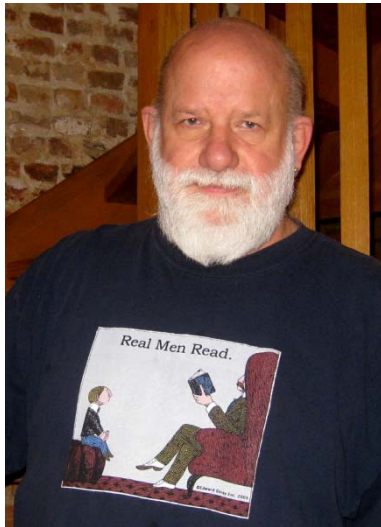




American Library Association  
Association of College and Research Libraries

## ANSS CURRENTS

The Newsletter of the ACRL Anthropology & Sociology Section  
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### MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

Terry Epperson

Greetings and felicitations! This issue of *Currents* is the first since my ascension as ANSS Chair. During my year as Vice Chair/Chair Elect, I watched with admiration and respect as Jennifer Nason Davis handled a myriad of leadership and administrative details with aplomb and efficiency. I also wondered who would do all of this work once her term was over. Well, now I know! First and foremost I would like to express my appreciation for Jennifer's excellent service as ANSS Chair and for Liz Cooper's work as Past Chair. I know I will continue to draw upon them both for inspiration and guidance. I would also like to thank Adam Burling for his service as our ACRL Staff Liaison and wish him well as he embarks on new adventures with the ABA. Thanks also to Megan Griffin, our current staff liaison, and Liz Chabot, our ACRL Board Liaison.

If I do say so myself, ANSS is one of the more active, dynamic, and innovative sections in ACRL. For the past 30 years we have hosted a Program at every ALA Annual Meeting. The 2011 Program, "The Aftermath of Katrina and Rita: The Effects on Libraries, People, and Neighborhoods," included presentations by a documentary filmmaker, a sociologist, and a librarian

(details below). A special shout-out to Program co-Chairs Erin Gratz and Venta Silins. Our three discussion groups (Anthropology, Criminal Justice/Criminology, and Sociology) are convened at every Midwinter and Annual Meeting and are always lively and well attended. It has been my experience that ANSS is, in a Goldilocks sort of way, "just the right size." Our section is not overwhelmingly large, but at about 500 members we are quite viable and offer a wide range of services and networking possibilities. Active members can always find opportunities for committee or leadership service. As demonstrated by our recent Membership Survey (reported within) we are also very interested in, and responsive to, the needs and interests of our members.

Read below for details on all the activities of ANSS committees and discussion groups. Whether you are a new or continuing member, please consider volunteering to participate; these are the life of the section. If not sure where to begin, contact a committee chair, attend a committee meeting (all meetings are open, except the Nominating Committee), or come to a discussion group. For those who can't attend ALA conferences, virtual participation is encouraged! A new round of committee appointments will soon be upon us. To volunteer, fill out the online form at <http://www.acrl.org/volunteer> or contact Vice-Chair/Chair Elect Jen Darragh.

I would like to draw your attention to two important committee changes: The former "Bibliography Committee" has been renamed "Resource Review & Bibliography" to reflect the committee's wide-ranging activities. In addition, the Liaison Committee has been revived with an expanded charge. In the past, ANSS has maintained liaison relationships with the American Anthropological Association and the American Sociological Association. However, under the new charge the Liaison Committee will be examining additional liaison opportunities and models. At press time the committee is still being formulated, but you can contact Co-Chair Sally Willson Weimar for additional information.

The Anthropology Section (ANS) was granted full section status in 1972, so we will be celebrating our 40th anniversary as a section at the 2012 Annual Meeting in Anaheim. Although our program proposal for Annual was not approved by ACRL, the 2012 Program Planning Committee and the Membership Committee have informally coalesced as a super-committee to plan anniversary-appropriate scholarly and social activities. Suggestions are welcome. Stay tuned for details.

I hope to see lots of folks in Dallas for Midwinter and Anaheim for Annual.

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### ***CANDIDATE STATEMENTS***

#### **Pauline Manaka: Vice Chair/Chair Elect**

Librarians today are redefining numerous parts of the digital world in order to continue making knowledge meaningful and information manageable. Those of us in ACRL ANSS believe we should continue to uphold the educational values of information literacy (IL), despite the many times when we are tempted otherwise. For me to be an important part of this leadership, I wish to stress that we pay attention to implementing IL standards from kindergarten across adulthood. We should strive not to teach critical thinking skills in silo struggles but reinforce ways to collaborate with others.

Is this something new for ANSSers to engage in? I do not believe so. We have held programs and actively reached out across different library types, research needs, age groups, educational levels, and more. Our members are now being challenged to evaluate what is effective, why or why not. Let us hold more IL programs with others who share common goals with us. Let's have ANSS try to grow an information literacy agenda innovatively, one that is broader and global.

#### **Wayne A. Sanders: Vice Chair/Chair Elect**

I find ANSS to be a welcoming home comprised of industrious, energetic, and knowledgeable members. Based on my experience as ANSS Secretary, Executive Committee member, and Review & Planning Committee member, I believe our organization provides essential programs, resources, services, and community to librarians in the fields of anthropology, sociology, and criminology and ultimately the diverse communities we serve.

In today's environment, it's critical ANSS meet the expectations of current members while reaching out to more colleagues and organizations. We must evolve to meet the needs of all section members and conference

participants. We should adapt current contributions and embrace additional opportunities for ANSS to provide community, programs, resources, and services to the membership. We should leverage available technologies to incorporate new input, communication, delivery, and outreach methods.

If elected, I pledge to promote and support ANSS efforts and to strive to expand our impact within our organization(s) and beyond.

#### **Anne Davis: Member-at-Large**

It is always truly a pleasure to serve on ANSS committees, because I have always found ANSS members to be passionate about learning and sharing information in the disciplines of sociology and anthropology. I have enjoyed working with other ANSS members on the Program Planning Committee and being a member of a section that not only values continuing education in our subject areas, but also provides tools and opportunities to build relationships with other professionals. The network of colleagues that is created through participating in ANSS and attending conference discussion groups and programs is invaluable to all librarians, both new and experienced, and I am interested in exploring technology that offers even more opportunities for ANSS members to exchange knowledge and support our professional growth. ANSS has a lot to offer librarians in the social sciences and I look forward to the opportunity to continue to actively serve ANSS and its members.

#### **Miriam Rigby: Member-at-Large**

ANSS has been my home-base for professional development and networking since I received my MLIS and started working as a social sciences librarian three years ago. I enjoy serving on the Membership Committee, Program Planning committees, and acting as co-convenor of the Sociology Discussion Group. ANSS provides unique opportunities for focused networking and enriching our knowledge of our subject-area work, and I want to help expand this service by bringing in new members who can both benefit from our opportunities as well as contribute their diverse ideas. Collaborating with other members of the Membership Committee and ANSS overall, I would like to expand ANSS through our mentoring program, engaging and keeping existing members, as well as developing its recruitment power with people who are not yet in ANSS.

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### ***2011 ANNUAL PROGRAM SUMMARY***

The annual program “The Aftermath of Katrina and Rita: The Effects on Libraries, People and Neighborhoods” featured a librarian, Dr. Andy Corrigan (Tulane University); a sociologist, Dr. Frederick Weil (Louisiana State University in Baton Rouge); and a filmmaker, S. Leo Chiang (*A Village Called Versailles*). Each speaker brought a unique perspective and experience of how Hurricane Katrina impacted neighborhoods and institutions within New Orleans. While their perspectives were unique, the speakers’ stories overlapped and gave the audience a deeper understanding of the issues experienced after Hurricane Katrina. Some of the comments by attendees included: “Very interesting—relates to my work as a subject librarian and as a librarian in general;” “This was an amazing program! It had both local connection and library connection;” “The diversity of perspectives and the evidence based approach—very effective. A great learning experience!;” “I liked that there were specific accounts and broader info. It was a good mix of overview and individual /community experience;” and “ANSS is consistently informative in linking libraries to broader scholarly issues.”

### ***COMMITTEE REPORTS***

#### **Bibliography Committee (see Resource Review and Bibliography Committee)**

#### **Instruction and Information Literacy Committee** Jason Phillips, Chair

The Instruction and Information Literacy Committee met and welcomed new members. The first item of discussion was our Repository of Teaching and Assessment Materials and implications of the recent Membership Survey on its development and utility.

The current home of the ANSS Repository of Teaching and Assessment Materials is the New York University Faculty Digital Archive at:  
<http://archive.nyu.edu/handle/2451/28103>.

We welcome submissions from members and were glad to see that many members would consider submitting. Submissions can be made to the chair Jason Phillips at [jason.phillips@nyu.edu](mailto:jason.phillips@nyu.edu).

The committee hopes to produce some features on different aspects of information literacy including numeracy and visual literacy for future issues of *Currents*.

#### **Membership Committee**

Jenny Bowers and Annie Paprocki, Co-Chairs

The membership of ANSS has remained steady this past year; hovering around 500 individuals. All members were invited to the Social at ALA Annual in New Orleans, where we co-hosted the first ever joint Social with the Education and Behavioral Sciences Section (EBSS). Although it didn’t go quite as planned (since the restaurant, Lucy’s Retired Surfer’s Bar and Grill, changed the arrangements at the last minute both for our event and for the WESS social), we still had a good turnout. Approximately 25-30 ANSS members attended, including some from the New Members Roundtable. EBSS made a decent showing, as well. And complimentary nachos were enjoyed by all!

Planning has already started for the Midwinter Social in Dallas and for the Annual Social in Anaheim, which will be a celebration of the 40th anniversary of ANSS. If you have any suggestions for venues/activities for either event, please contact a member of the Membership Committee.

