MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR
JoAnn Jacoby

Thanks to everyone who came to Seattle and contributed to a great meeting. ANSS is currently engaged in a number of projects with significant impact on our organization, the profession, and higher education in general.

The Instruction and Information Literacy Committee has submitted the draft standards to ACRL for final review and have already launched the next phase—creating the tools to move the standards into practice. Work is in progress on developing a “Repository of Teaching and Assessment Materials” and planning a workshop at the American Sociological Association meeting in August. See http://www.lib.utexas.edu/subject/ss/anssiil/ for more information on these activities.

I’m pleased to announce the formation of an Ad Hoc Committee on the Assessment of Library Collections and Services in Sociology. This group will be working with the American Sociological Association to draft a rapid assessment protocol that can be used in conjunction with departmental reviews, as well as by libraries performing self assessment. This is an exciting opportunity to work on a project with broad impact. Anyone interested in serving on this task force can volunteer online <www.acrl.org/volunteer> or email me directly at jacoby@uiuc.edu.

I look forward to seeing everyone in Washington D.C. I hope many of you will be able to attend the brainstorming session and reception at the American Sociological Association Headquarters on Friday evening. For details, see the announcement on page 4 in this Newsletter. Thanks to the Liaison Committee for coordinating this exciting event.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

ANSS Instruction and Information Literacy Committee Susan Macicak & Triveni Kuchi, Chairs

The ANSS Instruction and Information Literacy (IIL) Committee reports that the latest version of the IL Standards, edited with input from sociologists and anthropologists in preparation for the ALA Midwinter meeting, is under review by the ACRL Information Literacy Advisory Committee’s Information Literacy Consultants. Their comments and suggestions will be incorporated into the document before the Annual Conference, and the document will then be considered for final approval by ACRL.

The IIL Committee continues to work on the planning for the Repository of Teaching and Assessment Materials that will bring together assignments, curricula, IL projects, syllabi, active learning techniques, etc., used in anthropology and sociology instruction.

The ANSS III Standards task force is currently developing a workshop called "Information Literacy: The Partnership of Sociology Faculty and Social Science Librarians" for the August 2007 ASA Annual Meeting. Task Force members Patti Caravello and Triveni Kuchi will be joined by faculty Edward L. Kain, Southwestern University, and Gregory Weiss, Roanoke College, to present the workshop. The III’s outreach and collaboration with faculty during the writing of the Standards has led to this workshop opportunity, the central aim of which is to help faculty and curriculum advisors see how the Standards can be applied in strategic ways. It is hoped that these efforts will also lead to endorsement of the final version of the Standards by both AAA and ASA.

The Standards, Selected Bibliography, and further information about the project can be found at: http://www.lib.utexas.edu/subject/ss/anssiil/index.html
Bibliography Committee
Randy Hertzler, Chair

The major agenda item was a thorough critical reading and editing of the second draft of Bonnie Ryan’s review of *Alt-Press Watch* (Online). The completed review appears in this edition of *ANSS Currents*, marking the third and final review in sequence of ProQuest’s “Diversity Suite” series of databases. Previous reviews are those of *Ethnic NewsWatch* (*ANSS Currents*, spring 2006) and *GenderWatch* (*ANSS Currents*, fall 2006).

For the first time, the group engaged in real-time editing of the draft document using a laptop, projector, and the “Track Changes” functionality of Microsoft Word. This was highly effective as a means of consolidating recommended edits and delivering them to the author, who was unable to attend. Committee members agreed that this process should be the standard for future editing of reviews at annual and midwinter conferences.

Jennifer Nason Davis is preparing her review of eHRAF (ethnology) for publication in the autumn 2007 edition of *ANSS Currents*. Members agreed to try using the online collaborative editing software formerly known as Writely, and now owned by Google Docs & Spreadsheets, for first-draft editing of this review.

Future reviews were discussed, and Jeff Knapp expressed interest in writing a review of *AnthroSource* for publication in the spring 2008 edition of *Currents*. Potential future agenda topics included the development of a style manual, specific to the publication of reviews, that might supplement the current “Guidelines for Analyzing Bibliographic Resources for *ANSS Currents*.”

