



# ANSS Currents

*The Newsletter of the ACRL Anthropology & Sociology Section*  
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## ANSS TURNS 25!!!!

### Anthropology and Sociology Section

### Twenty Fifth Anniversary Celebration

Reception to be held Monday, July 8, 1996

6:00 - 7:30 PM

John Jay College of Criminal Justice

899 Tenth Avenue, New York City

(at 59th Street)

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## 1996 ANSS PROGRAM

"Anthropological Documentation and Research in the New York Area: The Intersection of Archives, Libraries, and Museums"

Sunday, July 7, 1996  
9:00 - 11:00 a.m.

Speakers from four renowned research institutions in the New York area will explore the evolving role of libraries and archives in anthropological documentation and research. Topics to be addressed include the history and current issues of the library at the American Museum of Natural History, with an emphasis on special collections; the unique role of the Robert Goldwater Library of the Department of the Arts of Africa, Oceania and the Americas at the Metropolitan Museum of Art; the Culin and Spinden research collections on art and ethnography of the Americas at the

Brooklyn Museum Library and Archives; and a history of the Human Relations Area Files, including a discussion of current uses and the new electronic format.

### Speakers:

Melvin Ember, Human Relations Area Files

Deirdre Lawrence, Art Reference Library, The Brooklyn Museum

Barbara Mathe, Robert Goldwater Library, Metropolitan Museum of Art

Valerie Wheat, American Museum of Natural History Library

### **TOUR OF THE AMERICAN MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY LIBRARY**

Tuesday, July 9, 1996  
10:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon

ANSS will sponsor a visit to the new library facilities of the American Museum of Natural History, one of the country's leading anthropology and natural history collections. The tour will include the reference area, rare book room, archives, art and memorabilia collection, and conservation laboratory, as well as storage areas and the digitization project for collection management in the Anthropology Department. The tour, which will be followed by a reception with light refreshments, is limited to sixty

participants by advance registration through June 1. To register for this tour please send a \$5 payment (checks made payable to Maija Lutz) to Maija M. Lutz, Tozzer Library, Harvard University, 21 Divinity Avenue, Cambridge, MA 02138.

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

### Bibliography Committee

Reported by Ann L. Wood

First discussed was the revised draft of the review of the *Latin American Studies* CD-ROM which had been prepared by outgoing Committee member, Myra Anderson. Since one of the databases featured on the second disk of this set had ceased at the end of 1995, we discussed what to do and decided that the Chair would talk with the producer to see what they intend to do with the product. If it seemed useful, she would revise the review to include the new information and, after review by Committee members, submit it to the next issue of *ANSS Currents*. The other analyses we are working on fall in line with the directions the Committee decided to go at the 1995 Annual Conference (See *ANSS Currents*, Nov. 1995, p. 3) We turned our attention to a draft review of the *International Bibliography of Social and Cultural Anthropology* prepared by Martin Shapiro. Martin will revise the draft, incorporating suggested changes, in time for Committee members to review it before the newsletter deadline. At our second meeting we reviewed James Haug's draft analysis of the Ovid version of *Medline*. Jim will produce a revised draft for the New York Conference. Also on the agenda in New York will be the draft prepared by Cathy Moore-Jansen of the *National Archaeological Database* which we had time to discuss only briefly in San Antonio.

### Executive Committee

Reported by James Williams

The problem of large amounts of time designated

"no conflict" for the 1996 Annual Conference was discussed. Designation of the ACRL Board meetings as a "no conflict" time was stated to seem particularly questionable because the meetings lack the space to receive the large number of the ACRL members who attend conferences. In addition, large blocks of time were designated "no conflict" for the NYC Conference because of the theme-track program. Copies of a preliminary schedule for ANSS meetings in NYC were distributed. The schedule is radically different from those of previous Annual Conferences and committee chairs were asked to apprise committee members of the changes.

Fred Hay reported that Carla Stoffle (Chair of the 1997 ACRL National Conference) is encouraging sections to present programs. Given the closeness of the July 1 deadline and a lack of ANSS members to work on such a program, it was decided not to pursue a presentation. Fred will tell Carla that ANSS is potentially interested in having a program at a future ACRL Conference, if more lead time is given.

