Message From the Chair
Fred J. Hay
ANSS a Leader in Implementing ACRL's Strategic Plan

ANSS has entered its twenty-sixth year as a Section of ACRL and in many ways it has been a model Section. That does not mean that our relationship with our parent bodies has always been seamless. On the contrary, we have fought (as have other Sections) against discontinuing Section newsletters, forcing Section conference programs to conform to and aggrandize the pet-themes of current elected officials, as well as against the pressure to decrease the number of Section programs and meetings, and the continuing trend toward more-and-more no-conflict time slots at Annual Conferences.

It is evident that ANSS is a model Section because we already embody the principles and have a long history of achieving the goals so briefly stated in the much publicized and heavily promoted ACRL Strategic Plan, FY 1996-2001. Indeed, to borrow ACRL Past-President Pat Breivik's motto, an examination of ANSS demonstrates that our active membership is composed of library leaders. The ACRL Strategic Plan lists four worthy goals:

GOAL # 1: *Provide development opportunities for academic and research librarians and other library personnel that enhance their ability to deliver superior services and resources.* We accomplish this goal, through the two annual issues of our informative newsletter--now in its eleventh year, through the work of our committees and discussion groups--especially the Bibliography Committee in its careful and expert analyses of bibliographic sources in all formats, through our homepage at Old Dominion University (**http://www .lib.odu.edu/ anss**), and the ANSS-L listserv at the University of California at Irvine (**listserv@uci.edu**), and through programs of exceptional quality (we have had many of the top-name anthropologists, sociologists, folklorists, librarians, and archivists, who work in the area of social science documentation, appear on our programs). The quality of these programs is evident in the publication, by ACRL, of the forthcoming book, *Documenting Cultural Diversity in the Resurgent South: Collectors, Collecting, and Collections,* based on the ANSS 1991 and 1993 programs.

GOAL # 2: *Collaborate with other professional organizations and associations of higher education in order to promote mutual interests.* We successively meet this goal through the work of our Liaison Committee, which is in contact with social science associations and collections in this country and abroad. We regularly distribute our newsletter to some forty-odd organizations world-wide, we critique their--and non-association publishers-- bibliographic products, and we cooperate with them in various projects such as the recent ANSS/American Sociological Association joint project to compile an inventory of sociological resources on the Internet (see "Internet Resources for Sociology" *C&RL News*, Oct. 1995).

GOAL # 3: *Maintain at the national level a prominent role in planning and decision making for influencing information policy.* Again ANSS achieves this goal through the work of our Bibliography, Publications, Liaison, and Conference Program Planning Committees (e.g., our well-attended and received 1995 and 1996 programs, *Publishing the Social Text: Issues in Sociology and Anthropology Publishing and Reviewing* and *Anthropological Documentation and Research in the New York Area: The Intersection of Archives, Libraries, and Museums*), our homepage, and listserv. For the social sciences, in this country, there is no organization more prominent in the field of information policy and documentation than is ANSS.

GOAL # 4: *Ensure that ACRL's operating environment provides efficiency in its use of resources and effectiveness in the delivery of services to its members and constituent units.* As indicated in the opening paragraphs, ANSS has in the past settled--and will in the future settle--for nothing less.

So we had much to celebrate at the wonderful reception, organized by former ANSS Chair Janet Steins to celebrate our 25th Anniversary, at the Library of the John Jay College of Criminal Justice last July. (We thank the College, Annual Reviews, Greenwood Publishing Group, Henry Holt and Company, Sociological Abstracts, and Libraries Unlimited for their generosity in supporting this event.) And we feel proud that we can welcome our newly elected officers, both seasoned through service on ANSS committees, to a model Section. The new officers are Joyce Ogburn Vice-Chair/Chair-Elect and Gary McMillan, Executive Committee Member-at-Large.