During our committee meeting, we discussed the results of the ANSS Membership Survey conducted in May 2011. There were 61 respondents, who ranged from active members to those who don’t serve on committees or attend ALA conferences. Overall, the respondents indicated that they are satisfied with the section; however, they also had good suggestions for improvement. In particular, several people expressed the desire to participate on committees virtually. We also decided that we could promote our webpage and activities more extensively. The committee identified ways to respond to as many of the suggestions as possible and plan to run the survey in the future to track our improvement in meeting member needs. Look for a deeper analysis of the results in an article from committee member, Jen Darragh, in this issue of *Currents*.

We also welcomed Member-at-Large, Helen Clements, as the new co-chair of the Membership Committee. Many thanks to outgoing chair, Jenny Bowers.

#### **Publications Committee**

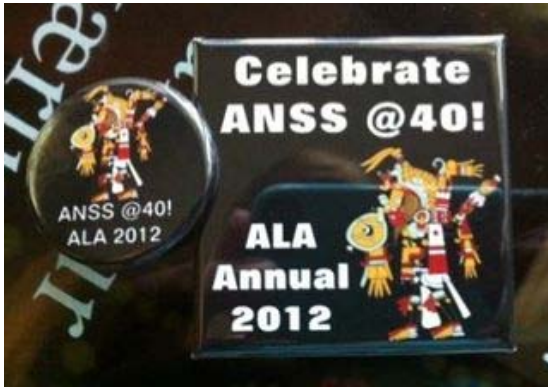
Erin Gratz and Jenny Bowers, Co-Chairs

The Publications Committee’s discussion focused on the results of the ANSS Membership Survey and brainstorming a plan to develop a new logo for the section. The Membership Survey provided the committee with some excellent ideas that will be implemented on ANSSWeb, such as a liaisons page and a form to include new resources in the bibliographies.

This year at Annual there was a need for an ANSS banner; we have the jaguar man but there are problems

with the actual image file and it is not necessarily a logo for the section. The committee decided that we should develop a few logos that the ANSS membership could choose between. The goal is to have a new logo proposed for Midwinter in Dallas. During the meeting, we also discussed possible new columns for *Currents*, as well as edits and additions to ANSSWeb.

One of the projects Publications and Membership committees were tasked with during Annual was to create tchotchkes for ANSS's upcoming 40th anniversary. Make sure to pick up a button or magnet at Midwinter in Dallas!



### **Resource Review and Bibliography Committee**

Members in attendance were: Pauline D. Manaka, Sue McFadden, Maureen Morris, Linda Daniel, Helen Clements; prospective member, Beth DiVincenzo (University of Illinois/Urbana-Champaign); and visitor, Brian Geiger, University of California, Riverside.

The members voted to adopt a new name: Resource Review and Bibliography. We believe that this more accurately reflects the committee's charge and activities.

Resource Review for Fall *Currents*: The committee discussed changes in some of the key social sciences databases provided by database aggregators. Of special concern is that *Sociological Abstracts* CSA, which has long made *Sociological Abstracts* available on its Illumina platform, has acquired ProQuest and is now doing business under the ProQuest name. *Sociological Abstracts* and several other social sciences and science databases are now available via a new version of the ProQuest search platform.

For this fall's review, we have agreed to examine how ProQuest's new platform functions, what allied discovery systems such as *Serials Solutions* promise and what they deliver, and whether the ProQuest social sciences packages will adequately support both undergraduate and graduate/faculty research. (One

question, whether the specialized *Sociological Abstracts* thesaurus is still being used for that database, has since been answered in the affirmative by their training representative). We tentatively plan to follow up with a comparison of the EBSCO social sciences offerings for the spring *Currents*. Sue McFadden proposes to set up a Google group so that we can work on the review. We also received a request for a review of Alexander Street Press's new *Social Theory* database from Hailey Mooney, Data Services and Reference Librarian at Michigan State University.

Updates to Social Sciences Bibliographies: The committee has begun work on updating the three bibliographies on sociology, anthropology, and general social sciences which have been available on the ANSS website. We plan to work on the Sociology bibliography first, since the Anthropology bibliography has been fairly recently updated by Joyce Ogburn. Chris Smith and several of the current committee members have already submitted items. The older versions of the bibliographies can be archived, rather than being integrated with newer materials. We are planning to request contributions from other ANSS members via the Field Notes blog on ANSSWeb, as well as on ANSS-L.

### **Review and Planning Committee**

Liz Cooper, Chair

The Review and Planning (R&P) Committee discussed ACRL's changes to the liaison program and how the section should integrate those changes into its liaison work. Specifically, we discussed the process ANSS may use for selecting liaisons in the future and issues related to liaison terms and funding. We also decided that reviving the ANSS Liaison Committee could be helpful in implementing and managing this new liaison model and we therefore drafted a charge for this new committee to present to the ANSS Executive Committee. R&P also discussed the recent ANSS Membership Committee survey results, considered participating in the Emerging Leaders Program, discussed ways to commemorate ANSS' upcoming 40th anniversary, and determined that all committees should be required to post their minutes to ANSSWeb.

### **Subject and Bibliographic Access Committee**

Lars Klint and Wade Kotter, Co-Chairs

The committee established our questions and answers for the coming months. Some of the topics include bilingualism and multilingualism; unemployment; social tagging in online catalogs; and RDA implementation.

We agreed to move committee materials from the ANSS wiki to the ANSS website, which should provide better

protection from spam attacks. This will be done in a timely manner in consultation with Erin Gratz.

The results of the ANSS Membership Survey highlighted the importance of the subject headings lists and the cataloging questions and answers. Despite this, the committee determined that the survey results also indicate a need for further promotion of committee service and activities. It was suggested that we do more to make ANSS members aware of important changes in cataloging that may affect them. Our first such effort will be to write a brief announcement on the RDA transition, with links to additional information, for posting on ANSS-L. Committee members will keep an eye out for any other important cataloging changes that may prove helpful to the ANSS membership.

### ***DISCUSSION GROUP REPORTS***

#### **Anthropology Librarians Discussion Group**

Jennifer Nason Davis and Julia Warga, Co-Conveners

Sixteen people, including several new members, gathered for the Anthropology Librarians Discussion Group. Jennifer Nason Davis facilitated the discussion of topics surrounding electronic collections and technologies in support of anthropology research. Suggested discussion topics were provided by Co-Convener Bonnie Ryan, along with a list of open access projects and issues.

Topics discussed included: core databases for anthropology; video streaming databases; vendors, packages and features of electronic books; patron attitudes towards e-books; new communications technologies such as social networks, blogs and smart-phone apps; open access projects; core journal lists for anthropology; and the range of budgets at academic libraries for anthropology collections. Numerous specific suggestions and ideas were shared. For details see the ALDG minutes, posted on ANSSWeb.

A call was made for suggestions of topics for the 2012 Midwinter meeting in Dallas. A volunteer is also needed to serve as Discussion Group Co-Convener. Volunteers should contact ANSS Vice-Chair, Jen Darragh. Send discussion ideas to Chris Smith, [jchris@bu.edu](mailto:jchris@bu.edu).

#### **Sociology Librarians Discussion Group**

Pauline Manaka and Miriam Rigby, Co-Conveners

The Sociology Librarians Discussion Group met from 10:30am to noon on Saturday, June 25, 2011. The discussion topic, "Open Access Sociology: Finding it, Using it, Making it, and 'Selling' it to Sociologists" drew an engaged crowd. After introductions, Miriam

Rigby presented her bibliography of Open Access Resources in Sociology, which will be reproduced in this issue of *ANSS Currents*. Jennifer Nason Davis started the invited talks with her overview and discussion of Hathi Trust <http://www.hathitrust.org/>. Pauline Manaka and Sally Wilson-Weimer discussed the UC Sociology Consortium (<http://www.lib.berkeley.edu/ucsoclibs/>), University of California Digital Library (<http://www.cdlib.org/about/>), scholarly communication, and collaborations with scholars and presses. Kiyomi Deards highlighted the marketing of the Institutional Repository at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln (<http://digitalcommons.unl.edu>) and the other features that have made it so successful with their university community. A discussion of institutional repositories, open access-friendly presses, open access resources, and scholarly communications issues followed. The full minutes can be found on ANSSWeb at <http://anssacrl.wordpress.com/minutes/>.

#### **Selected Bibliography of Open Access Resources in Sociology**

*Compiled by Miriam Rigby, Social Sciences Librarian, University of Oregon, for the meeting of the Sociology Librarians Discussion Group of ACRL-ANSS at ALA 2011*

The following bibliography of open access resources in sociology is a work-in-progress and suggestions for additions, reorganization, or otherwise are welcomed at [rigby@uoregon.edu](mailto:rigby@uoregon.edu).

The main focus is on resources for and from sociology, though resources from related fields are included to reflect the increasing interdisciplinary nature of academia. This list is primarily designed to direct the user to lists of resources (when they exist), rather than recreating those lists in full, though some individual resources are featured as well.

#### **Institutional Repositories & OA Presses**

This is a selected list, representing only a small slice of what exists. Institutional Repositories (IRs) are working hard to be well indexed for increased access on the Web, so a comprehensive list should be unnecessary.

1. *Amsterdam University Press* publishes most of their books and journals with an Open Access (OA) option (in addition to the print versions which are for sale) <http://eng.aup.nl/openaccess/default.aspx>
2. *anthropologi.info* provides a strong list of some additional OA repositories and collections of working papers, internationally. The intent is to feature repositories with anthropological content, but most cover a much broader range of the social sciences:

<http://www.antropologi.info/links/Main/Archives>

3. *California Digital Library* <http://www.cdlib.org/>

4. *Hathi Trust Digital Library* <http://www.hathitrust.org/>

5. *MIT Open Access Articles*

<http://dspace.mit.edu/handle/1721.1/49433>

6. *National Academies Press* recently announced that almost all of their books are now available for free as pdfs. <http://www.nap.edu/>

7. *OAPEN* (Open Access Publishing in European Networks) is an aggregator of peer reviewed OA publications in the sciences and social sciences.