Copies of the ACRL Initiative Fund applications were distributed. While it was felt that the March 15 deadline was too near for an application to be submitted in 1996, committee chairs were urged to review the criteria with the idea that an application might be made in 1997. ANSS has never made an application.

Maija Lutz, ANSS Liaison to the ACRL Board, reported on the Board meeting of January 21. ACRL has approved three pre-conferences for 1997, the ACRL Publications Committee proposed modifications to the Strategic Plan (which the Board declined to make, wanting a structured approach to changes), and all donations to sections must be cleared through ACRL. ACRL has a budget deficit due to having two national conferences two years apart and to decreased advertising in *C&RL News*. Several sections shared ANSS's concern over the "no

conflict" times for NYC. Section concerns were scheduled for discussion at the January 23 meeting.

Lynne Schmelz reported on developments at the Tozzer Library. Retrospective conversion has been completed, bar coding will be done in the summer, and one-fifth of the stacks are in compact shelving. Lynne also reported that CoPAR has a Web site and is working to develop a National Guide to Anthropology Records database. CoPAR held two preservation workshops in the spring of 1995. Fred Hay announced that the American Folklore Society has established an award in the name of Brenda McCollum for the archiving of folklore collections.

#### **Publications Committee**

Reported by Joyce L. Ogburn

The committee spent a great deal of time discussing the future of the publications of ANSS, from *Currents* to web pages. At present the main publications are *Currents*, the new (and underdeveloped) web site, the recruitment brochure, and the section manual. Joyce Ogburn will begin working with Ellen Gilbert and Isabel Quintana to take over the editing of *Currents*. Joyce will continue to support the web page, however the location of the site is in question due to her impending move to Old Dominion University. The committee would prefer that ACRL maintain web sites for the sections; Joyce will take this issue to the newsletter editors' meeting. Ideas for the web site include publishing material not accepted by ACRL for publication, items that don't fit in the page constraints of *Currents*, creating new resources and guides, and posting timely information of interest to the ANSS members. Tony Stamatoplos will work on updating and revising the brochure. Janet Steins, who is not on the committee, has indicated an interest in continuing to update the manual and Janita Jobe of the Publications Committee volunteered to assist her.

In general the committee will strive to make the publications of ANSS more exciting and to promote the work of the section to a greater degree.

While discussing new avenues (via the web) for publishing, the committee questioned the present committee structure and postulated that the Bibliography Committee might need to be expanded or recharged to include reviews of resources outside of its standard purview. This question will be taken to the Executive Committee.

#### **Review and Planning**

Reported by James Williams

Drafting a response to ACRL's request for a statement on sectional use of the new "ACRL Strategic Plan, 1996-2001" was the main topic. Members concurred that ANSS has a long tradition of activity which supports the goals and strategic directions of the plan. Interaction and liaison with professional groups in anthropology and sociology support the strategic directions of Goal 2 while ANSS's Annual Conference Programs, its newsletter and listserv, and the active recruitment of section members for committee assignments support those of Goal 1. A short, general statement will be written and circulated for comment to the Executive Committee members and ANSS committee chairs, with a final draft sent to ACRL in early February.

Committee members discussed the possible expansion of the Liaison Committee's charge to include ANSS membership liaison. They also discussed the formation of a new committee to evaluate sources (other than abstracts and indexes which are covered by the Bibliography Committee). The coverage of a new committee might include publishers, WWW sites, and electronic resources. A source for the publication of evaluations and finding ANSS members to staff another committee were raised as concerns.

## DISCUSSION GROUP REPORTS

### Anthropology Librarians Discussion Group

Reported by J.Christina Smith

Electronic HRAF was the focus of the Anthropology Librarians Discussion Group meeting at Midwinter, where participants listened to and asked questions of two HRAF representatives, Marlene Martin and Alex Cohen. They discussed the schedule for the transition to electronic format, and noted that *E-HRAF* will not convert all files. Therefore the fiche files will not be fully superseded by the new format.