ANSS welcomes all of its members, who wish to be active in a Section which is at the forefront of helping ACRL achieve its goals, to volunteer to work on its various committees and programs and to participate in its Discussion Groups. If you are interested in being a leader, please contact:

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CANDIDATES FOR ANSS OFFICES

Vice chair/chair elect: J. Christina Smith
Secretary: Cheryl Kugler, Isabel del Carmen Quintana
Member-at-Large: Sally Wilson Weimer, David Carpenter

Candidate Statement:

SMITH, J. CHRISTINA. Education: University of California, Los Angeles, B.A., magna cum laude, 1972; University of California, Los Angeles, M.A., 1974; University of California, Los Angeles, TESL Certificate, 1977; San Jose State University, M.L.S., 1987.Present Position: Anthropology/Sociology Bibliographer, Mugar Memorial Library, Boston University, 1989-Present. Previous Position:

Reference/Instruction Librarian, University of Nevada, Las Vegas, 1988-1989. ALA Roundtables: New Members Round Table, Grassroots Grants Committee Chair, 1989-1991; Library School Outreach Committee Member, 1989-1991; Director for Membership, Awards and Continuing Education, 1991-92; Director for Liaisons, 1992-1993. ALA Divisions: ACRL/ANSS: Liaison Committee, Member, 1991-1994; Member at Large, 1992-1994; Anthropology Librarians Discussion Group, Convener, 1993-1997; Secretary, 1995-1997; RASD/CODES: Dual Assignments Discussion Group, Co-Chair, 1994-1996. State and Regional Library Association Activities: ACRL/New England Chapter, Women's Studies Interest Group, Co-Chair, 1996-Present. Membership in Other Professional Organizations and Learned Societies: American Anthropological Association, 1989-Present; American Sociological Association, 1996-Present Honors, Awards: Baker & Taylor/JMRT Grassroots Grant Award, 1987; Phi Beta Kappa, 1972. Publications: The Hmong: 1987-1995: A Selected and Annotated Bibliography, 1996; Co-author, "I'm Coping as Fast as I Can: Instructing the Instructor at Boston University," in The Upside of Downsizing: Using Library Instruction to Cope, 1995; The Hmong: An Annotated Bibliography, 1983-1987, 1988.

Statement of concern: As Chair I would continue the fine work of past chairs in undertaking activities that would engage more members in the work of the section. I am interested in seeking input from ANSS members on how the section might best help them in their daily work lives as social science librarians. A survey of member interests would be useful in planning member-relevant programs and activities. Because national conference attendance is not feasible for all, I would like to find ways to facilitate member participation in anthropology and sociology librarianship activities at the regional level, through ACRL state or regional chapters. I am excited about the increased potential ANSS has to reach, inform and involve members and prospective members through conference activities, the section newsletter, the ANSS-L listserv, and the new ANSS web page. Electronic media offers members unprecedented opportunities to participate remotely.

1996 ANSS PROGRAM

ANTHROPOLOGICAL DOCUMENTATION AND RESEARCH IN THE NEW YORK AREA: THE INTERSECTION OF ARCHIVES, LIBRARIES, AND MUSEUMS

The 1996 ANSS program provided the sixty people in attendance with presentations that were both informative and provocative. Melvin Ember started the program with a brief history of and future plans for the Human Relations Area Files (HRAF). Deirdre Lawrence told the audience how the contrasting philosophies and practices of two early curators at the Brooklyn Museum are reflected in the Museum's archives. Barbara Mathe illustrated evolving approaches to art objects of Africa, Oceania, and the Americas by focusing on collections of the Goldwater Library at the Metropolitan Museum of Art. And Valerie Wheat, the final speaker, presented a short history of the American Museum of Natural History Library and outlined some of the current issues and challenges that museum libraries face. (ANSS sponsored a tour of the AMNH Library during the conference).

Additional reviews of the program may be found in the July 9, 1996 issue of *Cognotes*, the ALA conference newspaper, and the September, 1996 issue of *College & Research Libraries News* (p. 490). Those who would like to hear these presentations in their entirety may order audio cassettes of the program for $24.00 by requesting Order no. ALA611 from Teach'em, 160 E. Illinois St., Suite 300, Chicago, IL 60611.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Bibliography Committee Report from the New York Conference

The Bibliography Committee met once on Saturday morning (July 6) and continued its program of producing and revising reviews of bibliographies, indexes, and more recently full-text databases of interest to anthropologists and sociologists. After final revisions of two reviews, the Committee will have three articles waiting for publication in "ANSS Currants." One new draft review will be prepared for Midwinter and the Committee is also scheduled to discuss then whether or not the criteria which have been used to write the reviews need to be updated to be more relevant to electronic sources of all types.