<http://www.open.org/>

8. *The Open Access Directory*, hosted by the Graduate School of Library and Information Science at Simmons, offers (among many lists of OA resources) a fantastic list of Publishers of OA Books:

[http://oad.simmons.edu/oadwiki/Publishers\\_of\\_OA\\_books](http://oad.simmons.edu/oadwiki/Publishers_of_OA_books)

as well as Repositories by Discipline:

[http://oad.simmons.edu/oadwiki/Disciplinary\\_repositories](http://oad.simmons.edu/oadwiki/Disciplinary_repositories)

9. *Open DOAR* (Directory of Open Access Repositories) – International Coverage, organized by continent

<http://www.opendoar.org/countrylist.php>

10. *Sociology Working Papers* from the Sociology Department at the University of Oxford

<http://www.sociology.ox.ac.uk/index.php/research/working-papers.html>

### Data Sources

1. *DataCite* offers a database of data repositories for the sciences and social sciences <http://datacite.org/repolist>

2. *Data-PASS* (Data Preservation Alliance for the Social Sciences) at ICPSR

<http://www.icpsr.umich.edu/icpsrweb/DATAPASS/>

3. *The Minnesota Population Center*

<http://www.pop.umn.edu/>

4. *Open Access Directory*, hosted by the Graduate School of Library and Information Science at Simmons, also offers a fantastic list of data repositories

[http://oad.simmons.edu/oadwiki/Data\\_repositories](http://oad.simmons.edu/oadwiki/Data_repositories)

### Academic Journals

Each site listed here contains lists of many OA social sciences journals.

1. *anthropologi.info*'s List of Open Access Anthropology Journals

<http://www.antropologi.info/links/Main/Journals>

2. *BASE* (Bielefeld Academic Search Engine) from the Bielefeld University Library is an index of over 1800 international repositories of academic OA resources.

<http://digital.ub.uni-bielefeld.de/index.php>

3. *Directory of Open Access Journals*

<http://www.doaj.org/>

4. *Online Open Access Journals & Scholarly Paper Collections* compiled by Antioch University's Susan Hawes, PhD, leans towards Psychology collections but

includes resources from across the social sciences

<http://www.antiochne.edu/cp/qr/journals.cfm>

5. *Open Access Journals Search Engine* for Sociology:

<http://oajse.com/subjects/sociology.html>

6. *The Virtual Library of Human Sciences*

<http://www.bvce.org/SociedadeInformacao.asp>

### Notable Journals

1. *Sociation Today* is the first OA journal from a regional sociology association (The North Carolina Sociological Association)

<http://www.ncsociology.org/sociationtoday/>

2. *Yale Journal of Sociology*

<http://www.yale.edu/sociology/yjs.html>

### University Courses

1. *MIT Open Courseware* <http://ocw.mit.edu/courses/>

2. *Open Culture* is compiling lists of many OA resources, including this list of free courses in the social sciences from the world's top universities.

<http://www.openculture.com/freeonlinecourses>

### Blogs

1. *The Society Pages* is a website maintained by the University of Minnesota's Department of Sociology. It provides the online hosting for the well-known *Contexts* magazine (not OA), but is more notable here, for the many prominent sociology blogs it hosts; one of the best known of all being Sociological Images.

<http://thesocietypages.org/blogs>

2. *anthropologi.info* has compiled a large list of links of high-quality anthropology-focused blogs

<http://www.antropologi.info/blog/>

3. *Family Inequality* is a notable sociology blog, and offers a robust list of links to other sociology blogs in its blogroll. <http://familyinequality.wordpress.com/>

### Academic Social Networking

A brief selection of some sites that offer free self-archiving & file-sharing services combined with social networking:

1. *Academia.edu* allows users to upload and link to their publications. It is up to the user to comply with any copyright issues for each item they share. Anything that is uploaded is highly-visible in Google searches.

<http://academia.edu/>

2. *Open Anthropology Cooperative* has been growing for two years and has over 5,000 members

<http://openanthcoop.ning.com/>

### Criminal Justice/Criminology Discussion Group

Venta Silins, Convener

There were eight people in attendance for the discussion group. The guest speaker, Professor Pamela Jenkins, a sociologist from the University of New Orleans,

discussed the many issues surrounding Hurricane Katrina and its aftermath. Her primary focus was to clarify many of the misconceptions, much from the media, about crime during the disaster. For example, for all the media coverage surrounding the problems in the Superdome, there were four deaths during the time people had to stay there. Only one death was criminal. Rather, people created “families” and even put their cots in a circle to protect each other.

However, Professor Jenkins did not imply that there was no criminal activity during the aftermath of the hurricane. She discussed how a natural disaster can change patterns in crime. For example, when there is domestic violence (or disaster violence, as she called it) it is often quicker to happen and more violent in nature.

One way to examine human behavior is to look at it as either pro-social or anti-social, but during this crisis it could be difficult to make a distinction. When people were forced to steal to survive, they could be labeled as either “takers” or “looters.” As Professor Jenkins said, “The longer it took the government to get involved, the longer they [those left in New Orleans] thought they were on their own.”

Professor Jenkins also discussed the New Orleans Police Department response to the hurricane. There were many serious charges leveled against police officers, but there were also many brave officers who behaved more pro-socially. Analyzing the NOPD is an extremely complex endeavor. The attendees were fascinated with Professor Jenkins’ stories and analyses.

The meeting ended with a discussion about a topic for the discussion group in Anaheim. Several people were interested in discussing white-collar crime.

### ***LIAISON REPORT***

#### **ACRL ASA Liaison**

Sally Willson Weimer  
University of California, Santa Barbara

The purpose of this report and the liaison’s responsibility is to support the ACRL Strategic Plan and to continue to build communication and partnerships between ASA and ALA’s Association of College and Research Libraries Division (ACRL). This is an evolving process and many team members participate in building this coalition of academic interests and collegial relationships. The strategic goal of emphasizing the high value of academic libraries has been achieved.

### **ASA and the ASA Section on Teaching and Learning in Sociology (STLS)**

Sally continues to serve as member of ASA STLS Cooperative Initiatives Committee to share opportunities and developments of the ALA ACRL ANSS Instruction and Information Literacy Committee (IIL) on which she also serves.

### **ACRL and Its Affiliates Activities**

*ACRL ANSS on Scholarly Communication/Open Access*  
Sally and Pauline Manaka of University of California (UC), Irvine, discussed the role of the UC Sociology Consortium in Collaboration with UC California Digital Library, digital preservation, UC eScholarship, ASA Institutional Archives, ASA TRAILS, UC Curation Center (UC3), and additional open access/ low cost, high value resources, during the ANSS Sociology Librarians Discussion Group meeting, Saturday June 25, 2011 at the ALA Annual Conference in New Orleans.

#### *Liaison Program*

Sally, in addition to serving on the newly formed ACRL Liaisons Assembly, serves on the ACRL Liaisons Grants Committee. This committee has been drafting preliminary policy, procedures, and criteria for eligibility of grants for liaisons in the newly transitioned Liaison program.

My special thanks to Margaret Weigers Vitullo, ASA Academic and Professional Affairs, for her collaboration; David Woolwine for his excellent leadership and communication between ASA and ANSS; Bede Mitchell, ACRL Liaisons Coordinating Committee Chair, for his excellent suggestions; Pauline Manaka, for helping to plan and implement the successful ANSS Sociology Librarians Discussion group session; Jennifer Nason Davis for her helpful suggestions; and Terry Epperson, for his wonderful suggestions.

## ANSS MEMBER PROFILES



**Janet L. Steins**, Interviewed by Helen Clements

Keywords: Anthropologists, archaeologists, exhibits, mysteries

Janet Steins is currently Associate Librarian for Collections at the Tozzer Library of Harvard University, and has been at the Tozzer for about thirteen years. She has worked in public services, technical services, and collection development over a 32-year professional career.

But those are only the dry facts of the matter. Janet began her professional career at the American Museum of Natural History. Like many of us, she has held a number of library positions, including one as a chemistry librarian. At the Tozzer Library, she works with materials in her chosen discipline, anthropology.

Janet earned a B.A. in Anthropology from the City University of New York, Queens College, and an M.A. from New York University. Her library degree is from the now-lamented Columbia University School of Library Service. She learns about her faculty and graduate students' interests by "hanging out with anthropologists," attending departmental lectures, graduate presentations and presentations at AAA, and student meetings.

Janet became interested in anthropology when she was majoring in sociology at Queens College and was intrigued by the political ferment of the 1960s and 1970s. She took a required anthropology class, and the fascination began. Her personal favorite sub-discipline is archaeology, and she has participated as a volunteer on a number of archaeological digs, including a California

Indian site, a historical project in Connecticut, and a German Neolithic site.

Regrettably, Janet says, being a librarian doesn't allow for the weeks of extended vacation she would like to be able to work at archaeological sites. Nevertheless, for about ten days in late September 2011, she will go on an archaeological tour of Roman colonial sites in Germany, in the northwestern area near Cologne. Much of the evidence for the spread of Rome's colonies comes from this area.

Janet works closely with one of the world's oldest and most respected anthropology departments. The two program-level concentrations in the department are archaeology and social anthropology. Biological anthropology, now titled Human Evolutionary Biology, became a separate program in 2009. Although formally it is a part of the Science area of the Faculty of Arts and Sciences, Tozzer Library serves all the sub-fields: archaeology, anthropological linguistics, biological and physical anthropology, and cultural and social anthropology.

Museum programs such as Harvard's were the cradle of the discipline of anthropology. Tozzer Library began in 1866 as part of the Peabody Museum of Archaeology and Ethnology.<sup>1</sup> The library has special strengths in the field of Mesoamerican archaeology and North American ethnographic materials, as one would expect from Harvard's long history of work in both regions.

