



ANSS currents

The Newsletter of the ACRL Anthropology and Sociology Section

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From the New Editors

As the new co-editors of *ANSS Currents*, we are requesting input on the content of the newsletter from section members. Three new columns appear in the issue in hand: "Bookshelf," "Calendar of Events," and "Membership News and Announcements." These features, which resulted from ANSS Publications Committee members pooling ideas for newsletter improvement at the 1989 ALA Midwinter Meeting, will be consistently included in future issues. ANSS members are hereby encouraged to send material for use in any of the columns; indeed, your input is essential for the maximum coverage which we hope to provide.

A considerable greater volume of material can be placed into the eight page format of the newsletter. As a member of the ACRL Anthropology and Sociology Section, what would you like to find in *ANSS Currents*? What further additions or changes would serve to develop the publication into a more meaningful and effective mechanism for communication? Please share your ideas with us. We welcome all suggestions and hope to hear from many of you.

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21 Divinity Avenue
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1989 Dallas Annual Meeting Schedule

Program: "Access to Anthropological Field Notes: Preservation, Collection and Ethical Issues." /Membership Meeting

Sunday, June 25, 9:30am-12:30pm
Holiday Inn Downtown, Holiday Ballroom I&II

Conference Program Planning, Chicago, 1990

Saturday, June 24, 8:00am-9:00am
Dallas Convention Center, N206
Monday, June 26, 8:00am-9:00am
Dallas Convention Center, N230

Executive Committee

Saturday, June 24, 2:00pm-4:00pm
Dallas Convention Center, N231
Monday, June 26, 2:00pm-5:30pm
Dallas Convention Center, E404

Nominating Committee, 1990 Elections

Monday, June 26, 11:30am-12:30pm
Dallas Convention Center, N207

Publications Committee

Saturday, June 24, 11:30am-12:30pm
Dallas Convention Center, N208
Sunday, June 25, 2:00pm-4:00pm
Dallas Convention Center, N204

Review & Planning Committee

Sunday, June 25, 4:30pm-5:30pm
Dallas Convention Center, N220

1989 Dallas Program: "Access to Anthropological Field Notes: Preservation, Collection and Ethical Issues"

The 1989 program will be held Sunday, June 25, 9:30am-12:30pm in the Holiday Inn Downtown, the Holiday Ballrooms I & II. The theme of this program was suggested several years ago by Ed Evans. The chair of the Program Committee, Bonnie Wright, has organized an exceptional program on various aspects of anthropological field notes. Kathleen T. Baxter, from the National Anthropological Archives at the Smithsonian, will focus on the access and uses of original anthropological records. Mary Elizabeth Ruwell, Northeast Documentation Conservation Center, will discuss preservation issues related to field notes and records. Professor Anthony Seeger, Curator, The Folkways Collection, Smithsonian Institution, will discuss the unique challenges associated with the preservation and access to audio and video field recordings. Mark Handler, Stanford Law Librarian, will discuss uses of field records and whether records should be maintained at all. The program will be followed by a brief membership meeting.

Tour of the International Linguistics Center

Tuesday, June 27, 1:30pm-4:30pm

ANSS will sponsor a tour of the International Museum of Cultures, the Academic Book Center and the Library at the International Linguistics Center outside of Dallas. The International Linguistics Center is affiliated with the Summer Institute of Linguistics, which was established in 1934. They have had a large significant publishing program over the years. The tour will be free and will leave by van from the entrance of the Loews Anatole Hotel in Dallas at 1:30pm. The tour will last for 2 hours and will conclude with a

reception sponsored by the Academic Book Center. The vans will return us to the Loews Anatole Hotel at approximately 4:30pm. ANSS wishes to thank Melinda Lyons for her efforts in organizing this tour.

