

# ACRL Strategic Plan Implementation Report Report for the Law and Political Science Section

Submitted by Ann Marshall  
Chair, Law and Political Science Section  
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NOTE: The following is a summary of the Law and Political Science Section's activities during the 2008-09 fiscal year. Activities are reported under their corresponding ACRL Goal Areas and Strategic Objectives. The report was submitted to ACRL through an interactive, online form. This report is the source of the answers submitted to ACRL and serves as a record of LPSS activities for the section membership.

## Strategic Areas, Goals, and Strategic Objectives

### Strategic Area: Higher Education and Research

#### Goal Area: Learning

ACRL and its members are recognized internationally as collaborative leaders and partners in ensuring that students leave with lifelong learning skills, improving techniques for assessing learning outcomes, and in creating environments for discovery.

#### Strategic Objectives:

1. ACRL expands regional, national and international adoption, use and development of information literacy standards.
  - After several years of hard work and revision by the LPSS Instruction Committee and the LPSS Education Task Force, the ACRL Board of Directors approved LPSS's *Political Science Research Competency Guidelines*. These guidelines were subsequently published in the January 2009 edition of the C&RL News. With use of ACRL Action Plan funds, LPSS is working on distributing print versions of these guidelines.
  - In addition, the guidelines are being promoted online as a PDF ([http://wikis.ala.org/acrl/index.php/Political\\_Science\\_Research\\_Competency\\_Guidelines](http://wikis.ala.org/acrl/index.php/Political_Science_Research_Competency_Guidelines)) and as a wiki ([http://wikis.ala.org/acrl/index.php/Political\\_Science\\_Research\\_Competency\\_Guidelines](http://wikis.ala.org/acrl/index.php/Political_Science_Research_Competency_Guidelines)). Since being published online with the ACRL wiki in July of 2008, the guidelines have been viewed 1,180 times.

2. ACRL increases members' ability to collaborate and partner with faculty and other campus professionals to integrate lifelong learning skills into the curriculum and to evaluate programs and assess individuals' learning.
  - In partnership with GODORT, LPSS cosponsored a preconference at ALA 2008 in Anaheim, titled, "Got Elections? Informing the Public."
  - With ACRL Action Plan funds, LPSS has been working on organizing two types of events for the September 2009 American Political Science Association Meetings: 1) a short course titled, " Library 2.0: Knowledge, Power and Pedagogy in Net Space -- Evolving Collaborations and Roles" and 2) an ACRL/LPSS booth in the exhibit hall.
  
3. ACRL increases member abilities to create and manage physical and virtual spaces and services as environments for discovery.
  - Building upon the work of an LPSS Task Force that investigated virtual meetings several years ago, LPSS held its first virtual meetings as part of the ALA Midwinter Meetings. All LPSS committee meetings were held virtually and LPSS also hosted a hybrid in-person/virtual General Membership Meeting in Denver. LPSS conducted two surveys in conjunction with this initiative and LPSS plans to evaluate the results of these surveys in the upcoming year.

### **Goal Area: Scholarship, Research, and Creative Activity**

ACRL and its members are recognized internationally as authorities on the integration of content, tools, and services into the evolving workflows of scholars and creators at all stages from initial discovery, to individuals organizing their own resources, to the creation, sharing, publication, aggregation, and preservation processes, including associated intellectual property issues.

#### **Strategic Objectives:**

- Strengthen ACRL's role in serving as a catalyst for and supporting transformative change in scholarly communication systems.
- Enhance ACRL members' ability to provide education, advocacy, and coalition building to support transformative change in scholarly communication systems.
- Enhance ACRL members' understanding of how scholars work and the systems, tools, and technology to support the evolving work of the creation, personal organization, aggregation, discovery, preservation, access and exchange of information in all formats.
  - The LPSS spring 2009 newsletter reported on the experiences of a Virginia Tech political science faculty member, Craig Leonard Briens (a colleague of LPSS member Bruce Pencek), who attended ACRL 2009 conference in Seattle.
- Strengthen ACRL's relationships with learned societies to expand membership knowledge of disciplinary practices in scholarship.

