Message from the Chair
Janet Steins, Chair, 1989/90

I'm honored to be writing to you, the members of ANSS, as I begin my year as chair of the section. It is appropriate to use the occasion to report on some activities in the works, describe some of the ideas I have for the coming year, and invite you to become involved.

Regarding the program for ALA Annual next year in Chicago, the planning is just about complete, thanks to chair, Rob Ridinger, and the rest of his conference planning committee. We will be taking advantage of our meeting in this great city, and hear archivists and curators of some of Chicago's richly varied ethnic collections describe how these materials are used by scholars in the social sciences. I'm happy to report that EMIERT (the ALA Ethnic Materials Information Exchange Round Table) and the newly formed ACRL Afro-American Studies Section will be co-sponsoring our program. We'll have much more to say about this in the spring issue of ANSS Currents. For now, I'll just ask you to reserve the time slot of Sunday, June 24, 9:30am to 12:30pm.

You have been seeing the work of the Bibliography Committee recently right here in this newsletter. ANSS Currents has published and will continue to publish critical reviews of major printed and online access tools in anthropology and sociology by members of the committee. I find the reviews extremely informative and useful, and I hope you do too. Committee chair Nancy Skipper and I would welcome your comments on this work.

The publications committee, chaired by Maggie Dittemore, will be looking into other possible publications, since this is one of the activities you, the ANSS members, have told us you want the section to be involved in. We also hope to begin opening up some channels of communication with professional associations. If you are active in an organization such as the American Anthropological Association, to name only one, and would like to report on activities which might be of interest to members of ANSS, please contact me. ANSS Currents can be a vehicle in which we begin examining shared concerns such as bibliographic instruction or subject access to the literature, the reporting of research in progress or the development of non-bibliographic data bases.

ANSS Currents is your newsletter and we want to publish news of your projects and publications. The addresses of our editors Jim Williams and Maija Lutz are on the back page. We'd like to hear from you.

1990 Midwinter Meeting Schedule

Executive Committee
Saturday, January 6, 2-4pm
Monday, January 8, 2-4pm

Bibliography Committee
Saturday, January 6, 8:30-11am
Monday, January 8, 8:30-11am

Conference Program Planning Atlanta 1991
Saturday, January 6, 8-9am
Monday, January 8, 8-9am

Conference Program Planning Chicago 1990
Saturday, January 6, 8-9am

Nominating Committee, 1991 Elections
Sunday, January 7, 11:30am-12:30pm

Publications Committee
Sunday, January 7, 2-4pm

Review and Planning
Sunday, January 7, 4:30-5:30pm

1989 Dallas Program: “Access to Anthropological Field Notes: Preservation, Collection and Ethical Issues”

The 1989 program, which was held Sunday, June 25, 9:30am-12:30pm, consisted of a panel of four speakers, each presenting views on the collection, preservation, and use of field records, with special emphasis upon ethical and practical issues. The first speaker was Kathleen T. Baxter, Reference Archivist for the National Anthropological Archives of the Smithsonian Institution. Her paper, "Access and Use of Anthropological Records," dealt with ways in which archival materials can be preserved and at the same time be made available to researchers. Her remarks were prefaced
by background information on the National Anthropological Archives, which is the successor of the archives of the former Bureau of American Ethnology and represents a major resource for the study of American Indians.

Mary Elizabeth Ruwell, Archivist for the Northeast Document Conservation Center, spoke next on “Preservation of Field Notes/Records.” In her paper she summarized the difficulties encountered in preserving and using older field records which are in various stages of deterioration. She then went on to offer suggestions for generating and storing current records so that similar problems may be avoided in the future.

The third speaker was Anthony Seeger, Curator of the Folkways Collection at the Smithsonian Institution. His presentation, “Ethics and Tactics in the Preservation of and Access to Audio and Video Field Recordings,” addressed problems unique to information recorded with cameras, tape recorders, film cameras, and video recorders. Not only do these media present special preservation problems, but they also present difficulties with issues such as documentation, disappearing playback technology, and ethics. Ethical problems of field recording can often be minimized by clear contracts regarding use that cover performers, collectors, and patrons.

The final paper, “Field Notes in the Archive — For What?,” was presented by Mark Handler, Systems Librarian at the Robert Crown Library at Stanford University. The focus of this paper was on ethnographic field notes as records in progress and unprocessed information. According to the speaker, the original field worker remains essentially mediator, and unmediated field notes provide little data for secondary analysis. However, certain types of information in field notes can be important for researchers such as historians and philosophers of anthropology.