Committee Reports Midwinter 1989

Bibliography Committee

Nancy S. Scipper, Chair

Work continued on analyses of indexes and abstracts, with drafts on *Bulletin Signalétique: Sociologie* and *Child Abuse and Neglect* and a letter to the publisher of *Rural Development Abstracts* and *World Agricultural Economics and Rural Sociology Abstracts* approved. A letter to the editors of *Abstracts in Anthropology* was revised. In addition to contacting publishers, the committee decided that letters should be written to staff responsible for producing the online databases and 'blue sheet' searching guides. Eight new analyses and letters were undertaken. The committee has received positive response from the publishers of *Social Work Research and Abstracts* and the producer of the *Work/Family Life Database*.

The committee is also continuing to pursue contact with other organizations. Letters will be sent to various committees of the American Anthropological Association and the American Sociological Association to inform them of activities and suggest areas of mutual concern. A guest speaker, Barton Clark, reported on a meeting of the International Union of Anthropological and Ethnological Sciences and on the current activities of the Society for Applied Anthropology. The chairperson reported on contacts with ALA committees, including RASD MARS, RASD Bibliography, and Professional Association Liaison. Two members of the ACRL Law and Political Section's newly formed Bibliography Committee visited an ANSS Bibliography Committee meeting.

The committee proofed revisions for the list of criteria used for index analyses with the goal of incorporating better requirements for online databases. Criteria for CD-ROM analysis will also be considered. After discussing the potential market for publishing its analysis, the committee decided to rely upon reviews in *ANSS Currents*.

Conference Program Planning, Chicago - 1990

Robert B. Marks Ridinger, Chair

The program is tentatively scheduled for 10am on Sunday, June 24. The committee has contacted and received affirmations of interest from personnel at the Chicago Historical Society, the Norman and Helen Asher Library of the Spertus College of Judaica, the Vivian Harsch Collection of Afro-American Material, and the Chicano Collection at DePaul University. Each of the responding institutions indicated a willingness to offer a tour of their facilities. The Chicano Collection consists of material recently donated by a foundation. If featured in the program, the focus would be on the organization of a new and significant collection of this nature.

Another three groups which have been contacted have not yet

responded: the Balzekas Museum of Lithuanian Culture, the Dusable Museum of African American History, and the Polish Museum of America Library.

The committee feels it is important to have collections of black materials represented in the program.

Conference Program Planning, Dallas - 1989

Bonnie L. Wright, Chair

The Dallas Program Planning Committee met to discuss the ANSS 1989 Program. Bonnie Wright stated that there are four firm acceptances for the panel:

Anthony Seeger (Folkways Collection, Smithsonian)

Mary Elizabeth Ruwell (Northeast Documentation
Conservation Center)

Kathleen Baxter (National Anthropological Archives)

Mark Handler (Stanford Law Library)

There was some discussion of a change in the title of the program, which was finalized at the Executive Committee meeting: the new title is "Access to Anthropological Field Notes: Preservation, Collection and Ethical Issues."

Discussion also occurred regarding a possible tour for the section: Stephen MacLeod stated that he had had some contact with the International Museum of Cultures, affiliated with the Summer Institute in Linguistics. That organization is eager to host our tour. Richard Buchen had also explored some possible sites, including the Eamon Carter Museum and the old Historic Park. It was decided that further discussion of the tour would be taken up in the Executive Committee.

Publications Committee

Stephen MacLeod, Chair

Means by which to effect improvement in the content and layout of *ANSS Currents* were discussed. Members exchanged ideas and reviewed issues of other ACRL section newsletters to identify features for possible incorporation. A decision was made to institute columns to cover: 1) membership and institutional news, 2) recent publications and 3) events, programs, and activities of anthropology, sociology, and other social science associations and groups. The chairperson stressed that ANSS members should be encouraged to send materials for inclusion in the new columns.

It was also decided to include statements for the ANSS Chair and Vice-Chair/Chair Elect in one issue each year and to report on the ANSS Annual Conference program in each November issue. The chairperson stated that it is possible to fit considerably more material into the eight paged format of the newsletter. Other suggestions which were discussed included: 1) the establishment of a subscription price for the newsletter for non-ANSS members, 2) stating editorial deadlines in each issue, 3) the use of photographs in conjunction with tours and/or programs, and 4) the development of a form by which to solicit news items from the ANSS membership.

