



# ANSS CURRENTS

The Newsletter of the ACRL Anthropology & Sociology Section  
Vol. 20, No. 1 ISSN 0888-5559 Spring 2005

## Preliminary Meeting Schedule, 2005 Chicago

### Friday, June 24

ANSS Social 6-?

### Saturday, June 25

Executive (1<sup>st</sup> of 2) 8:00 - 9:00a.m.  
Liaison 9:30 - 11:00a.m.  
Review & Planning 9:30 - 11:00a.m.  
Subject & Bib. Access 9:30 - 11:00a.m.  
Soc. Lib's Disc Group 11:30-12:30p.m.  
Publications 2:00 - 4:00 p.m.  
Crim. Justice/Crim. Dis.Group 4:30-5:30 p.m.

### Sunday, June 26

ANSS Program 8:30-Noon  
Bibliography 1:00 - 4:00 p.m.  
Membership 2:00 - 4:00 p.m.  
Anthro. Lib's Disc. Group 4:30-5:30 p.m.

### Monday, June 27

Conf. Prog. Planning '06 8:00-9:00 a.m.  
Executive (2<sup>nd</sup> of 2) 10:30 - 12:30 p.m.

## MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

Wade Kotter

To begin, I want to thank everyone who contributed to the resounding success of our meetings at Midwinter in Boston. It was a pleasure to participate with so many of you in the very well attended and highly productive meetings of the Executive Committee. In addition to informative reports from each committee and discussion group, the Executive Committee discussed some more general issues, including the proposed ACRL dues increase, the issue of virtual committee meetings, and the upcoming ACRL National Conference in Minneapolis. Each chair was asked to discuss the possibility of holding virtual meetings with their committee. The consensus appears to be that committees prefer to hold their meetings face-to-face. On Monday morning, we also had the opportunity to hear briefly from the candidates for

ACRL President on Monday morning. Their willingness to arrange for this beforehand and limit themselves to the allotted time is greatly appreciated.

In addition, I want to let you know how much I enjoyed visiting many of the committee meetings and participating in all three discussion group meetings. This is truly where the rubber meets the road and everyone involved is to be commended for their dedication and hard work. Be sure to check out the committee and discussion groups that appear elsewhere in this issue of Currents.

Finally, please help spread the word about our ANSS program for Chicago 2005, "Are Subject Librarians an Endangered Species?" Additional information about this program can be found elsewhere in this issue of Currents. I look forward to seeing all of you in Chicago!

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

### Ad Hoc Committee on Information Literacy (2004-2006)

Triveni Kuchi, Susan Macicak, Co-Chairs

Committee members met at Midwinter in Boston and continued discussion of our charge: how we might incorporate the ACRL standards with Anthropology, Criminology, and Sociology-specific outcomes and how to gain the involvement, approval and endorsement by professional organizations and societies (for example AAA, ASA). After meeting, Chris Smith and Susan Macicak attended the ACRL Information Literacy Advisory Committee meeting at which representatives of ACRL sections provided updates on the status of discipline specific standards development. ILAC is identifying the steps for a process within ACRL for developing, reviewing, and approving subject specific guidelines. Paul Beavers of the ACRL Standards and Accreditation Committee reported that the Information Literacy Competency Standards for Higher Education document is currently undergoing the required 5-year review. He expressed concern that with the trend in ACRL sections developing discipline specific standards

documents, how much should the base document be revised? Mary Ellen Davis stressed that discipline specific documents must be in sync with the primary Competency Standards document so that the organization sends out a consistent message to external groups. ILAC continues this discussion via a list; interested people can email Mary Ellen Davis to join this list.

### **Bibliography Committee**

Janet Steins, Chair

The Bibliography Committee met on Sunday afternoon at the Boston Marriott. The main agenda item was a thorough critical reading of the first draft of Jose Aguinaga's review of the National Criminal Justice Reference Service (NCJRS) database. Jose will incorporate the suggestions offered as he sees fit and will provide his next draft to the members via email by the end of January. The completed review is scheduled for publication in the May, 2005, issue of *ANSS Currents*.

