



ANSS CURRENTS

The Newsletter of the ACRL Anthropology & Sociology Section
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Preliminary Meeting Schedule, 2006 New Orleans

Friday, June 23

ANSS Social 6:00 - 8:00p.m.

Saturday, June 24

Executive (1st of 2) 8:00 - 9:00a.m.
Soc. Lib's Disc Group 10:30- Noon
Subject & Bib. Access 10:30 - Noon
Liaison 1:30 - 3:30p.m.
Publications 1:30 - 3:30p.m.
Crim. Justice/Crim. Dis.Group 4:00 - 5:30 p.m.

Sunday, June 25

ANSS Program 8:00 - Noon
Bibliography 1:30 - 5:00p.m.
Conf. Prog. Planning '07 1:30 - 3:30p.m.
Instruct. & Info Lit Comm 1:30 - 3:30p.m.
Membership 1:30 - 3:30p.m.
Nominating 2007 4:00 - 5:30p.m.
Anthro. Lib's Disc. Group 4:00 - 5:30p.m.

Monday, June 26

Review & Planning 8:00 - 10:00a.m.
Executive (2nd of 2) 10:30 - Noon

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Ad Hoc Committee on Information Literacy (2004-2006)

Triveni Kuchi, Susan Macicak, Co-Chairs

At the 2006 San Antonio ALA midwinter meeting, the ANSS executive committee approved the transformation of the Ad Hoc Information Literacy Committee (ANSS IL) to a standing committee of the section. The group's first non-virtual meeting included an exhaustive discussion of the format, structure, scope and outcomes/examples of ACRL IL standards specific to anthropology and sociology. The group is currently discussing and revising the second draft of the standards and will share this version with faculty invitees prior to ALA Annual in New Orleans in order to maximize discussion and collaboration on revisions at the meeting June 23, 2006.

The committee is very pleased to announce that Edward L. Kain, Professor of Sociology at Southwestern University and co-author (with the ASA Task Force on the Undergraduate Major) of "Liberal Learning and the Sociology Major Updated: Meeting the Challenge of Teaching Sociology in the Twenty-First Century" as well as co-author Carla B. Howry, Deputy Executive Officer of the American Sociological Association, have agreed to work with ANSS IL and will attend the meeting in New Orleans. Our group continues to search for an Anthropology faculty member available to participate in the development of the standards draft and meet with us in New Orleans. We welcome your suggestions.

Bibliography Committee

Janet Steins, Chair

The main agenda item was a thorough critical reading of the second draft of Randy Hertzler's review of *Ethnic NewsWatch* (Online). The completed review is published in this edition of *ANSS Currents*.

Rui Wang is preparing the next review, of *GenderWatch*, and there was some interest expressed in using an interactive editing software package called Writely, which would allow each of us to input suggestions online. We decided to try it to edit Rui's review.

A brief discussion of proposed reviews followed. New committee members Bonnie Ryan and Jennifer Nason Davis expressed interest in reviewing *Alt-Press Watch* and *eHRAF* respectively. Our working document, "Guidelines for Analyzing Bibliographic Resources for *ANSS Currents*," was last revised in 1999, and there might be a need to update it soon.

Length of Bibliography Committee appointments has become an issue because of the ALA rule limiting people to two consecutive 2-year terms. Many members have served three terms because it is difficult to get acclimatized to how the committee functions, wait your turn to write a review (since only two can be published annually), and then write a

review and see it through to publication within four years. And only after that would it be likely that someone would want to and be available to serve as chairperson. Further discussions on this will follow.