A draft "Guidelines for *ANSS Currents* Contents" was discussed.

Although certain editorials changes were made, committee members concurred that the draft covered all areas which it is important to address. The committee expects to approve a final draft at the 1989 Annual Conference.

Review and Planning Committee

Lynne Schmelz-Keil, Chair

The Section Review for ANSS is due September 1989. Committee members discussed the previous review process and decided to assign the writing of a draft review for each ANSS committee to Review and Planning members. Committee members will share the draft reviews with committee chairs before the annual conference in Dallas. In Dallas, reviews will be finalized. If ANSS receives funding for committees, it was suggested that the Review and Planning Committee develop mechanisms for input from committee chairs for future budget requests.

Bookshelf

Sociology

Reference Books:

The Cambridge Encyclopedia of the Middle East and North America. (Edited by Trevor Mostyn. Cambridge University Press, 1988). — Provides significant coverage of cultural and social topics and will not need to be updated yearly.

Jewish Heritage in America: An Annotated Bibliography. (By Shared Karkhanis. Garland, 1988). — Lists 110 annotated citations covering the history, religion, culture, economic life, and sociology of American Jews, with an emphasis on the post-1925 period.

Inexpensive Items:

Black Americana. (available for \$1 from the Detroit Library Commission c/o Public Relations Dept., Detroit Public Library, 5201 Woodward, Detroit, MI 48202) — Lists titles published from Nov. 1987 through Oct. 1988 about the Black American experience. Entries include publishers and price.

Welfare Reform: A Bibliographic Guide to Recent Sources. (By Richard Hug and Timothy Sutherland; available for \$6.25 from Vance Bibliographers, PO Box 229, Monticello, IL 61856) — provides 115 citations to articles, books, and government documents.

How to Find Information About AIDS. (By medical librarians Virginia A. Lingle and M. Sandra Wood; available for \$6.95 from Haworth Press, 12 W. 32nd St., New York, NY 10001) — is a 130-page paperback giving addresses and telephone numbers for government agencies, community hotlines, organizational resources, funding resources, major publications, and informational databases. Includes geographical index.

Journals

Social History of Medicine. (Oxford University Press, Walton St., Oxford OX2 6DP, England. Began Publication 1988. 3/yr. \$60). — Is published by the Society for the Social History of Medicine and treats medical history in its broader economic and social context.

Rethinking Marxism. (PO Box 85, Newton Centre, MA 02159. Began Publication 1988. 4/yr. \$40.) — Is intended for the specialist in the theory of Marxism, but will be of interest in related areas from history to feminism.

International Journal of Politics, Culture and Society. (Human Sciences Press, 72 Fifth Ave., New York, NY 10011. Began publication 1987. 4/yr. \$75.) — Focuses on a single topic for each issue. No. 2 (Winter 1987) was on the sociology of museums, films, and novels.

Anthropology

Ethnologue: Languages of the World. (11th edition. Edited by Barbara F. Grimes. Dallas: Summer Institute of Linguistics, 1988.) — A revised and enlarged edition of a handbook on languages of the world and their dialects. Includes much demographic and sociolinguistic data.

Biographical Directory of Anthropologists Born before 1920. (Compiled by the Library-Anthropology Resource Group. Edited by Thomas L. Mann. New York: Garland, 1988.) — International in scope.

Encyclopedia of Human Evolution and Prehistory. (Edited by Ian Tattersal, Eric Delson, and John Van Couvering. New York: Garland, 1988.) — A comprehensive guide to paleoanthropology.

Past Lives: The Times Atlas of Archaeology. (Maplewood, N.J.: Hammond, 1988.) — In addition to being a compendium of maps, this work serves as an interpretation of human origins and development.

One World Archaeology. (Edited by Peter J. Ucko. London: Unwin Hyman, 1989.) — 22 volume series presenting a cross-cultural and interdisciplinary approach to archaeology. Contributors include not only anthropologists and archaeologists, but also academics from other disciplines and non-academics from a variety of cultural backgrounds.