A brief discussion of proposed reviews followed. JoEllen Broome will be critiquing the PAIS database next. Randy Hertzler has tentatively selected Ethnic Newswatch. It was noted that the earliest reviews prepared by the Committee were never published, and possibly exist today only in the Section's archives or in individual member's files. There was in those years, however, frequent correspondence with publishers of reviewed resources upon completion of the analyses. The committee agreed that some of those publications would be good candidates for re-analysis today.

### **Conference Program Planning Committee 2005**

Lynn C. Hattendorf Westney, Brian Quinn, Co-Chairs

At the meeting, the group discussed remaining deadlines. February 22 is the last day to make any changes to room configurations. Brian mentioned that we are ready with our audio format: five table microphones and two floor microphones will be available. March 14 is the deadline to hand in the recording consent forms to ACRL. April 29 is the last day to change audio/video requests. May 2 is the last day for requesting photocopies, including handouts and evaluation forms to distribute during the program. ACRL is in the process of revising the standard evaluation form; once completed, we can request copies. ACRL recommends handing out the evaluation forms at the beginning of the presentation because one third of attendees tend to leave sometime during the program. Wade suggested that we could place our handouts and evaluation forms

on each seat in the room. Ideas to promote the program included: publish descriptions in ACRL News, American Libraries, and committee newsletters, and place flyers at the ACRL booth in Minneapolis. Pauline volunteered to create a brochure for the program, which will include a short biography of each of the speakers, and a bibliography.

We then turned to ideas for generating discussion at the Chicago Program. By March, we hope to have accomplished the following: asked the panelists for their major issues, solicited input from the ANSS community via ANSS-L, and created a core list of readings to share.

As the likely venue for the program is the McCormick Place Convention Center, the Committee discussed logistics of offering and serving refreshments. The catering unit for the MPCC has been contacted and a tentative menu has been explored. Thanks Mimmo. Additionally, the Committee agreed that some additional monies need to be set aside for lunch with the panelist.

### **Membership Committee**

Susan Erickson, Brita Servaes, Co-Chairs

The Social at Café Jafa was very successful, three non-members (potential members) and many members who have not been active on committees for a while, but expressed their interest. A copy of the list will be forwarded to Shawn Nicholson for recruitment to committee assignments. The Sign-in sheet was very helpful, but would benefit from a separate column for e-mail addresses. Elizabeth Cooper will investigate locations for the Chicago Social.

Sue Erickson has revised and updated the Welcome letter and will include the Jaguar Man logo in order to make it more eye-catching and give it the ANSS "brand." The new version of the letter will also be compatible with mail merge and will be sent out via e-mail when possible.

The ANSS brochures are updated. It was decided not to send brochures to new members, but rather keep the brochures for events and conferences (e.g. ACRL booth, ANSS programs at Annual meetings) to solicit new members.

It was hoped that at least one ANSS section member would be at ACRL Conference.

We want a list of ANSS members who are not yet subscribed to ANSS-L. Should all new members be

automatically subscribed to ANSS-L? Can *Currents* be sent directly to all ANSS members via e-mail, rather than via ANSS-L? .

### **Publications Committee**

JoAnn Jacoby, Chair

The Committee welcomed Susan Metcalf of New Mexico State University who agreed to join Erin Daix as co-editor of ANSSWeb. We discussed a suggestion to include photos in the newsletter and decided to create a section of the website where pictures can be posted instead, due to limits on the length of ACRL section newsletters. The Committee will decide whether to migrate ANSSWeb to the ALA server after Erin completes her training on the ALA content management system this spring. In the meantime, Erin has set-up a redirect so that [www.acrl.org/ANSS](http://www.acrl.org/ANSS) goes to the current site at Old Dominion. The Committee talked about redesigning the brochure and JoAnn will follow up with Mary Jane Petrowski regarding the money periodically available from ACRL to redo brochures. JoAnn reported that ANSS-L has approximately 200 subscribers. Erin will ask the membership committee to request a report from ACRL identifying which members are not subscribers, so Membership can follow-up with them. Isabel requested that an interactive form for submitting proposals for new subject headings be created on ANSSWeb. Erin will see whether this is possible on the ALA site (if migration seems imminent) or implement it on the current site (if we don't migrate).

