

LPSS Strategic Plan, 2006-2010

At the 2001 Midwinter ALA Meeting, the LPSS Review and Planning Committee began the process of drafting a strategic plan for the Section. The strategic plan would give guidance and purpose to the activities of the section and its committees, as well as to help identify future needs of the section. The goal was to present a final draft to the membership at the 2002 meeting.

A first draft was written and sent to Committee members for input. Following a number of revisions, a preliminary draft was sent to the general LPSS membership via e-mail for comment and input. Comments and suggestions were incorporated into the document, with a final draft presented at the LPSS general membership meeting in January 2002. The membership unanimously approved the document.

The Review and Planning Committee, working with other committee chairs, began developing the implementation stage of the strategic plan process at the 2006 Midwinter Meeting of ALA in San Antonio. The proposed strategic plan for 2006-2010 has been aligned with the newly released ACRL strategic plan, "Charting Our Future: ACRL Strategic Plan 2020," which is available at <http://www.ala.org/ala/acrl/aboutacrl/whatisacrl/acrlstratplan/stratplan.htm> (<http://www.ala.org/acrl/aboutacrl/strategicplan/stratplan>).

The LPSS five-year strategic plan will be reviewed annually by the Review and Planning Committee.

Susan E. Parker (UCLA Library), Chair, Review and Planning Committee
February 22, 2006

Association of College and Research Libraries

Law and Political Science Section

STRATEGIC PLAN

2006-2010

MISSION

The Law and Political Science Section (LPSS), a unit of the Association of College and Research Libraries (ACRL), a division of the American Library Association (ALA), is the educational forum and information exchange center for librarians, archivists, and others with interests in all aspects of, or subject expertise in, law or political science collections, libraries, and librarianship.

KEY PRIORITY 1

LEADERSHIP AND INFORMATION FOR POLITICAL SCIENCE AND LAW LIBRARIANS

LPSS is the main source of information pertinent to law and political science libraries, librarians, and librarianship within ACRL and ALA for law and political science libraries, librarians and, librarianship.

GOALS

- 1. LPSS members achieve recognition as leaders and advocates for law and political science librarianship in academic and research libraries.**
 - A. LPSS realizes the importance of networking to its constituents for enhanced job performance and career advancements and provides opportunities for this networking to occur.*
 - 1) LPSS encourages networking through its sponsorship of social events at ALA and ACRL conferences.*
 - 2) LPSS distributes badge flags to LPSS members at conferences to identify members and raise general awareness about the Section.*
 - B. LPSS encourages members to mentor library staff assistants and new librarians.*
- 2. Increase recognition of the value of libraries and librarians by leaders in higher education, information technology, funding agencies, and campus decision-making.**
 - A. LPSS celebrates and promotes "Political Information Day," which recognizes the contribution of LPSS members in keeping the academic community informed on issues of the day.*
 - B. LPSS presents the Marta Lange/CQ Award annually to recognize an academic or law librarian who, through research, other creative activity, or service to the profession, makes distinguished contributions to bibliography and information service in law or political science. The plaque and stipend are generously provided by Congressional Quarterly, Inc. (an LPSS strategic partner).*
 - C. LPSS recognizes member accomplishments in its newsletter and on its website.*
- 3. Increase LPSS' efforts to support recruitment of new and diverse talent to academic and research librarianship.**

- A. LPSS works cooperatively with the Spectrum Scholarship Program as a resource for new members.*
- B. LPSS invites the students of library and information science programs in the vicinity of ALA and ACRL conferences to attend and participate in the LPSS socials, programs, committee and general meetings, and discussion groups.*

4. Increase LPSS activities in support of succession planning in academic and research libraries.

KEY PRIORITY 2

CONTINUOUS LEARNING

GOALS

LPSS provides continuous learning opportunities in the areas of law and political science librarianship in order to strengthen members' effectiveness and achieve recognition as valued contributors to their academic and research communities.

OBJECTIVES

- 1. Align programs and other learning opportunities with member needs and strategic priorities.**
 - A. LPSS presents formal and informal programs at ALA Annual Meetings and co-sponsors appropriate programs with other ALA units and sub-units.*
 - B. LPSS conducts discussion groups at ALA mid-winter meetings.*
 - C. LPSS presents and co-sponsors programs and conducts discussion groups at ACRL divisional meetings.*
 - D. LPSS expands continuing education to include information maintained on its web site.*
- 2. Increase professional development opportunities focused on assisting librarians in advocating the value of the library.**
 - A. Realizing that other associations provide continuing education relevant to LPSS members, LPSS pursues reduced rates for LPSS members to attend such meetings.*
 - 1) In 2006 LPSS will fund a member's TLC conference registration.*
 - 2) In 2007 LPSS will fund one member's registration at the APSA annual conference.*
 - 3) In 2008 LPSS will fund one member's attendance to a regional APSA conference.*
- 3. Increase learning opportunities in information technology, including practice, theory, and policy, ensuring appropriate integration throughout LPSS programming.**
- 4. Increase accessibility of learning opportunities and enhance incentives and recognition for member participation.**
- 5. Increase agility in providing cutting-edge content and delivery formats for learning programs and publications.**
 - A. LPSS develops an electronic and a print clearinghouse for pathfinders and other information relevant to its constituency.*
 - B. LPSS solicits participant evaluations of its programs and offerings, and uses information gathered from these evaluations to change, update, and improve its continuing education programs and activities.*

KEY PRIORITY 3

RESEARCH AND HIGHER EDUCATION

GOALS

OBJECTIVES

1. Learning

A. LPSS creates, promotes, maintains, and distributes information literacy guidelines and standards for political science and other related fields in accordance with ACRL standards.