Membership News and Announcements

Author and Subject Catalogues of the Tozzer Library, Harvard University. Second and Enlarged Edition on Microfiche. Boston: G.K. Hall, 1988. \$6,000. The Microfiche set, *Author and Subject Catalogues of the Tozzer Library*, was released in November, 1988. Composed of 1122 fiche in eight binders, the set is organized into two separate catalogues, each arranged alphabetically. The *Author/Title Catalogue* contains approximately 636,000 main entries plus entries for other access points such as editor, translator, sponsoring institution, and monograph series. The *Subject Catalogue*, of approximately 702,600 entries, covers the entire spectrum of anthropological topics. Emphasis is on ethnic groups, languages, major archaeological sites, and geographic headings. Topical headings (such as ethnography, social anthropology and linguistics) also divide primary headings into specific topics; further subtopics, many of them originally chosen by members of Harvard's Anthropology Department and the Peabody Museum, provide even more specific focus. Typical subtopics include cul-

ture change, pottery, cave paintings, rites and ceremonies, and primates. Also covered are related disciplines such as cross-cultural studies, area studies, folklore, art, religion, ethnomusicology, and historical and industrial archaeology.

The fiche catalogue contains entries for monographs and serials catalogues by Tozzer Library since its founding through June 1986, when the card catalogue was closed. All subsequent cataloguing is available through OCLC and is published by G.K. Hall as an annual supplement entitled *Bibliographic Guide to Anthropology and Archaeology*. The 1987 edition has been published; the 1988 edition will be released in June 1989.

For more than 75 years, Tozzer Library has indexed articles in anthropological journals as well as in edited compilations such as *Festschriften* and proceedings of congresses. These articles were included in the catalogue through June 1983. Most of these articles were also listed in the publication *Anthropological Literature* from 1979 to 1983. From 1984 to 1988, *AL*, as an index to articles in journals received by Tozzer, was available on microfiche. Beginning with volume 11, 1989, *AL* will again be available in hard copy and will include journal articles as well as edited works. Issued quarterly, it is arranged by broad category and includes author and subject indexes (Library of Congress Subject Headings), plus lists of journals and edited works indexed. Volume 11 is priced at \$125.00 per year [\$130.00 foreign, surface mail; \$135.00 foreign, airmail].

Annual Peace Award. ALA's Social Responsibilities Round Table, its Peace Information Exchange Task Force, and Social Issues Resources Series, Inc. announce the establishment of an annual peace award. It is an annual award given to a library, which in the course of its educational and social mission, or to a librarian, who in the course of professional activities, has contributed significantly to the advancement of knowledge related to issues of international peace and security. The contribution may be in the form of, but is not limited to: a bibliographical compilation, research and publication of an original historical nature, or a nonprint media creation, display, or distribution. Nominations must be submitted by the first day of next midwinter. To submit nominations or for more information, contact:

Stephen J. Stillwell, Jr.
Librarian/CSIA
79 Kennedy St. #369
Cambridge, MA 02138
(617)495-1408

Vacancy Announcement:

Reference and Technical Services Librarian, Tozzer Library. Reporting to the Librarian of Tozzer Library, provides and coordinates reference service at a reference desk and by individual appointment to a diverse group of researchers in anthropology and related fields; develops and coordinates a program of bibliographic instruction; provides referral to relevant collections and services at other libraries; provides bibliographies and other documentation relating to Library collections and services; provides ongoing evaluation and development of the reference collection, including acquisitions and withdrawal of materials; and coordinates the exhibits program. [60%]

Reporting to the Head of Technical Services, supervises biblio-

graphic searching and the order process; supervises serial control; resolves complex receipt problems, including serving as liaison with vendors; monitors the acquisitions budget and participates in budget preparation; oversees the processing of gift materials; and develops an exchange program with libraries and institutions world-wide, and oversees correspondence and records of these programs. [40%]

Qualifications: M.L.S. degree from ALA-accredited library school required; advanced degree in anthropology preferred; two years experience as a reference librarian in an academic library and familiarity with technical services operations preferred; proven interpersonal and communication skills, as well as ability to work effectively with students, faculty, and colleagues; supervisory experience highly desirable; reading knowledge of at least one modern European language required; experience with automated library systems highly desirable.

