

ACRL Plan for Excellence Implementation Report
Law and Political Science Section
Chair, Lynda Kellam
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In support of the Association of College & Research Libraries' [Plan for Excellence](#)

Value of Academic Libraries

ACRL Goal: Academic libraries demonstrate alignment with and impact on institutional outcomes.

1. *ACRL Objective: Leverage existing research to articulate and promote the value of academic and research libraries.*

- a. LPSS Objective: Create an online resource to highlight existing and newly published scholarship by librarians in law, political science, and related fields.

This year LPSS created a task force to explore the possibility of reviving Grace York's guide to social science data resources. We have connected with the Numeric and Geospatial Data Services in Academic Libraries Interest Groups (DIG) and GODORT and have received positive responses. The task force will submit a progress report in fall 2014 and a preliminary report at ALA Midwinter 2015.

2. *ACRL Objective: Undertake and support new research that builds on the research agenda in "[The Value of Academic Libraries: A Comprehensive Review and Report](#)."*

- a. LPSS Objective: Create a task force to carefully review the report and identify possible areas of research related to law, political science, and related fields.

LPSS did not create a task force to review the Value of Academic Libraries report this past year.

- b. LPSS Objective: Investigate LPSS-sponsored research grants to encourage scholarship building on the report.

We were not able to pursue this objective.

3. *ACRL Objective: Influence national conversations and activities focused on the value of higher education.*

- a. LPSS Objective: Develop a common message for use by LPSS's APSA Liaison and representatives to other professional organizations.

LPSS has appointed a new GODORT liaison. We have not developed a common message but we will continue to have a strong connection with GODORT. We also have many members on ACRL's DIG and in IASSIST, the data professionals' organization, who share information across our organizations.

LPSS completed paperwork to be included in the nomination process for the IFLA Social Science Librarians Committee with EBSS and ANSS. LPSS has been approved and will be a part of the nomination process starting in January 2016.

4. *ACRL Objective: Develop and deliver responsive professional development programs that build the skills and capacity for leadership and local data-informed and evidence-based advocacy.*
 - a. LPSS Objective: Add professional development responsibility to Library Instruction Committee and rename as Library Instruction and Professional Development Committee. Task the committee to offer regular professional development programs at library and disciplinary conferences, including the ACRL Conference.

LPSS has revised its governance manual to modify the charge of the Library Instruction committee to include new responsibilities for professional development. We considered 2013-2014 our transition year. At ALA 2014 conference the committee chair asked her members to make a priority list for the new committee in the coming year. Our activities will revolve around those priorities.

Our LPSS discussion forum at ALA annual conference 2014 on water politics with Pat Mulroy, former general manager of the Southern Nevada Water Authority helped to further the knowledge of our members about water politics issues in the southwest region. We plan to publish a summary of the event in our upcoming newsletter.

Student Learning

ACRL Goal: Librarians transform student learning, pedagogy, and instructional practices through creative and innovative collaborations.

1. *ACRL Objective: Build librarian capacity to create new learning environments (physical and virtual) and instructional practices.*
 - a. LPSS Objective: Revise and improve online tools for the compilation of best practices.

The LPSS Professional Development Committee conducted a survey for the membership on the use of Political Science Information Literacy Competency standards for instruction. We also held a brief informative discussion at the annual conference general membership meeting on the ACRL revision of the Information Literacy competencies guidelines. We will create an ad hoc taskforce to review these changes and make a recommendation to the group potentially in the 2014-2015 year.

- b. LPSS Objective: Update, revise, and enhance well-known social science data resource repositories/guides for instructional use.

See the response to objective 1 under the Value of Academic Librarians

- c. LPSS Objective: Liaise with ALA's LIRT and ACRL Instruction Section and disciplinary organization teaching and learning committees to provide training on different pedagogical tools.

Some members of our section are also members of these groups. Next steps will be within the purview of the new Professional Development Committee.

- d. LPSS Objective: Investigate options to promote regular, virtual discussion groups, pre-conference offerings, and other systematic offerings at ALA, ACRL, and related conferences. This would be in addition to LPSS's annual program at ALA.

These activities will be part of the new Professional Development Committee

2. *ACRL Objective: Articulate and advocate for the role of librarians in setting, achieving, and measuring institutional learning outcomes.*
 - a. LPSS Objective: Task the LPSS disciplinary liaisons with articulating and advocating librarians' assistance in the development and measurement of institutional learning outcomes in those disciplines.

The APSA Liaison is doing this through her participation in the APSA Teaching and Learning Conference. This role may be less appropriate for other liaisons however (GODORT, AALL)

3. *ACRL Objective: Increase collaborative programs that leverage partnerships with other organizations in order to support and encourage local and national team approaches.*

LPSS has continued to develop a close working relationship with ACRL's DIG. As LPSS continues to investigate our current liaison structure, we may find new and better opportunities for collaboration.

4. *ACRL Objective: Build capacity for the librarians' role in supporting faculty development and the preparation of graduate students as instructors.*
 - a. LPSS Objective: Offer instructional content at the APSA Teaching and Learning Conference and other disciplinary conferences more frequently.

LPSS members participated in the American Political Science Association's Teaching and Learning Conference in February 2014.

5. *Increase understanding of new models of information fluency as pedagogy evolves.*

At our general meeting, Elizabeth White gave a short presentation on the threshold concepts and we had a brief question-answer session about them. We also shared readings on the threshold concepts with our members.

Research and Scholarly Environment

ACRL Goal: Librarians accelerate the transition to a more open system of scholarship.

1. *ACRL Objective: Model new dissemination practices.*
 - a. LPSS Objective: Investigate additional methods of distributing the LPSS newsletter via social media and new technologies as they arise.

The LPSS Communications and Publications Committee explored and discussed different possibilities for distributing newsletter content.

- b. LPSS Objective: Investigate getting the newsletter archive indexed in a discovery service.

We were not able to pursue this objective.

2. *ACRL Objective: Enhance members' ability to address issues related to digital scholarship and social science data management.*
- a. LPSS Objective: Develop programs to promote social science data literacy or knowledge of social science data sources, especially in conjunction with other units of ALA.

We were not able to pursue this objective.

- b. LPSS Objective: Have a regular column in the newsletter reviewing social science data sources.

We were not able to pursue this objective.

3. *ACRL Objective: Influence scholarly publishing policies and practices toward a more open system.*
- a. LPSS Objective: Task the Vendor/Publisher Liaison Committee with engaging in constructive discussions with scholarly associations, publishers, and other library organizations about issues of open access.

Discussions with the Vendor/Publisher Liaison Committee this past year addressed opportunities for engagement on open access issues, possibilities for fundraising, and the effectiveness of their role as a liaison with publishers. Their charge has not been modified however.

4. *ACRL Objective: Create and promote new structures that reward and value open scholarship.*
- a. LPSS Objective: Offer scholarly communication sessions at disciplinary conferences of law, political science, and associated fields.

We were not able to pursue this objective.

- b. LPSS Objective: In conjunction with other library associations or groups, initiate a dialogue with APSA and other relevant disciplinary associations encouraging researchers to post social science data for replication and re-use.

We were not able to pursue this objective.

- c. LPSS Objective: Consider an award, possibly in conjunction with other library associations or groups, to recognize researchers or journals in law or political science that promotes access to open research data for replication and re-use.

We were not able to pursue this objective.