I enjoyed working with the Committee very much during my year as Chair and wish Cathy Moore-Jansen, who has agreed to take over next year, all the best.

Executive Comittee

Several matters concerning ACRL policies towards sections were discussed. Fred Hay reported on discussions from the ACRL Leadership Planning Session and the Activities Sections Council. Sections are expected to have two candidates for each elected position; the statements of candidates for vice-chair/chair elect should address the ACRL Strategic Plan. It was intimated that section programs must relate to the Strategic Plan to receive ACRL funding. A worrisome perception exists that ACRL is trying to discourage section programs. Some discussion ensued concerning the policy which prohibits paying honoraria for non-librarian speakers.

Related to the foregoing, the meeting schedule for the 1996 Annual Conference was discussed. ALA and ACRL "no conflict" times resulted in a dramatic rearrangement of ANSS meeting times. While most other sections also honored what was requested, an examination of the printed program disclosed that some did not and that meetings were in fact scheduled during the "no conflict" periods. Because of the strong preference expressed by members, Fred Hay will attempt to schedule ANSS meetings at their traditional times for the 1997 Midwinter and Annual Conferences.

Linda Muroi, ACRL Liaison to ANSS, discussed EC concerns with EC members. Ms. Muroi feels that a part of the problem may be attributed to a lack of communication.

Janet Steins distributed copies of the new edition of the ANSS manual. Janet also reminded members who had volunteered to help with setting up and hosting the ANSS 25th Anniversary Celebration of the time and place to gather. EC members thanked Janet for the considerable and unrelenting work which she put into organizing the reception.

Distributed to EC members and ANSS committee chairs for information and/or comment were: 1) a statement on ANSS use of the ACRL Strategic Plan; 2) applications for the ACRL Initiative Fund; 3) the Subject Specialists Directory Data Form (prepared by the ANSS Liaison Committee); and 4) the Survey of Participation of Under represented Racial and Ethnic Groups in ACRL. ANSS has never submitted a request for Initiative Funds; committee chairs were urged to consult with members of their committees to identify potential projects.

EC members found the survey of minority participation somewhat puzzling. The option to supply racial and ethnic information is given on the ALA membership form. ANSS does not have this information and could collect it only by a membership survey. In response to the survey question "Has your group produced or sponsored programs, literature, or other activities relating to issues of racial and ethnic diversity?" note was made that the ANSS Annual Conference Programs for 1988, 1990, 1991, 1993, and 1994, as well as several ANSS sponsored tours, qualified for inclusion. It was also noted that a couple of sections have liaisons designated to the ACRL Racial and Ethnic Diversity Committee. Whether or not it would be desirable for ANSS to appoint a formal liaison was discussed.

ANSS Liaison Committee

The committee finalized a proposal for the creation of a Subject Specialist Directory database. This directory would serve as a communication tool for specialists both inside and outside ANSS. The proposal calls for a form (for those who wish to be listed in the database) and the database to be available on the Web. Both would also be available, on request, in paper form. The proposal was submitted to the ANSS Executive Committee.

ANSS Publications Committee
Janet Steins, Chair 1996/97

The ANSS Publications Committee met in the Javits Convention Center in New York City on Sunday afternoon, July 7, to plan for the 1966/97 issues of ANSS Currents, the section membership brochure, and other projects.

ANSS Currents co-editor Ellen Gilbert (Rutgers) chaired the meeting in the absence of Joyce Ogburn (Old Dominion), who is stepping down from this position as she begins her term as ANSS vice chair/chair elect. Isabel Quintana (Harvard) is continuing as the other ANSS Currents co-editor for 1966/97. Tony Stamatoplos (Indiana-Purdue/ Indianapolis) will complete the new membership brochure in time for distribution at the midwinter meeting in 1997.

