

ANSS Anthropology Librarians Discussion Group Minutes
2013 ALA Annual Conference, Chicago, IL
Sunday, June 30, 2013, 4:30pm to 5:30pm
Hyatt Regency Chicago, Columbus KL

Topic: Current Trends & Resources for Linguistics Research in the Social Sciences

Attendance: 10

Co-conveners: Miriam Rigby and Christina Smith

1. Welcome and Introductions

Christina Smith welcomed the attendees, an attendance sheet was circulated, and all attendees introduced themselves to the group.

2. Call for meeting recorder

Erin Pappas, incoming (2013-2015) co-convenor, agreed to take notes. [Christina Smith, this scribe, also took notes]

3. Speaker

June Pachuta Farris, Bibliographer for General Linguistics and Slavic, E. European & Eurasian Studies, University of Chicago Library, spoke on the topic of Current Trends & Resources for Linguistics Research in the Social Sciences. The University of Chicago Department of Linguistics, founded in the mid-1930s, is likely to be the oldest Linguistics Department in the United States (the University of Pennsylvania Department of Linguistics, founded in 1947, is also one of the earlier departments). The department is theory-oriented, and this orientation guides June's selections in linguistics. June acquires general linguistics as well as linguistics and anthropology materials for the countries she has responsibility for. Additional linguistics materials are acquired by other selectors.

June had a PowerPoint presentation entitled "Resources for Linguistics Research." Interspersed with linguistics cartoons, the PowerPoint included a graphic image showing the various subfields of linguistics, a list of topics in applied linguistics, the Library of Congress Subclass P table, a list of databases for linguistics research, the front page of her LibGuide for linguistics, useful web resources such as Linguist List, and more.

Requests have grown for materials in bilingualism, corpus linguistics, conversation analysis, computer-assisted instruction (in foreign languages), sign language, and other sub-fields of linguistics.

June did a study of self-described Linguistics Department faculty research profiles at the University of Chicago and seven other universities with vibrant linguistics departments: MIT, Stanford, University of Pennsylvania, Harvard, UCLA, UC Berkeley, and University of Michigan. Constants at all schools were syntax, semantics, morphology, and phonology. This chart of faculty profile interests will inform June regarding future acquisitions. It would be useful to have a similar chart of University of Chicago graduate student interests as well as a profile of recent dissertation topics.

June's Linguistics [LibGuide](#) is the basis of most everything she does with linguistics. She sees her LibGuide as encompassing point; colleagues view LibGuides as a starting point. "You can't put bibliographies in there!" but she does. She also includes the LC subclass P on her LibGuide, because if browsing the linguistics collection is important, one needs to know what one is browsing for. Another area on her LibGuide is the reference tab, populated by dozens and dozens of handbooks; every subdivision of linguistics has a handbook. This is where one sees where the cutting edge of research is. Handbooks contain current knowledge, trends, and faculty research, so June spends a great deal of time showing students handbooks.

June also had a chart showing 13 databases for linguistics research, and for each database she searched 50 linguistics terms taken from the University of Chicago Linguistics Department faculty profiles. LLBA had the most hits; 40 times out of 100 it was in first place. In second place was the German database BLL, with 22 out of 100 first or second place matches. MLA ranked third. When the University of Chicago changes databases and subscriptions to save money, a chart such as this could help in the next round of decisions.

June briefly discussed two Web resources included in her PowerPoint presentation, The Linguist List and the Linguistic Data Consortium (LDC), the latter available by subscription.

4. Q & A

One library cancelled LLBA, but it is evident from June's database chart that MLA does not provide the same linguistics coverage as LLBA.

There were questions about tracking graduate student research interests. June said that for tracking purposes, there are clusters; people go to a particular school based on the faculty for that sub-specialty. Nothing is set in stone but it would be an interesting thing to track over time – what the department is doing. Maybe there are surprises; June was caught off guard recently when two dissertations were written on sign language. It would be more informational for selection. You do not want your collection to reflect just what the faculty is doing or you will have big gaps.

The University of Chicago Anthropology Department includes linguistic anthropology as a sub-discipline. June's faculty profile was for the Linguistics Department faculty only. How much do you collaborate with selectors doing anthropology (linguistics) or other fields? June responded that they collaborate a lot, and also do joint purchases.

Can you recommend vendors for DVDs or videos on linguistics?

June receives emails from vendors for linguistics studies documentary films. She keeps them in a folder and will make that information available to us. It was noted that Wake Forest has a [documentary film program](#).

What about sociolinguistics and conversation analysis (One of the areas of research and study at UC Santa Barbara's Sociology Department)? June replied that this was also a growing area and that it is difficult to cover the new sub-disciplines when you also have to collect in all of the traditional sub-fields.

5. Topic for ALA Midwinter in Philadelphia in January 2014
One suggestion was Visual Anthropology.

The report submitted to *ANSS Currents* this fall will contain links to June's presentation and charts, as well as additional material.

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