Rank and Salary: Librarian I or II; salary dependent on qualifications.

Available: July 1, 1989.

PLEASE SUBMIT RESUMES AND THREE SOURCES FOR CURRENT REFERENCES TO:

Susan Lee
Personnel Librarian
Harvard College Library
Widener Library, Room 98
Cambridge, MA 02138
(617)495-3721

Notes & Queries

Next year (1990) is the centenary of the first edition of **James George Frazer's *The Golden Bow***, a classic in the field of anthropology. Contributions are being solicited for an edited volume. Contact Hushang Philsooph, Dept. of Soc., U. Aberdeen, Edward Wright Bldg., Dunbar St., Old Aberdeen AB92TY, Scotland, United Kingdom.

As a result of the "International Human Rights and Indigenous People" session at the 1988 American Anthropological Association, a new unit is being organized within the AAA to address human right issues. If sufficient interest is demonstrated, a formal organizational meeting will be held at the next AAA meeting in Washington, D.C. For more information contact: Council on Human Rights, C. Patrick Morris, Ctr. for Native American Studies, Montana State U., Bozeman, MT 59717 or Robert Hitchcock, Dept. of Anth., U. Nebraska, Lincoln, NE 5917-0006

...Also the **Culture and Agriculture Group** voted to become a unit of the American Anthropological Association at the AAA meeting in Phoenix this year. Originally known as the Anthropological Study Group on Agrarian Systems, the group was founded in 1976 and publishes the *Culture and Agriculture* bulletin.

A new program has been introduced by the Wenner-Gren Foundation to encourage the improvement of resources for anthropologi-

cal research and scholarly exchange. Seed grants are available for projects concerning the preservation, archiving and dissemination of anthropological data, access to research materials by Third World scholars, and alternatives to traditional publication modes. Grants have been made to assist in the development of a Melanesian Archive for unpublished papers and documents and a demonstration project for desk-top publishing of ethnographic texts in previously nonwritten languages. Contact Wenner-Gren Foundation for Anthropological Research, Inc., 1865 Broadway, New York, NY 10023-7596. (212)957-8750.

The *Anthropology Newsletter* solicits contributions for a theme issue on "The Future of Anthropology—1990-2000 and Beyond" scheduled for October 1989. To include brief notes, essays, etc., contact Dave Givens, Editor, AAA 1703 New Hampshire Ave., NW, Washington, D.C. 20009. (202)232-8800.

The British Association for Social Anthropology in Policy and Practice (BASAPP) was established this past year to serve applied and nonacademic anthropology. It received seed funding from Wenner-Gren and has begun a newsletter. For information, contact BASAPP, c/o Sue Wright, Social Scis., U. Sussex, Falmer, Brighton BN1 9QN, Sussex, United Kingdom.

The University of New Mexico General Library, Albuquerque, received a \$5 million grant from the US government to provide research space for a new Center for Southwest Research. Matching funds will be raised by the University to create endowments to provide continuing supports for acquisitions, staffing, and programs.

The University of Texas at Austin General Libraries is one of six research libraries to receive grants of \$200,555 from the National Endowment of the Humanities and the U.S. Dept. of Education to convert card catalogs of their large Latin American library holdings into computer-readable automated records. Stanford U. is administering the grants; other participants are Yale U., UC Berkeley, U. of Florida, and Indiana U. at Bloomington. Records will go into OCLC and RLIN as well as to the Organization of American States' Columbus Memorial Library in Washington, D.C., and thus, to all Latin American countries.

Bibliography Committee Reviews

Rural Development Abstracts
v.1, 1978- . Quarterly.