It was decided that reference sets of all newsletters and brochures should be compiled for new committee members so that they can become familiar with the style and content of these publications over their histories. Volume 1, no. 1 of

ANSS Currents was published in May, 1986, and the first membership brochure dates from July 1988, so newly involved committee members may be unfamiliar with them.

Joyce Ogburn will continue edition the section web page (http://www.lib.odu.edu/anss/anssweb. html) and Steve MacLeod (UC Irvine) continues to have responsibility for ANSS-L (ANSS-L@UCI.EDU). The new edition of the Manual for ANSS Officers, Committee Chairs and Committee Members, updated by Janet Steins and covering 1995/96 to 1996/97, was distributed at and immediately after the annual conference.

DISCUSSION GROUP REPORTS

Anthropology Librarians Discussion Group
J. Christina Smith, Convener

With the increase in anthropology faculty working in applied anthropology, and often employed by departments other than anthropology (e.g., social work), or having joint appointments in anthropology and a second department (e.g., environmental studies), how do these changes impact the library? Where are these faculty publishing and whose budget purchases their journals and monographs? A dozen librarians met to discuss these questions at the Anthropology Librarians Discussion Group at Annual Conference in New York City.

The topic then shifted to serials. With a single physical anthropology journal costing more than $1500 and some folklore titles only $15, a serials cut can wipe out a significantly high percentage of social science and humanities titles in order to preserve a core physical anthropology title. Faculty are not always aware that libraries subsidize their personal subscriptions through more costly library subscription rates. Some libraries have UnCover and subsidized document delivery, but what happens when there are only 14 libraries subscribing to a journal and the cost is $6,000? Publishers, librarians and faculty need to be communicating about a sustainable publishing environment, as faculty are both producers and consumers of information. With respect to publishing in electronic format, some faculty fear that for hiring, tenure and promotion purposes, electronic journals may not be regarded the same as the print scholarly, refereed journals, and there is concern that electronic documents could disappear.

Further discussion of serials cancellations was

proposed for the 1997 Midwinter meeting. There is an opening for a co-convener, beginning with Midwinter 1997. Interested individuals should contact the current convener, J. Christina Smith (jchris@bu.edu), for more details.

Sociology Librarians Discussion Group
1996 ALA Annual Meeting, New York City

The identification, collection (or "linking"), and teaching of electronic resources once again drove the Group's discussion, with eighteen (18) participants relating their successes and frustrations in working with a variety of products and media. Carol Ritzen Kem, James Terry, and Sally Willson Weimer discussed the development and use of Internet subject pages, especially the difficulty of striking a balance between links to highly specialized sites/resources (e.g., the General Social Survey on-line) which may be of limited interest versus broad, gateway links (e.g., Yahoo, Sociology on InfoSurf, and the Sociology World Wide Web Virtual Library) which patrons may have difficulty navigating effectively. The Group will continue to search for sights posting public domain sociological classics and other free full-text resources of interest to sociologists.

There is definite need for role differentiation among sociology programs whereby universities would commit to developing web sites in their department's subdisciplinary specialties. An overview of the American Sociological Association's plans for, and status of, a home page (http://www.asanet.org) were presented. ASA has set a goal to serve as the Internet focal point for sociology information on the net with links to the home pages for all of its subject sections as they emerge. Group participants would like to pursue contacts with ASA to provide support.

Finally, institutions which do not participate in ICPSR (or that wish to supplement member resources) may wish to consider purchasing data archives on CD-ROM for secondary analysis by faculty and students and for teaching resources for methods and statistics courses (see Sociometrics Corporation, http://www.socio.com).

REVIEW

MEDLINE Via Ovid Retrieval Software: A Research Tool for Physical and Medical Anthropology

Reviewed by James D. Haug, East Carolina University, Greenville, North Carolina, August 1996.

MEDLINE via Ovid, Version 3.0. 1996. Ovid Technologies, 333 Seventh Avenue, New York, NY 10001, 800-950-2035. Ovid bibliographic database search software--one of several interfaces with the MEDLINE database--serves Windows, DOS, and UNIX platforms, and is available for stand alone usage with CD-ROMs, as well as for multiple usage on LANs employing either CD-ROM or magnetic media. Ovid provides the database in full (1966 - present) or in two-, four-, and five-year segments. Subscription fees depend upon mode of access (standalone or networked), number of simultaneous users, and temporal coverage.