Conference Program Planning Committee 2007
Liz Cooper, Chair

The theme for the 2007 ANSS program at the ALA Annual Meeting in Washington DC is “Native Americans in the Nation’s Capitol: Representation, Repatriation, and Resilience”. As the program will take place near the Smithsonian Institution’s new National Museum of the American Indian, the ANSS program addresses the conservation, exhibition, representation, and repatriation of Native American objects, documents and languages, with a focus on the cultural institutions in the nation’s capital. It will be led by an interdisciplinary panel of scholars, curators, archivists and librarians and will explore issues surrounding the preservation and revitalization of Native American heritage, cultures and languages. In conjunction with the program, ANSS will also be sponsoring a tour of the new National Museum of the American Indian the afternoon of Monday, June 25.

Liaison Committee
David Hovde, Chair

The Liaison Committee reviewed the list of addresses of institutions that receive copies of *ANSS Currents*. The committee divided up the list to check on accuracy and whether other institutions should be added. The committee was charged to work with the American Sociological Association which has offered to host a reception/brainstorming session at their Washington, D.C. headquarters on Friday June 22; for the purpose of exploring areas of common interest and potential collaboration. The American Anthropological Association staff in Washington, D.C. have also been asked to attend.

Membership Committee
Membership Committee Report
Susan White, co-chair

The Membership Committee of ANSS met during ALA Mid-Winter in Seattle, and noted that the central location of the ANSS Social promoted attendance. The new Section brochure was welcomed, and is a useful tool to make clear the open and welcoming nature of ANSS when it is presented at the New Members function at each ALA. The Buddy System was revived for this conference, and seems worthwhile. Direct contact with librarians in our subject areas is being considered.

Publications Committee
Erin Daix, Chair

The Committee discussed the newly printed ANSS brochure, and thanked JoAnn Jacoby for migrating the brochure to the ACRL template. JoAnn reported that there are 270 subscribers to ANSS-L. ANSS currently has more than 500 members. ANSS-Web will migrate to the ACRL server sometime this summer. Several of the committee members will attend training on the new ALA content management system. Stephen Fowlkes received a lot of positive feedback on Adrian Ho’s article in *Currents*. He hopes to incorporate additional content into *Currents* including reports from other conferences/meetings, announcements of forthcoming member publications, and announcements of new ANSS members or new criminal justice, anthropology, or sociology librarians.
**Review and Planning Committee**  
Shawn W. Nicholson, Chair

The chair discussed the charge of the Review and Planning Committee, noting that it serves as the main vehicle for monitoring and upgrading overall aspects of the ANSS Section. The abiding three-part question for this oversight committee becomes: is the ANSS making it worthwhile for people to become members, attend its annual program, and thereafter engage in meaningful committee work?

The constant need to examine and challenge our terminology and our structure was mentioned. On the table was the proposal to merge the Bibliography and Publications Committees since their mandates overlap. Suggestions on ways to improve committees or workings of the Section and how to include the wider membership were invited. It was agreed to review two Committees prior to the annual conference.

The lack of an accessible official Archive was brought up, and ways to remedy this brought forth. These included posting minutes and other important information as in memos or supplemental materials on ANSS-Web, and using the password-protected ALA Online Community. The committee will also investigate new technologies such as a wiki.

Another possible task for R & P is the revisiting a series of minor additions to the manual available at [www.lib.odu.edu/anss/manual.html](http://www.lib.odu.edu/anss/manual.html).

**Subject and Bibliographic Access Committee**  
Isabel del Carmen Quintana, Chair

The committee came up with a list of questions to work on for future monthly postings on ANSS-L. There will be postings on access for works on biblical archaeology, translated works, materials dealing with cults, statistical works, as well as the use of uniform titles and the new serials cataloging standard that requires a very limited use of them. The committee also hopes to have additional postings on subject headings changes and new subject headings in our fields. Finally, the committee discussed ways to improve the forms and the archive of questions/answers available on ANSS-Web, after ANSS-Web migrates to the ACRL server.

Myra Appel, co-convenor of the Scholarly Communications Interest Group in the American Anthropological Association (AAA) led a lively discussion on scholarly communications in anthropology. Myra and others talked about their experiences at the AAA Annual meeting this past November. AAA’s position on the Federal Research Public Access Act (opposition to FRPAA), and the AnthroSource Steering Committee’s response to AAA (support of FRPAA) were discussed. Jasper Simons (Director of Publication at the American Anthropological Association) and Nick Lindsay (Journals and Digital Publishing, University of California Press) joined us for this dialogue.