### **Review and Planning Committee**

James D. Haug, Chair

During its meeting, the committee considered and acted on four matters. First, it approved revisions of the list of functions and responsibilities of the Secretary that appear in ANSS Manual. The revisions, which clarify the Secretary's role, involve items 1 through 4. They will be incorporated into the Manual. Secondly, it continued discussion of an issue introduced in Orlando; that is, whether or not each of the co-chairs of a standing committee should be permitted to cast a vote on some question or proposal brought before the ANSS Executive Committee. In the course of its discussion the committee decided that it wanted to know how the ACRL Bylaws Committee viewed this matter; if other sections had faced this problem; and, if so, how they had treated it. To this end, the Chair of the Review & Planning Committee will ask the ACRL Bylaws Committee about the practice of dual voting by co-chairs among other sections. Thirdly, the committee considered the status of the Ad Hoc Information Literacy Committee, and decided to propose that it

be made a standing committee of ANSS. The proposal will be voted on by the ANSS Executive Committee when it meets in Chicago. Finally, the committee discussed a letter concerning *AnthroSource* to be addressed to the University of California Press (UCP). Royce Kurtz, last year's committee chair, will write the letter. After it has been drafted it will be virtually vetted and approved by the ANSS Executive Committee, and then submitted to the ACRL Board for its approval before being sent to the UCP.

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

Isabel del Carmen Quintana, Fred J. Hay, Co-Chairs

Co-Chairs Quintana and Hay met January 15 with guest Elisa Tan. We discussed the subject heading proposal form on the ANSS webpage and our desire to make the form interactive. Possible candidates for committee membership were discussed. Since the committee has received very positive feedback on Isabel's cataloging questions and answers posted on ANSS-L, we developed a new list of questions for monthly postings that will run through the annual meeting in June.

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## **DISCUSSION GROUP REPORTS**

### **Criminal Justice/Criminology Librarians Discussion Group**

Jon J. Harrison, J. Christina Smith, Co-Conveners

Professor Daniel LeClair, Chairman of the Department of Criminal Justice, Metropolitan College, Boston University, spoke about traditional bricks and mortar criminal justice programs and online criminal justice programs, comparing the research/library needs of the students in each program.

He began by giving us a short history of the online MCJ program, which began in the summer of 2002. BU's first online distance education program, it started with 50 students, has had three graduating classes, and now enrolls 500 students from around the world. Students include National Guardsmen serving in Iraq and Afghanistan, government employees, the CIA and FBI, the military, and police officers, the latter preferring distance education programs to local face-to-face programs where they might encounter their underlings in class. Students also include individuals getting out of prison, as BU has a prison education undergraduate studies program.

There is no distinction between traditional and online classes. The faculty and courses are the same for both programs. The traditional face-to-face program offers all of its courses from 6:00 to 9:30 PM and has always catered to nontraditional students who work full time and rush to classes from work.

Teaching the online program has brought changes to the traditional program. Lectures are now available online before class, for example. Evaluations of face-to-face program faculty have improved since faculty began teaching the same courses online.

Professor LeClair has found the quality of work of online students to be higher than that of traditional students. (He also noted that many a paper has been written by the spouse of a police officer). The program utilizes online plagiarism prevention software.

With respect to library use and library research needs of students in the criminal justice programs..... Students in BU's traditional criminal justice programs rarely visit the BU libraries. Traditional students are too busy with work, evening classes, and their lives; online students do not have Interlibrary Loan access at present. Library materials needed for class assignments are made available on the Web. There are chapters on e-reserves, journal articles, pre-pub articles, and government documents. With respect to e-reserves of copyrighted materials, the university complies with copyright laws for distance education. The bookstore sends textbooks to the distance education students. Lab assignments in a class on victimology might require the use of TV news, newspapers, and magazines such as Time or Newsweek. Case studies for a class on white collar crime might require searching for dental fraud in newspapers. In addition to lab work and case studies, students are also assigned traditional research papers. Facilitators, individuals with doctorates or law degrees, are assigned to work with groups of 15 students in the distance education program. They conduct discussions and may be called upon to help students understand the intricacies of a literature review.