Janet says that "a good librarian can learn how to build a collection," even in an area outside one's formal training. She selects "according to the needs of the discipline, rather than the subject." This means that she does not limit her choices to a certain classification number or world region, but looks for materials that serve the needs of her faculty, students, and other researchers. She believes that it's important to understand and pay attention to what questions the scientists pose, and especially to how they communicate, even down to which languages are used in their publications. Anthropology librarians understand the discipline's large amount of gray literature, its world-wide coverage, and the multiplicity of media in which anthropologists (and the people they study) communicate with each other. Though Janet chose not to get a doctorate in anthropology and doesn't consider herself a scholar *per se*, she finds the second master's very useful. She says that, "the role of scholars is to ask questions and that of librarians to help scholars find answers to them."<sup>2</sup>

A complicating factor for Harvard's constituent libraries is their sheer number. Over the university's 375 years in

existence, they have grown to 73 relatively independent departmental and school units. This leads to difficulties in communication and planning, and frequently to duplication of expensive resources. This issue has become more acute with the rapid growth and increasing costs of electronic resources, including online catalogs and electronic books and journals.

As disciplines expand beyond traditional boundaries, selection at Harvard is complicated by the fact that subject-expert librarians select materials according to overlapping criteria: by topic, by language, and by place of publication. Any given book could logically be placed in more than one collection; the Botany library, for example, has especially strong holdings on indigenous agriculture, a subject of interest to many anthropologists. Like most academic libraries, then, Harvard's librarians face challenges of re-thinking and probably re-aligning their missions and operations.

Janet sets an example for all of us in communicating about her library. She clearly enjoys working with the riches of her collection to create exhibits in space shared with the Peabody Museum. Among them have been *Codices, Chimpanzees, and Curanderas: From the Field to the Shelf* (2006), which celebrated the acquisition of Tozzer Library's quarter-millionth volume <http://www.news.harvard.edu/gazette/2006/10.12/13-tozzer.html>.

Her ongoing online exhibit, *Anthropological Influences: Great Books Chosen by Harvard Anthropologists*, had as its genesis the *Codices* exhibit. It features Harvard anthropologists' comments about books that have influenced their careers. Janet presented information about this exhibit at the Anthropology Librarians Discussion Group at the Midwinter 2010 meeting. Find the exhibit at: [http://hcl.harvard.edu/libraries/tozzer/collections/great\\_books/index.cfm](http://hcl.harvard.edu/libraries/tozzer/collections/great_books/index.cfm). A particularly useful feature is that it includes links to the authors mentioned as well as links to those books in *HOLLIS*, Harvard's online public access catalog.

Janet also curated the current exhibit, *Native Life in the Americas*. This exhibit contains some 40 pieces of art, primarily from portfolios of prints in the Library's collections. She had the benefit of the Peabody Museum's expert exhibit staff, who helped to mount and publicize the exhibit. Featured artists include Carlos Mérida, Alan Houser, Geronima Cruz-Montoya, Louie Ewing, and Amos Bad Heart Buffalo. Some of these artists may not be well known to the general public, but their representations of Native life reveal indigenous knowledge and expressive styles in ways that more famous portrayals may not. Janet notes that art resources

such as print portfolios are the fortunate result of close, longstanding relationships between anthropology libraries and museums. (If you're in the Boston area, the exhibit will run through February 28, 2012; its online presence is <http://www.peabody.harvard.edu/node/695>).

Janet is a long-term ANSS member. She remembers ANSS of the 1980s and 1990s as a "small, active group" whose members rotated in and out of the same officer and committee positions. Janet wrote the first manual for ANSS officers and committee chairs, and was co-editor of the first newsletter along with Steve MacLeod. Janet's mentor, Pam Haas, invited Janet to attend her ANSS program in New York in 1980, while she was working at the American Museum of Natural History.

The yearly programs and the socials are still her favorite parts of ALA meetings. The thematic programs featuring guest speakers are a major way of attracting people from outside the section to ANSS meetings. While ANSS is not a large section within ACRL, it is discipline based, and as such, is highly conscious of attracting scholars as well as librarians. "We don't just want to talk to ourselves," Janet said. She also mentioned the importance of the discussion groups, and plans that "as long as I'm working I'll be a member of ANSS." She also mentioned that three of her colleagues will be well known to many ANSS members: Lars Klint, Tozzer's Acquisitions Librarian, Isabel Quintana, Head of Technical Services and Catalog Librarian, and Gregory A. (Greg) Finnegan, Associate Librarian for Public Services and Head of Reference, ANSS Chair, 1986/87.

Beyond the workday, Janet hikes and bike rides. She's "a big baseball and classical music fan (NY Mets, Boston Red Sox, Beethoven, Copeland, and Ralph Vaughan Williams)." She "loves antiquarian book fairs," and her reading tastes "tend toward archaeo- and bibliomysteries" (She mentioned John Dunning, Kathy Reichs, Aaron Elkins, and Elizabeth Peters especially). She also likes biographies of archaeologists. And since Janet is also a big collector of library postcards, I'll be sending her a couple from Oklahoma!

(Interviewer's note: Janet's experience and willingness to teach came through clearly when we talked. She's an energetic lady, and I feel energized by having her share her knowledge.)

#### Notes

1. In North America, the "founders" include the University of Pennsylvania Museum (1887) and the Phoebe A. Hearst Museum at the University of California, Berkeley (1901). For a description of the Tozzer Library's holdings, see Harvard's *VIA*, the Visual Information Access system catalog, at

<http://hul.harvard.edu/cmtes/ulc/aac/via/desc-Tozzer.html>. Janet's article, "Anthropology Libraries," appeared in the *Encyclopedia of Library and Information Science*, 2nd edition, First Update Supplement, pages 53-65. (Miriam R. Drake. Ed., CRC Press, 2005).

2. Another small part of Janet's work involves finding and questioning errors—for instance, when a book vendor classifies a book on the Magdalenean culture of the Upper Paleolithic (Western Europe, ~17,000-9,000 years B.P.) in American History.



**Chris Smith** - Former ANSS Chair, Interviewed by Beth Sheehan

Chris Smith has a long history of involvement with the Anthropology and Sociology Section of ACRL in her 23 years of professional librarianship. In addition to serving as ANSS Chair in 1998-1999, she has been Member-At-Large, Secretary, and has participated in nearly every ANSS committee. She is presently convener of the Anthropology Librarians Discussion Group, and was the solo convener of this group for four years in the 1990's. She has also previously served as co-convener of the Sociology and Criminal Justice/Criminology Librarians Discussion groups.

During her time as ANSS Chair, the tradition of the ANSS Social began. A new ANSS member e-mailed Chris prior to the 1999 ALA Midwinter meeting in Philadelphia, and asked her whether there were any ANSS social events. There had never been an official ANSS social event before, and when Chris heard from another ANSS member that the LPSS section was planning a social in Philly at the aptly named "Library Lounge," she arranged for ANSS to join them. Although the sender of the e-mail did not attend, at least half a dozen seasoned ANSS members did, and the ANSS Social was born. This tradition continues today and is enjoyed by many members. Thanks, Chris!

Chris also started the wheels in motion to create the ANSS Membership Committee. She felt that it would be

important to have a membership committee to be proactive about retaining and recruiting members, and suggested that it would be a good way for new professionals in the Member-at-Large position to get involved, by placing them as co-chair of the Membership Committee. Chris served on the inaugural Membership Committee from 2002-2004.

In addition to her active membership in ANSS, Chris has also previously served in various capacities in the ALA's NMRT, RUSA, and ASCLA.

Librarianship is Chris Smith's third career. She received a B.A. in Anthropology and a M.A. in Archaeology from UCLA, and after receiving her master's degree she worked for two years in Tokyo, Japan, teaching English as a second language at a Quaker girls' school. Upon returning to the United States, she completed a one-year TESL (Teaching English as a Second Language) certificate program at UCLA. Chris then returned to her anthropological roots, working as a historical archaeologist for an environmental consulting firm in San Diego. After seven years, a layoff sent Chris back to teaching ESL, this time to Southeast Asian refugee adults in central California. Looking for a more stable career than teaching ESL, Chris took the advice of a colleague who had suggested she become a librarian—Chris had organized libraries in her last two jobs, an ESL teaching materials library and a cultural resources management library. She had also taken archives and museum studies classes while in San Diego. She received her MLS from San Jose State University in December 1987, took her first professional librarian job at University of Nevada, Las Vegas in 1988, and subsequently moved to her current position at Boston University, where she has been the Anthropology and Sociology Bibliographer since 1989.

Chris rates reference and collection development in anthropology and sociology as her favorite aspect of being a librarian, noting that many of the books in these fields can often be "not only interesting, but downright controversial!"

In addition to her professional interests, Chris developed a personal interest in learning about Greenland and the Arctic after hosting a foreign exchange student from Greenland. Inspired by Greenland's political and cultural connection to Denmark, and her one-fourth Danish heritage (genealogy is another of her passions), she is currently taking Danish language classes with the Danish Society of Massachusetts. She notes that due to her language skills (she also has some steadily eroding Japanese, Russian, and French in her repertoire), her colleagues sometimes turn to her for help deciphering foreign language materials. Chris' global perspective and

expertise are valuable assets to the library and ANSS community. Thank you Chris, for your many contributions and commitment to ANSS through the years!

### MEMBER NEWS

Recent Simmons GSLIS graduate and ANSS member Seth Kershner has been busy researching the grassroots movement against the military presence in public schools. Over the past several years, he and Dr. Scott Harding (University of Connecticut School of Social Work) have been among a handful of scholars investigating the counter-recruitment movement. An article that they co-authored, “‘Just Say No’: Organizing Against Militarism in Public Schools,” was published last summer in the *Journal of Sociology and Social Welfare*. Seth will travel to Miami on October 21 to present another paper, “Singled Out, but Standing Tall: Responding to Repression in the U.S. Counter-Recruitment Movement, 1973-1988,” at the annual meeting of the Peace History Society.