Analysis prepared by:
Mary Koenig
University of Minnesota
December 1987, revised April 1989

Rural Development Abstracts (RDA hereafter) is a quarterly abstract journal prepared by the CAB International Bureau of Agricultural Economics (CBAE). The CBAE is one of ten bureaux and four institutes which together form CAB International, an international non-profit organization owned and administered by countries of the British Commonwealth. CAB International's main function is to provide a world-wide information service in agricul-

ture, forestry and related areas of applied sociology. It is best known for its abstract journals covering each of the main agricultural disciplines, including Economics, Development, and Rural Sociology. RDA is one of four abstracts which fall under this category. The other three are *Leisure, Recreation, and Tourism Abstracts*, *Rural Extension, Education, and Training Abstracts*, and *World Agricultural Economics and Rural Sociology Abstracts*.
A. Overall Usability: Very good index and very readable citations and abstracts contribute to good usability in the print version. The online version is much more complex and complicated to search.

B. Time Lag: The time lag appears to be one to two years between the citation and date of abstract issue, although occasionally older items appear. The time between issue date and receipt in library appears to be 4-6 weeks.

C. Coverage:

1. Number of publications indexed: No indication is given of how many items are scanned for inclusion. (Over 15,000 serials are scanned for the entire CAB database). Over 85% of the items included are abstracts.

2. Subjects included: As the title implies, RDA covers material on all aspects of rural development in developing countries. The impact of various development projects on cultural groups and rural-urban migration are examples of topic areas covered. Classified headings are (1) Rural Development, (2) Physical Resources, (3) Human Situation and Resources, (4) Economic Utilization of Resources, (5) Public Services and (6) Projects and Surveys. Sub-headings under category #3 are Population, Social Structure, Communities, Groups, Women, and Behavior and Attitudes.

3. Geographic areas: Africa, Americas, South, Central, and Caribbean, Asia, and Oceania.

4. Types of publications included: journals, books, reviews, reports, proceedings, dissertations (including foreign dissertations), and so called "grey literature."

D. Format:

1. Indexes: There are author and subject indexes at the end of each issue. The author index includes both personal and corporate entries and the subject index includes geographical entries.

2. Cumulative indexes: A cumulative index for the four quarterly issues is issued separately at the end of the year. There are no other cumulations.

3. Binding: All issues are paperbound. Paper appears to be good quality.

4. Print size and type: Print size is small but readable. Use of upper case letters, bold face type, and italics help to differentiate elements of citation. Adequate spacing between citations and columns make for easy reading.

5. Style: Standard 2-column format with justified margins. Headnotes indicating section headings run throughout.

E. Frequency: Four quarterly issues, at an annual rate of \$106.

F. Editing: Appears to be good for both content and accuracy of citations.

G. Document Delivery Service: Not all the material would be generally available in most libraries. CAB International does

provide a document delivery service. They can supply photocopies of most items, except books. An order form is included in each issue. No information is provided regarding turn-around-time.

H. Stated Scope: *RDA* has no explicitly stated scope, although it can be inferred from the Contents page and other bits of explanatory material. Significant publications from world literature relating to rural development in the Third World are included.

Online Version

A. Vendors: In USA, available on DIALOG [as a subfile of CAB ABSTRACTS, File 50 (1984-), and File 53 (1972-83)], and BRS [available as part of CAB ABSTRACTS (CABA, 1980-present)], though *RDA* is not a separate subset file. It can however be searched in another subset file (ECON) which includes economics, development, and education literature.

B. Record Structure: In addition to personal and corporate authors and subject and geographic area access points which the print version offers, the online records have several other searchable elements: ISSN, ISBN, title, translated title, abstract, date, document type, author's affiliation, language, and publisher. Related accession numbers (cross references) can also be displayed. Some of the indexes use sequencing codes (alphanumeric codes which are assigned to the major topic of the article) and/or unique decimal codes. Because the indexing is detailed and comprehensive using controlled vocabulary and/or codes, it is strongly suggested that the thesaurus and users guide be consulted.