Introduction

Physical and medical anthropologists often seek journal articles on human biology and health care: topics exhaustively covered by the several bibliographic databases that focus on the health sciences. When judged by several criteria--breadth of coverage, potential relevance to anthropological research, and widespread availability--one database stands out: MEDLINE, the best known and most often used bibliographic database in the National Library of Medicine's (NLM) Medical Literature Analysis and Retrieval System (MEDLARS). MEDLINE (MEDlars onLINE) concentrates on medical science but encompasses dentistry, nursing, and, in fact, much of human biology.

Largely because of its breadth, MEDLINE offers a rich bibliographic source to physical and medical anthropologists. And, with the development of CD-ROM systems, searches of MEDLINE have become easy and widely available. Of the several currently available CD-ROM-based interfaces with MEDLINE, the most popular are Ovid 3.0 and Silverplatter's SPIRS and WinSPIRs. The reviewer used O*vid 3.0 for Windows*.

User Instruction

Thesaurus: A principal strength of MEDLINE is its controlled vocabulary: MeSH (Medical Subject Headings). MeSH increases the specificity (precision) of searches of the database. The appropriate printed thesaurus is *Medical Subject Headings, Annotated Alphabetic List* (Springfield, VA: NTIS. Annual). Known simply as *Annotated MeSH*, its entries include, besides MeSH descriptors, indexing annotations, online notes, and topical subheadings. *Annotated MeSH* contains nearly 17,000 MeSH terms, some of which are annually added, modified, or deleted. *Annotated MeSH* also provides lists of publication types and permissible topical subheadings.

Two auxiliary indexes enhance usage of *Annotated MeSH* by leading the searcher to appropriate MeSH

headings: *Permuted Medical Subject Headings* and *Medical Subject Headings, Tree Structures* (Springfield, VA: NTIS. Annual). *Permuted MeSH* alphabetically lists each significant term in a subject heading and uses See references to direct one to the desired MeSH term. *MeSH Tree Structures* uses hierarchical classification to point the user to broader or narrower MeSH terms.

Ovid 3.0 enables an end-user to bypass, but not ignore, *Annotated MeSH. It does so by automatically mapping a search term to a brief list of semantically related MeSH descriptors. From this list, one can then choose a MeSH term for a search.* To guide the searcher to the appropriate heading, Ovid's mapping screen displays a scope note defining the term on which the cursor rests. For example, "African Americans" maps to "Blacks," but the scope note indicates that genetics of African Americans should be searched under "Negroid Race." Ovid usually maps terms to appropriate--sometimes broad but often specific--MeSH descriptors. Thus it maps "cladistic analysis" to the broad descriptor, "phylogeny," but impressively, maps "binges" to the narrow MeSH term "alcohol drinking." When Ovid finds no matching MeSH descriptor it normally informs the user that it cannot map the entered term. Occasionally, though, it errs and maps to wholly inappropriate descriptors. "Allometry," for instance, enigmatically maps to "muscles." Out of a sample of 900 keywords from 242 articles published between 1990-94 in six different anthropological journals / yearbooks[1], 42% mapped to accurate, specific MeSH terms, 20% to broad terms, and 4% to narrower or related headings. The remaining 34% were either unmappable or mapped inaccurately. In any event, when one finds none of the displayed MeSH terms to be suitable, the system allows one to do a text word search. Generally speaking, mapping works well and is the most impressive feature of Ovid.

Printed User Guides: Various published sources describe and explain the MEDLINE database. The introductory material in *Annotated MeSH* is informative but not elementary. Many end-users might prefer a lucid, handy introduction such as *MEDLINE: An Overview*, by N. Scherer and E. Meyers (Ann Arbor: University of Michigan, 1995). One can get this document through the World Wide Web. (Its URL is http://www.sils.umich.edu/~nscherer/Medline/Medline Guide.html).