- LPSS maintains active relationships with associations such as the American Association of Law Librarians, the Government Documents Round Table, the International Studies Association, and the American Political Science Association. For example, in the fall 2008 newsletter, Publications Committee Chair, Lucy Lyons, wrote about her experiences at the International Studies Association 49th Annual Conference in San Francisco and Program Committee member Lynne Rudasill provided a report on IFLA's conference in Toronto.

### **Goal Area: Advocacy**

ACRL has greater influence on the higher education and research environment.

### **Strategic Objectives:**

1. Increase ACRL's influence on campus information, academic, and communication technology priorities.
  - The LPSS Vendor/Publisher Committee is sponsoring a discussion group at ALA 2009 in Chicago, to raise and discuss library-vendor issues; Representatives from EBSCO, ProQuest and Sage will attend.
  - The LPSS Vendor/Publisher Committee has published a number of reviews of vendor/publisher products, both in our newsletter and on our website. In the past year, 1) Gale Digital Collections 2) Canada and the United States: Differences that Count, published by Broadview Press, 3) ProQuest's PolicyFile have each been reviewed by LPSS members.
2. Increase ACRL's communication on major trends and issues in libraries and higher education.
3. Strengthen partnerships with other organizations.
  - In addition to LPSS's liaison efforts (see above), LPSS has a growing involvement with the American Political Science Association's Teaching and Learning Conference. For example, a panel presented at the 2008 Teaching & Learning Conference was co-authored by a librarian and political scientist team titled, "*You've Assigned a Research Paper, Now What? How to Turn a Topic into a Story.*" This panel is slated to be part of the LPSS sponsored APSA Short Course, planned for September 2009.
  - In partnership with GODORT, in the fall of 2008, LPSS submitted a formal request to Council of Liaisons proposing that ACRL establish a formal liaison role with the American Political Science Association.
4. Increase ACRL's influence in public policy affecting higher education.
5. Increase ACRL's influence on national and regional accrediting entities.
6. Increase ACRL members' ability to respond to and maintain critical levels of excellence in accreditation requirements and professional standards.

- At the LPSS sponsored exhibit booth at the American Political Science Association Meeting in September of 2009, LPSS will distribute copies of ACRL/LPSS's "Political Science Research Competency Guidelines"
7. Expand ACRL research on the value of the library, the value of the librarian, and the value of information.

## **Strategic Area: The Profession**

### **Goal Area: Continuous Learning**

ACRL provides continuous learning opportunities enabling members to strengthen their effectiveness and achieve recognition as valued contributors to their academic and research communities.

#### **Strategic Objectives:**

1. Expand ACRL's alignment of programs and other learning opportunities based on data, member needs, and strategic priorities.
  - LPSS's biannual newsletter highlights LPSS member activities in a column titled, "LPSS Member to Know."
  - LPSS Program Committee has organized a program for ALA Annual 2009, titled, "Political Engagement: Facilitating Greater Participation in Civil Society." Speakers include Elizabeth Hollander, Nancy Kranich, and Joanne Griffin.
2. Increase the accessibility of learning opportunities to meet the diverse needs of members by relying on research and best practices for design, delivery, and accessibility.
  - LPSS was able to involve several new participants in section activities through the use of virtual meetings for ALA Midwinter. For example, the in-coming LPSS newsletter editor, Jodi Shepherd, was recruited in part because of her active virtual participation at the 2008 Midwinter meetings.
3. Increase ACRL's agility in providing cutting-edge content for learning programs and publications.
4. Expand ACRL's continuous learning opportunities on advocating the value of the library, the value of the librarian, and the value of information.
  - LPSS maintains a listserv to promote the sharing of valuable information related to law and political science librarianship. Recent listserv topics have included: electronic resources management, collecting service desk data, country rankings websites, "Papers" software, polling data by state, embargoes and pricing models, and Ebsco's new product, "Political Science Complete."
  - LPSS provided door prizes at ALA Midwinter's General Membership Meeting to recognize and thank participants for their time and efforts.
5. Continue to play a leadership role in promoting research and publication in academic and research librarianship thereby creating and disseminating tools and a body of knowledge for the field.

## **Goal Area: Leadership**

ACRL members achieve recognition as leaders and advocates for academic and research libraries. ACRL recruits and develops the next generation of academic and research library leaders.

