MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR
Randy Hertzler

It is both an honor and a privilege to step in as Chair for what is sure to be another exciting and productive year of ANSS. Thanks and congratulations to last year’s Chair, Katie Whitson, for her excellent leadership of the Section. Thanks also to Past-Chair JoAnn Jacoby for her continued involvement and guidance as Katie and I navigated the waters of Section leadership. Last—but by no means least—my gratitude to everyone who has served in some capacity on our many committees and discussion groups; your hard work as volunteers continues the fine tradition ANSS has established of high-profile contributions to the fields of academic librarianship and service to the professions in anthropology, sociology, and criminology/criminal justice.

It was great to see many of you at ALA Annual in the splendid climate of Anaheim. Our program, “The Lady, the Tramp, and the Lion King: Mixed Messages about Gender, Race and Ethnicity in Disney’s Magic Kingdom” was stimulating, well-attended, and expertly moderated. Congratulations to committee co-chairs Rebecca Blakeley and Meg Westbury and the rest of the 2008 Program Planning Committee for a job well done!

Years of hard work resulted in ACRL’s acceptance—and the subsequent publication—of the Instruction & Information Literacy Committee’s “Information Literacy Standards for Anthropology and Sociology Students.” IILC continues to build on its success, under the new leadership of co-chairs Stephanie Alexander and Jason Phillips, as it tackles the development of a digital repository of information literacy materials serving the fields of anthropology and sociology.

With the assistance of ASA representative Ed Kain, the Ad Hoc Committee on the Assessment of Library Collections and Services continues to advance the strong relationship built with the ASA over the past several years. As chair David Woolwine and the committee explore outreach efforts among sociology faculty and assess library support needs at various types of academic institutions, we’re sure to see new opportunities for Section initiatives that parallel past successes of the IILC. It will be exciting to watch!

Katie’s work with the Liaison Committee in re-defining that group’s charge will help identify new areas for ANSS collaboration both within and outside the library profession. The work of ACRL-ASA Liaison Sally Wilson Weimer will complement the committee’s efforts and we hope to have an ACRL-AAA Liaison appointed over the upcoming year to help forge new alliances with the AAA.

These are just a few of the exciting initiatives taking place within ANSS. Our committees are working on many other important issues and I hope those of you not presently serving on committees will consider jumping in to help in whatever way you can. Our current Vice-Chair/Chair Elect, Liz Cooper, will be recruiting for committee vacancies in the upcoming months but I encourage you to volunteer online at http://www.acrl.org/volunteer. If you have not already done so, also be sure to subscribe to the Section listserv, ANSS-L, by visiting http://lists.al.org/wvs/info/anss-l.

I’m looking forward to seeing many of you in Denver for the ALA Midwinter Meeting in January and to working with you over the upcoming year!

CANDIDATES FOR ANSS OFFICES -- 2009
JoAnn Jacoby, Chair, Nominating Committee

VICE-CHAIR/CHAIR ELECT
Jennifer Nason Davis
Terrence W. Epperson

SECRETARY
Juliann Couture
Wayne A. Sanders

MEMBER-AT-LARGE
Jeffrey A. Knapp
Jenny Bowers

Vice-Chair/Chair-Elect Candidate Statements:

Jennifer Nason Davis

Accomplishments: Co-author with Neil De Haan and John Vadnais, "Grants from Governments and Foundations" in Using the Political Science and Government Literature, edited by Marc Holzer and Janice Flug, to be published by Taylor & Francis, accepted for publication.

Statement
Since joining the ANSS in 2004, I have admired the dedication, creativity and professionalism of the librarians in this Section, and have benefited greatly from its achievements. By participating on two ANSS committees and serving as Secretary I have gained an understanding of the activities and goals of the ANSS and the ACRL as a whole. I would welcome the opportunity to serve the ANSS further as Vice-Chair/Chair-Elect.

Following the recent success of the creation of information literacy standards for anthropology and sociology, the ANSS now faces challenges such as finding ways to integrate these standards into the curriculum, while continuing to produce excellent programs, discussions and publications that support and celebrate our unique branch of librarianship. As Vice-Chair/Chair-Elect, I will assist in coordinating and supporting these endeavors and new initiatives as they arise.

Terrence W. Epperson

Statement
I am proud to be associated with ANSS. As evidenced by the reception of our annual programs, ANSS provides excellent service to our members as well as greatly-appreciated outreach to other constituencies within ALA. In addition, the development of "Information Literacy Standards for Anthropology and Sociology Students" demonstrates the influence we can have beyond the boundaries of ALA. We need to continue and enhance our activities in these areas as we explore new realms of section activity. Since many ANSS members have social science disciplinary expertise in addition to their librarianship credentials, we are also in an ideal position to promote the application of anthropological and sociological research to the general practice of librarianship.