Ovid Technologies furnishes the *Ovid Reference Manual* and *Ovid System Administrator Manual.* The *Reference Manual* contains a "User Guide." In addition, a user can obtain documentation for Ovid software from Ovid Technologies' World Wide Web server. Especially useful is the *Ovid Windows Starter*

Kit, an abstracted version of the printed manual. The examples shown in the *Kit* represent searches of Ovid MEDLINE. (One can get this document from http://www.ovid.com/dochome/ startkit/windows/winstart.htm).

User Assistance (On-screen): The layout of the screens in *Ovid for Windows* is instructive and simple. Screen titles, button labels, and on-screen directions are readable and unambiguous. On-screen help is abundant and easy to find. One can get help by clicking on a Help button or by pressing the F1 function key. The main search screen features a pull-down menu that includes a hypertext index of help screens, keyboard help, screen pictures, and a tutorial.

Scope and Coverage

An enormous database, MEDLINE contains nearly 8.4 million records dating from the present back to 1966. Every month the National Library of Medicine adds 32,000 new citations. The full Ovid MEDLINE database comprises five parts, each of which a user must search separately: 1966-75, 1976-79, 1980-85, 1986-91, and 1992-present. The NLM frequently updates MEDLINE: weekly, January through October; monthly in November and December. Ovid Technologies, however, updates MEDLINE on CD-ROM once a month, thus making it lag somewhat behind NLM MEDLINE. For most anthropological research this lag should not be detrimental.

MEDLINE includes all the citations appearing in the printed *Index Medicus*, besides many of the citations published in the printed *Index to Dental Literature* and the *International Nursing Index*. MEDLINE extensively covers journals, but contains few records of monographs. By estimate[2], more than 90% of the records in MEDLINE represent journal articles. The NLM regularly indexes nearly 3,700 journals for the database. To find out whether or not a particular journal is indexed for MEDLINE, one can either consult *List of Serials Indexed for Online Users* (Springfield, VA: NTIS. Annual), or, if one is using Ovid, display a list of titles by selecting an index of journal names.

Though MEDLINE indexes articles published in sixty-seven languages, most of the articles included in the database are originally written in English, and about 70% of the records in the current file contain an English abstract. Ovid 3.0 enables the searcher to limit articles to a selected language.

Anthropologists who conduct research in human biology or medicine should expect to find relevant journal articles through MEDLINE. MEDLINE covers somewhat more than half (52%) of the 1100 currently

published titles cited in articles appearing in the previously mentioned sample of anthropological journals/yearbooks. More importantly, MEDLINE indexes 36 (65%) of the 55 most frequently cited titles in this sample, including *American Journal of Physical Anthropology*, *Culture, Medicine, and Psychiatry*, *Folia Primatologica*, *Human Biology*, *Molecular Biology and Evolution*, and *Social Science and Medicine* . On the other hand, NLM has, since its inception in 1966, consistently neglected other often cited anthropological journals and serials. A notable example is *Medical Anthropology Quarterly*, with only 23 records (all from 1995) for 1992 - May, 1996, despite publication since 1970. Worse still, from an anthropologist's viewpoint, MEDLINE does not cover *American Anthropologist*, *Annual Review of Anthropology*, *Current Anthropology*, *Ethnology*, *Human Ecology*, *Journal of Human Evolution*, *Man*, *Primates*, or *Yearbook of Physical Anthropology*. Moreover, out of the 39 anthropological journals listed in Katz' *Magazines for Libraries* (8th ed., New Providence, NJ: Bowker) only 5 are indexed in MEDLINE. In sum, MEDLINE covers many of the journals cited by physical and medical anthropologists, but few of those used by other anthropologists.

The geographical scope of MEDLINE is international. MeSH includes terms for continents, some subcontinental regions (e.g., Africa, Central), nations, states, and selected cities, but none for supercontinental regions (e.g., New World). Anyway, MEDLINE indexes only a small percentage of records--perhaps no more than 12%--with a geographic descriptor[3].