Committee Reports, ALA Annual 1989

Bibliography Committee
Nancy S. Skipper, Chair

Mary Ann Waltz, a guest speaker from Syracuse University, met with the Bibliography Committee and described the plans for the new supplement and revision of Sheehy’s Guide to Reference Books, which has been taken over by Choice. Ms. Waltz will be responsible for the anthropology section and her Syracuse colleague, Leslie Pease, will edit the sociology entries. The purpose of her visit was to elicit suggestions for 1) new entries for the supplement and 2) revisions in general content and format of the new edition. The Bibliography Committee will focus on how best to meet this opportunity at Midwinter.

The criteria for evaluating indexes and abstracts were revised, reordered, and strengthened. This will result in more consistent, in-depth analyses which will more easily be edited for publication as reviews in ANSS Currents. Greater emphasis has been put on the quality of the subject access and on integrating information on online database counterparts.

Analyses of the following titles were discussed: America: History and Life, Art and Archaeology Technical Abstracts, Bulletin de la Société Préhistorique..., Criminal Justice Abstracts, Criminal Justice Periodical Index, Criminology and Penology Abstracts, and Current Literature on Aging. Reviews of Art and Archaeology Technical Abstracts, the Child Abuse and Neglect database, and Applied Social Sciences Index and Abstracts will be submitted to ANSS Currents.

Letters were approved to the publishers of Abstracts in Anthropology and Applied Social Sciences Index and Abstracts. A letter to the producer of the Child Abuse and Neglect database was also approved. In addition, the Committee approved, with minor revisions, a letter to the editor of Social Work Research and Abstracts, thanking her for the thoughtful, positive response to the Committee’s analysis of SWRA. Strategies for contacting search aid producers for online databases were also discussed.

Letters to new staff and selected committees within the American Anthropological Association and the American Sociological Association were approved with minor revisions.

Conference Program Planning 1990
Robert B. Marks Ridinger, Chair

Although no meeting of the conference planning committee was held in Dallas, preparations for the 1990 program have been substantially completed. The program is entitled “Profiles of the City: Using Ethnic Collections and Archives for Social Science Research,” and is intended to reflect and take advantage of the contributions possible from a genre of library often minimized in the social sciences. The diversity of the Chicago area heritage is well represented in our speakers. They are as follows: Daniel Meyer, Regenstein Library, University of Chicago; Janice McNell of the Chicago Historical Society; Robert Miller, Vivian Harsh Collection of Afro-American History and Literature, Chicago Public Library System; Robin Katzin, Norman and Helen Asher Library, Spertus College of Judaica and Kathryn DeGraff, Special Collections, DePaul University. The meeting is scheduled for Sunday, June 24, 1990, from 9:30am-12:30pm. A resource table will be provided with brochures on the collections represented as well as on other similar facilities in the greater Chicagoregion. The program will be followed by the membership meeting.

Publications Committee
Stephen MacLeod, Chair

A revised draft of “Guidelines for ANSS Currents” was approved. Newsletter deadlines for 1989/90 were moved forward by one month to insure that ANSS members will receive Currents a few weeks in advance of the Midwinter Meeting and the Annual Conference. A subscription price of $3 per year has been established for the newsletter for non-ANSS members.

The May issue of Contents was discussed. While minor errors were...
identified, committee members were unanimously pleased with the overall quality and quantity of the issue. Type size has been reduced to the minimum and marginal space may be decreased to accommodate more material. A statement from the newly elected Vice-Chair/Chair Elect will be featured in the May 1990 issue. The need for a reporter to cover sociology and social sciences for the projected “Calendar of Events” column was discussed. A list of institutions designated to receive complimentary copies of ANSS Currents must be submitted to ACRL each fall. Concern was expressed that the present list is dominated by anthropological groups. Possible additions to the list were discussed.

Maggie Dittemore was appointed committee chair for 1989/90. Maija Lutz, Stephen MacLeod (chair during 1988/89), and Jim Williams will continue to serve as committee members. Outgoing member Janet Steins was thanked for her contributions and incoming member Christine Whittington was welcomed.