Secretary Candidate Statements:
Juliann Couture  

**Statement**
As a new librarian, I have been greatly encouraged to become professionally involved particularly by the members of ANSS. I would like to obtain a greater understanding of ANSS as well as meet more of the members. Serving as Secretary would allow me to achieve both of these goals while providing a service to the section.

Wayne A. Sanders  
**Current Position:** Head, Books, Rare Materials & Music Catalog Unit, University of Missouri Libraries, 2006-present. **Previous Positions:** Monograph Cataloger, Head, Books, Rare Materials & Music Unit, University of Missouri Libraries, Catalog Dept., 2006-Present; Library Information Specialist II, Head, Monograph Cataloging Unit, University of Missouri Libraries, Catalog Dept., 2003-06; Librarian Assistant I, Monograph Catalog Unit, University of Missouri Libraries, Catalog Dept., 2001-03; Reference Specialist, State Historical Society of Missouri, Newspaper Library, 1999-2001; Library Clerk II, Monograph Retrospective Conversion Unit, University of Missouri Libraries, Catalog Dept., 1996-99. **ALA Activities:** ACRL ANSS; Chair, Subject & Bibliographic Access Committee, 2007-Present; ACRL ANSS: Ex-officio member, Executive Committee, 2007-Present; LLAMA SASS: Member, Technical Services Systems Committee, 2007-Present. **Honors, Awards, Prizes, Medals, Citations:** ALA Emerging Leaders Program, 2008.

**Statement**
I believe our organization provides essential services to librarians focused in the fields of anthropology, sociology, and criminology. I aspire to evaluate our efforts and contributions to increase the impact of these endeavors. It is essential that our organization evolve to meet the expectations of new generations of librarians. To this end, we must examine how to better meet the needs of those librarians who cannot regularly attend the Midwinter Meetings and Annual Conferences as well as those of us who can. We should take advantage of technology by incorporating new input, communication, and delivery methods. We should not only consider how we can adapt what we are already doing, but also analyze what other opportunities exist for our organization to provide resources and services as well as a forum for specialists in the fields of anthropology, sociology, and criminology.

**Member-at-Large Candidate Statements:**  

Jeffrey A. Knapp  
**Degrees and Certifications:** Clarion University of Pennsylvania, M.S.L.S., 2002; Penn State University, B.A., International Politics, 1989. **Current Position:** Reference and Instruction Librarian, Penn State University Libraries, 2005-present. **Previous Positions:** Teaching Assistant, Penn State University Libraries, Social Sciences Library, 2002-05. **ALA Activities:** ACRL-ANSS: Chair, Bibliography, 2007-Present; Library Instruction Round Table (LIRT): Chair, Newsletter Committee, 2005-08; ACRL-ANSS: Member, Bibliography, 2005-07. **Publications:** Co-author, "Convergence in the library's news room: Enhancing news collections and services in academic libraries," *College and Research Libraries*, September 2006; "Google and Wikipedia: Friends or foes?" *The myths, realities and practicalities of working with Gen M: A handbook for educators and librarians* (Neal-Schuman), 2009; "Reviews of various reference works and online resources related to the social sciences," *CHOICE*, 2007-present. **Links for Further Information:** http://tinyurl.com/4elm8k

**Accomplishments:** In my role as Coordinator of Instruction in my few years at Penn State Altoona, I have managed to increase the number of instructional sessions that we provide to our classes by almost 100%. I look forward to using my abilities as a team member to further the goals of college and research libraries. I have many years of experience working in large companies and institutions and would like to put these skills to work for ACRL.

**Statement**
The boundaries of academic disciplines are blurring evermore with the continued development of online knowledge and information sources. While the membership of our association understands the continued importance of libraries, the future of libraries' continued relevance to undergraduates is still not
guaranteed. We must continue to work to promote our value and expertise to our constituent institutions.

**Jenny Bowers**  

**Statement**  
If elected, I will build upon experience gained from working with the Membership, Publications, and Conference Program Planning committees to promote the numerous and important benefits of ANSS membership and will seek actively to increase member participation. The recent publication of “Information Literacy Standards for Anthropology and Sociology Students” has made ANSS widely visible and provides us with an excellent opportunity to engage new and currently inactive members, especially as we work collaboratively to develop the digital repository of teaching and assessment materials. The IIL committee’s accomplishments represent just one of the many ways that ANSS fosters collaboration and underscores our role in facilitating a continual exchange of ideas, experience, and insight: not only among ourselves but also with the larger academic community. I will work to support that exchange, focusing on strengthening our communication channels, the recruitment of new members, and by providing a range of participation opportunities.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Ad Hoc Committee on the Assessment of Library Collections and Services in Sociology**

David Woolwine, Chair

Ed Kain, Professor of Sociology at Southwestern University, presented his views on assessment of collections and services from the perspective of a sociologist. It was a very useful presentation. Jason Phillips and David Woolwine gave versions of the presentations we intend to give at the informal roundtable at the ASA. A lively and useful discussion followed each presentation.

