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ANSS CURRENTS

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Note: For full newsletter content, see the web version
<http://www.ala.org/ala/acrl/aboutacrl/acrlsections/anss/currents/currents.cfm>

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

Katie Whitson

It was wonderful to see so many of you during Mid-Winter – what beautiful weather we had in Philadelphia! Thanks very much for your continued contributions to the Section. Since I last saw you, ANSS has had exciting news to report. Due to the fabulous work of the Instruction and Information Literacy Task Force on Information Literacy Standards led by Patti Caravello, Susan Macicak, and Triveni Kuchi, the Information Literacy Standards for Anthropology and Sociology Students http://www.ala.org/ala/acrl/acrlstandards/anthro_soc_standards.cfm were not only approved by ACRL, but also were published in *C&RL News*. <http://www.ala.org/ala/acrl/acrlpubs/crlnews/backissues2008/march08/March.cfm> [See ACRL Board of Directors' Actions, January 2008]

In November, ACRL's Council of Liaisons announced the establishment of liaison relationships with several academic professional organizations, including the American Anthropological Association (AAA) and the American Sociological Association (ASA).

We put out a call to members of ANSS hoping to find individuals to serve as liaisons to these associations and were fortunate to receive many positive responses. We are currently awaiting decisions from the Council.

If you are going to Annual, you will definitely want to attend our program on Sunday morning! Our 2008 Program Planning Committee is putting the finishing touches on what should be an outstanding session: *The Lady, the Tramp, and the Lion King*:

Mixed Messages About Gender, Race, and Ethnicity in Disney's Magic Kingdom.
<http://anssdisney08.wordpress.com/>

ANSS is a very active, successful Section; that success is made possible by all of you -- our wonderful volunteers. If you would like to get more involved with the Section by serving on a committee, please fill out the volunteer form available at <http://www.acrl.org/volunteer>. I also encourage you to subscribe to our listserv, ANSS-L, <http://www.acrl.org/ala/acrl/aboutacrl/acrlsections/anss/anss-l.cfm>. With the exception of the Nominating Committee, all ANSS meetings are open. So, if you are curious about ANSS, I invite you to sit in on meetings and talk to members. I look forward to seeing many of you in Anaheim!

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Ad Hoc Committee on the Assessment of Library Collections and Services in Sociology
David Woolwine, Chair

The committee has had an informal roundtable topic accepted for the upcoming American Sociological Association meeting, entitled: A Library for Your Department? A Conversation with Sociology Librarians. Several committee members will be presenting in the hopes of sparking a discussion with sociologists.

ANSS Instruction and Information Literacy Committee Susan Macicak & Triveni Kuchi, Co-Chairs

The Instruction and Information Literacy Committee welcomed two new members present (Alanna Aiko Moore and Jason Phillips) and announced the imminent approval by the ACRL Board of the *Information Literacy Standards for Anthropology and Sociology Students*, drafted by the Standards Task Force. The committee has begun to focus on the development and rollout of the planned Repository of Teaching Materials. Discussion continues regarding submitter rights, policies and procedures, including the possibility of a peer-review process.

The committee also discussed additional resources to include with the repository, such as a continuously updated bibliography of sources relevant to IL in Anthropology, Sociology and affiliate fields. Other goals for the immediate future are publicizing the pilot repository, once it is viable, via AAA and ASA contacts, ANSS-L, the Instruction Section, and other local means; planning for growth and the possible migration of the current pilot site; and continuing the discussion with Margaret Vitullo and ASA regarding their hosting the repository or a mirror to enable faculty and non-ALA affiliates to submit and draw from the repository.

Strategies for securing American Anthropological Association formal endorsement of the ANSS standards were also discussed, with goals centered on raising awareness of the practical uses of the document and furthering collaboration with AAA officers in developing an IL workshop at annual AAA meetings. The Committee also plans to develop programs and activities to enhance Anthropology and Sociology librarian fluency in applying the standards in their teaching and assessment activities.

Publications Committee Erin Daix, Chair

The Publications Committee discussed several ANSSWeb issues including migration to the ACRL server, reorganization, and the updating of content. ANSSWeb has left the Old Dominion University

servers and currently resides on the servers at the University of Delaware. Carol Bell and Erin Daix are in the process of updating and migrating ANSSWeb to the ACRL servers. They hope to have the transition fully complete before the Annual Conference.