Review and Planning
Lynne M. Schmelz-Keil, Chair

The Review and Planning Committee met to discuss the committee and section reviews for ANSS which are required by ACRL. A review of ANSS as a section as well as a review of each ANSS committee will be submitted to ACRL in September 1989. A copy of these reviews will be distributed to the ANSS Executive Committee at the 1990 Midwinter meeting in Chicago.

Bookshelf

Anthropology
Introduction to Library Research in Anthropology. (By Mary M. Koenig and John M. Weeks. Boulder, CO: Westview Press, 1989.) This introduction to the literature in anthropology not only presents research strategies and detailed descriptions of several hundred reference sources, but also correlates anthropological journals with available indexing and abstracting services.

Women Anthropologists: A Biographical Dictionary. (Edited by Ute Gacs, Aisha Khan, Jerrie McIntyre, Ruth Weinberg. New York: Greenwood Press, 1988.) This volume covers fifty-eight anthropologists and encompasses a period of about one hundred years. Each four to six-page biography is followed by lists of works about the person, selected works by the person, and co-authored works.


Mesoamerican Ethnohistory in United States Libraries: Reconstruction of the William E. Gates Collection of Historical and Linguistic Manuscripts. (Compiled by John M. Weeks. Culver City, CA: Labyrinthos, 1989.) Comprehensive catalog of extensive collection of manuscript material assembled by Gates, an Ohio businessman, and later dispersed to institutions such as the Middle American Research Institute at Tulane University, Princeton University, Brigham Young University, Harvard University, and the Library of Congress.

Research Methods in Anthropology. (By H. Russell Bernard. Newbury Park, CA: Sage Publications, 1988.) Chapter 6 of this book is devoted to the importance of the literature search in conducting a research project. Special emphasis is placed on the Social Sciences Citation Index, Anthropological Index, Abstracts in Anthropology, International Bibliography of Social and Cultural Anthropology, the publications of the Tozzer Library, the Congressional Information Service, Geographical Abstracts, and Current Index to Journals in Education.

The Library Catalogue and The Anthropological Index to Periodicals of the Museum of Mankind and the Royal Anthropological Society. On microfiche. (Available from Mindata Ltd., Bathwick Hill, Bath BA2 6LA, England. Library Catalogue - $2,500.00; Periodical Index - $1,400.00; Both publications - $3,500.00) The library catalogue contains over 100,000 author entries as well as a detailed subject and tribal index. The periodical index includes references to articles published in over 1,000 periodicals from 1963 to the end of 1988.

Sociology
Reference books:

The Encyclopedia of the Midwest. (By Allan Carpenter. Facts on File, 1989) — Third in a series of U.S. regional encyclopedias, this title covers biographical, historical, economical, cultural, and political topics pertinent to the eight states which compromise the American heartland.


The Encyclopedia of Marriage, Divorce, and Family. (By Margaret DiCanio. Facts on File, 1989) — More than 600 entries provide access to a wide range of contemporary family issues, but the comprehensiveness with which topics are treated varies greatly and the work contains certain surprising omissions.

The Alyson Almanac. (Alyson Publications, 1989) — Costing $6.95, this compilation of data dealing with gay men and lesbians provides in a single source information that is not readily available (such as hotline numbers, descriptions of gay communities in major cities, a dictionary of gay slang, Congressional voting records, sample workplace policies on AIDS, etc.). The publisher plans to issue revised and expanded volumes every one or two years.
The Encyclopedia of American Scandal. (By George Kohn. Facts on File, 1989) — An informative and entertaining guide to scandals in politics, government, the military, business, religion, the arts, society, and sports. Although the selection criteria are not stated and even the longer entries lack bibliographical references, the compendium will prove useful because no comparable resource is available.


Calendar of Events


December 4-7. Margaret Mead Film Festival, New York, NY. Recent documentary films as previewed through the end of June. Contact Malcolm Arth, American Museum of Natural History, Central Park West at 79th Street, New York, NY 10024-5192. (212)769-5172.