Conference Program Planning Committee 2006

Terry Epperson, Chair

The theme for the 2006 ANSS program in New Orleans is "Drug Foods, Fast Foods, and Feasts: The Social Science of Eating". A panel of speakers addresses the topic of food from diverse historical, sociological, anthropological, and public health perspectives. Building on anthropologist Sidney Mintz's analysis of sugar as the quintessential "drug food," panelists will examine changing cultural conceptions of sugar in the US. Other topics include analysis of spatial correlations between fast food restaurants, poverty, and obesity as well as discussion of library and archival resources in New Orleans for research in culinary culture and history. Jason Block, MD, MPH (Brigham and Women's Hospital, Boston, MA) Gerald F. Patout, Jr. (The Historic New Orleans Collection, New Orleans, LA) Susan Tucker (Newcomb College Center for Research on Women, New Orleans, LA) Wendy A. Woloson (The Library Company of Philadelphia, Philadelphia, PA)

Liaison Committee

Lisa Yuro, Chair

For their meeting at Midwinter all members of the Liaison Committee agreed to attend the panel discussion, "Building Liaison Relations with University Faculty in Sociology," hosted by the Sociology Librarians Discussion Group.

Membership Committee

Susan Erickson, Susan Bennett White, Co-Chairs

The ANSS Social at the ALA Midwinter Meeting was held at La Margarita and drew 15 members. Stephen Fowlkes has agreed to propose locations for the Social at Annual Conference in New Orleans. At the Membership Committee meeting, we made final decisions about the content of the "Welcome to ANSS!" webpage. This page will be linked from ANSSWeb and is intended to answer basic questions about ANSS for new and prospective members. We agreed to continue sending print copies of the new member letter and will include a copy of the latest ANSS brochure in future mailings. We approved the ANSS letterhead template proposed by the Publications Committee and made a few revisions to the sign-in form used by committees and discussion groups at Midwinter and Annual Conference. Our "conference buddy"

program did not garner much interest for Midwinter, but we will offer it again for the Annual Conference.

Nominating Committee 2007

Wade Kotter, Chair

The ANSS Nominating Committee 2007 is seeking candidates for the offices of ANSS Vice-Chair/Chair-Elect, Member-at-Large, and Secretary to run in the 2007 ANSS election. If you would like to run for office or recommend one of your colleagues, please contact me at wkotter@weber.edu.

Publications Committee

JoAnn Jacoby, Chair

Erin Daix and Susan Metcalf informed us that ALA just announced selection of a new Content Management System for ANSSWeb. Interactive forms for committee volunteers and for new subject headings were added to ANSSWeb. The new "Welcome to ANSS page" created by Membership is ready and will be up soon. A copy of the new letterhead and committee sign up sheets will also be posted in an appendix of the *ANSS Manual* on ANSSWeb. Shawn will draft a letter of thanks to Old Dominion University (ODU) for continuing to host the site.

Adoption of the new ACRL template for the ANSS brochure is being deferred. To lessen updating needs of the present brochure content requiring constant updating will be replaced with pointers to ANSSWeb. At future meetings the Publications Chair will bring ~100 brochures to the Saturday morning Executive Committee meeting for discussion group leaders and committee chairs.

JoAnn reported that there are 270 (up from 218) subscribers to ANSS-L. ANSS currently has more than 500 members. Isabel del Carmen Quintana is working with Membership to draft an invitation to join ANSS-L.

Review and Planning Committee

Wade Kotter, Chair

The main business of the Review & Planning Committee meeting in San Antonio was consideration of a proposal from the Ad-Hoc Information Literacy Committee to create a standing information literacy committee within ANSS. The charge included with their proposal was revised, the name of the proposed committee was changed to the Instruction & Information Literacy Committee, and a proposal for its creation was drafted for presentation to the Executive Committee. In addition, the Review & Planning Committee decided to begin

a review of the ANSS committee structure in comparison to the committee structures of other ACRL subject-based sections.

Subject and Bibliographic Access Committee

Isabel del Carmen Quintana, Chair

Unfortunately the committee did not meet at ALA-Midwinter, due to illness. New cataloging question/answers are being prepared by the members for future postings to ANSS-L and the ANSS webpage. The committee also hopes to explore other ways to bring information regarding subjects and bibliographic access to the larger anthropology community. We would love to welcome more members to this committee and invite you to attend our meeting at ALA annual.