Currently the BU program is not certified in Massachusetts under the Quinn Bill, or Police Career Incentive Pay Program. Enacted in 1970 by the Massachusetts legislature, this program was to

encourage police officers in participating municipalities to earn degrees in law enforcement and criminal justice and to provide educational incentives through salary increases. In order to obtain certification, the university will need to strengthen its library holdings in criminal justice. In setting up the online program, the university did not address the need for library materials to support the distance education students. It is hoped that there will be funding from outside of the library to help this come about.

The Criminal Justice/Criminology Librarians Discussion Group is looking for co-conveners for the 2005-2007 term, beginning after Annual Conference in Chicago.

### **Sociology Librarians Discussion Group**

Brian Quinn, Sally Willson Weimer, Co-Conveners

The Sociology Librarians Discussion Group meeting featured Jill Blaemers, Director of Social Sciences, CSA. She presented an overview of the new CSA Illumina platform, with specific examples using the Sociological Abstracts and Social Service Abstracts data bases. She demonstrated and discussed the features of this newly redesigned product. There was lively discussion of new strategies and techniques to identify and locate relevant and current sociological research materials, both print and web. Then, Sally Willson Weimer gave a progress report on collaborative activities between librarians and sociologists who are members of the Teaching and Learning Section of the American Sociological Association. Both Sally and Pauline Manaka serve on the Cooperative Initiatives Committee of this ASA section.

Both co-conveners requested that librarians give suggested topics for discussion for the ALA Annual Conference in Chicago. Please contact either of the co-conveners to give your suggestions for topics to be discussed: including collections development; outreach to faculty; information literacy; new research sources; and contributing to the sociology research web page of ANSS resources. This was a very well-attended session: about 20 librarians attended.

**REVIEW****National Criminal Justice Reference Service (NCJRS): An evaluation (<http://www.ncjrs.org>)  
January 2005**

Reviewed by José A. Aguiñaga, California State University, Long Beach  
National Criminal Justice Reference Service (NCJRS)  
P.O. Box 6000, Rockville, MD 20849-6000  
800-851-3420, 301-519-5500, 301-519-5212 (fax)  
TTY Service for the Hearing Impaired (toll free): 1-877-712-9279 (local): 301-947-8374  
Reference assistance: <http://askncjrs.ncjrs.org>  
Comments and suggestions: <http://tellncjrs.ncjrs.org>

**INTRODUCTION**

In 1972, the National Institute of Justice, an agency within the Office of Justice Programs, U.S. Department of Justice, established the National Criminal Justice Reference Service (NCJRS). The following federal sponsoring agencies contribute to NCJRS:

## U.S. Department of Justice:

- Office of Justice Programs
  - Office of the Assistant Attorney General
  - Community Capacity Development Office
  - Office of the Police Corps
  - Bureau of Justice Assistance
  - Bureau of Justice Statistics
  - National Institute of Justice
  - Office for Victims of Crime
  - Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention
- Office on Violence Against Women
- National Institute of Corrections
- Office of Community Oriented Policing Services

## U.S. Department of Homeland Security:

- Office for Domestic Preparedness

## Executive Office of the President:

- Office of National Drug Control Policy

This free resource is a federal information clearinghouse on criminal justice, juvenile justice, and drug policy. The NCJRS provides access to information in two sections: Library Abstracts and Full-Text Publications. Library Abstracts provides the user with the citation and abstract to the source, while Full-Text Publications gives access to the entire document. Library Abstracts currently has access to over 180,000 documents. Full-Text Publications has access to over 7,000 online resources. The majority of the full-text online resources are available in PDF format, though some are available only in HTML or ASCII formats. Some of the publications are peer-reviewed. Resources selected for inclusion in NCJRS are specifically designed to provide critical reference information to policymakers, researchers, criminal and juvenile justice practitioners, educators, community leaders, and the general public.