David Woolwine outlined a general framework for the assessment instrument and asked for at least two volunteers to assist in writing a first draft. Jason Phillips and Shawn Nicholson agreed to serve with the chair as part of such a task force. Ed Kain will also be consulted. The committee as a whole will be shown sections of the draft as it is written in order to get feedback during the process.

**Bibliography Committee**

Jeff Knapp, Chair

The meeting was chaired by Sherise Kimura, as Jeff Knapp was unable to attend the conference due to a personal conflict.

The committee discussed Nikhat Ghouse's review of *Sage Journals Online* and looked at the database together on Nikhat's computer. Nikhat shared some of Jeff's comments. Nikhat decided to review only the Sociology collection in *Sage Journals Online*. She plans to have a revised review ready to share by late July.

Sherise Kimura volunteered to write the next review. She is considering *LGBT Life* or the *Bibliography of Asian Studies. Annual Review of Sociology* was also suggested.

**Conference Program Planning Committee 2008**

Rebecca Blakely & Margaret Westbury, Co-Chairs

The 2008 Anthropology and Sociology Section program, "The Lady, the Tramp and the Lion King: Mixed Messages about Gender, Race and Ethnicity in Disney’s
Magic Kingdom,” featured four Disney scholars who each spoke about their research on representations of race and gender in Disney media and its effect on popular culture.

Patricia Little, PhD (California State University San Bernardino) gave an overview of the ubiquity of Disney in current American culture. Research is clear that media affects children’s behavior and with the advent of technology such as DVD players, children can press play again and again, exposing them to substantially more Disney media than in previous generations. While many of the values expressed in Disney films are positive (follow your dreams, stand up for what you believe is right, etc.), Little argued that there are many less positive and less obvious subtexts expressed through means such as depicting women as mostly concerned with their looks and getting married, and racial coding in accents.

Keith Harris, PhD (University of California Riverside) analyzed a television program that was very different from the rest of the Disney corpus. Gargoyles, which ran as part of the Disney Afternoon block from 1994-1997, was targeted to an older demographic and its darker themes were heavily influenced by mythology and Shakespeare. In the series, New York is depicted as a racially diverse utopia and both genders operate on equal planes. Harris argued that while Disney’s multicultural vision was groundbreaking and valid, it was also unfortunately premature and the series fell apart after a couple of seasons.

Claudine Michel, PhD (University of California Santa Barbara) discussed some of the darker aspects of Disney history. According to Michel, hidden underneath the glowing image of “Uncle Walt” is the real Walt Disney who was anti-Semitic, anti-union, and a FBI informant. She stated that Disney’s world is indeed very, very small and reality has been intentionally removed from Disneyland and replaced with cultural imperialism disguised as children’s entertainment.

The final speaker, Betsy Hearne, PhD (Professor of Library Science, University of Illinois) advocated not censoring Disney’s work, but offering alternatives to our children. We are slowly losing the vast panorama of ethnic folklore due to the domination of the “Disney Version.” Alternative versions of many folktales, such as Cinderella which has appeared in various guises in many cultures for thousands of years, are being displaced by the Disney Cinderella. She concluded by encouraging us to subvert the Disney version by grabbing any kid we could and reading non-Disney versions of folktales to them. After all, she said “we are librarians; we are missionaries of knowledge.”

More information about the program and the speakers can be found at: http://anssdisney08.wordpress.com.

**Instruction and Information Literacy Committee**
Stephanie Alexander & Jason Phillips, Co-Chairs

With the publication of “Information Literacy Standards for Anthropology and Sociology Students,” the ANSS Instruction and Information Literacy Committee turns to the work of finding a permanent home for our repository of teaching and assessment materials. These standards, a collaborative product of ANSS members and members of the American Sociological Association (ASA) can be found at http://www.ala.org/ala/mgrps/divs/acrl/acrlstandards/anthro_soc_standards.cfm.

We would encourage members to read and consider these standards and to think about the manner in which they might be used to improve the quality of our teaching and the relationships we maintain with our constituent faculty. The new chairpersons thank the outgoing chairs, Triveni Kuchi and Susan Macicak, for their efforts over the past few years.

As the new chairs, we will soon engage ANSS members as we look for relevant materials with which to populate the repository. We will be most interested in lesson plans for bibliographic instruction sessions, syllabi, outlines of exercises, projects, and techniques. If members are interested in submitting materials, they should feel free to contact the new chairs, Stephanie Alexander (stephanie.alexander@colorado.edu) or Jason Phillips (jason.phillips@nyu.edu), directly. We can help to prepare submissions and discuss requirements and options for distribution. Further information about submissions may be found at http://www.lib.utexas.edu/subject/ss/anssiil/submission.html.