DISCUSSION GROUP REPORTS

Anthropology Discussion Group

Elizabeth Cooper, Convener

At this session, ANSS members who attended the American Anthropological Association meeting in November shared what they learned at the conference. Most discussion revolved around the sessions at AAA that were specifically related to libraries and AnthroSource. Myra Appel, who led the Scholarly Communications Interest Group (SCIG), and Suzanne Calpestri, who led the AnthroSource Open Forum, shared information about their sessions. Discussion included issues related to authors' rights as well as the future direction of AnthroSource as a portal and its relationship to the AAA website.

Criminal Justice/Criminology Librarians Discussion Group

David Bickford, Convener

Guest facilitator, Joe Tragert of EBSCO Publishing led a discussion of the role of international concerns and information sources in the criminal justice curriculum. Joe mentioned a product that he has championed at EBSCO, the International Security and Counter-Terrorism Resource Center. He also spoke more broadly of free sources of information in the international security arena. At the conclusion of Joe's remarks, several discussion group participants shared their own observations regarding potential sources of information relevant to the topic.

Sociology Librarians Discussion Group

Brian Quinn, Sally Willson Weimer, Co-Conveners

Samir Singh, President of ContentScan opened the discussion by explaining that people, not just

documents, are relevant sources of information and thus introduced the Community of Scholars, a new feature available on CSA Social Sciences databases, including Sociological Abstracts. It allows users to access the community behind the content, provides an important context by offering different research perspectives on a search topic, and gives users a sense of who is doing what where. It provides evidence-based verified profiles of scholars that are regularly updated. A feature called Community Tree brings up related links in related disciplines, to encourage interdisciplinary collaboration. Community of Scholars includes emeritus faculty, but does not include graduate students, extensive foreign language publications, or think tanks like Rand or Brookings. CSA plans to combine Community of Scholars with Community of Science. To explore Community of Scholars, please go to <http://info.csa.com/communityofscholars/>

The second half of the meeting featured Dr. Ed Kain, a sociologist at Southwestern University. Dr. Kain spoke about establishing closer relationships with sociology faculty. He recommended using structures that already exist to help strengthen relationships with sociology faculty and departments. He mentioned the American Sociological Association's recommendations for achieving information literacy goals, their regular reviews of sociology departments that include an evaluation of how strong the relationship is between the department and the library and the Liberal Learning and Sociology Major Updated Report, http://asanet.org/galleries/default-file/Lib_Learning_FINAL.pdf Sociology departments are also being encouraged by universities to develop assessment plans that state specific student learning outcomes, evaluate them on a regular basis, and use the results of the evaluation to improve their programs. In short, it helps if a librarian can help sociology faculty understand the advantages of collaboration in terms of their own self-interest, such as receiving better research papers from students.

Co-convener Brian Quinn concluded the meeting by noting that he and Sally would be completing their terms and that anyone interested in volunteering to serve as co-convener should contact Brian or Sally. He asked attendees to suggest possible discussion topics for the meeting at ALA Annual in New Orleans.

REVIEW

[NB:Full review on ANSSWeb]

Ethnic NewsWatch (Online): News, Culture and History

Reviewed by Randy Hertzler, Gelman Library, The George Washington University, hertzler@gwu.edu, reviewed June 10, 2005 and submitted February 15, 2006.

Ethnic NewsWatch: News, Culture and History.
 Publisher: ProQuest Information & Learning, 200 N Zeeb Rd., PO Box 1346, Ann Arbor, MI 48106-1346 United States. TEL: (734) 761-4700; (800) 521-0600. FAX: (734) 997-4040; (800) 864-0019. EMAIL: info@proquest.com. WEB: <http://www.proquest.com/products/pt-product-ethnic-newswatch-history.shtml>

Pricing is based on FTE, contact ProQuest.

