

UPDATED DRAFT Minutes

ACRL/ANSS Resource Review & Bibliography Committee

Midwinter, 2014

Virtual Meeting, January 17, 2014

Google Hangouts

Present: Spencer Acadia, Helen Clements, Deborah Margolis, Nancy Skipper, and Sara Williams (Karen Evans attempted to attend but we think that Clements had inadvertently not included her in the group when setting up the hangout.)

Meeting convened about 1:10 p.m. after the members joined the Google Hangout.

Committee members introduced themselves and gave brief information about their respective job assignments also mentioned other colleagues who are ANSS members.

The committee approved the minutes from Annual 2013; Clements will post these on ALA Connect.

Committee Charge

We discussed the committee charge, which is:

The Resource Review and Bibliography Committee reviews and analyzes the current state of bibliographic control of publications in anthropology and sociology. It identifies specific areas needing improved bibliographic control and communicates these needs to publishers. The committee also disseminates information about the bibliography of these fields to the section membership.

The primary product of the committee is reviews of indexes and abstracts (print and electronic), which are published in *Currents* first and then published on ANSSWeb.

Members agreed that we may want to make the charge more flexible, so that we are open to activities beyond the resource reviews we have been doing. The general practice for a number of years has been to review one or a few tools got each issue of *Currents*. Margolis noted that older reviews may be found at

<http://anssacrl.wordpress.com/publications/reviews/>

Types of Resources to Review

Rather than reviewing single indexes or abstracts tools, we would like expand our resource coverage to include other sources and to encourage a comparative approach. Several earlier articles, including the review of SpringerLink in the fall 2013 issue of *Currents*, move in this direction. We thought that increasing collaboration among the committee (and possibly other members) would be a positive contribution.

Among the suggestions are:

- 1) Open access resources, perhaps a regular column that features them, since many libraries cannot afford the expensive subscription databases
- 2) Brief updates on past reviews if the resource has changed significantly
- 3) Newer types of resources—perhaps datasets, mapping resources, or others
- 4) Articles about publishing issues such as spurious (i.e. “vanity”) publishers
- 5) Open Access sources, since many libraries cannot afford the subscription prices for the very expensive tools
- 6) More comparisons among resources, even a brief mention of related resources in a review

- 7) A column for discussion of comments and debates about resources (the model mentioned was the articles in *Current Anthropology* which feature discussion of articles from a variety of viewpoints).
- 8) Increase emphasis on interactivity and discussion, including encouraging discussion of why a library decided whether or not to subscribe to a resource, or how a colleague used a tool in instruction (an example is Acadia's article on Science *Direct*, which appears in the fall 2013 *Currents*).

We plan to return to the practice of circulating the *Currents* articles for review among members of the committee, before they are sent to the Publications Committee. We are aware that the deadline for submissions to the Publications Committee will be about April 1, so we are setting our goals for mid-March to work on the articles.

Williams asked about limits on the length of articles. Some of these changes would undoubtedly result in different article lengths. Clements mentioned that the conversion of *Currents* to an online-only format has freed us from a strict limit and allowed for more and longer features. Williams suggested that it would also be a good thing to avoid having to edit many long articles at the same time. Skipper mentioned that we should consider our target audience and focus on what would be most useful. Margolis suggested having one long and one brief article/review.

The committee members will continue to discuss these suggestions via email and plan to continue the discussion at Annual, and with Publications Committee members.

Articles for the spring 2014 *Currents*

Committee members discussed the articles planned for the spring, 2014 *Currents*.

Guidelines for editing the articles are available on the ANSS website at

<http://anssacrl.wordpress.com/publications/editing-publications/anss-currents-guide-for-authors/>

Margolis is volunteering to write a short review of an open access publication that indexes the publications of the Bureau of American Ethnology; it was a simple index but was useful to her students. (Clements believes that at least some of the complete volumes may be available online as well).

Acadia will author a review/article about the SpringerLink book access tool. He mentioned that this resource has a good deal of coverage of bioarchaeology as well as other content of interest to sociology. Clements mentioned that her library has had some issues with access to recent Springer documents, but is not sure whether the problem has originated with Springer or with one of the intermediary discovery tools... We will check with Karen Evans about a resource for criminal justice and criminology. She may want to do this in the fall rather than the spring. Skipper asked if Evans was planning to include open source materials, and volunteered to review of those. Williams mentioned that she is also interested in the criminal justice area, because her library will be hiring someone to serve in that area.

Margolis asked if there was another open access tool scheduled for review in the spring. She would like to see more about open access tools, including ones in criminal justice and criminology.

Articles for fall 2014 *Currents*

Following discussion including comments by Margolis and Skipper, the consensus of the committee is to postpone covering Oxford Bibliographies Online until the fall issue, given our short lead-time. OBO is a relatively expensive subscription service, which features bibliographies on many topics. Skipper and Margolis agreed to review OBO in the fall,

with Skipper taking the lead. Skipper plans to review the Sociology module, and Margolis the Anthropology module. Margolis may mention the Islamic Studies module, and/or how the product can lead making to cross-disciplinary connections. Margolis also offered to try to recruit someone from her library if no committee member wishes to do the article.

Other possible tools for review included PolicyMap and other mapping databases.

Margolis says that her library has recently begun subscribing, but she would prefer to work on the Oxford Bibliographies.

Other Business

We also briefly discussed the toolkits and Clements will provide links to those. Other committees have constructed them, and they are located in *ALA Connect*. Clements also mentioned that Joyce Ogburn had updated her bibliography of anthropology resources. Further action is not known at this time and Clements will check on the status of these tools.

Members discussed their plans for upcoming meetings. There was a consensus that virtual meetings are valuable for ACRL/ANSS because many committee members have limited travel money, and many of them also need to attend other meetings, including the meetings of professional societies in their subject areas. Several members mentioned that they will not be able to travel to Annual, so it is probable that we will schedule a virtual meeting. (Hopefully at least one committee member will be able to meet at Annual to help recruit new members for the committee).

After other discussion about the meeting set-up, we adjourned about 2:10 p.m.

Listing of BAE reports on the Smithsonian website:

<http://www.sil.si.edu/DigitalCollections/BAE/Bulletin200/200annl.htm>

The Wikipedia article mentions some digitized copies of the Annual Reports and the Bulletins, and I think Harvard has at least some of the volumes. The World Public Library site has a list, but I didn't take the time to look at it carefully.

Internet Archive also has a list.