Review and Planning Committee JoAnn Jacoby, Chair

The Review and Planning Committee welcomed three new members (Jennifer Nason Davis, ex officio, Randy Hertzler, ex officio and Susan Macicak) and reviewed the group charge which includes making "recommendations regarding the section's goals, future directions, policies, and procedures."

The importance of committee names that are accurate, meaningful and appealing to new members was discussed. We also talked about strategies for addressing some of the unmet needs that were identified in recent ACRL membership surveys, including a need for more opportunities to share research findings and more robust support for new forms of networked communications. The Bibliography Committee was identified as a group whose name caused confusion and suggestions for names and a revised charge will be considered at Annual. At the Liaison Committee, their charge will also be reviewed prior to Annual.

In addition, the Review and Planning Committee reviewed the ANSS Manual <http://www.ala.org/ala/acrl/aboutacrl/acrlsections/anss/manual.cfm>, approving revisions to the "Checklist for Vice Chair" and "Checklist for Committee Chairs" and a drafting an entirely new "Checklist for Members-At-Large" (with lots of help from Liz Cooper and Terry Epperson). The need to create a "Checklist for Discussion Group Leaders" was identified. (This document was subsequently drafted by Christina Smith, who graciously answered the call at Monday's Executive Committee meeting.)

Liaison Committee

David Hovde, Chair

The committee discussed the following at Midwinter:

- 1) The need for a new chair since I have changed jobs and am no longer a Sociology/Anthropology bibliographer after 21 years.
- 2) Discussed the ASA/AAA liaison positions.
- 3) Talked about what else this committee could be doing since its function is so limited and because of this so few members actually attend meetings. Could the ANSS executive committee actually assign members of the committee to be official liaisons to other parts of ALA that relate to ANSS, etc. and make this a permanent part of the Liaison Committee's function?

ANSS Membership Committee

Co-Chairs Liz Cooper and Terry Epperson

The Midwinter ANSS Social was a big success with over 35 attendees! We are looking forward to the next Social in Anaheim.

The Membership Committee will continue its Conference Buddy program and is working on developing a more extensive mentoring program that would reach beyond the ALA conferences. You will see more about this soon, as we'll need ANSS members to help implement this new program.

Other work includes collaborating with the Publications Committee to establish a featured member profile in *Currents*, providing more outreach to library schools as potential sources of future members, and gathering more information about our members.

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 the use of subject headings about prisoners and criminals; maritime archaeology; what subject headings are used for cultural resource management materials; how to

distinguish identical names; and how to find materials on law and legislation of a given topic. We are current on the monthly lists of new subject headings in the social sciences. A couple of subject heading proposals were submitted to SACO. We will send another alert about this service once issues around the online form are resolved.

The Committee discussed our web pages and some improvements we will submit to the Publications Committee. We would like to update the Committee description on ANSSWeb to more accurately reflect current duties of the committee. [The update with minor revisions was subsequently approved by the Executive Board Monday January 14, 2008.]

DISCUSSION GROUP REPORTS

Sociology Librarians Discussion Group

Christina Smith, co-convenor

Sociology databases were the focus of our Midwinter discussion in Philadelphia. Nine representatives from EBSCO, H. W. Wilson and ProQuest (CSA) presented features of their databases and search platforms to twenty-two librarians in attendance. At the conclusion, convenor Christina Smith requested suggestions for discussion topics for ALA Annual conference in Anaheim. Suggestions included de-accessioning of print indexes and bibliographies, sociology and the global focus, International Federation of Library Associations, and information literacy and working with faculty. Christina also indicated that new co-convenors are being sought for the Sociology Librarians Discussion Group for two-year terms beginning after the ALA Annual conference in June. Interested volunteers may contact Christina or Carol Bell.

ANSS MEMBERS' NEWS

David Woolwine, chair of the Ad Hoc Committee on the Assessment of Library Collections and Services in Sociology has been offered a seasonal lecturer position for this summer at the McGill University School of Information Studies. He will be teaching a course on abstracting and indexing.

Wayne Sanders, Monograph Cataloger at University of Missouri, was selected for the Emerging Leaders Program '08. Wayne currently serves as the Chair of the Subject & Bibliographic Access Committee

REVIEW

AnthroSource

Jeffrey A. Knapp, Penn State University, Altoona College

Review of *AnthroSource*, accessed November 2007–February 2008

Publisher: The American Anthropological Association, in partnership with Wiley-Blackwell.