This review is based on the free version of NCJRS, however the database is also available from Cambridge Scientific Abstracts (as part of Criminal Justice Abstracts) and Dialog. Users with access to the CSA interface have the ability to check their local library print and electronic holdings via the OpenURL standard.

**SCOPE, COVERAGE AND CURRENCY**

The National Criminal Justice Reference Service Abstracts Database includes summaries of Federal, State, and local government reports; books; research reports; journal articles; and unpublished research. Twelve core periodicals are comprehensively abstracted (<http://www.ncjrs.org/tutorial/coreperiodical.html>):

Crime and Delinquency  
Criminal Justice and Behavior  
Criminology  
Homicide Studies  
Journal of Criminal Justice  
Journal of Criminal Law and Criminology  
Journal of Research in Crime and Delinquency

Justice Quarterly  
Justice Research and Policy  
Police Chief  
Policing: An International Journal of Police  
Strategies and Management  
Prison Journal

Many more periodicals (<http://www.ncjrs.org/tutorial/scanperiodical.html>) are routinely examined, covering corrections, courts, drugs and crime, law enforcement, juvenile justice, crime statistics, domestic preparedness, and victims of crime. A collection statement (<http://www.ncjrs.org/tutorial/colstatement.html>) summarizes the acquisitions plan for documents, which date from 1970 to the present. Most documents are available online through the NCJRS Web site. In addition, knowing the publication title and its ordering number (commonly referred to as an NCJ number) a user can place an order online for a paper copy using the NCJRS Online Ordering Store (<http://puborder.ncjrs.org/Content/search.asp>). Users may be charged for some of these publications, if they are not free online through NCJRS. Pre-1995 publications are also available on microfiche in many large academic libraries.

#### FORMAT AND ORGANIZATION

NCJRS Abstracts include title, author, sponsoring agency, purchasing address, and journal citation, as well as a 100- to 200-word summary. Keyword and index term searches of the database are easy. With the search capabilities offered, you can quickly retrieve all the citations relevant to your question or area of interest. NCJRS is user-friendly, offering three choices at the opening screen: Library Abstracts, Full-Text Publications, or Events Calendar. The Events Calendar provides an extensive list of conferences, workshops, seminars, and other events relating to juvenile and criminal justice and drug control policy. Most students will search Library Abstracts or Full-Text Publications.

##### Library Abstracts

The Library Abstracts screen provides numerous search options: Title, Subject, Author, NCJ Number, General Search (keyword), and Date Range. When using the Subject search function, results will come from words in the publication title, annotation and index terms drawn from the NCJRS thesaurus ([http://abstractsdb.ncjrs.org/content/Thesaurus/Thesaurus\\_Search.asp](http://abstractsdb.ncjrs.org/content/Thesaurus/Thesaurus_Search.asp)).

The number of results per search can be specified by the user and may range from 50 to 500. Users can sort the listing by date and title of publication.

Most users should use the General Search function. A General Search allows users to find terms anywhere in the database record, including within titles, short annotations, subject headings, authors, and NCJ numbers, as well as publishers, sponsoring agencies, journal citations, and abstracts. When executing the General Search, users should type their search with quotes, for example "juvenile delinquency". This provides results that have juvenile delinquency as one term. Individuals using the Library Abstracts search will find it intuitive, with direct links to help screens and the advanced thesaurus. Any publication included in Library Abstracts created after 1995 will be available full-text online, and the user will be able to link to it.

##### Full-Text Publications

Users searching the Full-Text Publications screen have three options: Boolean, Concept, or Pattern. Clear examples of each are given. New users should start with the Boolean search. For example, if a user searches for probation and parole, the results would be 56 hits. All of these hits would provide full-text online publications. Repeating this search with the Concept and Pattern functions, resulted in 500 hits. A Concept search will look for the words and phrases typed as well as words with a similar spelling; this is useful when you are not sure how to spell a word or a person's name. A Pattern search will look for the words typed as well as for words with a similar spelling, useful when you are not sure how to spell a word or a person's name.