Membership News & Announcements

Mary Koenig, member ANSS Bibliography Committee and ANSS member-at-large, is now the Library Coordinator for the University of Minnesota Title VI International Studies Grant. This grant was awarded to the University to strengthen the University’s programs in International Studies, particularly those concerned with the developing world. Mary will coordinate collection development using grant funds, offer specialized bibliographic instruction, and prepare specialized bibliographies and guides to the collection. Mary’s new address is Subject Bibliography Unit, 5 Wilson Library, University of Minnesota, 309 19th Ave. South, Minneapolis, MN 55455-0414 and her new phone number is 612-624-5860. John Weeks, anthropology bibliographer and ANSS member, coordinated the grant during the previous year. (Mary Koenig, U. Minnesota)

Janita Jobe, member ANSS Bibliography Committee, has been appointed to a new position as Assistant Government Publications Librarian, Noble H. Getchell Library, University of Nevada, Reno, NV 89557. (Janita Jobe, U Nevada)

Tozzer Library has just purchased three more volumes of the microfilm edition of The Papers of John Peabody Harrington in the Smithsonian Institution, 1907-1957. These papers, which are housed in the Smithsonian Institution’s National Anthropological Archives, consist of field notes, unpublished manuscripts, correspondence, and other documents on Native American history, language, and culture collected by Harrington while employed by the Bureau of American Ethnology. The five volumes (373 reels) held by Tozzer Library include the following: Vol. 1, Alaska/Northeast Coast; Vol. 2, Northern and Central California; Vol. 3, Southern California/Basin; Vol. 6, Northeast/Southeast; Vol. 7, Mexico/Central America/South America. (Maija Lutz, Harvard U)

Volunteer needed: A volunteer is needed to work as a Guest Helper with the Summer Institute of Linguistics, Thailand Group, at Payap University, Chiang Mai, Thailand. The project involves the cataloging of linguistics books for the new graduate program. This is a three-month project, extendable. No salary or travel benefits. We will find housing in Chiang Mai and take care of travel arrangements. This would be strictly voluntary service for the development of Linguistics in a developing and strategic country in S.E. Asia. Contact Paulette Hopple, 14 Soi Ari Samphan 8, Phahol Yothin 5, Bangkok 10400 Thailand. (Paulette Hopple)

Due to the significant increase in the number of references, the Bulletin Signaletique 521 (Sociologie/Ethnologie) has split into two separate parts. Beginning with v.40 1986, Section 521 continues as Sociologie. A new publication, section 529, has been issued for Ethnologie. Because the split occurred without much notification, librarians should be aware that a new subscription must now be entered for section 529. (Jo Kibbee, U Illinois, Urbana)
Please share your personal and institutional news with us — job changes, research in progress, book reviews, other publications, talks, new directions or institutes, significant acquisitions. Send by March 7, 1990 to: Maggie Dittemore, Bibliography Department, Howard Tilton Memorial Library, Tulane University, New Orleans, LA 70118.

Notes and Queries

Bibliography of Anthropology Bibliography:
I am attempting to compile a list of all sources of interest to anthropology bibliography. By bibliography I mean information problems, citation analyses, bibliographic control, online searching, collection development, and reference sources and strategies, and the like. The following list contains titles that are devoted to anthropology and does not include those where anthropology might be considered as a part of a general discussion of the social sciences. In other words, if a source discusses information problems of social scientists, it is not included. I would welcome suggestions on sources that deal with anthropology in a substantive manner, even if the main focus is not anthropology.

I am certain that I have not listed all sources, especially reference guides which include chapters on anthropology. Please suggest more. If you differ with the rough categories under which I have placed these items, feel free to express yourself.

Comments and suggestions can be sent to:
Joyce L. Ogburn
ES06 Pattee Library
Penn State University
University Park, PA 16802
(814)865-1858
FAX (814)865-3665
BITNET: JLO@PSULIAS.BITNET
FAXON COURIER: OGBURN

Anthropology Bibliography —


Online Database Searching in Anthropology —


Anthropology Libraries —


Reference Sources in Anthropology —


Book Chapters On Anthropology Reference Literature —


Bibliography Committee Reviews

Child Abuse and Neglect
1965- . Database.


Produced by the National Center on Child Abuse and Neglect. There is no exact print equivalent. Available from Dialog as file 64.

A. Overall Usability: Child Abuse and Neglect is a clearly defined, focused database that does very well in covering its narrow interest. More frequent updates of the publications and audiovisual materials files would be useful.