Reviewed: November 2007–March 2008

Date span of coverage: Historical to the present

Address: Blackwell Publishing, Inc., 350 Main St., Malden, MA 02148 USA

Tel: 800.835.6770 or 781.388.8599

Fax: 781.388.8232

Email: customerservices@blackwellpublishing.com

Web: <http://www.anthrosource.net>

Cost (annually): \$1,268 for universities; \$865 for baccalaureate colleges and specialized institutions; \$396 for two-year colleges, law libraries, medical libraries, and high schools; Free for U.S. tribal colleges, Historically Black Colleges/Universities, and Canadian Arctic and First Nations Colleges.

Introduction

For those not familiar with *AnthroSource*, it might be best to start with what *AnthroSource* is not.

Generally speaking, *AnthroSource* (*AS*) is not an index—it doesn't include detailed metadata, such as subject headings or descriptors. Searching within *AS* is primarily by keyword, and the journals included are all published by the same publisher, the American Anthropological Association (AAA) in association with Wiley-Blackwell. Based on these characteristics, *AS* could be defined as a “journal aggregator,” similar to Elsevier's *ScienceDirect*, or SpringerLink.

AS is not just a journal aggregator either. Aggregators tend to actually “hold” or “aggregate”

all the digital files of their articles on their own servers so that requested articles can be delivered from one website. *AS* departs from this model in the fact that a substantial portion of its historical content is provided by *JSTOR*¹. Generally articles published prior to 1997 are accessible through *JSTOR*, with more recent articles actually provided by *AS* itself. *AS* can be thought of as a “bridge” from *JSTOR*'s “moving wall” to the present.

So what is *AS*? Librarians with a need to classify things could use the term “portal” to describe *AS*—it is a single online location that expedites access to specific content that can be located in multiple places.

AnthroSource was launched in 2005 as a partnership between the AAA and University of California Press, and was the culmination of a five-year project to transform the way the AAA provided its members access to its publications. For information about the creation of *AS* and the factors that contributed to it, see Susan Skomal's article in the *ARL*.²

The biggest news recently about *AnthroSource* was the AAA's decision to switch publishers for their journals from UC Press to Wiley-Blackwell, announced in September 2007.³ While there was understandable concern among librarians about the move from a university press to a commercial one, the true impact of the switch is not immediately apparent. Sources at Blackwell have indicated that no changes to the *AS* platform or interface are planned for 2008, although there are likely to be some changes and updates in 2009.

¹ JSTOR is a non-profit organization that provides access to a huge backfile of scholarly journals in electronic format. See <http://www.jstor.org/>

² Skomal, S. (2005). Transformation of a scholarly society publishing program. *ARL*, 242, 1–5. Retrieved November 2, 2007, from <http://www.arl.org/bm~doc/arlbr242scholsoc.pdf>

³ Blackwell Publishing. (September 17, 2007). *Wiley-Blackwell and American Anthropological Association Announce Partnership*. Retrieved November 2, 2007, from <http://www.blackwellpublishing.com/press/pressitem.asp?ref=1435>

A potential area for expansion would be the fulfillment of the original vision for *AnthroSource*. Skomal's article envisions a scholarly portal that would include periodical articles, but also monographs, textbooks, open access journals, learning objects, data sets, and user forums, and other web communities of practice and interest⁴.

It must be noted that *AS* is offered as a free service to all AAA members. In other words, anthropology faculty most likely will already have access to it on their own. While this is not meant to imply that *AS* will only be used by faculty, it is important to note this in any selection decision.

To get the maximum benefit from *AS*, a library needs also to subscribe to *JSTOR*, particularly the "Arts & Sciences" and "Arts & Sciences II" collections. Without subscribing to *JSTOR*, an institutional subscription to *AS* will only provide access to the content actually contained in *AS*, none of the older content offered by *JSTOR*. Individual AAA members do have access to *JSTOR* content, however.

Scope

In theory, the scope of *AnthroSource* contains all issues of all AAA journals, newsletters, and bulletins. The reality is that there are some missing issues of some journals. *AS* has a detailed holdings list on its site that presents the date ranges covered for each journal: of the 32 publications listed, 8 indicate missing content. A quick review reveals a few scattered issues missing in most cases, with no major spans of issues missing.