**Criminal Justice/Criminology Librarians Discussion Group**  
David Bickford, Convener

The ACRL ANSS Criminology / Criminal Justice Discussion Group convened on Saturday, January 20, at 4 PM. Approximately 15 were in attendance. The convener, David Bickford, was not able to attend due to the recent birth of his daughter. In his absence, Mary Jane Brustman facilitated, and Terry Epperson kept the attendance list and reported to ANSS Executive Board.

The topic was the use of resources designed for other disciplines to support research in criminology / criminal justice. Wade Kotter discussed the use of MEDLINE and PsycINFO for research in forensics and criminology, respectively. Christina Smith spoke about the use of Sociological Abstracts for criminal justice research. Mary Jane Brustman addressed the use of Social Work Abstracts and Social Services Abstracts. Applied Social Science and Technology Index, Ethnic Press, PAIS, and various geography sources were also suggested.

The discussion group adjourned on schedule with the consensus that the session had been a productive one with a stimulating exchange of information.

**Sociology Librarians Discussion Group**  
Christina Smith, Co-Convener

The Sociology Librarians Discussion Group met at ALA Midwinter on Saturday January 20, 2007. The discussion centered on resources for new sociology bibliographers. Stephen Fowlkes (Tulane) handed out “A Quick List of Collection Development Tools and Practices for Sociology Librarians,” which included book review sources, journal selection sources, reference sources, and networking practices. There was a lively discussion among the 26 attendees about sources, practices, wikipedia, and much more. SLDG attendees discussed the
value of print reference versus e-reference materials, the acquisition of data sets, electronic versus print journals, and basic resources on a tight budget. It was noted that there is a Bibliography of Data-Related Literature on the ICPSR web site: http://www.icpsr.umich.edu/citations/methodology.html. EBSS has a Social Work Selector's Toolbox. ANSS will be looking into making ANSSWeb more robust in this area.

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News

The American Sociological Association has invited members of the Anthropology and Sociology Section of ACRL and representatives of the American Anthropological Association to a reception/brainstorming session for the purpose of exploring areas of common interest and potential collaboration. Please arrive by 4 pm to get a tour of the ASA Headquarters. Due to security issues there will be no admittance after 4:30 pm. Below are the details:

Date: Friday, June 22, 2007, 4:00 to 7:00 PM

Address: 1307 New York Ave., NW, #700, Washington, DC

Phone: (202) 382-9005

Nearest Metro stop: McPherson Square – take the Franklin Park/14th Street exit

Directions: http://www.asanet.org/galleries/default-file/directions_to_ASA.pdf

Proposed ACRL Structure Changes

The Board is engaged in a multi-year review process to enhance the ACRL governance structure to better advance the ACRL Strategic Plan and fulfill ACRL’s core purpose “To lead academic and research librarians in advancing learning and scholarship.” As part of this ongoing process that includes membership assessment, program review, and structural evaluation, the Board is engaged in reviewing opportunities for member involvement as well as its own composition and process for nominations.

At the Midwinter Meeting in Seattle, the ACRL Board discussed some proposed changes to ACRL’s structure with ACRL leaders. These changes would establish a new form of ACRL unit, the Interest Group, and would change the way candidates are selected to run for the ACRL Board of Directors. FAQ’s have been developed to give you background information about the general process and the development of recommendations for the proposed ACRL structure changes. The FAQ’s are available at www.acrl.org/structure.

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ANSS Members’ News

Liz Cooper has been appointed as an ALA representative to IFLA Social Sciences Library Standing Committee for 2007-2011. Her nomination went from ANSS to ACRL to ALA and then to IFLA.


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REVIEW

Alt-Press Watch

Reviewed by Bonnie Crarey Ryan, Syracuse University Library

Publisher: ProQuest Information & Learning, 200 N Zeeb Rd., P.O.Box 1346, Ann Arbor, MI 48106-1346
Tel: 800-521-0600. Fax: 800-864-0019.
EMAIL: info@proquest.com
WEB: http://www.proquest.com/products_pq/descriptions/alt_presswatch.shtml

Pricing is based on FTE; contact ProQuest.