Finally, at the most recent Annual Meeting of the American Sociological Association in Boston, Ed Kain, valued ASA partner and member and Professor of Sociology at Southwestern University, Margaret Vitullo, Director of Academic and Professional Affairs at the ASA, Sally Wilson Weimer, ACRL Liaison to the American Sociological Association, and co-chair Jason Phillips began a dialogue about how the materials that eventually comprise the repository might find their target audience with the assistance of the ASA.

**Liaison Committee**
Helen Clements, Chair

Helen Clements and Katie Whitson discussed the new committee charge, which defines some role changes for the committee. The charge involves raising awareness of ANSS members about activities in bibliography and
As you will see elsewhere in this issue, we are implementing a “member profile” feature that will highlight one or more ANSS members in each issue of Currents. Space permitting, we plan to make this a regular feature.

**Subject and Bibliographic Access Committee**
Wayne Sanders, Chair

The Committee came up with a list of questions to work on for future monthly postings to ANSS-L. There will be postings on: 1) What subject headings are assigned to language and subject dictionaries; 2) When is an initial article dropped from geographic names; 3) How does one treat geographic entities such as countries whose name has changed over time; 4) How does one use the subdivision Law and legislation; 5) What subject headings are used on works about criminal charges; 6) Can vernacular, i.e., non-Latin names and titles, be searched in authority and bibliographic records; and 7) How does one locate materials on the intersection of a topic with race, class, or ethnicity. The Committee is also current on the monthly lists of new subject headings in the social sciences.

There was a general discussion of how to receive feedback and to evaluate the services of the committee. Some ideas included a survey and Web forms. There was also consideration on how to better promote the services of the Committee, such as providing tips on how to find additional resources related to the ANSS programs through a subject heading guide for each program.

**DISCUSSION GROUP REPORTS**

**Anthropology Discussion Group**
Patti Caravello & Suzi Kaplan, Co-Conveners

The group discussed graduate student library instruction and pedagogy in anthropology, covering the distinctive collections, service, and instructional needs of this population. Attendees shared their experiences and ideas. Handouts were short articles from *Anthropology News*: “A message for graduate students” March 2008, p. 21, and “On the socialization of graduate students in anthropology” April 2007, p. 56. The group also addressed instructional sessions on academic integrity, including plagiarism, for graduate students in the library or in collaboration with a campus writing center. Many faculty members don’t address this topic head-on, and new grad students are especially interested in it. Patti will submit handouts she developed for a citation workshop with anthropology grad students to the ANSS IL repository of teaching materials. The discussion group also covered strategies for connecting and
collaborating with AAA on the new ANSS IL Standards.

**Sociology Librarians Discussion Group**
Carol Bell & Christina Smith, Co-Conveners

The Sociology Discussion Group in Anaheim was attended by 27 people. The program was presented by the ANSS Information Literacy Committee (ILL), specifically: Susan Macicak and Patti Caravello; plus guest speaker, Dr. Edward Kain, Professor of Sociology at Southwest University in Georgetown, Texas. Susan Macicak provided an overview of the “IL Standards for Anthropology and Sociology Students (Standards),” and stated that they have been approved by ACRL and the American Sociological Association.

The remainder of the discussion was led by Patti Caravello and Ed Kain. The Standards have been well received by Anthropology and Sociology (A&S) faculty members in workshops. The Standards document should not be handed out to faculty without interpretation and discussion. Nor is it recommended that faculty change syllabi or entire assignments, but tweak assignments so as to enhance learning IL skills as a part of sociology coursework. Additionally, use of these ANSS Standards can help A&S departments meet the challenges of accreditation assessment.

The format of the ANSS IL Standards follows that of the ACRL Standards except that they are reduced to four from the ACRL five. Rather than treat ethics as a separate standard, it is integrated into the other four. Establishing the Standards is Phase I of the ILL Committee goals. Phase II involves setting up a repository of teaching materials.

**ANSS Members’ News**

Patti Schiffer Caravello has been named Librarian of the Year by the Librarians Association of the University of California, Los Angeles. This annual award recognizes excellence in librarianship, particularly as it furthers the teaching and research mission of UCLA. Patti was recognized especially for her leadership as the Director of the UCLA Information Literacy Program and her outstanding work and significant achievements in developing local and national information competencies and information literacy standards.

Janet Steins of Harvard’s Tozzer Library has been appointed Subject Editor for Anthropology for Resources for College Libraries.

The article, “Enriching Anthropology Students’ Information Skills and Research Experience,” by Patti Caravello on behalf of the ANSS Instruction and Information Literacy Committee’s Task Force on IL Standards, was published in Anthropology News this September, 49 (6): 28.