In response to a question about the value of older materials, Ms. Martin noted that weeding was not based upon the age of the book or article, but upon re-evaluation of the source as ethnography. For example, a novel in the Chukchee (RY2) file will be dropped when the file is digitized. Since the digitizing schedule is part of the existing update process, those files which are converted to machine-readable text are also augmented with new materials; the Trobriand Islands and Iban files doubled in the CD-ROM versions.

A question was asked about the information in the paper summary sheets listing the cultures in HRAF; those sheets were supplied with the annual update fiche sets. With the 1995 update shifting to CD-ROM, the sheets with Installment 43 had to indicate which files were on CD, which on fiche, and which were on both. That column 'bumped' information about numbers of sources and page count. That information was considered important by many present as a means of orienting patrons to the value of HRAF for a given culture. Ms. Martin replied that the style of the sheets was not fixed and the information could be restored [as, indeed, it has been with Installment 44.]

Another question concerned problems with the printer driver, an issue related to settings where

institutional policy for electronic security restricts mounting Windows resources on public workstations. The reply was to encourage all present to make use of HRAF's helpline to assist with installation and other problems.

In reply to a question about demonstrations by HRAF staff to library staff and users on-site, it was admitted that funding questions need to be clarified; however, HRAF is anxious to find ways to do such training and promotion.

A suggestion was made that HRAF develop 'lab exercises,' along with a means of sharing successful and unusual search strategies, and in general promote a 'user group' whereby librarians and anthropologists could exchange information and suggestions not only with New Haven, but with each other.

Finally, the HRAF representatives noted that Installment 44 is much improved over 43. A notable improvement will be the ability to search *Outline of Cultural Materials* codes across all the electronic files, so that material might be sought without prior awareness of which files might contain what was desired.

Suggested topics for the summer meeting in New York City include a discussion of new directions for, and new definitions of, "anthropology," for example, "Environmental Anthropology, and WWW resources for anthropology."

### Sociology Librarians Discussion Group

Reported by Sally Willson Weimer

Discussion topics included sociological associations, sociology on the web, collection development in an electronic environment, working with faculty, and questions/comments and attendees' participation. Gary McMillan shared information about the development of the Commission on Applied and Clinical Sociology in conjunction with the Sociological Practice Association and Society for Applied Sociology,

which are exploring accreditation and certification for sociologists. He also provided a copy of the American Sociological Association's (ASA) Electronic Networking questionnaire and the National Research Council's ranking for Sociology Graduate PhD programs, 1995. He indicated that the ASA *Footnotes* (newsletter) gives helpful updates on events and activities in ASA. He also distributed "Internet Resources for Sociology," *C&RL News*, October 1995. Sally Willson Weimer introduced information on Sociology on InfoSurf on the UCSB Davidson Library Web and briefly talked about SocioWeb, an emerging sociology webpage. She also talked about Collection Development of Electronic Resources, building and updating web resources, and teaching faculty and graduate students effective bibliographic research strategies for electronic databases. Participants also discussed their experiences with electronic resources, working with faculty, and other helpful comments and suggestions. Suggested topics for the next meeting included teaching critical thinking, instruction, geographic information systems, and electronic resources.

#### MEMBERSHIP NEWS AND QUERIES

**Fred Hay**, Appalachian State University, has been appointed Book Review Editor for *College and Research Libraries* and has recently published "African-American Anthropology: A Bibliography of Bibliographies" in *Bulletin of Bibliography*, 52(4):277-291, December 1995.

**Joyce Ogburn** now holds the position of Assistant University Librarian for Information Resources and Systems at Old Dominion University. She has also recently published (with Elaine Clement) "Searching GeoRef for Archaeology" in *Behavioral and Social Sciences Librarian*, 14(1):1-10, 1995.

**Janita Jobe** has a new appointment at the University of Nevada at Reno. Her title is

Assistant to the Dean for Administrative Services. Janita continues to perform collection development for sociology and social work.

