

ACRL Plan for Excellence Implementation Report
Law and Political Science Section
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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 continued discussions about the creation of an online resource that would revive Grace York's guide to social science data resources. The plan is to convene a taskforce within LPSS that would connect with both the Geospatial Data Services in Academic Libraries Interest Groups (DIG), GODORT, and possibly IASSIST as a means of moving forward on this project. We also discussed whether there might be opportunities to sponsor an ALA Emerging Leaders project around this project.

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.

LPSS did not have much additional room in its budget to sponsor a grant, but may still consider this following the creation and recommendations from the LPSS Value of Academic Libraries Task Force.

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 investigated our current liaison structure in preparation for this objective, but did not develop common message for liaisons to use.

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 is revising our governance manual to modify the charge of the Library Instruction committee to include new responsibilities for professional development

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 Instruction Committee began a review of Political Science Information Literacy Competency standards, and developed a survey for the membership on the use of these guidelines for instruction. ACRL is also in the process of revising the Information Literacy Company guidelines for higher education, and we are following those developments closely. LPSS is planning to create a task force to revise the Political Science IL guidelines, when the Instruction Committee is reconfigured to focus on professional development
 - b. LPSS Objective: Update, revise, and enhance well-known social science data resource repositories/guides for instructional use.

This year LPSS continued discussions about the creation of an online resource that would revive Grace York's guide to social science data resources. The plan is to convene a taskforce within LPSS that would connect with both the Geospatial Data Services in Academic Libraries Interest Groups (DIG), GODORT, and possibly IASSIST as a means of moving forward on this project. We also discussed whether there might be opportunities to sponsor an ALA Emerging Leaders project around this project.

- 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.

As the LPSS Instruction Committee transitions its focus to professional development it can begin drawing on our allies such as LIRT and ACRL IS partners

- 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 newly charge and reconfigured 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 DIG including a joint social at the ACRL National Conference this past year. 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 continued this year to participate and provide instructional offerings at the APSA TLC conference, but did not formally sponsor instructional content at other conference or with greater frequency

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

The LPSS Communications and Publications Committee explored and discussed different possibilities for distributing newsletter content. The committee has not investigated indexing the archive through a discovery service.

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.

LPSS continues to forge a close relationship with DIG, but has not developed programs promoting data literacy or specific data sources. These may be undertaken under the auspices of the Professional Development Committee

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

LPSS has not developed a column on social sciences data for our newsletter, and should consider the best ways to accomplish this, either by designating a writer/columnist or through some other means.

- 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.

- 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.

LPSS invited a representative from APSA to participate in our 2013 Annual Program on scholarly communications, but did not directly engage APSA or other associations on issues related to posting social science data for replication and reuse.

- 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.

LPSS discussed the value and the creation of an award but did not have the money in its budget this past year to do so.