**ANSS Member Profiles**

Leah Plocharczyk grew up in Indianapolis, Indiana, the daughter of school teachers who instilled in her from a young age a love of reading and an appreciation for books. Leah graduated from DePaul University in Greencastle, IN with a BA in Sociology and a minor in French. Upon graduation, Leah relocated to Del Mar, CA where she worked for a brief stint in a 5 star resort overlooking the Pacific Ocean. Deciding that Southern California life wasn’t for her, Leah took the advice of her librarian aunt who encouraged her to relocate to South Florida. Leah fell in love with the sunny South Florida weather and decided to stay and pursue both a career and advanced degree at Florida Atlantic University (FAU) in Boca Raton.

While studying part time for her Master’s degree in Sociology, Leah worked full time in the Access Services Department of S.E. Wimberly Library on the Florida Atlantic University campus. In Access Services, Leah worked as the Reserve Coordinator, and handled all electronic and print faculty requests, as well as copyright clearance issues. Leah graduated with her M.A. in Sociology from FAU in 2004 and decided to try her hand at librarianship. She slowly eased into working the reference desk, answered reference questions, conducted reference interviews, and taught bibliographic instruction sessions. She decided that librarianship was the career she wanted to pursue and immediately enrolled in the University of South Florida’s Library and Information Science program. Leah graduated with her MLS degree in 2007 from the University of South Florida in Tampa.

Upon graduation, Leah transferred to the downtown Ft. Lauderdale FAU campus where she currently works as the Broward Library Services Coordinator. Leah teaches bibliographic instruction to the faculty and students, acts as the liaison for FAU’s joint use facility at Broward Main Public Library, and manages the collection development to support the programs within the College of Architecture, Urban and Public Affairs. In her spare time, she writes book reviews and publishes articles for the Journal of Access Services. Most recently she began organizing and cataloging a 5,000 item special archives collection. When she is not working, Leah enjoys belly dancing, salsa dancing, kick boxing, scrapbooking, and reads crime thrillers and psychological suspense novels.

Leah is a member of the American Library Association (ALA), Association of College and Research Libraries.
(ACRL), serves on the membership committee of Anthropology and Sociology Section (ANSS) of the Association of College and Research Libraries, is a member of the Association of Architecture School Librarians (AASL), Art Libraries Society of North America (ARLIS/NA), serves as secretary for the Palm Beach County Library Association (PBCLA), is a member of the Broward County Library Association, serves on the Broward County Friends of the Library Board, and is a member of the Palm Beach Friends of the Library Association. This is her second year working as a professional librarian, and she loves it.

Rebecca Blakeley, as interviewed by Wendy Highby.

I had the pleasure of getting to know Rebecca Blakeley while working with her on the 2006-08 ANSS Conference Program Planning Committee. Rebecca grew up in Rhode Island and earned a BA in Anthropology and a MLIS from the University of Rhode Island. She was destined to enter our profession, as she is the impressionable niece of two librarians: an uncle who is a children’s librarian at San Francisco Public Library and an aunt who curates the Bancroft Collection of Western Americana at UC Berkeley. Rebecca observes: “I grew up watching them be fulfilled in their careers and it made me want to become a librarian too! However, in college I was thinking of getting my PhD in Anthropology but I realized how much I loved research (and I guess I was pretty good at it because my fellow students were always asking me for help in the library!) and so I decided to pursue a library science degree instead. Someday I will get a second Masters Degree or PhD, but at the moment I am focusing on my career and professional growth.”

After a graduate assistantship and a stint as a temporary Reference and Instruction Librarian at URI, Rebecca’s career path led to McNeese State University in Lake Charles, Louisiana, where she is Head of Government Documents. Rebecca describes the variety of tasks at McNeese in this way: “I do quite a bit of reference work (we have our own reference desk) and instruction, but I also do a lot of technical work such as cataloging and updating our website. Then of course I do outreach to faculty and the community at large (the 7th Congressional District of Louisiana) as their government information liaison. I also make sure the day-to-day functions of the department run properly, including processing incoming government documents, managing student workers and my staff, and making sure our short and long term goals are being met. My management skills have grown and improved over the past two years, that’s for sure! But I also love being involved in state and national organizations such as ALA, ACRL, etc. and preparing conference presentations or writing book reviews and articles. There is such variety in my work week that I never grow bored! I learn something new every day. How many people can say that about their job? That’s why I love being a librarian.”

I asked Rebecca about her role as a subject liaison for the social sciences and how ANSS membership plays a part. She replied: “I serve the needs of the Psychology Department and the various Government, Sociology, and Anthropology faculty and classes at McNeese. ANSS has helped me keep up with the academic and professional trends in these areas, whether it is through their conference discussion groups, affiliations with the ASA, or listserv discussions. ANSS helps me to look outside the world of librarianship for a bit and gain perspectives in the world of academia so I know how I can better serve the needs of faculty and students in the social science disciplines. I let faculty know that I am a member of ANSS so that they know librarians have an intellectual and professional interest in the social science disciplines. We are not just keepers of books…we understand the world of social science information and the academic discipline too!”