The following list will give an idea of the age of the publications offered, by decade:

- 1 journal going back to 1888 (*American Anthropologist*);
- 2 newsletters beginning in the 1960s (including *Anthropology News*);
- 13 publications beginning in the 1970s;
- 6 publications beginning in the 1980s;
- 9 publications beginning in the 1990s; and
- 1 publication beginning in the 2000s.

⁴ See aforementioned article by Skomal, S.

Considering that Anthropology is frequently broken down into four sub-fields: Archaeology; Biological Anthropology; Linguistic Anthropology; and Sociocultural Anthropology, the publications offered in *AS* were analyzed to see what the balance is among them. Using descriptions secured from a number of sources,⁵ each publication was tagged with one of five identifiers: one for each of the aforementioned "four fields," and one for "general." Since *AS* consists of publications from a scholarly society whose goal is to promote the discipline as a whole, it was not surprising that "general" was the largest category. The breakdown by field was as follows:

- Archaeology, primarily: 2
- Biological Anthropology, primarily: 2
- Linguistic Anthropology, primarily: 1
- Sociocultural Anthropology, primarily: 10
- General Anthropology: 16

The content of *AS* can also be analyzed by type of publication. Currently, all of the *AS* content is from AAA periodicals, but not all of these periodicals are journals. Many are newsletters, bulletins, or conference proceedings. Here is the breakdown:⁶

- Scholarly Journals, Refereed: 14
- Scholarly Journals, Non-refereed: 8
- Monographic Series: 4
- Bulletins: 2
- Newsletters: 4

Features

Like most electronic resources available today, *AS* offers features to assist the search process. By registering with *AS* and setting up a free account, users can receive notifications by email or RSS when a new issue of a journal is published, or when a selected article is cited. Searches can be saved, so

⁵ The author consulted *UlrichsWeb* (the online version of *Ulrich's Periodicals Directory*), the AAA's publications page at <http://www.aaanet.org/pubs/index.htm>, or simply the title of the publication or goals of the AAA section that publishes it.

⁶ Document types were identified through *UlrichsWeb*, or in the event that the publication was ceased or not listed in Ulrich's, the author made a judgment based on available issues.

that they are automatically run at regular intervals and send a notification with the results.

AS does not offer any citation tips, such as “How to cite this article” in different citation styles. There is a “Download to Citation Manager” link, allowing the user to download the bibliographic information directly to any of the major citation management applications available (such as *ProCite*, *EndNote*, or *RefWorks*).

Analysis

The search interface is very simple, offering a single text box to enter search terms. An “Advanced Search” option allows the user to search specific index fields. As mentioned previously, *AnthroSource* is not a highly-indexed resource. Searches are run entirely by keyword in one of three fields: article title; article full text; and author’s last name. The Boolean operators *and*, *or*, and *not* all work if typed into the basic search field. In the “Advanced Search” mode, the user can use special fields to get the same results (“Find articles with: all the words/the exact phrase/at least one of the words/none of the words”). Searches can be limited by date range, or publication title, and users can choose to search either all available publications or one specific publication title.

Although *AS* does not include subject headings or descriptors to identify specific articles, the available full-text search capabilities are well developed. Search terms are “stemmed,” so a search for “anthropology” will retrieve “anthropologist” and “anthropological,” for example. Citations listed in articles are linked via CrossRef⁷ to the articles they represent, where available. *AS* also is compatible with the link resolver *SFX* and is compliant with the OpenURL standard.

Search results can be sorted either by relevancy or by date. It is unclear how “relevancy” is determined for purposes of ranking search results. The *AnthroSource* site does not address this explicitly and a satisfactory answer was not received from Blackwell. Articles are delivered as PDFs.

⁷ CrossRef is a Digital Object Identifier (DOI) Resolver that facilitates linking within online literature. For more details, see <http://www.crossref.org/01company/16fastfacts.html>

Comparison

Comparisons with *AS* are difficult for reasons mentioned earlier—*AS* is somewhat unique among anthropology resources. Databases like *Anthropological Index*, *Anthropological Literature*, and *AnthropologyPlus* are purely finding tools, offering no full-text access, but very precise subject search capabilities. Conversely, *AS* is a repository, offering simplified search capabilities with a robust collection of full-text articles.

For those institutions with the financial resources available for both, *AS* would serve as an excellent complement to an index like *AnthropologyPlus*, combining *AnthropologyPlus*’s robust search capabilities with the full-text access of *AS*.