Introduction

Ethnic NewsWatch (ENW) is a comprehensive, full-text abstracting and indexing database covering the newspapers, magazines, and journals of the American ethnic, minority, and native press. ENW has seen substantial growth since its last ANSS review in 1994, when ENW was delivered as a CD-ROM product. This resource has great relevance for many of the sub-disciplines in both anthropology and sociology, and provides easy access to a broad array of publication types from voices that are often poorly represented in the mainstream press and academic publishing. The broad scope of ENW—covering everything from newsletters and small-distribution newspapers to prestigious scholarly journals—offers something for everyone, from specific ethnic communities to the general public to academic researchers. ProQuest's clean, clear user interface is highly intuitive and can be navigated by novice users, yet offers a range of advanced features that should satisfy the most seasoned researchers. Backed by ProQuest's long history of providing top-tier database access to colleges and universities, ENW is likely to have an excellent level of reliability, consistency, and dependability for its users and subscribers; indeed, this reviewer has encountered few problems with stability of access to the database.

Scope, Coverage, and Accuracy

At the time of the 1994 review, ENW indexed 99 newspapers and journals, and held 99,000 full-text articles on CD-ROM. Today, access is online via the Web and coverage includes more than 270 periodicals, with a database of 996,000 full-text articles as of this review, with more than 218,000 full-text articles in Spanish. Date of coverage spans from 1990 to the present. *Ethnic NewsWatch: A History* combines with ENW to form *Ethnic Newswatch Complete*, extending full-text coverage

back to 1960. Growth has been cumulative since ENW's inception in 1991, and the database adds an average of 7,500 new articles per month.

Ulrich's Periodicals Directory was consulted to determine the origin, target audience, subject coverage, and other aspects of the journals covered by ENW. Of these approximately 270 periodicals, 226 titles listed in *Ulrich's*, 211 (93%) are published in the United States, while six are published in Canada, five in Great Britain, and one each from Israel, Jamaica, Haiti, and Sweden. Examples of non-American publications include: *Palestine-Israel Journal of Politics, Economics, and Culture* (East Jerusalem)/ *Pride* (London)/ *Swedish Press* (Vancouver, Canada)/ and *Raven's Eye* (Edmonton, Canada). By publication type, *Ethnic NewsWatch* indexes 20 scholarly journals, 55 consumer magazines and journals, 14 bulletins and newsletters, 108 newspapers, four trade publications, and 21 uncategorized publication types. Refereed publications comprise 17 (8%) of the publications in the database, and 201 titles are in active publication, with the current publication status of the remainder unverified by *Ulrich's*. ENW claims coverage of a broad range of subject areas, including general reference, history and politics, humanities, and social sciences. Specific disciplines mentioned include the arts, business, education, environmental studies, history, journalism, political science, and sociology. While all of these areas are well represented in ENW, additional fields of interest to anthropology and sociology researchers include:

- Anthropology (8,800 documents)
- Ethnology and ethnography (2,500 documents)
- Crime and Criminology (174,000 documents)
- Linguistics (8,900 documents)
- Demography (791 documents)
- Archaeology (5,300 documents)

Results for the disciplines listed above were obtained using keyword searching.

While other discipline-specific databases may provide comprehensive coverage of any one of these subjects, ENW's major strength is its coverage of these areas in the literature published by and for the respective ethnic groups that are the *subject* of this literature. Offering this access to materials representing a broad range of American ethnic groups makes ENW a unique reference tool. Examples of full-text content not covered in most other databases include such articles as "Affirmative Action: By Any Means Necessary?" (*The Hispanic Outlook in Higher Education*, Sept. 26, 2005); "New Orleans' Lessons Mirror American History" (*Indian Country Today*, Sept. 14, 2005); and "Yushchenko's First Year: a Western Perspective" (*Ukrainian Weekly*, Nov. 20, 2005).

Ulrich's subject headings for periodicals indexed by ENW reflect the assignment of the broad subject "Ethnic Interests" to 60% (135) of publications, with more specific subject headings assigned to about one-fifth of these: examples include "Ethnic Interests—Business and Economics," "Ethnic Interests—Folklore," "Ethnic Interests—Journalism," and "Ethnic Interests—Political Science." Other top-level headings include "Religion and theology," representing 20 publications (9%), and including Buddhist, Hindu, Islamic, Judaic, and Roman Catholic subheadings; fifteen (7%) "General Interest Periodicals" with subheadings for the geographic country of origin, such as Armenia, Haiti, Russia, and the West Indies; thirteen (6%) "Native American Studies" publications; and other subject headings including "Political Science," "History," "Education," "Social Sciences," "Business and Economics," "Occupations and Careers," "Asian Studies," "Children and Youth," "Social Services and Welfare," and "Women's Interests."

