source for full-text documents and publications reflecting EU governance, and the institutions which support the EU structure. The site, however could be improved if there were more search options (e.g., by country, geographical area, title). The European Union and its affiliated institutions are complex; the overall organization and design of their websites vary.

An extension of Europa, EUR-Lex provides access to European Union law with some documents from 1951. Documents are available in up to 24 languages where you can display up to 3 languages simultaneously. Coverage dates depend on the type of document sought with the [Official Journal](#) available from 1952, legislation from 1956, treaties and agreements from 1955, and case law from 1973.

Most items are findable by using the EU's document numbering system called CELEX. Users can create a free account that provides greater functionality for research. For example, users can export up to 100 items in a variety of formats (e.g., CSV, Excel, or PDF); registered users can export up to 5 MB of documents. This free website also includes information regarding EU legislative procedures and a section called "EU referendum in the UK."

The [Historical Archives of the European Union](#) (HAEU) was established in 1983 and is managed by the European University Institute. The mission of the HAEU is to preserve and provide access to the archives of EU institutions, collect and preserve private papers of individuals, movements and international organizations involved in European integration, facilitate research on the history of the European Union, promote public interest in European integration, and enhance transparency in the functioning of EU Institutions. Holdings include official EU publications as well as oral histories, photographs, audio recordings, video recordings, books, and theses.

The physical HAEU collection is located in an archives facility in Florence, Italy. While some archival materials are available online, the vast majority are only available in tangible format in Florence. The web archive of the European Union is a project of the HAEU and contains all the websites hosted on the europa.eu domain and its subdomains. Since the end of 2013, these websites have been archived quarterly by the Internet Memory Foundation.

[Comparison tables continued page 6](#)

[Continued from page 5](#)

Website Comparison

Organization Name	Europa	EUR-Lex	Historical Archives
For more info:	https://Europa.eu	http://eur-lex.europa.eu/homepage.html	http://archives.eui.eu/search and http://collections.internetmemory.org/haeu
Major Areas of Coverage	Provides access to information published by the EU and all its institutions, agencies and bodies. The site also provides information on the workings of the EU and services provided to individuals living in member states (e.g., living and working in the EU, healthcare in the EU).	Contains primary legislation affiliated with the European Union and its bodies.	Contains the archives of each EU institution, other than the Court of Justice of the European Union (CJEU) and the European Central Bank (ECB). The CJEU and ECB deposit documents on a voluntary basis.
Dates of coverage	Varies by institution (e.g., Official Journal begins in 1952 and Public Register of Documents from 1999)	Some texts date back to 1951	Document Archive - some documents date back to the 1820s Web Archive - 2013 to the present
Update frequency	Varies depending on institution, but all are regularly updated.	Daily, within 3 working days of the individual official document.	Documents Archive - updated annually Web Archive - updated quarterly
Types of materials included	Includes publications, full-text documents of governmental units, and web links to official documents and other online services (e.g., link to ordering EU publications from the EU Bookshop and a link to information on finding a job with the EU).	Types of documents include the Official Journal, treaties, international agreements, legislation, complementary legislation, preparatory acts, jurisprudence (case law), and national implementing measures.	Official documents, doctoral theses, photographs, audio and video recordings, and oral histories
Number of titles	Not available	Over 920,000 documents	250,000 database items 14,000 digitized archival files

[Continued page 7](#)

[Continued from page 6](#)

Organization Name	Europa	EUR-Lex	Historical Archives
Data included	Yes - through links to EuroStatics	No	Varies, but common fields are abstract, materials (i.e., format), languages, and record creator(s).
Materials accessible for free	Yes	Yes	Yes – but for the vast majority, you need to go to Florence, Italy to access them as they are not available online.
Yes/No options			
Search within full text	Yes	Yes	No
Advanced search	No	Yes	Yes
Limit results by publication dates	Yes	Yes	Yes
Limit results by document type	Yes	Yes	Yes
Relevance sorting	Unknown	Yes	Yes
Save searches	No	Yes, with a free registered account	No
Export citations	No	Yes	No
PURL availability	No	Yes, when you use their guidelines for stable links	No
Mobile Friendly	Yes	Yes	No
RSS or Alerts	Varies by institution	Predefined RSS & My EUR-Lex	No

Support the ACRL 2017 Conference Scholarship Campaign
Donate by December 31, 2016

<http://www.ala.org/acrl/aboutacrl/givetoacrl/givetoacrl>



Your contribution of any amount will provide scholarships for our new professionals and students to attend the ACRL 2017 Conference (<http://conference.acrl.org/>) and help to ensure the future vitality of the profession, the higher education community, and the association. We invite you to invest in the profession's future leaders as they seek to gain the experience, knowledge, and connections needed to advance learning and transform scholarship in the 21st century.