ANSS Executive Committee, Annual, 2011



ANSS Social, ALA Annual, New Orleans, 2011



More fun at Lucy's, ALA Annual, 2011

### Preliminary Meeting Schedule, 2012 Dallas

#### **Friday, January 20**

ANSS Social TBA

#### **Saturday, January 21**

Executive I (1 <sup>st</sup> of 2)	8:00 – 10:00 a.m.
Membership	8:00 – 10:00 a.m.
Sociology Lib's Disc. Group	10:30 – 12:00 p.m.
Subject & Bib. Access	10:30 – 12:00 p.m.
Conf. Prgm Planning 2012	10:30 – 12:00 p.m.
Publications	1:30 – 3:30 p.m.
Resource Review & Bib	4:00 – 5:30 p.m.
Criminal Justice/Crim Disc Grp	4:00 – 5:30 p.m.

#### **Sunday, January 22**

Conf. Prgm Planning 2013	8:00 – 10:00 a.m.
Nominating 2013	8:00 – 10:00 a.m.
Instruction & Info Lit	10:30 – 12:00 p.m.
Anthropology Lib's Disc Grp	4:00 – 5:30 p.m.

#### **Monday, January 23**

Review & Planning	8:00 – 10:00 a.m.
Executive II (2 <sup>nd</sup> of 2)	10:30 – 12:00 p.m.

## ARTICLES

### **“Not just another library conference:” A profile of the first annual Social Sciences Librarian Boot Camp**

By Beth Sheehan

The first Social Sciences Librarian Boot Camp on June 17, 2011 at Tufts University was created with a vision: to provide a small, intimate learning environment for academic social science librarians to experience social science research from the faculty’s perspective.

The idea first struck Laurie Sabol, Social Sciences Reference Librarian at Tufts’ Tisch Library, while chatting with a colleague about the University of Massachusetts’ Science Boot Camp for librarians. Sabol recalls the moment the lightbulb went on: “I thought, why don’t we do this for the social sciences as well?” She set the wheels in motion with co-organizer Martha Kelehan, Social Science Bibliographer and Gifts Coordinator at Tisch Library, and after just six months of planning and preparation, the Social Sciences Librarian Boot Camp was born.

Held in the Tisch Library at Tufts University, the first Boot Camp was a one-day seminar with faculty lecturers from Tufts University, other academic institutions including Boston College, Trinity College, and Northeastern University, and speakers from organizations such as the public healthcare NGO Konbit Sante and the Interuniversity Consortium for Political and Social Research (ICPSR). The morning session featured three faculty lectures on Haiti: political and economic status, public healthcare crises before and after the January 2010 earthquake, and crisis mapping. In the afternoon, participants chose between simultaneous small group sessions on understanding and working with data, social science research methods, or GIS; the day ended with a plenary session on Open Access for Social Scientists. Meal times (breakfast, lunch and dinner reception) offered an opportunity for participants to mingle and network.

Originally conceived as a small local event, the first Social Sciences Librarian Boot Camp drew 73 academic librarians from 12 New England, Mid-Atlantic, and Midwest states. This was a welcome surprise to co-organizers Sabol and Kelehan: “We expected that most people would probably just drive in from the surrounding area for the day, so we were surprised when we started getting requests for lodging information.”

When asked what they hoped participants would gain from the experience, Sabol and Kelehan commented that “we don’t want it to be just another library conference. There are already a lot of good library conferences out

there, but this one is unique because it offers librarians the opportunity to hear from faculty about their research as though they are a student in their class,” and to hear faculty perspectives on frequent topics of librarian discourse, such as open access and data management.

Sabol and Kelehan credit the support and flexibility of the Tufts library and university administration as one of the key contributors to the success of Boot Camp 2011, and are grateful that they were given the opportunity to make decisions and “make it happen” in six month’s time.

Will there be another Social Sciences Librarian Boot Camp in the future? Sabol and Kelehan say “we are in the early planning stages for next year.” They plan to host the Boot Camp at Tufts again in 2012, and intend for another institution to host the third year, similar to the Science Boot Camp model. Their advice to other librarians interested in hosting a Boot Camp at their institution? “Go for it!”

### **Results from the Anthropology and Sociology Membership Survey**

By Jennifer Darragh

In May of this past year we launched a survey to determine if ANSS was meeting the needs and expectations of its members. The survey was in planning for nearly a year, and incorporated questions from several committees within the section (Membership, Publications, Instruction and Information Literacy, and Subject and Bibliographic Access).

The survey was launched on May 23rd and closed eight days later on May 31st. Out of approximately 507 members (as of April 2011) we obtained 61 responses, which is about 12% of the total membership in the section. While the response rate is small, we did obtain some very useful information. We found that the majority of respondents were positive about ANSS in general, our programs, and the work of our committees. We also learned that 54% of the respondents would prefer more opportunities for virtual committee participation and that 82% of respondents prefer we communicate primarily via ANSS-L (rather than ALA Connect). To view the full set of questions and the responses (text comments excluded for privacy), please see the final pages of this article.

With regard to the comments, we obtained some wonderful insights on areas in which we could expand and add value to your membership in the section. Some suggestions included collaborating with other sections or even other division groups for broader programming to address topics that affect our profession as a whole;

more discussion in between conferences in virtual spaces; beefing up our website to include more tools for professional development and spotlighting new and useful technology; creating a repository of information literacy teaching materials; and also outreach to related professional organizations in other countries.

The Instruction and Information Literacy Committee is actively working on building a repository of useful teaching tools, and the Publications Committee is moving forward with work on our website, newly redesigned over the past year <http://anssacrl.wordpress.com/>, to incorporate some of the ideas mentioned from this survey. Stay tuned over the next year as more and more content is added. The Executive Committee will also be discussing how to ensure that more members can participate virtually should they wish to do so, and how we can continue conversations once conferences are over.

For those who participated in the survey, we thank you! ANSS is nothing without its members, and we want to make sure that you value your membership in the section and that it brings something to your professional endeavors. The Membership Committee plans to repeat this survey sometime in the next year or two to see how we meet your needs, and where we can continue to improve.

### **1. How well does the Anthropology and Sociology Section (ANSS) meet your needs in the following areas?**

#### **Current Awareness**

Very Well 37.7%  
Somewhat Well 50.8%  
Not Well 6.6%  
N/A or No Opinion 4.9%

#### **Continuing Education**

Very Well 9.8%  
Somewhat Well 54.1%  
Not well 11.5%  
Not at all 1.6%  
N/A or No Opinion 23%

#### **Professional Networking**

Very Well 54.1%  
Somewhat Well 26.2%  
Not Well 4.9%  
N/A or No Opinion 14.8%

#### **Leadership Opportunities**

Very Well 39.3%  
Somewhat Well 29.5%

Not Well 6.6%  
Not At All 3.3%  
N/A or No Opinion 21.3%

### **2. Would you recommend membership to a colleague in a related discipline?**

Yes 95%  
No 4.9%

### **3. How many American Library Association (ALA) Midwinter Meetings have you attended in the past five years?**

Five 25%  
Three or Four 26.2%  
One or Two 21.3%  
Never Attended 27.9%

### **4. How many ALA Annual Conferences have you attended in the past five years?**

Five 31%  
Three or Four 30%  
One or Two 16%  
Never Attended 23%

### **5. How many ANSS committees have you served on in the past five years?**

Five or more 6.6%  
Three or four 18%  
One or two 30%  
None 46%

### **6. Do you prefer to participate virtually or in person on section committees?**

In Person 46%  
Virtually 54%

### **7. If you have attended ALA's Annual Conferences, how many times have you attended the ANSS Annual Conference Program in the past five years?**

Four or Five 18%  
Two or Three 20%  
Once 18%  
Never Attended 18%  
N/A 26%

### **8. If you have attended the ANSS Annual Conference Program, how would you rate the overall quality of the following? (34 Respondents)**

#### **Topics**

Very Good 68%  
Good 32%

#### **Speakers**

Very Good 68%

Good 29%  
Neither Good nor Bad 3%

### **Organization**

Very Good 62%  
Good 38%

### **9. How many times have you attended the ANSS Social in the past 5 years?**

Four or Five 21%  
Two or Three 18%  
Once 9.8%  
Never 41%  
N/A 9.8%

### **10. How valuable to you are the following services of the ANSS Subject and Bibliographic Access Committee?**

#### **Monthly Cataloging Questions & Answers**

Very Valuable 23%  
Valuable 13.1%  
Not Particularly Valuable 16.4%  
Not Valuable at All 9.8%  
N/A or No Opinion 37.7%

#### **Monthly List of New Subject Headings in the Social Sciences**

Very Valuable 21.3%  
Valuable 24.6%  
Not Particularly Valuable 13.1%  
Not Valuable at All 8.2%  
N/A or No Opinion 32.8%

#### **Assistance with Cataloging Questions**

Very Valuable 6.6%  
Valuable 16.4%  
Not Particularly Valuable 13.1%  
Not Valuable at All 11.5%  
N/A or No Opinion 52.5%

#### **Subject and Bibliographic Access Committee Section of the ANSS Wiki**

Very Valuable 11.5%  
Valuable 19.7%  
Not Particularly Valuable 9.8%  
Not Valuable at All 6.6%  
N/A or No Opinion 52.5%

#### **Subject Headings Handouts for ANSS Annual Conference Programs**

Very Valuable 8.2%  
Valuable 16.4%  
Not Particularly Valuable 4.9%

Not Valuable at All 8.2%  
N/A or No Opinion 62.3%

### **11. What frustrates you most about cataloging?**

Subject Headings 14.8%  
Author Entries 0  
Titles Entries 1.6%  
Series Tracings 8.2%  
Genre Headings 4.9%  
Other 6.6%  
No Opinion or N/A 64%

### **12. How would you prefer that ANSS communicate with you? (Check all that apply.)**

ANSS-L 82%  
ANSS Currents Newsletter 60.7%  
ANSSWeb 41%  
ANSS Facebook 31%  
ALA Connect 13.1%  
Other 4.9% (Email)

### **13. ANSS's Instruction and Information Literacy Committee has sought to identify key behaviors and practices that promote information literacy in Anthropology and Sociology. To that end, it has pursued the creation of an ANSS Information Literacy Repository which would collect, preserve, and provide access to vetted teaching materials as an action item. To what extent do you think this is a resource you would use in your own instruction?**

Very Likely 32.8%  
Likely 32.8%  
Unlikely 8.2%  
Highly Unlikely 4.9%  
N/A or No Opinion 21.3%

### **14. How likely is it that you would contribute to such a repository if it were developed and supported?**

Very Likely 9.8%  
Likely 45.9%  
Unlikely 14.8%  
Highly Unlikely 6.6%  
N/A or No Opinion 23%

### **15. Would you be more likely to use the repository if it contained the following?**

All Born Digital Materials 13.1%  
Mostly Born Digital Materials 16.4%  
Mostly Print Materials 0%  
All Print Materials 0%  
An Even Mix of Born Digital and Print Materials 32.8%  
N/A or No Opinion 37.7%

## REVIEW

### ***Sociological Abstracts* Becomes a CSA/ProQuest Database**

Helen P. Clements, Associate Professor

Oklahoma State University

[helen.clements@okstate.edu](mailto:helen.clements@okstate.edu)

Reviewed June and September 2011

Review of *Sociological Abstracts*, an online database which “abstracts and indexes the international literature in sociology.”