The following table illustrates the broad groupings of ethnic groups as identified by ProQuest's control language, along with the respective numbers and percentages of periodical titles these represent:

Ethnic Groups in America	Number of Titles	Percent of Titles
African American / Caribbean African	85	31%
Native People	43	16%
Multi-Ethnic	36	13%
Asian / Pacific Islander	25	9%
Hispanic	25	9%
Jewish	25	9%
European / Eastern European	23	9%
Arab / Middle Eastern	9	3%
Total	271	99%

ENW offers a complete list of publications indexed by clicking ProQuest's "Publications" tab; besides allowing alphabetical browsing of periodical titles, this list is also searchable by keywords in the titles. Dates of coverage are listed for each periodical, and clicking the link for any given publication takes the user to a browsable list of all issues available for that particular title.

Electronic Record Structure, Retrieval, and Display

The Basic Search screen provides a single box for entering keywords, with pull-down menus allowing the selection or addition of other ProQuest databases, selection of general or specific dates, or

date ranges. Limits are permitted to any of the specific ethnic groups outlined above, to only scholarly and peer-reviewed journals, and to biographical or personal profile articles. ProQuest defines a scholarly article as one "authored by academics for a target audience that is mainly academic, the printed format isn't usually a glossy magazine, and it is published by a recognized society with academic goals and missions." While the usual ProQuest limiter for only full-text documents is also available, this is effectively redundant with ENW, since all articles in the database are available as full text. Users not aware of this feature may attempt—with no result—to increase their search results by un-checking this box.

The Advanced Search screen offers the same limiters as above, but offers two additional free-text fields, and users can add up to four extra fields for a total of seven. All advanced text fields allow the user to designate which database field should be searched by the term that is entered. Available menu-driven field-searching choices are:

- citation and abstract
- citation and document text
- abstract
- document language
- document text
- document title
- document type
- author
- ethnic group
- location
- publication title
- subject

"Citation and abstract" searches the standard fields Author, Personal Name, Abstract, Product Name, Article Title, Subject Terms, Company Name, Source (publication title), and Geographical Name (referring to the location to which the story or article pertains).

Sophisticated searchers will appreciate the menu-driven field search options, additional field limiters are available using field search syntax, including:

- HEAD(*term*) Finds *term* in only the headnotes of an article
- CAP(*term*) Finds *term* in only the image, illustration, or chart captions
- ISSN(#####-#####) Finds only the periodical with ISSN number #####-#####
- PAG(#) Finds only articles on page #, such as the front page, of a publication or publications

NAME(<i>term</i>)	Finds only articles about the person <i>term</i>
SECTION(<i>term</i>)	Finds only articles appearing in the <i>term</i> section, such as sports, editorial, news, or feature sections
WORD(#)	Finds articles limited to less than (<), greater than (>), or equal to the number of words # per article
YR(####)	Finds only articles of a specific year, range of years (-), before (<), or after (>) the year ####

Boolean operators available offered through drop-down menus are AND, OR, AND NOT, WITHIN 3, and PRE/1. The latter two proximity operators, respectively, force terms to be within three words of each other, or for the first term entered to precede the second by exactly one word. Despite the latter two “pre-set” proximity limiters, WITHIN and PRE can actually be defined by the user with *any* number desired, so that Boolean expressions using WITHIN 5 or PRE/2, for example, would be possible.