### **Strategic Objectives:**

1. Develop leadership opportunities for ACRL members and increase professional development offerings on leadership.
2. Design and deliver tools to ACRL members to empower them to communicate the value of their contributions to learning and scholarship.
  - Each year, LPSS honors an outstanding librarian, noteworthy for their contributions to the field of law and political science librarianship with the Marta Lange/CQ Press Award. With the generous support of CQ Press, the awardee is recognized by a plaque, \$1,000, and a reception in their honor. In 2008, LPSS recognized Lisa Norberg and, in 2009, LPSS will recognize Lynne Rudasill.
3. Increase recognition of the value of libraries and librarians by leaders in higher education, information technology, funding agencies, and campus decision making.
4. Increase ACRL's efforts to support recruitment of new and diverse talent to academic and research librarianship.

## **Goal Area: Information Technology**

Academic and research librarians are leaders in using information, academic and instructional technologies to create and manage information resources and to deliver library and information services.

### **Strategic Objectives:**

1. Support the development and recognition of academic and research librarians as experts and campus leaders in information technology applications in libraries by offering educational opportunities.
2. Build ACRL's capacity to partner with other technology-oriented higher education organizations to identify standards and best practices for managing digital libraries and digital library services.
  - The Spring 2008 LPSS newsletter reported on a newly revamped journal, titled *Information Technology and Politics* (previously the *Journal of E-Government*). The newsletter article also encourages instruction librarians to consider submitting articles to the "Teaching Innovations" section of the journal.

3. Support members in their exploration, research on, and implementation of new and emerging information technologies and their application for library services in educational environments.

## **Strategic Area: The Association**

### **Goal Area: Membership**

ACRL's membership growth builds on retaining core membership while recruiting from new and diverse communities.

#### **Strategic Objectives:**

1. Expand the appeal of ACRL membership among current members with a special focus on those new to the profession and early in their careers.
  - LPSS Membership Committee has actively reached out to potential members, new members, and recently dropped members in the last fiscal year. The Membership Committee contacts such individuals personally by direct correspondence. In addition, the Membership committee has participated in ACRL 101 events and has also helped organized social events, such as the dinner held at ACRL's 2009 conference in Seattle.
  - LPSS leadership has also helped staff the ACRL booth at ALA meetings.
2. Increase the number of academic and research librarian members.
3. Increase ACRL's membership from underrepresented ethnic and racial groups.
4. Increase the appeal of ACRL membership to broader communities.
5. Increase efforts to support recruitment of new and diverse talent to ACRL.
6. Support and encourage research and programming on the changing workforce in academic libraries and the implications for library education and training, leadership and middle management development, and staff recruitment and retention.

### **Goal Area: Organizational Vitality and Effectiveness**

ACRL will have the fiscal resources, staff expertise, and organizational structure to advance the association's strategic plan by deploying data-driven decision making to drive entrepreneurial activities.

#### **Strategic Objectives:**

1. Increase and diversify fiscal and human assets.
2. Increase the mutual benefits of the ACRL/ALA relationship.
3. Increase and improve ACRL's organizational use of information technology.
  - In the last year, LPSS has adopted several new technologies, including the ACRL wiki

([http://wikis.ala.org/acrl/index.php/Political\\_Science\\_Research\\_Competyency\\_Guidelines](http://wikis.ala.org/acrl/index.php/Political_Science_Research_Competyency_Guidelines)), a trial LPSS blog (<http://lpssblog.blogspot.com/>), and DimDim (<http://www.dimdim.com/>).

- In the fall 2008 newsletter, incoming Chair Erik Estep authored an article titled, "Proposal: Criteria for evaluating political opinion blogs."

### **Goal Area: Sustainability**

ACRL integrates sustainability into all aspects of the life of the association.

### **Strategic Objectives:**

1. Expand commitment to adopting green and sustainable business practices for ACRL offices, conferences, continuing education and operations with business partners.
  - The LPSS virtual meetings for Midwinter 2009 reduced the cost and ecological impact for those LPSS members who participated virtually.
2. Create a discourse about the significance of sustainability and ways to promote it within ACRL.
3. Foster relationships and collaboration by identifying meaningful opportunities for cross-fertilization of ideas, research and problem-solving around sustainability, both within ACRL and external to the association.
4. Plan and implement continuing education opportunities regarding sustainability for our members.
5. Engage with policy-makers, academics, non-academic non-governmental organizations, and the public in an effort to foster sustainability literacy.