Introduction

Alt-Press Watch (APW) is a full-text web-based database that covers alternative newspapers, magazines, journals, newsletters, and reports. Libraries may subscribe to APW solely or as part of ProQuest’s “Diversity Suite,” which also includes the databases Ethnic NewsWatch and GenderWatch. The latter two databases were previously reviewed in this newsletter by Randy Hertzler and Rui Wang (2006).

Some consumers may mistake APW for the electronic version of another well-known source, Alternative Press Index (API), but actually they are two separate products. API is produced by the Alternative Press Center, based in Baltimore, Maryland. The electronic version of that database,
including its archives, has been acquired by OCLC FirstSearch. This article is a review of ProQuest's APW database alone, but includes a comparative analysis of APW and API.

This review concentrates on the content of Alt-Press Watch rather than its organization or structure. There is a brief explanation of technical aspects of APW, a description of the coverage, a discussion of search results including comparisons with API, and recommendations for improvement.

Technical Aspects

The technical functions of APW are identical to the other Diversity Suite databases, and similar to other ProQuest web-based sources. These capabilities were covered comprehensively in earlier reviews of Ethnic NewsWatch and GenderWatch for this publication by Hertzler and Wang (2006). Overall format and organization of the database is the same as the other databases in the ProQuest Diversity Suite: Basic searching, Advanced Search, Topic Guide, Publications Search, and My Research options are offered through user-friendly tab navigation.

Similar to the other two Diversity Suite databases, the default language for searching in APW is English. There are options to search in other languages, as well as non-English output for some full-text content. Publication titles are searchable individually in APW as they are in the other Diversity Suite databases.

Coverage

APW was first produced by Softline Information and released by ProQuest in 2001 (Yarnell, 2002). Indexing terms that were first developed by Softline were then mapped to ProQuest’s subject indexing (Yarnell, 2007).

As with all ProQuest databases, APW covers a variety of sources including scholarly articles, magazines, newspapers, and “reference/reports,” which include largely newsletters of non-profit organizations. It covers information not found in the mainstream press, and includes subjects such as politics, disabilities, gender, environment, labor, native peoples, and human rights. The database is applicable to a wide variety of disciplines including ethnic studies, sociology, history, anthropology, political science, and women’s studies. The database is easy to use and should appeal to users at all levels of research.

As of January 5th, 2007, there were 187 publications listed within APW’s “Publications” search tab. The publications listed are largely focused on the United States, with a few exceptions (e.g. Canadian Dimension, Palestine-Israel Journal of Politics, and Economics and Culture). Many of these publications first appeared in the 1960s or early 1970s, but APW only indexes most of them from the 1980s on. Off Our Backs is an exception, and is indexed from Feb 27, 1970 (Volume 1, Issue 1) to present. Indexing for most publications in APW goes back farther than full-text access, which typically extends back only to the 1990s. All full-text articles are available in HTML format, and many are also available in PDF or in HTML format with graphics.

Content

APW offers access to contemporary publications of some movements and organizations that began as grassroots, counterculture, or community activist groups in the United States during the 1960s and 1970s. Examples include the gay rights, women’s, and environmental movements. Many of these publications are small newspapers or newsletters that highlight American social history at the local or community levels. Publications include journals such as The Advocate, Tikkun, and the Alternative Press Review, as well as alternative newspapers such as the Birmingham Weekly, the Boise Weekly, and the Syracuse New Times. Other material includes publications of non-profit organizations such as the Braille Forum, ECO NEWS, and the FCNL Washington newsletter.

While some researchers might think to use only APW to search alternative publications dealing with ethnic, racial, or gender issues, it would be best if they supplemented their searches by using Ethnic NewsWatch or GenderWatch, as well as other databases that are specific to those areas, such as International Index to Black Periodicals, Bibliography of Native North Americans, or GLBT Life. While APW does cover some publications dealing with gender, for example, such as Off Our Backs or GCN: Gay Community News, it does not cover the majority of gender alternative publications nor ethnic publications such as the Chicago Defender or the Cherokee Voice, which are both indexed in Ethnic NewsWatch. At some future point, it might be interesting to investigate the holdings of gender and ethnic sources between the three Diversity Databases for comparison and duplication.