Search Expression	Phrases retrieved include
world PRE/4 web	world religions on the web world war II web sites
world WITHIN 3 web	world wide web web of world relief organizations world of the web

Phrase searching is accomplished by the use of quotations, although two-word search expressions are treated as an exact phrase even without quotes. ProQuest ignores any of a list of 76 common stop words, though these can be included in phrase searching by enclosing them in quotations with other terms. The asterisk (*) is used as a right-hand truncation symbol, so that the term “minor*” retrieves the terms “minor,” “minors,” “minority,” and “minorities.” The question mark (?) serves as a wildcard for any single character in a term, so that “wom?n” will find the terms “woman,” “women,” and “womyn.” Neither truncation nor wildcards may be used at the beginning of a term. Nesting of operations is supported in both the Basic Search screen and the Advanced Search screen, and may be applied to specific field searches.

Beyond the default search fields and limiters supplied by the Basic and Advanced Search screens, both include a “More Search Options” tab

which offers three and seven additional search fields, respectively, plus the ability to sort results by relevance or chronologically. Also, every full-text article is followed by a “More Like This – Find similar documents” box, which allows users to search for more articles with the same subject, location, people, author(s), document type, language, or publication title.

Indexing and Subject Access

Citations examined for this review appeared to be well constructed with no typographical or factual errors. Subject terms seemed appropriately assigned, and abstracts reflected the major points of their complete articles.

Author indexing is relatively flexible, allowing either conventional or permuted entry of author names. For example, entering “hooks, bell” retrieves the same articles as “bell hooks” in an author search, despite the fact that this author is listed both ways in the author fields of articles retrieved. Similarly, “Jesse Jackson” retrieves the same articles as “Jackson, Jesse” in an author search. Author names in retrieved articles are hot-linked, so that searchers can find all articles in the database by that author—or any co-authors—simply by clicking on her or his name.

Subject indexing adheres to ProQuest’s *Controlled Vocabulary of Subject Terms*, developed for application to most databases offered by ProQuest and available for searching or download at <http://www.proquest.com/proquest/cv-controlled-vocabulary.shtml>. This controlled vocabulary is presented in a less intimidating way through the ENW interface by masquerading under the “Topics” tab, where users can choose between “Suggest topics (enter keywords)” and “Look up topics A-Z (enter subject, company/org, location, person).” It is important to note that, while more than 218,000 Spanish-language articles are included, only English subject headings are assigned.

“Suggest topics” generates search expressions—often compound—that are likely to encompass the term or terms entered into the search box, with varying degrees of success. For example, searching the expression “repeat offenders” generated four suggested topics: “criminal sentences;” “criminal sentences AND criminal justice;” “criminal sentences AND criminal law;” and “criminal sentences AND criminology.”

One area of caution involves the ability of users to click “View documents” for these suggested topics, which runs that particular search, or to select

“Narrow by related topic,” which allows combining the suggested topic with additional subject terms assigned to articles that carry that suggested topic. While this makes some logical sense in terms of “drilling down” to ever more precise control language that pinpoints a particular article, it can result in some rather circular, confusing, and frustrating searches. For example, this rather convoluted search was created by drilling down through ever-narrowing subject terms:

Environmental justice > Crime > Government >
Federal Government > Environmental Protection >
Terrorism > State Government

This search resulted in exactly one citation, “Texas Recibe Fondos Para Prevenir Ataques Terroristas” (“Texas Receives Funding for the Prevention of Terrorist Attacks”), a Spanish-language article appearing in the publication *La Voz de Houston* on September 8, 2004. Examination of this record reveals that, while the “Suggest topics” function at first appears to be a hierarchical arrangement of narrowing subject terms, it is simply a mechanism for picking up from one to all of the other subject terms assigned to an article whose subject includes the term entered by the user.

Another pitfall involves the “Look up topics A-Z” option in the Topic Guide. Not a true thesaurus, this list is actually an alphabetical list of terms used in ProQuest’s *Controlled Vocabulary*. No “See” or “Use” references are offered, leaving users to guess the proper terminology for a particular concept. For example, searching the expression “repeat offenders,” which is not in the control language, simply leads the user to the next alphabetical term on the list: “Rees, Mike (person).” The term “recidivism,” on the other hand, is listed in the control language, and as such can be applied to a search or “narrowed” in the same manner as above with “related” terms. Unfortunately, nothing in the “Topics” tab points users to this preferred term.