Be sure to visit Rebecca’s intriguing and informative “Gov Docs on the Bayou” blog at http://msugovdocs.blogspot.com/. Read the full version of this interview below to discover what’s on Rebecca’s current reading list, her favorite blogs, the hazards of life in the hurricane zone, and the inside scoop on the ANSS program planning experience!

Member Profile: Rebecca Blakeley, Government Documents Department Head, McNeese State University Library
Interviewed by Wendy Highby, ANSS Membership Committee
I had the pleasure of getting to know Rebecca Blakely while working with her on the 2006-08 ANSS Conference Program Planning Committee. I'm happy to introduce her to my fellow ANSS members in the following Q&A:

Where did you grow up?
I grew up in Rhode Island, on a small island in the middle of Narragansett Bay called Jamestown, which connects to the “mainland” of RI by bridge. It was beautiful there and I miss the cliffs overlooking the bay and the Atlantic Ocean.

What were some of your favorite books as a child and/or teen?
I was enthralled by the *Anne of Green Gables* series by L.M. Montgomery. The main character was my hero. She was so intelligent, sassy, and strong willed. I also read the *Little House on the Prairie* books and the *American Girls* series. As a teen, *The Catcher in the Rye* was my Bible but also anything written about Asia. I have always had an affinity for Asian cultures, so books about Tibet, India, Japan, Buddhism, etc. filled my bookshelves.

What are you reading now (or recently)?
Right now I am reading the Twilight series and I’m not ashamed of it! (They are books written for teenage girls…vampire/love story type thing). They sure are fun to read. I am also reading anything I can about the Tudors, having just returned from a summer trip to London and visits to Hampton Court and Hever castle!

Where did you pursue your undergraduate education?
I went to the University of Rhode Island from 1998-2003 and graduated with a B.A. in Anthropology. I had a bunch of undeclared minors, including German, Asian Studies, and International Politics type courses.

Who are what inspired you to become a librarian?
My Uncle and Aunt are librarians, so they were a big inspiration. My Uncle worked at the NY Public Library, worked on Native American Indian Reservations to help build libraries, then he worked at the University of Arizona, and now he is a children’s librarian at San Francisco Public Library! My Aunt is now working at UC Berkeley as Curator of the Bancroft Collection of Western Americana. I grew up watching them be fulfilled in their careers and it made me want to become a librarian too! However, in college I was thinking of getting my PhD in Anthropology but I realized how much I loved research (and I guess I was pretty good at it because my fellow students were always asking me for help in the library!) and so I decided to pursue a library science degree instead. Someday I will get a second Masters degree or PhD, but at the moment I am focusing on my career and professional growth.

Where did you get your MLS?
I stayed at the University of Rhode Island because they had a great MLIS program and I lived right down the road…so why not? I graduated with my MLIS degree in 2005. It was a happy day when I received that diploma!

What career path did you take from MLS degree to Government Documents Department Head at McNeese State University?
I had worked at the University of Rhode Island Library during graduate school as a graduate student assistant in the Reference Department and in the Government Publications department. Immediately after receiving my MLIS, I worked at the University of Rhode Island Library as a temporary Reference Librarian and Instructor of a 3 credit Information Literacy course. I learned so much that year. Alas, it was only a temporary position so I had to find a job elsewhere, and I was offered a position as Reference Librarian and Assistant Professor at McNeese State University in Lake Charles, Louisiana. It was the best decision I ever made because I love the people I work with, the patrons, the community, and I met my husband here! After 6 months in that position, I applied for the newly vacant position of Head of Government Documents, seeing as I always had a passion for Government information and had some graduate school work experience in that area. I was offered the position in December 2006 and it’s where I’ve been ever since! The learning curve was steep at first, but I was glad I had taken a course on Government Documents during grad school, with the inspiring Professor Daniel O’Mahony, former Government Documents Librarian at Brown University. I also had a knowledgeable and hardworking staff to help me with learning all the technical aspects of running the department.

Multi-tasking is often required of librarians, especially of those serving small and mid-sized universities. (McNeese’s enrollment is about 9,000). Tell us about the variety of tasks in your typical workweek.
Ah, yes. I tend to wear many hats. I do quite a bit of reference work (we have our own reference desk) and instruction, but I also do a lot of technical work such as cataloging and updating our website. Then of course I do outreach to faculty and the community at large (the 7th Congressional District of Louisiana) as their government information liaison. I also make sure the day-to-day functions of the department run properly, including processing incoming government documents, managing student workers and my staff, and making sure our short and long term goals are being met. My management
skills have grown and improved over the past two years, that’s for sure! But I also love being involved in state and national organizations such as ALA, ACRL, etc. and preparing conference presentations or writing books reviews and articles. There is such variety in my work week that I never grow bored! I learn something new everyday. How many people can say that about their job? That’s why I love being a librarian.