C. Document Delivery Service: Material is available through the CAB Document Delivery Service or through DIALOG's DIAL-ORDER.

D. Completeness and Updating: *RDA* is only one of 46 files within the CAB database. Since there is some overlap in subject coverage with *WAERSA*, it will be possible to retrieve additional related material not found in the print *RDA*. To avoid searching the entire database and thus, long processing times, selecting these subfiles when searching through BRS, is essential. However, since records appearing in more than one CAB journal have entries in more than one subfile, duplicate entries do arise. BRS offers four subset files (ECONCAB, NUTRCAB, TOURCAB, VETRCAB) which can be searched independently. Material covered in *RDA* might appear in ECON (economics, development, and education) or NUTR (human nutrition). DIALOG and BRS both update their files monthly. Whether the material from *RDA* is also included monthly has not been determined. There is a production database available from CAB directly which is 6 weeks ahead of CAB ABSTRACTS available commercially.

E. Costs:

	DIALOG	BRS
Connect Hour (inc. tele.)	\$67	\$40*
Online Full Record	\$.30	\$.39
Offline Full Record	\$.35	\$.34

*varies according to subscription plan or add \$13/hr for open access.

F. Availability of Search Aids: (available from CAB International)

CAB ABSTRACTS Online Manual, 1988; *CAB Thesaurus*, 1988; *CAB Serials Checklist*, 1988.

G. User Assistance:

CAB-North America Office: 1-800-528-4841.

H. Other: Database is also available on magnetic tape from CAB. A CD-ROM product is currently being tested in several sites.

Summary of Positive Aspects: This abstract journal covers a wide range of development issues including topics in rural sociology and applied anthropology. It includes material published in developing countries themselves, as well as that published in Western Europe and the United States. This fills an important gap in the bibliographic control of this literature. Considering the wide geographical range the literature is drawn from, the time lag in publication is excellent.

Suggested changes:

1. A list of journals scanned annually should be included in one issue per year of *RDA*. The separately published serials checklist is for the entire CAB database and it gives no indication of what is covered by a particular abstract journal.
2. Though each issue provides information about CAB International in general and its entire information system, the issues do not provide adequate information as to the scope and coverage of *RDA*. Some of the introductory and explanatory material in the Online Users Guide should be included in at least one issue per year of the abstract.
3. The online version does not have the capability to do hierarchical cascading. This would be extremely useful especially for geographic areas. This would allow, for example, for retrieval of all material on rural-urban migration in all of Africa, rather than entering each African country individually. CAB is aware of this limitation and is working to improve this capability, though this will be very expensive to change.

World Agricultural Economics and Rural Sociology Abstracts.

v.1, 1959- . Monthly.

Analysis prepared by:

Ann Wood
University of Massachusetts
April 1989

World Agricultural Economics and Rural Sociology Abstracts (*WAERSA*) is one of over 40 abstracting and indexing journals issued by CAB International (formerly the Commonwealth Agricultural Bureaux). It, along with three other abstracts, is issued by the CAB International's Bureau of Agricultural Economics. This Bureau (one of 10) focuses on "economic and social aspects, whereas other units concentrate on scientific and social aspects" of agriculture. The other titles issued by this unit are *Rural Development Abstracts* (also reviewed by ANSS), *Rural Extension, Education and Training Abstracts*, and *Leisure, Recreation, and Tourism*

Abstracts.

A. Overall Usability: WAERSA in its printed version, is a very easy publication to use. The entries are well set up, the index well done, and cross references plentiful in both the index and text. Undergraduates in smaller libraries may find the exhaustive coverage of not readily available publications frustrating, but for graduate and faculty research, it serves its purpose well. The BRS and DIALOG online versions are embedded in the whole of the CAB database and not easily searched as separate files.

B. Time Lag: The citations are mostly to materials published within the last two years. The issues generally arrive in the library within one or two months.