We've already raised more than \$34,000 during the advance phase of the campaign and I hope you will join me in meeting our scholarship goal of \$50,000 by December 31, 2016.

Lori Goetsch
Chair, ACRL 2017 Conference Scholarship Campaign



[Nominations for most 2017 awards are due December 2, 2016.](#)



Member News and Publications

- Darrington, J. (2016). U.S. Presidential Campaigns [Collecting to the Core]. *Against the Grain*, 28(4), 60+. Retrieved from <http://www.against-the-grain.com/2016/10/v28-4-september-2016-table-of-contents/#>
Jeremy Darrington, is the Politics Librarian at Princeton University, jdarring@princeton.edu

Connect with other Politics, policy and international relations Librarians -- Join the PPIRS Discussion List

To subscribe send an e-mail to:

PPIRS-L@listserv.kent.edu

Note: The subject line should be empty and the body of the message MUST only contain:

Subscribe ppirs-l Firstname Lastname

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

Archives of PPIRS-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 <https://listserv.kent.edu/cgi-bin/wa.exe?INDEX>

The PPIRS-L Archives are available only to subscribers to the PPIRS-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.

Scholarly Communication
From Understanding to Engagement

[Bring the one-day workshop, "Scholarly Communication: From Understanding to Engagement," to your campus, chapter, or consortia.](#)

RBMS

IOWA CITY, IOWA.

JUNE 2017
20 - 23

The 58th Annual RBMS Conference

PPIRS Executive Committee:

David Schweider (Chair, exp. June 30, 2017)
 Sarah Hogan (Vice-Chair, exp. June 30, 2017)
 Rosalind Tedford (Past-Chairperson, exp. June 30, 2017)
 Brett Cloyd (Secretary, exp. June 30, 2017)
 Sara Arnold-Garza (Member-at-Large, exp. June 30, 2018)
 Lynn Thitchener (Member-at-Large, exp. June 30, 2017)
 Tracey Allen Overbey (Social Media Coordinator, exp. June 30, 2018)
 Jennifer Schwartz (Webmaster, exp. June 30, 2017)
 Lori J. Ostapowicz-Critz (Board Liaison, exp. June 30, 2017)
 Megan R. Griffin (Staff Liaison, exp. June 30, 2017)

PPIRS Committee Chairs:

Communication and Publications -
 Chair: Mary Kathryn Oberlies, exp. 2018
 Conference Program Planning Committee, Chicago 2017,
 Co-Chairs: Brian Coutts & Marianne Ryan, exp. 2017
 Marta Lange/SAGE-CQ Press Award Committee -
 Chair: Bryan Mark Carson, exp. 2018
 Membership Committee - Chair: Erin Ackerman, & Lynn Marie Thitchener, exp. 2018
 Nominating Committee - Chair: Kelly Janousek, exp. 2017
 Professional Development/Library Instruction Committee -
 Co-Chairs: Kelly Janousek & Lynn Marie Thitchener, exp. 2017
 Review and Planning Committee - Chair: Jeremy Darrington, exp. 2017
 Vendor/Publisher Liaison & Review Committee -
 Chair: Nadine R. Hoffman, exp. 2018

Guidelines for Contributors

The deadline for the next edition of the *PPIRS News*, subject to decisions by ACRL, will be announced on the PPIRS Discussion List.

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

Suggested length: 1–3 pages.

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 the strength of the newsletter. The PPIRS listserv is the best place to post, discover, and comment on breaking events. The [PPIRS website](#) is the official repository of official reports and meeting minutes. - [Newsletter Archives](#) .

© 2016 American Library Association

ISSN 0885-7342

PPIRS News is a publication of the Politics, Policy and International Relations Section

Association of College and Research Libraries,
 ALA, 50 E. Huron Street, Chicago, IL 60611-2795.

Web: <https://lpssacrll.wordpress.com/>

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

Contact editors at:

Merrill Stein merrill.stein@villanova.edu

Dennis Lambert dennis.lambert@villanova.edu