Publisher: ProQuest

789 E. Eisenhower Parkway, P.O. Box 1346

Ann Arbor, MI 48106-1346

Phone 1-734-761-4700

Coverage: “Abstracts and indexes the international literature in sociology and related disciplines in the social and behavioral sciences.” Indexing began in 1952.

Cost: Depends on the number of FTEs at an institution. Consortial or package pricing may be available. This database is part of a much larger set of databases offered by ProQuest. For more information, contact a ProQuest representative.

Contact page for sales account representatives and customer support:

<http://www.proquest.com/en-US/aboutus/contactus.shtml>

### **Introduction:**

Librarians have grown accustomed to frequent changes in the appearance and functionality of their subscription databases. They are also familiar with the trend toward mergers and acquisitions in the publishing and database industries. Following this trend CSA, once known as Cambridge Scientific Associates, has adopted a new, but well-known name. In 2007 the Cambridge Information Group (CIG) completed its acquisition of ProQuest Information and Learning, creating a global group which includes ProQuest, Bowker, Dialog, Serials Solutions, and Ulrichsweb, as well as *Congressional Insight* and *Statistical Insight*, both of which were formerly LexisNexis databases. The company has also recently acquired *ebrary*, a major provider of e-book content. The process of integrating these services is well underway, but not yet complete.

The company is now doing business as ProQuest and is recognized as one of the largest subscription database aggregators. ProQuest traces its ancestry via the Xerox Corporation to the venerable University Microfilms, which was founded in 1938 (ProQuest 2011, Website, “About Us” <http://www.proquest.com/en-US/aboutus/>). Cambridge Information Group dates to 1971 and is “a family owned management and investment firm, primarily focused on education, research and information services companies. CIG provides strategic direction, financial planning, and oversight of these operating units” (CIG website, <http://www.cig.com>).

### **The New ProQuest Platform**

*Sociological Abstracts* is only one of several hundred databases offered by ProQuest. The company’s third release of its new platform rolled out in summer, 2011. The company has worked with academic librarians to test the upgraded databases and has used their feedback to make improvements. A monthly newsletter features updates on platform improvements and new content (Babbitt).

The launch includes many, but at present not all, of the databases in the *ProQuest*, *CSA-Illumina* and *Chadwyck-Healey* collections. Both *Sociological Abstracts* and *Social Services Abstracts* were part of *CSA Illumina*; they are now included in the new interface. *Sociological Abstracts*, at least, will only be available on the ProQuest platform, rather than from other vendors (John Seguin, ProQuest sales representative, email). Database administrators, who have had databases in other platforms which now belong to Proquest, should check with their sales representatives.

As of September 2011, the databases available are over 120 from *ProQuest*, nearly 70 from *CSA Illumina*, and 4 from *Chadwyck-Healy*. A list of the databases currently available appears at the ProQuest homepage: [http://www.proquest.com/en-US/promos/platform/databases\\_supported.shtml#pqdatabases](http://www.proquest.com/en-US/promos/platform/databases_supported.shtml#pqdatabases). The first page of the migration website states that legacy platforms, including *CSA Illumina*, will continue to be available “well into 2012” (ProQuest Migration Support Center, 2011).

Using the new system raises a number of questions for librarians. Given that Proquest is integrating multiple specialized databases from three different platforms, it could be expected that the migration would proceed slowly, and that subscribing libraries would experience technical issues. This review will deal primarily with the reference-instruction and user issues, rather than the administrator-tech support issues. The questions can be grouped under several general headings:

1. What are some major changes to the search and download features of the *CSA Illumina* platform?
2. How is ProQuest helping librarians and their patrons work with the new platform? (Are some of the changes making the database(s) more difficult to use?)
3. Does *Sociological Abstracts* retain features that made it useful for graduate and faculty level research? What features enhance its usefulness? Are there some which detract?
4. How do we teach our patrons about the new platform?
5. What are some of the technical issues with the new platform?

Some of these questions can be answered promptly; others will evolve and be addressed over time through the interaction of librarians, students, faculty, and the staff of ProQuest.

### The ProQuest Platform

ProQuest's website says that many of its databases will be cross-searchable from the same basic platform. This should prove advantageous to both subscribing librarians and their patrons. A notable new feature is the grouping of databases into topical *subject areas*: the arts, business, dissertations and theses, health and medicine, history, literature and language, news and newspapers, science and technology, and social sciences. The contents of each area will vary according to the individual institution's subscription package. Libraries have the option to customize the clusters to which they assign single databases via the "Edit Subject Area" in the Administrator module. The general listing of all of an institution's subscribed databases (linked to each search page) will allow users to search across subject groups. A library may set search entry points from an overall ProQuest page or a subject area, as well as any single database. (See Figure 1.)

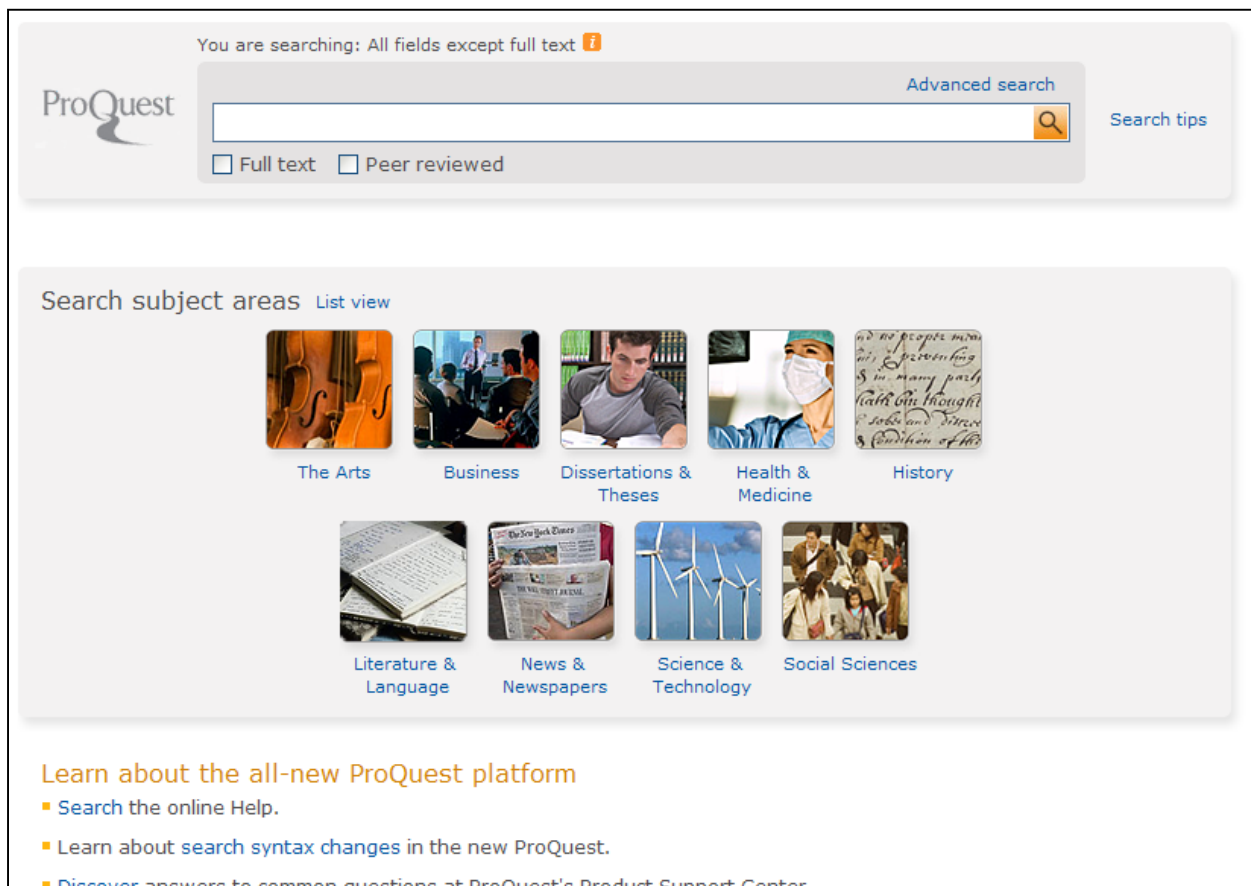


Figure 1. Proquest Basic Search (Home) Page

*Sociological Abstracts* is part of the Social Sciences cluster and will likely be so in any library's customization of that group. There is a concern that cross-searching capabilities may come at the expense of specialized features of particular databases. For example, the thesaurus for *Sociological Abstracts* reflects the specialized terminology of the discipline. This may not be matched by indexing terms in the ProQuest Research Library. A careful researcher with sufficient time to work would search the databases separately or use "or" in the Advanced Search to allow for different terminologies.