B. Coverage:
1. Subjects Included: Child abuse and neglect in its medical, psychological, social and legal aspects. Peripheral topics such as latchkey children are also included.
3. Types of publications: The database contains five subfiles: 1) descriptions of ongoing and completed research projects, 2) abstracts of published documents and court decisions, 3) excerpts of current state statutes, 4) summaries of audiovisual materials, and 5) descriptions of service programs in child abuse and neglect." Published documents include books, journals, research reports and "other sources."
4. Number of publications included: In the December 1987 version of the file, there were 16,544 records distributed among the five subfiles as follows:
   - Published documents 8,955
   - Audiovisual materials 552
   - Legal references 3,559
   - Service programs 3,395
   - Research projects 83

In the Fall 1988 load, the total number of records was 20,214. The increases occurred primarily in the published documents subfile. There is no indication of which journals or other sources are scanned regularly for relevant materials. Information included in the research projects and service programs subfile are collected by questionnaire.

C. Updates and Time Lag: The legal references, audiovisual, and research projects subfiles are updated annually. The published documents and service programs subfiles are updated twice a year. The December 1987 version of the file did not include any publications more current than 1986 - a problem for those looking for very recent information. However, the Fall 1988 load does include items published early in 1988.

D. Searchable fields: The Dialog basic index includes the abstract, descriptor (either /de or /df) and title. Other searchable fields are author, corporate source, federal region, report number, subfile, state and update. There are no limitable fields.

The subfile field can be used to restrict search results to one or more of the types of references included, e.g., SF=CP to retrieve records for service programs. The federal region field and the state field can be used to restrict results for service programs only to one or several of 10 federally defined regions (region VI for example consists of Arkansas, Louisiana, New Mexico, Oklahoma, and Texas), or to any of the states or territories of the United States. Legal references can be restricted to an individual state or states by searching the state name in the corporate source paragraph as a searchable field was dropped from the file. The update paragraph either doesn't work anymore (when one searches UD=8512), or gives the total number of records for the entire file (searching UD=9999). Consequently there is no easy way to restrict search results for published documents or audiovisual materials by date.

E. Search aids: The Child Abuse and Neglect Thesaurus (1983), first published in 1975, lists descriptors in three ways: 1) in broad subject groups such as abuse and neglect, demography, law, research, or therapy; 2) alphabetically with broader, narrower and related terms indicated; and 3) in a permuted display. The format of the volume is clear and it is easy to use.
F. Costs: $35.00 (58¢ min.) per connect hour. There is no extra charge for online printing — ten cents per offline citation printed — making this one of the less expensive databases to search (compare Social Work Abstracts on BRS at $52.00 per connect hour, plus 20¢ per online citation printed or 35¢ per offline print; the merged Medline file on BRS at $15.00 per hour plus 14¢ per online print or 11¢ offline; or the Legal Reference Index at $37.00/hr plus 40¢ online and 35¢ offline).

G. Availability of Materials: In all the subfiles except the legal reference subfile, the corporate source (CS) paragraph contains availability data. In the published documents subfile this information is the affiliation and address of the first author; in the audiovisual materials subfile, the producer's and/or distributor's name and address; in the service programs and research projects subfiles it is the address of the institution, organization or principal investigator — thus allowing direct contact with persons or organizations responsible for the research or program. In addition, non-copyrighted items will be reproduced at cost by the National Center on Child Abuse and Neglect for persons who contact them at the address in the Dialog documentation.

H. Completeness of online and printed formats: The Dialog Bluesheet and Database Chapter indicate that the database is used to produce three publications: (1) Child Abuse and Neglect Research: Projects and Publications (SUDOC HE23.1210/Au2 yr), (2) Child Abuse and Neglect Programs (SUDoc HE23.1211: yr), and (3) Child Abuse and Neglect Audiovisual Materials (SUDoc HE23.1210: Au2 yr). However, on checking with our documents department, I discovered that we received only one or two paper issues of each title in the late 70s and that although we are supposed to be getting them currently on microfiche, they have never come in. If they had been published regularly, the three titles would appear to have included all but the legal reference subfile.

I. Summary: Child Abuse and Neglect is a clearly defined small database which covers thoroughly all aspects of the subject. It is of use to social scientists, educators and child care professionals. The low cost of searching the file is a plus, as is the feature which allows legal references to be restricted by state. The use of clearly defined descriptors and the availability of the Thesaurus also helps greatly in creating searching precision.

On the other hand, more frequent updates to the documents and audiovisual subfiles are needed, and the restoration of the source paragraph as a searchable field in these two subfiles would allow restricting search results by date of publication. A statement giving the actual sources scanned to collect references would be useful. Finally, a revision of the Dialog documentation for the database is desperately needed.
ANSS currents
American Library Association - ACRL
50 East Huron Street
Chicago, IL 60611