#### REVIEWS

##### Latin American Studies -- Volumes I and II (CD-ROM)

**Reviewed by:** Myra Anderson, University of California, Riverside. Revised February 1996.

*Latin American Studies* National Information Services Corporation (NISC), Suite #6, Wyman Towers, 3100 St. Paul St., Baltimore, Maryland 21218, (410) 243-0798, Fax (410)243-0982.

*Latin American Studies Volumes I and II* are updated semi-annually and each release is cumulative. The annual subscription cost for each volume is \$1095 for a single station. The price for two to ten users on a LAN is \$1645 for each volume.

##### Introduction:

*Latin American Studies* is a two-volume anthology of databases providing information about Latin America, including Mexico, Central America, South America, and the Caribbean. The CD-ROM product also includes material on Hispanics in the U.S., and Mexico-U.S. border relations. Each of the volumes is an independent, stand-alone product offering unique coverage. The two discs cannot be searched simultaneously.

*Latin American Studies Volume I* contains three databases: the *Catalog of the Nettie Lee Benson Collection* at the University of Texas at Austin and its four supplements (currently known as the *Bibliographic Guide to Latin American Studies*); the *Hispanic American Periodical Index* (HAPI) produced at the University of California, Los Angeles, 1970- ; and the *Handbook of Latin American Studies* (HLAS) from the U.S. Library of Congress, volume 50, 1990- . The CD-ROM provides bibliographic citations for multi-disciplinary monographs, journals, and other print

materials published throughout Latin America and the U.S.

*Latin American Studies Volume II* holds the following four databases: *INFO-SOUTH Latin American Information System* of the North-South Center, University of Miami; the *Latin American Database (LADB)* of the Latin American Institute (LAI) at the University of New Mexico; the *World Law Index Part I - Hispanic Nations* from the Hispanic Law Division of the Library of Congress and the *Latin American Information Base (LAIB)*. *Volume II* contains articles and reports appearing in news periodicals and current affairs publications (*INFO-SOUTH*, LADB, LAI) and full text summaries of legislation in 29 Spanish speaking countries (*World Law Index Part I*). Unfortunately, at the end of 1995 *INFO-SOUTH* ceased. Because of the value of the database, NISC will leave it on the disk for the immediate future and still hopes that a way will be found to begin adding records again.

#### User Instruction:

The *NISC Disc User's Guide*, a general guide for the installation and searching of all NISC CD-ROM products, accompanies *Latin American Studies*. The vendor also provides two one page *Fact Sheets* which describe the contents of each volume. Included in the software of the product is the AutoIndex, an on-line thesaurus consisting of Library of Congress Subject Headings augmented with other frequently used concepts and terms. The Rotated AutoIndex, a type of permuted index, is available for some of the fields in the expert search mode.

#### Scope and Coverage:

*Volume I* provides over 650,000 bibliographic citations to interdisciplinary sources in the arts, humanities, and social sciences. Publications on ecology and agriculture, women's rights, business and public administration, and refugees and human rights add breadth to the product. Mexico, followed by Brazil and Argentina, receives the most extensive coverage. Topics of interest to

sociologists seem to be especially well represented. Anthropologists and archaeologists will also find the CD-ROM useful for locating site reports and information about contemporary indigenous peoples.

*Volume II* provides over 150,000 citations, along with abstracts and full-text summaries, when available, to articles covering current events and contemporary issues. References to business law, international relations, education, agriculture, indigenous affairs, defense, economics, and science and technology predominate. Mexico and Brazil appear to receive equal coverage, followed closely by Argentina. The databases also provide good access to information from Central America and Peru.

Geographic coverage includes publications emanating from, and about, all Latin American countries. *Volume I* also contains citations to publications on Hispanics in North America. Although an appreciable number of the original sources are in English, the majority of the records are for publications written in Spanish. Portuguese language publications are also well represented, followed by sources in French. Articles written in other European languages and some Native American Indian languages are included. On-line abstracts and full-text summaries are in English and Spanish.