Librarians may appreciate the information for faculty provided on the *ProQuest.com* site, which gives an enticing overview of key features such as finding an article from a citation, saving, tagging and sharing articles, and alerts about new articles or new issues of selected journals:

[http://www.proquest.com.argo.library.okstate.edu/assets/media/products/platform/1631\\_demo01.html](http://www.proquest.com.argo.library.okstate.edu/assets/media/products/platform/1631_demo01.html).

### **Help Features**

While not all of ProQuest's informational materials have been updated, the ones already adapted to the new platform are thorough. The "Help" sheets and FAQs at the support centers have apparently been rewritten for increased clarity; several of them would serve well as handouts for bibliographic instruction for beginners. Several video tutorials are available for the new platform. There are also good color brochures that could be printed or linked to a library's website or course management software. Support for "Librarians and Other Learners" is quiet extensive. The Support Center acts as a portal to these resources <http://www.proquest.com/en-US/support/default.shtml>.

ProQuest is also offering both live and recorded Webinars via WebEx for this and other products. There are sessions available in English and in other languages, including French, Italian, Polish, Portuguese, Spanish, and Swedish. (The Spanish and Portuguese presenters sound as if they are native speakers.) For an overview go to <http://www.proquest.com/training>.

ProQuest's extensive help offerings mirror the difficulties of changing a highly complex system with diverse users with uneven prior exposure to academic databases. The Migration Center offers a large selection of "how to" pages with numerous screen shots that explain how to carry out each process. Administrators and tech support specialists would do well to look at the help documents provided.

Database administrators can choose whether to have the Basic or Advanced search as the default search page. A menu of search tips is available from the "Help" link in the upper right corner. It has been rewritten for clarity and to improve appearance. The "Help" section is also searchable, with clearly written FAQs.

The *Support Library* also includes numerous topics for librarians and database administrators. There is an extensive menu on items of "Federated Searching," which leads to further information on "how do federated search engines such as Serials Solutions operate with ProQuest?." See the menu for this and other topics (ProQuest Support Center 2011, "FAQ", Article 2979). There is a view counter on each FAQ article, indicating the relative level of interest on that topic.

An example is Article 1864, written for the unwary user who stumbles into the Support Center looking for journal articles, and asks why he can't find them:

ProQuest provides access to specialized information resources (databases) that require a username and password.

The ProQuest Support Center is a knowledge base to help users of our products find answers to questions about access, use, set up, and administration.

Please visit your library's homepage to see if you have access to ProQuest databases. (As of September 25, this article had been viewed over 6,000 times. Whether the users were primarily students or librarians is not known.)

### **The *Sociological Abstracts* Interface: Features Continued or Improved**

Users who are advanced students and faculty members will understandably be concerned about changes to a familiar database, especially when they are conducting literature reviews as a part of their research. Given the changes in the appearance of the search interface, finding familiar functions may be more difficult, at least at first.

To those familiar with the earlier incarnations of ProQuest, the new *Sociological Abstracts* search interface appears less cluttered. A feature that carries over from *CSA-Illumina* is the ability to use “or” in the search dialog. This may encourage users to use synonyms or alternate forms of their keywords.

ProQuest **Sociological Abstracts**  
Search | Advanced ▾ | Figures & Tables

You are searching: All fields except full text ⓘ

Advanced search

Peer reviewed

### Sociological Abstracts

This database abstracts and indexes the international literature of sociology and related disciplines in the social and behavioral sciences. The database provides abstracts of journal articles and citations to book reviews drawn from over 1,800+ serials publications and also provides abstracts of books, book chapters, dissertations, conference papers and working papers. Cited references are included for many journal articles.

You have access to:

- ProQuest Deep Indexing: Sociol
- Sociological Abstracts

[View title list](#)

Spreadsheet of titles indexed

Figure 2. *Sociological Abstracts* Basic Search (Home) Page. (Note “title list”, indexed journals)

The Excel list of journals indexed for *Sociological Abstracts* includes a “yes” or “no” for whether the journals are peer reviewed. In addition, ProQuest owns Serials Solutions, which apparently also owns the *Ulrichsweb* serials directory database. A direct link from the search results page to that database would be a much-appreciated add-on for students, who could thus verify that the articles they chose for assignments were peer reviewed (their professors would probably also be grateful). Those interested in pricing should consult with Serials Solutions.

In this regard, it should be noted that the new *Sociological Abstracts* has different levels of indexing coverage. “Core” journals are indexed more fully than “Selective” journals. In the CSA platform, “Selective” had two levels, one in which about 50 percent of articles were indexed, and another, in which fewer articles were normally covered. The list of journals now has only one “Selective” category, so it is not entirely clear whether the same level of coverage is being maintained. This could be important if journals are dropped from indexing because they publish only a few articles of concern to sociology, but those few articles are important ones.

The Glossary section (under Resources from the Support Center general menu) has very clearly-written definitions that would be useful for teaching beginning students (see the discussion on “Peer Review” below). An issue with the original ProQuest was that their “Scholarly” category included journals that were not peer reviewed. This causes problems for beginning students whose professors want them to use peer reviewed articles, and who often do not know the distinction. This distinction was marked with a tab in *CSA Sociological Abstracts*. It appears that at least for the new *Sociological Abstracts*, the distinction is being maintained. According to the Glossary:

#### **Peer Reviewed**

A publication is considered to be peer reviewed if its articles go through an official editorial process that involves review and approval by the author’s peers (people who are experts in the same subject area).

Most (but not all) scholarly publications are peer reviewed. Some trade publications are actually peer reviewed, but ProQuest does not consider them when filtering on peer reviewed. This is because getting results from trade publications instead of academic journals can be frustrating to researchers. Instead, ProQuest excludes these peer reviewed trade publications and only considers publications that are scholarly in terms of content, intent, and audience.

The new *Sociological Abstracts* has some notable improvements over the earlier version. Among the useful changes are the higher visibility of the list of indexed titles, enhancement of the “cited reference searching” capability, and the expanded “My Research” feature for saving articles and citations.

The most obvious similarity between CSA and the new *Sociological Abstracts* is that ProQuest has retained the “or” Boolean search function for the second and third rows on the Advanced Search page. The thesaurus and a listing of field codes for searching are more visible than before (See Figure 3). In general, it seems easier to find ProQuest’s Help features than before. Many of the user aids such as the thesaurus, and “Help” are now grouped in the upper right area of the search page. A two or three column structure underlies each page.

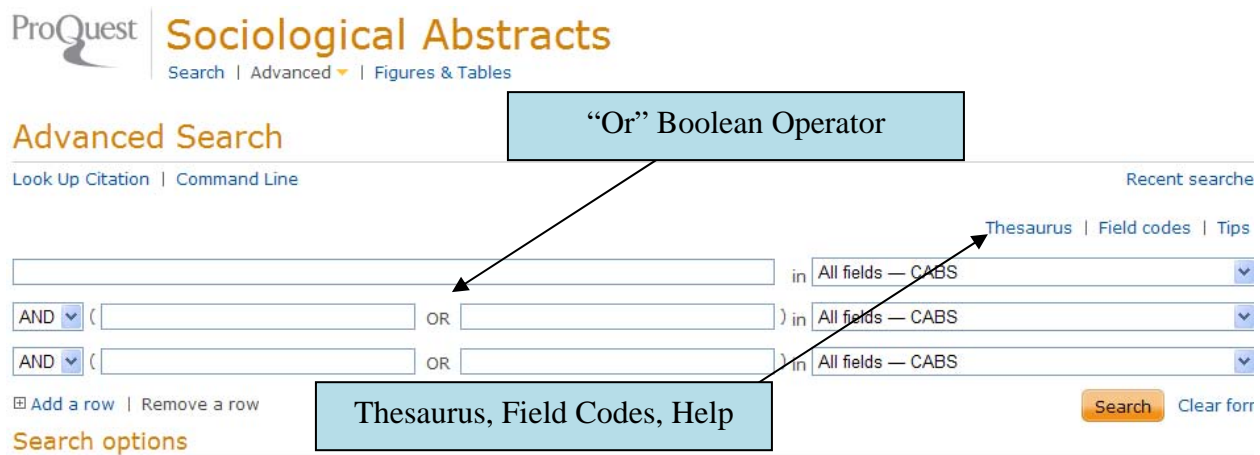


Figure 3. Features and Functions In the New Search Interface.

The new *Sociological Abstracts* still provides indexing for books, journal articles, dissertations, conference papers, book reviews, and other materials. Indexing continues to be extensive, and the classification system used to identify broad topics is still in place. These are available in the detailed record view for search results. Keyword highlighting is also available, and can be turned on or off by individual users.

The list of titles indexed in CSA *Sociological Abstracts* was rather difficult to find in the old interface. It is now linked to the database homepage (See Figure 2). If a library has chosen a search interface page as its default entry page, the home page can be accessed by clicking on the database name in the upper left corner of the page. (For information on all ProQuest journal titles, see the ProQuest homepage at <http://proquest.com/en-US/products/titlelists/tl-csa.shtml>).