MeSH lacks descriptors for many ethnic units. For example, MeSH does not include "Navajo" or "Hopi." Neither does MeSH contain a term comprehending all Native Americans, both North American and South American. To find articles on all American Indians (or Native Americans) one must search for "Indians, North American," "Indians, South American," and "Indians, Central American." At the same time, it includes the ambiguous, if not archaic, term, "Negroid Race."

Record Structure and Search Software

Record Structure: **Records** in the MEDLINE database consist of bibliographic information and, in more than 50% of the cases, abstracts. **Searchable fields** in Ovid 3.0 include, among others, unique identifier, author, institution, title, journal name, MeSH subject heading, abstract, personal name as subject, publication type, ISSN, year of publication, and text word.

Limiting and Expanding: Ovid enables users to limit a search, but it also allows them to quickly broaden a search through MEDLINE's "explode" feature. One

can limit a search either by entering Boolean operators into the command line or by selecting items from a series of menus. From menus one can choose a "Narrower Subject Heading," restrict the search to "focus" ("focus" being the MeSH descriptor the indexers consider to represent the dominant concept of the article), select one or more permissible subheadings (such as "Anatomy and Histology" or "Genetics"), or select from a menu of variables including "Human," "Animal," "Male," "Female," "Age Groups," and "Publication Types." Exploding a MeSH descriptor nets not only the records for a major descriptor, but also those for all its subordinate terms.

Search Software: *Ovid 3.0* allows users to alternate between two modes of searching without leaving the main search screen: first, by using menus and dialog boxes, as well as by browsing and selecting from indexes; and, secondly, by entering commands. Searching by command permits entering search terms with truncation and wild cards, set numbers, Boolean operators, and abbreviated field names. After one has completed a search and posted the search to the main screen, one can either immediately view the records, or further restrict the search by limiting, before saving or printing the results. Ovid also allows one to save or print one's search strategy.

Comparisons with Related Databases

Two related bibliographic databases that physical and medical anthropologists might consider are CINAHL and BIOSIS. CINAHL, whose printed version is *Cumulative Index of Nursing and Allied Health Literature,* only sparsely covers anthropologically related journals. BIOSIS, corresponding to *Biological Abstracts*, is a fruitful source of citations to articles on animal behavior, ecology, evolution, and taxonomy, subjects not well covered by MEDLINE. Available both online and on CD-ROM, BIOSIS indexes more journals/yearbooks often cited by physical anthropologists than does MEDLINE.

Summary of Positive Aspects

Though MEDLINE was designed for medicine and not for anthropology, its exhaustive, timely coverage of journals concerned with health and human biology makes it very useful to physical and medical anthropologists. The difficulties associated with accessing the database online, which usually required mediated searching, have been overcome by development of user-friendly local CD-ROM-based interfaces. For end-users, Ovid 3.0 for Windows further enhances ease of searching MEDLINE by making several remarkable features available: contextual help, ease of movement between menus and commands, mapping of entered terms to MeSH descriptors, exploding, narrowing search to focus, and limitation of a search by subheadings and several

other fields. Being able to search for text words gives users considerable flexibility when searching for subjects that have no suitable MeSH descriptor. All these features should encourage anthropologists to use MEDLINE.

Recommendations for Improvement

Given the primary audience and purpose of MEDLINE, recommending massive expansion of coverage of anthropological subjects would appear pretentious. But while anthropologists should not expect the National Library of Medicine to index archaeological journals, they might reasonably expect it to include titles such as *Annual Review of Anthropology* and *Current Anthropology*. Then too, any researcher who seeks appropriate MeSH descriptors for ethnic groups and geographical locations would appreciate an increase in the number and specificity of these kinds of descriptors.

References Cited

1   American Journal of Physical Anthropology (1994), *Yearbook of Physical Anthropology* (1994), *Annual Review of Anthropology* (1990-91, 1993-94), *Medical Anthropology* (1994), *Medical Anthropology Quarterly* (1994), and *Social Science & Medicine* (1991, 1994).

2   Pratt, Gregory F. "A Brief Hitchhiker's Guide to Medline." *Database* 17 (February 1994): 41-46.

3   Pratt, op. cit., p. 44.

♻ Printed on recycled paper