Document Availability & Export Options

As mentioned earlier, all documents in ENW are available as full text. Citations and articles of interest can be marked using checkboxes, and these items are automatically tracked using the “My Research” navigation tab. Clicking this tab reveals not only all marked documents, but also lists the most recent searches run and their respective results. Any of these searches can be set up to run automatically as SDI alerts, which can be scheduled as daily, weekly, monthly, or quarterly emails for periods of up to one year.

Marked documents can be exported as bibliographies using a range of standard citation styles, as full-text documents in whatever format is available, in formats compatible with standard citation management software, or as HTML format that can be uploaded to a server for Web access. All these formats can be saved, emailed, or printed directly from ENW’s ProQuest interface.

Comparisons with Related Resources

ENW overlaps with numerous print and electronic bibliographic tools, including *Chicano Database*, *Hispanic American Periodicals Index Online*, *Anthropological Literature*, *Sociological Abstracts*, *America: History & Life*, *Index to Black Periodicals*, *Bibliography of Asian Studies*, and others. While several of these resources give comprehensive coverage to literature concerning *particular* ethnic groups, none of these attempts to index publications concerning *all* the major American ethnic groups. Furthermore, these bibliographic tools offer little full-text access to articles, let alone full-text access to every article indexed as does ENW. This multi-ethnic focus, coupled with advanced export, SDI, and citation management functionality, positions ENW as a unique and vital resource for many types of cross-cultural studies conducted by researchers in anthropology, sociology, and ethnic studies.

For researchers searching the literature of one specific ethnic group for whom comprehensive indexing is available elsewhere, ENW can serve as a “starting point” from which more comprehensive searching can proceed. Users researching topics impacting the African American community, for example, will certainly want to consult the *Index to Black Periodicals* for comprehensive coverage, but ENW can prove useful even to these researchers by providing easy access to full-text resources that may help formulate context and search strategies.

Recommendations for Improvement

Work could be done with the control language and the Topic Guide section of the database. While this functionality certainly serves to “get some stuff” on a given topic—or its approximation—the mechanism behind this is something of a black box, and as such does not inspire confidence that a comprehensive search has been conducted on a given topic. In fact, it is difficult to establish exactly *what* type of search has been conducted, since a seemingly endless spiral of “narrower” terms can lead the user to the impression that they are searching in circles. **Cont. pg. 8.**



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Co-Editor: Shawn W. Nicholson, Michigan State University, 100 Library, East Lansing, MI 48824-1048, (517) 432-1749. nicho147@msu.edu

Co-Editor: Thomas L. Mann, Northwestern University Library, 1970 Campus Drive, Evanston, Illinois 6020, (847)491-2922. tmann@northwestern.edu

Production & Circulation Office: 50 East Huron St., 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>

Review Continued from pg. 7

Other improvements might involve greater granularity in categories of ethnic groups represented. Broad divisions such as "African American / Caribbean / African," "Asian / Pacific Islander," and "European / Eastern European" represent wide cultural divergence and geographic diversity that would benefit from less lumping and more splitting.

Finally, while ENW's large body of Spanish content is a welcome addition to the Spanish-speaking community, the absence of Spanish-language subject headings is something of a shortcoming for these users. Cont. on pg. 8.

Summary

A range of discipline-specific databases provide more comprehensive coverage of many academic disciplines addressed by *Ethnic Newswatch*, including anthropology and sociology. However, *Ethnic Newswatch* offers the unique perspective of these disciplines—as well as general-interest and "issues-related" content—as expressed through the voice of the ethnic press.

In addition to *Ethnic Newswatch's* unique coverage and full-text access to content, ProQuest's clean, intuitive interface, flexibility in field searching, and many options for export make this an outstanding resource for all levels of researchers. The interface is simple enough to be navigable by grade-schoolers, yet has plenty to offer even the most seasoned researchers. At a time when most users are pressuring libraries for more remote and full-text access to indexes and periodicals, *Ethnic Newswatch* is definitely on the right track, and would make an excellent addition to any academic or public library.