Analysis

The content of APW was compared with API for this review in two ways: an analysis of the databases using a simple search strategy; and a brief survey
sent to the ANSS-L listserv on November 30th, 2006. The analysis involved a keyword search performed in each database on December 19, 2006 for the phrase "homeland security." The phrase was searched as a keyword rather than a subject because most users begin with the default keyword search.

**Alternative Press Index (API)**

OCLC FirstSearch offers API as a current file (1991-present), as well as backfiles from approximately 1969-1989 (Olson, 2006). As an OCLC FirstSearch product, API also includes the holdings of libraries that own the publications indexed. The printed API includes a variety of document types not contained in the online product, such as bibliographies, directories, speeches, and indexes (Alternative Press Index, 2006). The OCLC FirstSearch product is limited to articles, including biographies, book reviews, film reviews, and obituaries. API does cover a wider variety of scholarly alternative journals than APW, including ethnic and women's studies journals, as well as those that are international in scope such as Black Scholar, Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists, Cultural Survival Quarterly, Women: A Cultural Review, and Asian Labour Update.

The results of the keyword searches of the phrase "homeland security" in both APW and API were:

**APW:**
- 2,742 total
- 178 Scholarly journal articles
- 303 Magazines
- 2,146 Newspapers
- 72 Reference/Reports

**API:**
- 90 journal articles total

The most significant differences between the two databases are the types of sources covered and the format of the citations. APW offers full-text access to the majority of its citations, including even a few periodical titles going back to the 1970s and 1980s, while the online version of API is limited to citations and brief abstracts of articles and contains no full text sources.

The largest set of citations in APW was for the newspapers at 2,146. Clearly the inclusion of small, local, and regional alternative newspapers is a strong point of the database, and these materials are not indexed online elsewhere. APW also includes a wider range of newsletters and reports from non-profit organizations than API.

One significant finding from this comparison is the low degree of duplication between the databases. Out of 90 citations from API, only 12 were duplicated in APW. In most cases, APW simply did not cover the same publications indexed, or its coverage was more recent than that of API.

The outcome of this brief analysis of the databases raised another question: What is considered “alternative”? From the content of the articles, “alternative” appears to mean those that are predominantly left-leaning politically. If a researcher wants a balanced political view on an issue, where should that researcher go for more conservative viewpoints? One of the reasons the issue “homeland security” was chosen was that it is a current issue with clear arguments on both sides of the political spectrum. Within this search, APW covers only one publication, American Conservative, that is politically conservative, and APW only began including this title in 2006. Accessing other databases such as EBSCO’s Masterfile Select can offer a greater balance of political viewpoints.

To augment the comparison, a brief survey was sent to the ANSS-L listserv with the following questions:

1. **Does your institution subscribe to APW? If not, why not?**
2. **Does your institution subscribe to the paper source API? Does your institution subscribe to both sources? If so, why? How would you compare the two resources?**
3. **When do you use the APW database or refer library users to it? What type of topics does it cover best for you and your library users?**
4. **Have you found APW to be useful for anthropological or sociological research questions?**
5. **Do you have an example of a search topic that worked well in APW for you?**
6. **Do you have an example of a search topic that did not work in APW? Why didn’t you get the results you hoped for?**
7. **Do you have any other comments about the APW database?**

There were six respondents to the survey. Of the six, five subscribed to APW; of those five, three also subscribed to API Online, and two subscribed to the API backfiles. Survey respondents noted that the greatest difference between the two databases was that APW offered full-text access. One respondent
felt that APW was narrower in scope than API. Another respondent whose library uses a meta-search utility, where a library user can search a topic in more than one database at a time, reported that APW is used less often than API. Three of the respondents use APW for current topics and for topics that are sociological in nature. Some examples of search topics included: eminent domain, tourism research, different cuisines, immigration, and gender. One respondent wondered about the overlap between APW and EBSCO’s Masterfile Select. A brief comparison of the publications in the A's in APW, API, and Masterfile Select came up with no duplication among the three databases, except for the journal The Advocate. A deeper comparison of publication overlap among these three databases would be useful.

Recommendations

APW covers a wide array of alternative articles from journals, magazines, newspapers, and "reference/reports" in full-text format. From the comparative analysis discussed above, it is broader in scope than API. It offers local and regional perspectives on current, mostly national issues. It appears from the survey described above that some libraries subscribe to both APW and API, although the combined price is prohibitive to many smaller institutions.