The CD-ROM *Volume I*, offers access to numerous types of print materials: books, serials, journal articles, theses and dissertations, government publications, book reviews, obituaries, pamphlets, reports, manuscripts, grey literature, and conference papers. *Volume II* includes access to newspaper articles, newsletters, reports, and other current news sources. NISC does not provide a list of the publications covered, but all of those covered by the individual abstracting and indexing services are included in the package.

#### Record Structure:

NISC software is menu-driven. Menu instructions on each screen simplify the use of the wide range of options available. The user has the alternative of searching in one of three different modes - novice, advanced, or expert. In the novice mode, the terms are automatically searched in the basic index or the author index. The advanced mode enables the user to restrict a search to specified indexes. By selecting the expert mode, a searcher has the opportunity to recombine search sets, restrict the search to one or more of the individual databases (on the same disk), use the Rotated AutoIndex, or restrict by language. In addition to being able to restrict searches, one can broaden them by using the three truncation options. Searchable fields or data elements include author, title, institutional author, source, abstract, notes, keywords, publication type, and language. The keyword field includes Library of Congress Subject Headings and dependent sub-headings (e.g. "description and travel," "study and teaching," etc.), augmented by other frequently used concepts and terms. The software uses many common command features. Options are controlled by pressing the function keys, the space bar, or the enter key.

#### Comparisons With Related Databases and Summary of Positive Aspects:

All of the individual databases are available through other electronic sources. For libraries not having access to major databases providing extensive citations to Latin American monographic and periodical literature, *Latin American Studies Volumes I and II* offers a unique product. The scope and coverage are adequate to serve the need of undergraduates, as well as many graduate students and faculty. Despite only a semi-annual update, the product serves a current awareness function since many of the sources are not readily available in the U.S. until a period of months or years elapse. Since the print versions of the databases are published annually, the NISC product offers more immediate access. The flexible search software

makes the product desirable even if users can access these same individual databases on library systems via the Internet.

#### Recommendations for Improvement:

Documentation written expressly for the Latin American Studies product would better inform users of the scope and coverage of the product and assist searchers with learning the mechanics of accessing the information. Although the general user guide is thorough in its coverage of basic instructions and commands, a short guide addressing the peculiarities of each of the six individual databases, the extent of coverage and a list of publications indexed would enhance the value of the CD. NISC notes that the databases do not fill up the two disks and the company requests suggestions from users about future databases to include. Perhaps instead, if space allowed, all six databases could be mounted on the same disk.

### ***INFORMATION SOURCES FROM ANSS***

#### **Don't forget about ANSS-L!**

ANSS is supported by a listserv called ANSS-L, which is a discussion forum for information specialists in anthropology, sociology and related fields. The listserv provides information about activities and news of the section. Postings often include information about new publications, Internet resources, and topics of broad interest to its readership. Membership in ANSS-L is open to anyone who wishes to subscribe. To subscribe please send a mail message to:

LISTSERV@UCI.EDU containing the following line:

SUBSCRIBE ANSS-L your name

Messages for the listerv should be sent to ANSS-L@UCI.EDU. Sign up today!

**ANSS Home Page has moved...**

ANSS has a fledgling home page that needs lots of work, contributions, and ideas. The location has changed to:

<http://www.lib.odu.edu/anss>

Please send comments and suggestions to Joyce Ogburn (Old Dominion University, [ogburn@shakespeare.lib.odu.edu](mailto:ogburn@shakespeare.lib.odu.edu)).

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Chair, 1995-96: James W. Williams, Education/Social Sciences Library, 100 University of Illinois Library, 1408 W. Gregory Dr., Urbana IL 61801, (217)244-1869, [JAMESWW@UX1.CSO.UIUC.EDU](mailto:JAMESWW@UX1.CSO.UIUC.EDU).

Vice-Chair/Chair Elect, 1995-1996: Fred J. Hay, W.L. Eury Appalachian Collection, University Hall, Appalachian State University, Boone NC 28608, (704)262-4089, [HAYFJ@APPSTATE.EDU](mailto:HAYFJ@APPSTATE.EDU).



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