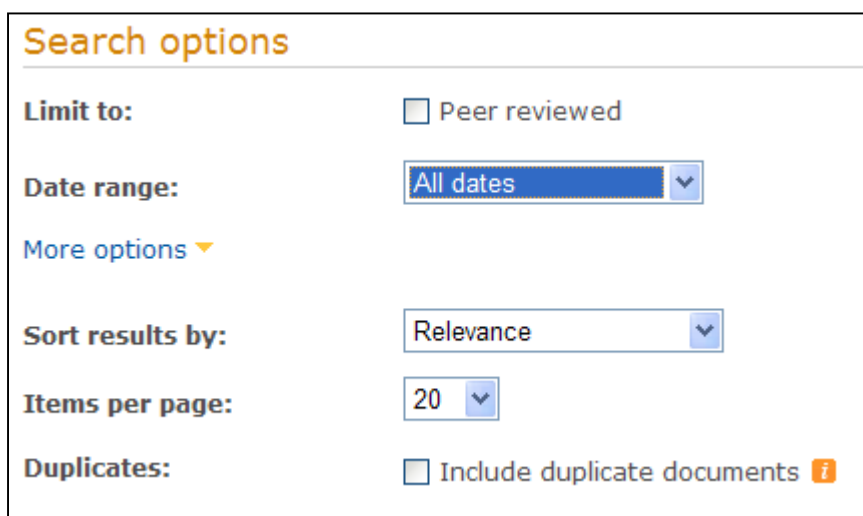
An extremely useful feature of the old *Sociological Abstracts* was the ability to filter a search for peer-reviewed items, using a tab above the search dialog area. *Peer Reviewed* is now one of the overall search limits, located below the search box as one of the limiters (see Figure 4 below). In its Glossary, ProQuest makes a clear distinction between journals that are truly peer reviewed, and academic journals without that level of rigorous review. This distinction now appears to be in use in other databases, possibly in response to patron complaints that their “scholarly journal” article turned out to be only a magazine article (see the “Peer Review” definition quoted above).

Both Basic and Advanced searches are still available. It was possible to choose databases or groups of databases in the old Illumina; the current version allows cross-searching with other Proquest databases as well. This may be useful for introducing younger students to sociological literature in addition to such general databases as the ProQuest *Research Library*. The Auto-Complete feature below the search dialog suggests possible terms. End users can use a checkbox to turn off Auto-Complete. According to ProQuest, Auto-Complete has been improved to show only correctly spelled words, which they think will be helpful for non-English speakers “or users with writing/reading difficulties” (Tim Babbitt, letter, June 16, 2011).

Search limits can easily be set from the search page, especially for Advanced Search. Options can be toggled between Less: Peer Reviewed, Date, Relevance/publication date, Items per page, and More: Peer Reviewed, Source Type, Document Type, Language, Date, Relevance/publication date, and Items per page (see Figure 4).

ProQuest is in the process of adding “Deep Indexing,” a feature that allows users to retrieve content in charts and tables by indexing that content to many databases. At present, a “Figures and Tables” search can be run separately from article searches, using the search interface. Users now have improved access to figures and tables within the full text of articles they retrieve.

A byproduct of *Sociological Abstracts*’ international journal coverage is the opportunity to practice one’s skills in other languages. A new feature, “On the Fly” machine translation, is available for both the citations abstracts and for the full text of articles. The choices between English and other languages include: Arabic, Afrikaans, French, Spanish, Italian, Polish, Swedish, and many more. The translated records carry the disclaimer that the translation is machine-generated and must be verified for accuracy; a relatively fluent speaker will probably detect those literal translations that range from good to hilarious to almost unintelligible. Listening to the training Webinars is also a good chance to hear a native speaker giving library instruction in languages used by academic librarians’ patrons.



The image shows a screenshot of a search interface titled "Search options". It contains several settings:

- Limit to:** A checkbox labeled "Peer reviewed" which is currently unchecked.
- Date range:** A dropdown menu currently set to "All dates".
- More options:** A link with a downward arrow, indicating that more search options are available.
- Sort results by:** A dropdown menu currently set to "Relevance".
- Items per page:** A dropdown menu currently set to "20".
- Duplicates:** A checkbox labeled "Include duplicate documents" which is currently unchecked, followed by a small orange information icon.

Figure 4. Search Limiter Options (Collapsed View)

Figure 4 shows the collapsed search limiters dialog, which appears at the bottom of the search pages. Expanding the options by clicking on the “more” link reveals that the options include: Type of source (books, scholarly journals, conference reports, etc.), and Type of document (bibliography, book review, book chapter, etc.).

### Features in the Search Results Area

A new feature is a Preview function for article abstracts, activated by mousing over the citation in the search results. When there are references or later citations, if those articles are indexed in selected databases, a link appears in a box in the right column. Users will sometimes be able to click on a “similar items” link to see other relevant articles. This box may also show context-sensitive definitions. (Figure 5.)

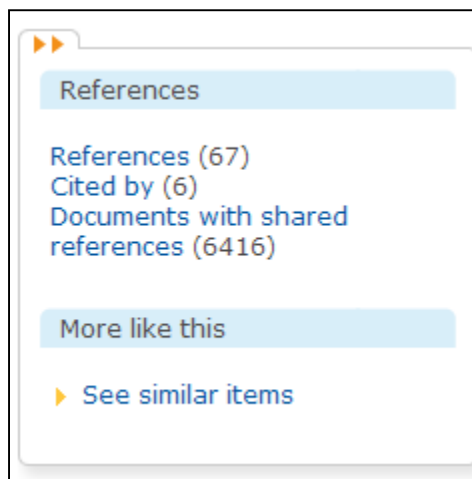


Figure 5. References, Cited by, and Similar Items

A question of interest to graduate students and faculty is whether the directory, *Community of Scholars (COS)*, will still be available in the new *Sociological Abstracts*. This tool can be valuable for identifying scholars with similar interests, helping to locate key teaching departments, and filling other researcher needs. If the author has a profile in *COS*, links from several search results show that introductory-level information on authors' affiliations and a small number of citations, are available to *Sociological Abstracts* users at no cost. The information is indicated by a dancing figure next to the author's name.

A subscription to *COS* is necessary to access the full scholar profiles; information is available from RefWorks, which ProQuest also owns (go to <http://www.refworks.com/>).

### **Links To Articles Outside Sociological Abstracts**

Whether articles are available online is always a concern for researchers at all levels. Because *Sociological Abstracts* is an indexing-only database, which does not provide full-text, links to other sources are critical. ProQuest's extensive journals holdings allow for quick availability for many titles. The fact that ProQuest also owns Serials Solutions, the link resolver software, should help users retrieve the articles they need from other sources. At the same time, this introduces the vagaries of link resolvers into the process of accessing articles, and users can be frustrated when they don't retrieve an article, despite the "link to full text" that seems to be promised. (For further details see Article 2096: "Locating Documents - CSA Illumina" which includes a list of Sage databases with direct links to the Illumina platform.

Administrators should use the ProQuest Support Center, Article 1044, "What are the Linking Options to CSA Illumina?") Another useful feature that carries over from the CSA Illumina platform is "cited reference searching." This enhancement continues a trend that was begun decades ago by the venerable *Web of Science*. *Sociological Abstracts* began adding information about citing articles for core journals in 2002, and other journals in 2004. At present, it appears that cited references are only available from selected databases. There is a list of these databases available in the Support Center FAQs (ProQuest Support Center 2011, Article 1107). A related feature, "Find Similar" or "Related Article," also appears in the right column on the results page (see Figure 5, above).

### **Saving and Sharing Search Results:**

Users can gain considerable control over their data by setting up a "My Research" account (which is free of cost but requires setting up a user profile, as is common to many databases). The fact that a folder can be shared with others, and that it can be retained even after a user leaves a university should be especially welcome. Another new communications feature is the ability to add tags to an article, and share them or keep them private. Users can also create RSS feeds (ProQuest "Quick Start Reference Overview" 2011, p. 8).

Users can save lists of results or articles to a "selected items" (formerly called "marked") list during a single research session, or save them more permanently by creating a "My Research" account. Though users who leave an institution will lose the ability to add new materials to the account, they will retain their access to material that they had stored before leaving. Users who do not access their accounts for an extended time will need to re-activate the account. Further details are in the ProQuest Help at [http://search.proquest.com/help/webframe.html?mr\\_overview.html](http://search.proquest.com/help/webframe.html?mr_overview.html).

ProQuest now owns RefWorks, so integration with that citation manager is probably more nearly seamless, it is also possible to export citations to other programs such as EndNote, ProCite, Reference Manager, or formatted files (RIS or ASCII text). The Support Center offers a document on linking to RefWorks: Article 1111: "RefWorks Bibliographic Manager."

### Citation-Making

Many users are only looking for a few articles and do not need the full features of a citation manager. A way to create a few accurate citations is a highly-desirable feature. The old ProQuest "make a citation" feature was problematic, frequently failing in such basic functions as putting authors' names in last name, first name order. The new citation maker is powered by *RefWorks* and appears to be much improved. ProQuest claims that citations can be made in some 22 different citation styles, ranging from several editions of APA and MLA, as well as the most recent ASA style. If a DOI is not available, the citation includes the URL of the document in ProQuest. As an example, the ASA 3rd style was applied to this citation.

Kracht, Benjamin R. 1994. "Kiowa Powwows: Tribal Identity through the Continuity of the Gourd Dance." *Great Plains Research* 4(2):257-257-269  
(<http://search.proquest.com/docview/61380749?accountid=4117>).

### Pricing

Pricing is based on the FTE at any given institution. Discounts may be available for multiple institutions in a consortium. Contact a ProQuest sales representative for further details. Responses to ProQuest technical and customer support have been prompt and courteous, and the extensive, searchable FAQs and browsable Help topics provide very good documentation for the databases.

### Conclusion

From the standpoint of an instruction librarian or end user, the new ProQuest platform appears to provide several significant improvements. The technical aspects of unifying three different, complex platforms originated by three different companies must be challenging, to say the least. Problems I encountered in searching were a fairly high number of "0 results" from searches that should have found at least a few articles, and in some cases the search forms did not appear to be clearing after a search. On the whole, however, it appears at present that ProQuest has made significant improvements in its database provisions, and that its production staff has been especially attentive to input from librarians and end users. Problems will undoubtedly continue to crop up as more libraries change platforms. User education will require the same patience and perseverance as before. Perhaps the fact that new ProQuest looks more like Google will be helpful.

Reviews of anthropology indexing or full-text databases have appeared in recent issues of *Currents: AnthroSource* (Spring 2008) and *Anthropology Plus* (Spring 2010). I would like to thank Sue McFadden for her comments.

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