

ACRL ANSS Criminal Justice & Criminology Librarians Discussion Group  
ALA Annual Conference, Chicago, Illinois  
Hyatt Regency Chicago, Columbus GH  
Meeting Notes

I. Convener: Sally Willson Weimer

- I. Michelle Guittar, Justice Studies, Sociology, Political Science, Social Work, Geography & Environmental Studies Librarians  
Northeastern Illinois University (NIU) has a strong social justice/policy emphasis. Multidisciplinary in nature, diverse student/faculty body (large nontraditional/part-time, ethnically diverse students and former lawyers), and dynamic. No pre-law programs.  
Total FTE undergraduate students: 10,000
  - a. Collection development: sometimes difficult to keep balance to reflect research/teacher interests of diverse users. Interdisciplinary subject.
    1. Challenges: no access to some legal resources. Librarians select of resources (no approval plan and small budget).
  - b. Research topics: since many are nontraditional students/life experience, may approach the librarian with research topics, but may need to modify their research questions.
  - c. Instruction: flexibility in instruction due to standardization in curriculum. Librarian may see same students in different classes.
    1. Offers face-to-face instruction.
  - d. Searching: Recommends Academic Search Premier and Social Science Abstracts databases. Also, EBSCOhost's Race Relations Abstracts & Urban Studies. Also uses, ProQuest Criminal Justice, Gender Watch, and Sociological Abstracts. No discovery system (although transitioning to WorldCat Local in the fall).
  - e. Professional training: reviewing legal nomenclature to help students with research.

Discussion:

Collection development options: Rutgers University's CJ titlesChoice slips, faculty recommendations, patron driven acquisitions (just started with EBL/ProQuest).

II. Beth Sheehan, Visiting Anthropology/Sociology Librarian (PPT presentation)  
University of Illinois at Urbana Champaign (UIUC)

Works with students/faculty from different majors/referrals.

- a. Collection development: focused on topics to guide selection process for criminal justice topics in other social science disciplines, when no fund is allocated for criminal justice/criminology.
  1. Sources of National/State statistics are very useful, and frequently free (e.g. Federal: Bureau of Justice Statistics, National Criminal Justice Reference Service; State: Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority, Illinois Department of Corrections)
  2. Reference works and databases helpful for topics related to criminal

- justice/criminology in Sociology, Social Work, and Anthropology (e.g. Women & Social Movements in the United States, National NAGPRA, THOMAS, Family & Society Studies Worldwide [EBSCOhost])
- b. Beth is also the editor of the Criminal Justice and Law section of the *Resources for College Libraries: Career Resources*.
  - c. Audience: discussion ensued. Attendants shared research interests in their institutions. Recommend resources: Military and Government (EBSCOhost) and Advocacy Abstracts (vendor?), and Public Administration (EBSCOhost).

Sally: passed out the Preliminary Criminal Justice and Criminology Toolkit handout. Might be beneficial with sources and strategies in instruction literacy for new librarians. Site is available on ALA Connect on the Criminology Justice Discussion group. Suggestions are welcomed.

Topics for Midwinter are solicited. New co-convenor. Karen is the new convenor to help build connections.

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