B. LPSS publicizes these guidelines to ALA membership and other professional librarians.

C. LPSS maintains an archive of its publications in paper and/or electronic formats.

2. Scholarship

3. Empower members to communicate the value of their contributions to learning and scholarship.

A. LPSS communicates with its constituency — law and political science librarians, archivists, library staff assistants; their supervisors or managers; the faculty, students and/or legal professionals that they serve; and the publishers and vendors of material in all formats to the law and political science community — on a continuing basis. Communication includes library instruction and information literacy as appropriate.

B. LPSS encourages its members to prepare and conduct poster sessions and presentations at ALA, ACRL, regional, state, and local conferences and meetings.

C. LPSS encourages its members to originate, sponsor, and participate in forums for librarians to present their written work and research in progress for review and discussion prior to submission for publication.

4. Advocacy

A. LPSS celebrates and promotes “Political Information Day,” which recognizes the contribution of LPSS members in keeping the academic community informed on issues of the day.

B. LPSS is the main source of information about libraries and library resources for political scientists and an important source for teachers of law.

KEY PRIORITY 4

MEMBERSHIP

GOALS

LPSS promotes membership in the section and promotes law and political science librarianship to new librarians and ACRL and ALA members in general.

OBJECTIVES

1. LPSS' membership growth builds on retaining core membership while recruiting from new and diverse communities.

- A. LPSS produces a flyer or brochure to promote the Section and to be used as a marketing tool to prospective members.
- B. LPSS works cooperatively with the Spectrum Scholarship Program to increase LPSS membership of underrepresented academic and research librarians.
- C. LPSS invites the students of library and information science programs in the vicinity of ALA and ACRL conferences to attend and participate in the LPSS socials, programs, committee and general meetings, and discussion groups.
- D. LPSS works with ALA's New Member Round Table to promote Section membership.
- E. LPSS conducts an in-depth member survey of LPSS members to determine needs and skills of members.
- F. LPSS sponsors social events at ALA and ACRL conferences.
- G. LPSS distributes badge flags to LPSS members at conferences to identify members and raise general awareness about the Section.

2. LPSS recognizes and values the contributions its members make to librarianship.

- A. LPSS presents the Marta Lange/CQ Award annually to recognize an academic or law librarian who, through research, other creative activity, or service to the profession, makes distinguished contributions to bibliography and information service in law or political science. The plaque and stipend are generously provided by Congressional Quarterly, Inc. (an LPSS strategic partner).
- B. LPSS recognizes member accomplishments in its newsletter and on its website.
- C. LPSS distributes badge flags to LPSS members at conferences to identify members and raise general awareness about the Section.

KEY PRIORITY 5

COMMUNICATION, COOPERATION AND COLLABORATION

GOALS

LPSS works cooperatively with other ALA and ACRL units and sub-units, the American Association of Law Libraries (AALL), and other law and political science related organizations, publishers and vendors to envision, create, produce, and promote joint projects.

OBJECTIVES

1. LPSS identifies potential partners for cooperative ventures.

- A. American Political Science Association (APSA)
- B. CQ Press—Marta Lange/CQ Award
- C. LPSS has an official Liaison from AALL and may sponsor an official liaison to AALL.

2. LPSS provides its partners and members timely and relevant information to facilitate cooperative projects.

- A. LPSS maintains a web site.
- B. LPSS expands its web site to include web resources relevant to and useful to its constituency, based on the input, needs and expectations of that constituency.
- C. LPSS keeps its web site current and accurate.
- D. LPSS publishes a newsletter to assist in communication with and among its constituency.
- E. LPSS automatically places LPSS members on the subscription list for the newsletter.
- F. LPSS expands the newsletter to include columns on all areas relevant to law and political science libraries, librarians and librarianship beyond that which is covered at present.
- G. LPSS investigates alternative formats for the delivery of its newsletter, including its web site and other electronic means.
- H. LPSS maintains an archive of its newsletter publications.
- I. LPSS maintains an electronic discussion list that serves as a means of communication for members and the LPSS officers and automatically adds all members to this list.
- J. LPSS ensures the archiving of important online discussions.

3. LPSS' collaborative activities with organizations are models that other ACRL sections can follow.

KEY PRIORITY 6

SUSTAINABILITY

GOALS

LPSS will have the resources, expertise and organizational structure to advance the Section's strategic plan.

OBJECTIVES

- 1. LPSS maintains standing committees and task forces to support the work of the Section.**
 - 1) LPSS continually reviews and adjusts its committee structure to meet the current and future needs of its members and its other constituencies.
 - 2) LPSS continually reviews and adjusts its committee structure to meet the standards and conditions as defined by ALA and ACRL.
- 2. LPSS Committees contribute to areas of the LPSS web site relevant to their individual mission.**