I enjoyed reading your “Gov Docs on the Bayou” blog (http://msugovdocs.blogspot.com/). What caused you to start a blog?
I love to write and I love to spread the word about interesting government information resources, so I thought I’d jump on the blog bandwagon. So far I have about 30 regular RSS feed subscribers and my page count keeps increasing, but even if only one person read my blog, I’d continue to post entries because it’s just so darn enjoyable! Some students have said they like to check in and see what I have to say and they learn about new websites they like to use for their research or personal interest. I’m sure it’s mostly just colleagues who read my blog, but that’s ok. It’s a way to educate my fellow non-Government Document librarian colleagues as well. It’s another great way to get “Documents to the People!” as we Government Documents Librarians like to say. That’s our mantra. Go check out the GODORT (Government Documents Round Table of ALA) website for more information on that.

Are you a regular reader of blogs? Any you’d like to recommend?
Yes! I read many on a daily basis. Thank goodness for Feed Readers like Google Reader or Bloglines. I highly recommend reading The Librarian in Black (http://librarianinblack.typepad.com/librarianinblack/) for insight on the “techie” and Web 2.0 aspects of librarianship, and the blog on FGI: Free Government Information (http://freegovinfo.info/blog) of which I contribute. If you care about open access and freedom of information, then you need to check out the FGI website. The creators and contributors of this website have inspired me and taught me so much. Their passion is infectious and it will remind you of why our profession is so important, especially in this day and age.

You are located in Lake Charles, LA, about 200 miles west of New Orleans. How was your University (locally or state-system-wide) affected by Hurricane Katrina? And does it have continuing after-effects?
Actually, we were not affected directly by Katrina but we were hit hard by Hurricane Rita a month later in October 2005. I was still in RI at the time, but had to help with the aftermath and clean up once I assumed the position as Government Documents librarian a year later! We are still organizing and recovering the collection. To make a long story short, rain and wind destroyed over 10,000 of our documents due to roof damage. Right now we are anticipating Hurricane Ike to make landfall in SE Texas and parts of SW Louisiana so I am very nervous about potential effects. A week ago Hurricane Gustav hit Louisiana but thankfully did not heavily damage Lake Charles or McNeese. But I am very grateful for the donations and support I have received from other depository libraries across the state and the country, from the Library of Congress, and from the Government Printing Office (GPO) and the Federal Depository Library Program (FDLP).

You are a subject liaison for the social sciences. Which subject areas do you serve? How has ANSS membership helped you in fulfilling that role?
I serve the needs of the Psychology Department and the various Government, Sociology, and Anthropology faculty and classes at McNeese. ANSS has helped me keep up with the academic and professional trends in these areas, whether it is through their conference discussion groups, affiliations with the ASA (American Sociological Association), or listserv discussions. ANSS helps me to look outside the world of librarianship for a bit and gain perspectives in the world of academia so I know how I can better serve the needs of faculty and students in the social science disciplines. I let faculty know that I am a member of ANSS so that they know librarians have an intellectual and professional interest in the social science disciplines. We are not just keepers of books…we understand the world of social science information and the academic discipline too!

I’m guessing that your social sciences and government documents specialties might overlap in some interesting ways. What are the connections?
Yes! I particularly love that the Smithsonian produces some marvelous publications that are of interest to Anthropologists or Social Scientists, such as the Handbook of North American Indians series. The National Park Service produces a plethora of material on archeological sites and historical preservation techniques. And of course, we social science folks love statistics. Government agencies collect and disseminate all kinds of statistics, such as the Department of Justice or the Census Bureau. Statistics can tell us so much about our society and helps determine what programs or policies are needed that our government (or non-profit, non-governmental organizations) should establish. I love helping faculty find the statistical information they need for their research because I know it will help others. I am proud to be a part of that process.

You were the 2006-08 Co-Chair of the ANSS Conference Program Planning Committee and
planned the recent ALA Annual Conference-Anaheim program entitled, “The Lady, the Tramp, and the Lion King: Mixed Messages about Gender, Race, and Ethnicity in Disney’s Magic Kingdom”. What did you learn from and/or enjoy most about the experience?
I will remember that conference program for the rest of my life, not only because the work input and output helped me grow professionally and intellectually, but the message that was conveyed by the speakers that day had a profound emotional impact on me and certain members of the audience. A few of the program attendees came up to me afterwards and thanked me for moderating and organizing the program, and one African-American woman confided that she was not planning to attend the ALA conference because she had reservations about it being held in Anaheim, the home of Disneyland. But when she saw in the program booklet that this panel was going to be held, she changed her mind! I was particularly touched by Betsy Hearne’s (the closing speaker) emotionally charged and eloquent delivery. I had goose bumps and tears welling up in my eyes…and I noticed I wasn’t the only one! After that entire experience, I knew I would be an ANSS member for the rest of my career. I look forward to many more intellectually charged ANSS experiences in the future.