Perhaps the most appropriate comparison would be with Blackwell Synergy, the e-journal collection containing all of Blackwell’s journals. With *AnthroSource*’s migration to Blackwell, all of the recent issues of AAA journals will be available on Synergy in *a la carte* fashion. According to Blackwell’s price list, if online access to all 17 of the AAA journals were purchased individually, the annual price tag would be \$1,773, compared to the annual price of \$1,268 for all 32 of the AAA publications in *AS*.

Recommendations

Recommendations would be difficult at this early stage in Blackwell’s stewardship of *AnthroSource*. Rising periodicals costs are forcing many libraries to take a hard look at their e-journal collections. *AS* moving to a large commercial publisher makes many librarians believe that AAA journals costs will only increase. Since many anthropology faculty will already have access to AAA journals through *AnthroSource* by virtue of their membership, many libraries may decide to go without *AS* by subscribing to just those AAA journals that focus on the specific fields of anthropology emphasized at their institutions.

A possible benefit to subscribing to specific AAA journals *a la carte* through *Blackwell Synergy* is that Blackwell is also the publisher of a number of *non-AAA* anthropology journals. This might be a better

option for smaller college libraries without an anthropology program.

The resources of a large commercial publisher like Blackwell, however, may add more value to the current legacy product from UC Press. If Blackwell can help the AAA grow *AS* into the portal it was originally intended to be, it might provide enough added value to make any price increases worthwhile. Whether such a portal will be created, or even desired by users, remains to be seen, but the potential is there for *AS* to evolve into a very unique and interesting resource. And, while the move to Blackwell has caused some concern in libraries, the best-case scenario for the future of *AnthroSource* would be that efficiencies (hopefully) gained by moving to a commercial publisher will decrease the

cost of access and expose the AAA's resources to a broader audience.

If funds allow, there is no question that *AnthroSource* would be an asset to a library's electronic collection. However, if the decision comes down to dollars and cents, there are ways to survive without an institutional subscription to *AS*. Blackwell's contribution to *AS* remains to be seen, and as of right now, there simply is not enough unique content in *AS* to justify a new subscription to it. Libraries should hold off another year to see what Blackwell has in store for *AS* in 2009. If new, more unique content is introduced, then that would serve as a very good sign that *AS* might live up to its original vision. If not, then the more prudent course of action would be to subscribe to individual AAA journals electronically through Blackwell.

Preliminary Meeting Schedule, 2008 Anaheim

Friday, June 27

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

Saturday, June 28

Executive I (1st of 2) 8:00 – 9:00 a.m.
 Sociology Lib's Disc. Group 10:30 – 12:00 p.m.
 Subject & Bib. Access 10:30 - 12:00 p.m.
 Conf. Prog. Planning 2008 10:30 – 12:00 p.m.
 Assessment of Lib. Collec. 1:30 – 3:30 p.m.
 Liaison 1:30 – 3:30 p.m.
 Membership 1:30 – 3:30 p.m.
 Publications 1:30 – 3:30 p.m.
 Crim. Justice/Crim. Disc. 4:00 – 5:30 p.m.

Sunday, June 29

ANSS Program 8:30 – Noon
 Bibliography 1:30 – 5:30 p.m.
 Conf. Prog. Plan. 2009 1:30 – 3:30 p.m.
 Instruction & Info Lit 1:30 – 3:30 p.m.
 Nominating 2009 1:30 – 3:30 p.m.
 Anthro. Lib's Disc.. Group 4:00 – 5:30 p.m.

Monday, June 30

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

Volunteer to serve on an ANSS committee!

ANSS is seeking volunteers for committee assignments.
 For more info, including a volunteer form,
<http://www.ala.org/ala/acrl/aboutacrl/acrlsections/anss/>

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Co-Editor: Jenny Bowers, University of Denver, 2150 East Evans Avenue, Denver, CO 80208
(303) 871-3403. jbowers@du.edu

Co-Editor: Susan Metcalf, Western Carolina University, Hunter Library, 176 Central Drive, Cullowhee, NC 28723,
(828) 227-3416. metcalf@email.wcu.edu

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

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Chair, 2007-08: Katharine Whitson, University of Washington, 18225 Campus Way NE
Bothell, WA 98011-8245, (425) 352-5341. kwhitson@u.washington.edu

Vice Chair/Chair-Elect, 2007-08: Randy Hertzler, George Washington University, 2130 H St. NW, Washington, DC, 20052, (202) 994-1354. hertzler@gwu.edu

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