APW leaves out many academic alternative sources which could give a researcher a better balance of information, including scholarly and international viewpoints. Researchers seeking more scholarly–yet alternative–viewpoints on issues may find APW lacking in extensive coverage of scholarly journals in contrast to API. Although APW appears to remedy its lack of more conservative alternative presses with the inclusion of periodicals such as the American Conservative, there are other databases that the researcher may need to turn to for broader coverage and more balanced political viewpoints such as Masterfile Select.

Overall, Alt-Press Watch is a very good database for access to sources for alternative viewpoints, largely on the politically left side of the spectrum. As with all ProQuest databases, the interface is user-friendly, offers full-text capability, and covers a broad array of sources. One of its strongest assets is the inclusion of local alternative newspapers. It should appeal to users at all levels of research.

Acknowledgments

My thanks to Ed Yarnell, ProQuest representative for colleges/universities and large public libraries and his colleagues for their patient and tireless answers to my endless queries about the Alt-Press Watch database, and to Lauris Olson, Social Sciences Bibliographer, Van Pelt Library, University of Pennsylvania for his historical insight.

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Yarnell, Ed. E-mail to the author. 5 Jan. 2007.

Meeting Schedule, 2007 Washington D.C. By Date

Friday, June 22
ANSS Social (tentative) 6:00 - 8:00 p.m.
Amer. Soc. Assoc. Reception 4:00 - 7:00 p.m. ASA

Saturday, June 23
Executive (1st of 2) 8:00 - 9:00 a.m. DOUB Director’s
Subject & Bib. Access 10:30 – Noon JW Dirksen
Soc. Lib’s Disc Group 10:30 – Noon JW Commerce
Conf. Prog. Planning ’07 10:30 – Noon JW Longworth
Liaison 1:30 – 3:30 p.m.
Membership 1:30 – 3:30 p.m. JW Longworth
Publications 1:30 – 3:30 p.m. JW Cannon
Bibliography 1:30 – 5:30 p.m. JW Hart
Crim. Justice/Crim. Dis.Group 4:00 - 5:30 p.m. JW Dirksen

Sunday, June 24
Program: Native American Heritage in the Nation’s Capitol: Representation, Repatriation, and Resilience
8:00 – Noon WCC Room 201
Nominating 2008 10:30 – Noon DOUB Boardroom
Conf. Prog. Planning ’08 1:30 - 3:30 p.m. Crow Farragut
Instruc. & Info Lit Comm 1:30 - 3:30 p.m. May Boardroom
Anthro. Lib’s Disc. Group 4:00 - 5:30 p.m. REN Room 16

Monday, June 25
Review & Planning 8:00 - 10:00 a.m. PLAZA Congressional
Executive (2nd of 2) 10:30 – 12:30p.m. PLAZA Franklin
Smithsonian’s National Museum of the American Indian Tour 1:15-2:15p.m OS The Museum

Hotel Abbreviations:
CROW Hamilton Crown Plaza
DOUB Doubletree Washington
JW JW Marriott
MAY Renaissance Mayflower
PLAZA Washington Plaza
REN Renaissance Washington
WCC Washington Convention Center
ANSS Currents Newsletter
50 East Huron Street
Chicago, IL 60611

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**VOLUNTEER TO SERVE ON AN ANSS COMMITTEE!**

ANSS is now seeking volunteers for committee assignments. Please fill out the volunteer form at:

http://www.lib.odu.edu/anss/volunteer.html

For descriptions of committees, go to:

http://www.lib.odu.edu/anss/committ.html

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**ACRL Programs at the ALA Annual Conference**

ACRL will offer 20 "must see" programs at the 2007 ALA Annual Conference in Washington D.C.! Hot topics include advocacy, blogs, gaming, mentoring, podcasts, winning friends and influencing people, and more beginning Saturday, June 23 at 8:00 a.m. through Monday, June 25 at 5:30 p.m.

Complete program information is now available on the ACRL Web site at http://www.ala.org/ala/acrl/acrlevents/acrlatannual/ACRLannprog.htm.

Questions? Contact ACRL Program Coordinator Megan Griffin at mgriffin@ala.org.