LPSS
law & political science section

Association of College & Research Libraries
American Library Association

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

Submitted by Kathi Carlisle Fountain
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 2006-2007 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 Area: Higher Education and Research

Goal Area: Learning

Strategic Objectives:

1. ACRL expands adoption, use, and development of information literacy standards.
   - The LPSS Executive Committee approved the draft "Political Science Information Competency Standards" at the ALA Midwinter 2007 meeting. The document has been forward to the Information Literacy Advisory Committee for further review.
   - Draft standards are posted on the LPSS website for ease of use.
   - LPSS's Education Task Force conducted an online chat (using the ALA Learning Community software) on information literacy in political science in December 2006.
2. ACRL increases members' ability to teach and assess lifelong learning skills.
   - The LPSS Instruction Committee sponsored a discussion at ALA Midwinter 2007 about how to help students evaluate results from Wikipedia and Google Scholar.
   - LPSS sponsored a roundtable discussion at ACRL 2007, "Google and All that Jazz," which was moderated by two LPSS members.
3. ACRL increases member abilities to create and manage physical and virtual spaces and services as environments for discovery.

Goal Area: Scholarship

Strategic Objectives:

1. Strengthen ACRL's role in supporting and developing new scholarly communication models.
2. 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.

- The section will sponsor its first peer-reviewed panel at a discussion session during the ALA Annual 2007 conference, "Blogs and Related Technologies."
3. Strengthen ACRL's emphasis on evolving knowledge management systems including, but not limited to, the creation, collection, preservation, access, and exchange of information.
4. Strengthen ACRL's relationships with learned societies.
   - LPSS Executive Committee is investigating establishing an official liaison relationship with the American Political Science Association.

Goal Area: Advocacy

Strategic Objectives:
1. Increase ACRL's influence on campus information, academic, and communication technology priorities.
2. Increase ACRL's communication on major trends and issues in libraries.
3. Strengthen partnerships with other organizations.
   - LPSS maintains a liaison relationship with the American Association of Law Libraries.
   - LPSS maintains a liaison relationship with the Government Documents Round Table.
4. Increase ACRL's influence in public policy affecting higher education.
5. Increase ACRL's influence on accrediting entities.

Strategic Area: The Profession

Goal Area: Continuous Learning

Strategic Objectives:
1. Align programs and other learning opportunities with member needs and strategic priorities.
   - LPSS published a newsletter, *LPSS News,* in Fall 2006 and Spring 2007.
   - The members of the Review & Planning Committee write product reviews for *LPSS News.* Items reviewed during the 2006-07 year include: Worldwide Political Science Abstracts, International Political Science Abstracts, and the LexisNexis Academic redesign.
   - LPSS sponsored a program at ALA Annual 2006, "Beyond Katrina: Politics, Race and Law."
   - LPSS will sponsor a program at ALA Annual 2007, "Can Blogs be Trusted?"
   - LPSS will co-sponsor the WESS program at ALA Annual 2007, "The European Union Today: Forging European Identity."
2. Increase professional development opportunities focused on assisting librarians in advocating the value of the library.
   - ACRL Action Plan funds will be spent in Fall 2007 to sponsor a pre-conference at the American Political Science Association's annual conference. The focus of the meeting is twofold: a) continuing education on library offerings for faculty, and b) discussion of applicability of information competency guidelines in political science courses.

- Several LPSS members attended the American Political Science Association's Teaching and Learning Conference, spring 2007, to promote the value of libraries generally and political science librarians in particular to political science faculty. While there, one member advertised the LPSS-sponsored pre-conference at the fall American Political Science Association conference.
- LPSS sponsored a well attended, informal social at ALA Midwinter 2007 to provide an opportunity for networking with colleagues.

3. Increase learning opportunities in information technology, including practice, theory, and policy, ensuring appropriate integration throughout ACRL programming.
4. Increase accessibility of learning opportunities and enhance incentives and recognition for member participation.
   - Provided door prizes for attendance at the ALA Midwinter 2007 LPSS General Membership Meeting. Door prizes will also be used at ALA Annual 2007 to promote attendance at the section's membership meeting.
5. Increase agility in providing cutting-edge content and delivery formats for learning programs and publications.
   - LPSS maintains copies of annual program pathfinders, the section's newsletter, and other continuing education information on its website.
   - LPSS communicates with its constituency via the electronic mailing list, LPSS-L, and occasionally through the ALA Online Communities software.
   - LPSS webmaster participated in training for new content management system to ensure the maintenance of a high quality section website.

Goal Area: Leadership

Strategic Objectives:
1. Empower members to communicate the value of their contributions to learning and scholarship.
2. Increase recognition of the value of libraries and librarians by leaders in higher education, information technology, funding agencies, and campus decision-making.
   - Annually, LPSS selects a recipient of the Marta Lange/CQ Press Award. The winners are chosen for their record of contributions to law and political science librarianship, and they receive a plaque, $1000, and the recognition of their colleagues around the nation. At the ALA Annual 2006 conference, CQ Press sponsored a lunch to honor our award winner, Graham R. Walden of Ohio State University. This summer, CQ Press will host a reception to honor our latest award winner, Binh Le of Pennsylvania State University.
3. Increase ACRL's efforts to support recruitment of new and diverse talent to academic and research librarianship.
4. Increase ACRL's activities in support of succession planning and leadership development at every level in academic and research libraries.

Goal Area: Information Technology

Strategic Objectives:

1. Support the development and recognition of academic and research librarians as leaders and experts in information technology applications in libraries.
2. Build ACRL's capacity to partner with other technology-oriented higher education organizations to develop standards and best practices for managing digital libraries and digital library services.

Strategic Area: The Association
Goal Area: Membership

Strategic Objectives:
1. Expand the appeal of ACRL membership among current members.
    • The LPSS Membership Committee is developing a mentoring program for existing LPSS members.
2. Increase the number of academic and research librarian members.
    • The LPSS Membership Committee worked with ACRL staff to redesign the section's brochure.
    • Existing section brochures are distributed at ALA and ACRL conferences.
    • LPSS members staff the ACRL booth at ALA conferences.
    • LPSS hosted a section dinner at the ACRL 2007 conference.
3. Increase ACRL's membership of underrepresented ethnic and racial academic and research librarians.
4. Increase the appeal of ACRL membership to broader communities.

Goal Area: Sustainability

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.