#### SHARED SEARCH FUNCTIONALITY

When searching either section of NCJRS, wildcard and proximity search options are available (<http://www.ncjrs.org/tutorial/additional.html>). The following provide examples:

wildcard: "correction\*\*"

-will find correction, corrections, correctional

proximity: "juveniles incarcerated within 3"

-will find the word "juveniles" within 3 words of the word "incarcerated."

To conduct a proximity search, type the phrase "within [N]" after the search term(s). Searching Library Abstracts and Full-Text Publications both provide access to a wealth of information.

#### INDEXING AND SUBJECT ACCESS

The level and quality of indexing appears consistent throughout the abstracts database. Subject terms are drawn from the NCJRS Thesaurus; access to this thesaurus is readily available through the database. Users should be aware that subject search will look for words in the publication title, abstract, and assigned thesaurus terms. When searching the abstracts database, results will provide a link to the abstract of the document. If there is full-text availability the user will be able to link to it.

#### USER GUIDANCE

An extensive non-interactive Web-based help guide is available for the NCJRS. Referred to as the NCJRS Abstracts Database Online Tutorial (<http://www.ncjrs.org/tutorial/>), some of the areas covered in it are: Field Searches, General Searches, Limit by Date, Search Types, Additional Search Techniques, Refine Your Search, Display Your Results, Download Your Results, and How Are Results Found.

#### RELEVANCY OF SEARCH RESULTS

NCJRS provides a thorough explanation of their ranking of document relevancy. Rankings are based on the relevance criteria described below (<http://www.ncjrs.org/tutorial/howresults.html>), and results are displayed from highest relevance to lowest up to a maximum of 500 documents.

**Boolean Searches.** A Boolean search finds the exact words typed. If the word, words, or combination of words is found anywhere in a document, that document is included in the search results. Since the match is perfect, the results of a Boolean search are always 100%.

**Concept and Pattern Searches:** As a first step, this type of search simply looks for the existence or absence of query words or related terms in the document. The rank calculation process takes into account various factors - each factor adds a certain relative "weight" to the document. Added together, these weights determine a document's relevance. The "weights" are determined by the following factors:

**Completeness:** The greater the number of query words (either exactly or by reference), the higher the weight. A relevant document should contain at least one term or related term for each word in the query. If the document contains only a fraction of the original words, then the maximum rank of the document is equal to this fraction.

**Contextual Evidence:** The greater the number of related terms, the higher the weight. Words are supported by their related terms. If a document contains a word and its related terms, the word is given a higher weight because it's surrounded by supporting evidence.

**Semantic Distance:** The more closely related the terms, the higher the weight. For example, words that are synonyms of each other are more closely related than words

#### IMPORTANT BENEFITS AND SUGGESTIONS FOR IMPROVEMENT

NCJRS provides access to relevant information resources, but unlike commercial web database resources, results can not be e-mailed. Users, however, can download documents to their own computer. The ability to email results would enhance the user-friendliness of this online resource. NCJRS should also provide an annotation for each resource in the full-text publications results list. The only information that is currently shown is the title of the document, web address and the relevancy rank.

#### CONCLUSION

NCJRS is a multi-disciplinary information resource, useful to support college and university programs in Criminal Justice, Public Administration, Psychology, and Sociology. Resources in the Library Abstracts or Full-Text Publications section provide a wealth of information for students and researchers. The addition of full-text documents published since 1995 has augmented the relevance and currency of this database.



ANSS Currents Newsletter  
50 East Huron Street  
Chicago, IL 60611

Nonprofit Org.  
U.S. Postage  
**PAID**  
American Library  
Association

**ANSS Currents** (ISSN 0888-5559) is published by the Anthropology and Sociology Section of the Association of College and Research Libraries, a division of the American Library Association, 50 E. Huron St., Chicago IL 60611; (800) 545-2433, Ext. 2523. © American Library Association, 2005.

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Production & Circulation Office: 50 East Huron St., Chicago, IL 60611.

*ANSS Currents* is published semi-annually in May and November. Back issues are available from ALA/ACRL, 50 East Huron St., Chicago IL 60611.

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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>