C. Coverage:

1. Number of publications indexed: Between 6000 and 7500 items are included each year.

2. Subjects included: Subjects covered include agricultural policy; agricultural supply, demand and prices; marketing; distribution; economics of agricultural production; cooperatives and collectives, extension services and; of particular interest to us; rural sociology. This latter section is subdivided into eleven headings including demography, rural/urban relations and migration, rural communities, social stratification, and leadership. The proportion of the 6000 to 7500 abstracts per year devoted to rural sociology has varied but does not appear to ever have been more than one sixth of the total. Many articles included in other sections of the index, such as those on development and agrarian reform, farm organization, and cooperatives are, however, of interest to sociologists and anthropologists.

3. Geographic areas: The geographical scope is world-wide.

4. Types of publications: The types of publications included are explicitly stated only in the documentation for the online version of the database and include journal articles, books, technical reports, monographs in series, papers from conference proceedings, and annual reports. The attempt is to cover "all significant publications relating to economic and social aspects of agriculture and rural life in all countries..." Each reference included is examined physically by the BAE staff and a library location where the item was examined is a part of each record.

D. Format:

1. Indexes: The index is neatly done and easy to use. There are author and subject indexes in each issue. A separate cumulated index (author and subject) is issued annually. The subject index allows both topical and geographic approaches. Each heading has subheadings so that there are seldom entries with an unmanageable number of items. The entries do not, however, indicate the language of the references.

2. Binding: The binding is paper and adequately done to last until the volume is bound.

3. Print Size and Type: Both are good. Titles are heavier type so that they stand out. Serial titles and books titles (for conference proceedings or edited books) are in italics.

4. Style: Clear. Double columns on a page with adequate margins.

E. Frequency: Monthly with an annual cumulative index.

F. Editing: Appears good and to be adequate.

G. Scope: The aim is to cover all significant publications in agricultural economics and rural sociology. A crude comparison between WAERSA and *Sociological Abstracts* (excluding Association Papers) suggests that neither title is complete in and of itself. The words "village" or "villages" in the title were searched online in both databases, and the resulting titles for the years 1983 and 1986 printed. The table below shows the numbers found in each year and the duplication between the two databases.

Year	1983	1986
Sociological Abstracts	54	68
WAERSA	66	65
Dups. (in first 25 records)	4	3

To determine more precisely the kinds of materials emphasized in each database, one would have to examine the source paragraphs. However, a title such as "Evolution of the socioeconomic structure of suburban villages" from WAERSA does not appear in *Sociological Abstracts*, while "Palampur: the economy of an Indian village" from *Sociology Abstracts* does not appear in WAERSA. From 1976 to 1978, a list of serials scanned for the preceding volume was printed in the January issue of the next year. Volume 22, 1980 also has a list of journals scanned. Since that time, the list has not been printed. It would be very useful to revive this feature.

Online Format:

A. Vendors: See the review of *Rural Development Abstracts*. One additional comment: In BRS, one can limit the results of a search in ECON to WAERSA by asking for (world adj agricultural).hc. (where hc is the "hard copy" paragraph). Similarly with each of the other three abstracts included in ECON.

B. and C. See the review of *Rural Development Abstracts*.

C. Completeness and Updating: See above under G. for one comment on completeness. WAERSA is a monthly publication and both vendors do update their files monthly. BRS's online file begins in 1980; DIALOG has mounted 1972 to the present in their files. WAERSA begins in paper form in 1959.

E.F.G.H.: See *Rural Development Abstracts*.

I. Summary of Positive Aspects: WAERSA is physically a very neatly set up and easy to use publication. The indexing is clear and allows both geographical and topical access. Enough cross references are included. References are to titles published within the last couple of years and many may come from publications not indexed in *Sociological Abstracts*. In this respect WAERSA provides complementary coverage to other titles we have so far considered.

II. Suggested Changes: The addition of a code for the language of a publication in the index, the revival of the printing each year of a list of journals scanned, and an annual statement describing the kinds of publications included would be welcome. The comment on the usefulness of adding hierarchical cascading to the online file in the *Rural Development Abstracts* applies to WAERSA as well.

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