REVIEW

Sage Journals Online
Nikhat Ghouse, University of Kansas Libraries

Basic Information
Review of Sage Journals Online
Publisher: Sage Publication
Reviewed: May - September 2008
Date span of coverage: Historical – present
Address: SAGE Publications 2455 Teller Road Thousand Oaks, CA 91320
Tel: 800-818-7243 or 805-499-9774
Web: http://www.sagepub.com/home.nav
Cost: varies with individual titles; contact Sage for pricing

Introduction
Sage Journals Online (SJO) is a discipline-specific database that provides online access to the full text of individual SAGE journals. All periodicals within SJO are distributed by Sage Publications.

Collections and Scope
As of 2008, Sage Journals Online (SJO) features full-text access to 485 scholarly journals in Business, Humanities, Social Sciences, and Science, Technology and Medicine. Sage Journals Online provides access to ten collections: Communication Studies, Criminology, Education, Health Sciences, Management & Organization Studies, Material Sciences, Political Sciences, Psychology, Sociology and Urban Studies & Planning. For this review we will concentrate on the full-text collections for Sociology and Criminology.
The Sociology collection from SJO provides full-text access to forty-one journals, with access differing with each specific journal; for example, Acta Sociologica is available from 1956 while access to the International Review for the Sociology of Sport began in 2007. The Criminology Collection offers full-text access to twenty-four titles going back to 1921 for the Prison Journal. A great majority, but not all of these journals, are available from the start of the publication.

Interface
Sage interface is relatively easy to use. The default search is the Quick Search and it searches basic terms in the Sage Collections. The Quick Search searches article title and abstract for relevant results. The Advanced Search in SJO has many more features. SJO uses Boolean Operators to break up search terms; it also presents many options for field searching. The Advanced Search drop down menu provides over fifteen search fields to consider including abstract, key words, descriptor, full text and journal title. One can further limit his/her results by searching specific collections, all Sage content, or only content available to that institution. Additional limit options allow the user to select specific journals from a complete list and search by date range using month/year.
The Browse feature allows the user to browse through the available journals by title, author, and descriptor. The final browse option is a thesaurus. The thesaurus enables the user to look up a word by searching subject matter taxonomy. A search for *culture* provides the subject heading; clicking on the subject heading, one can see the definition of culture and other relevant terms (child terms to the Parent term, *culture*).

Search History
The Search History of *SJO* gives the history of past searches including the limits utilized in the search. It also allows for combining searches using Boolean operators AND or OR. Users can create an account with *SJO* and while they are searching the last ten searches are saved for as long as they remain logged into the resource.

My Tools
The My Tools function has a number of specialization resources and tools available to database users.

Alerts
*SJO* provides users with three types of alert notifications via email. This alert system allows for the receipt of Table of Contents from selected journals. Users may also request notification when a particular article is cited by others. The final alert allows users to be notified via email based on an established set of criteria.

Saved Citations
Citations may be emailed, downloaded and saved to a My Marked Citation folder for later access and use. Also available is the option to transfer citations using citation management software such as EndNote, ProCite, or RefWorks.

My Favorite Journals
The My Favorite Journals function in *Sage Journals Online* allows the user to identify their favorite journals and allow for quick browsing of the table of contents.

Managing Account
Under Managing your Account, users may change and update their contact information and password to access the My Tools resources.
Comparison with Sociological Abstracts
A side-by-side comparison of SJO and Sociological Abstracts (SA) is difficult as SJO is a full-text database while SA is mainly an abstract database with some full text. Sage Journals Online provides full-text access to forty-one journal titles from the Sociology Collection and twenty-four journal titles from the Criminology Collection while SA provides abstract access to some 2,037 journals. Of the sixty-five journals from both SJO collections, twelve are not available in the larger SA database. These eight titles for the Sociology Collection are: Australian & New Zealand Journal of Sociology; Home Economics Research Journal (now called Family and Consumer Sciences Research Journal); Political Research, Organization and Design; Race; Sociology of Work and Occupations; Urban Life; and Urban Life and Culture. The three titles not in SA from the Criminology Collection are Feminist Criminology, Police Quarterly, and Probation Journal.

The coverage or access to SA journals varies based on three levels of coverage. For core journals all “substantive articles appearing in [them]…are abstracted and indexed.”¹ Priority Journals are from related social sciences fields and about 50% of relevant articles appear from those journals, while Selective journals provide less than 50% of articles written by sociologists. Of the remaining forty-nine SJO titles, thirty-five are listed as core titles in SA; twelve are listed as priority, and seven are listed as selective.

Conclusion
Sage Journals Online would be a good resource for libraries with sociology and criminology majors. SJO can be used concurrently with Sociological Abstracts for full-text articles via a link resolver and would be an excellent supplement to SA. Institutions without a sociology major but with stronger criminology studies or justice studies programs may consider SJO to be the better option.


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