MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR
Liz Cooper

Thank you to everyone who participated at the ALA Midwinter meetings in Boston. The meeting was a great success and it was wonderful to see and work with so many of you at the ANSS committee meetings and discussion groups.

I am pleased to announce that at the 2010 Midwinter meeting, the ANSS Executive Committee approved the “Assessment Tool for Sociology Collections and Services,” created, at the request of the American Sociological Association, by the ANSS Ad Hoc Committee on the Assessment of Library Collections and Services in Sociology. The ANSS Executive Committee would like to thank the Ad Hoc Committee and its members over the past few years, David Woolwine, JoAnn Jacoby, Shawn Nicholson, Jason Phillips, Judy Solberg, Jennifer Sundheim, and Rui Wang, for all their hard work. They have created an exceptional tool that I hope all ANSS members will read and use. This new tool is now posted on ANSSWeb (under the section devoted to “Publications and Bibliographies”) http://www.ala.org/ala/mgrps/divs/acrl/about/sections/anss/index.cfm. Even if you are not a sociology librarian, please take a look at it. The tool provides useful ways to think about assessing collections and services.

This new assessment tool is just one of the many projects and initiatives to come out of ANSS committee work. Please take the time to read the committee reports in this issue of Currents to learn more about your colleagues’ work.

I look forward to seeing many of you at the ALA Annual conference in Washington, D.C. this June 24-29. I especially hope that you will be able to attend the ANSS program on Sunday morning, “Standing Up and Sitting In: Libraries and Social Change.” The 2010 Program Planning committee has done a great job lining up interesting speakers who will talk about how libraries have promoted social causes and supported social movements. To learn more about the program, visit http://anssdc.wordpress.com/, and please spread the word to your colleagues and friends about our exciting program! See you in Washington, D.C.!

In Memory of Jim Haug

This fall we lost a very active and greatly admired member of our ANSS community, Jim Haug. Jim had been an active ANSS member since 1994, serving on and chairing the Bibliography Committee, convening the Anthropology Librarians Discussion Group, and serving on the Liaison, Conference Program Planning, Review and Planning, Nominating, and Executive committees. He was also elected and served both as Secretary as well as Chair of ANSS. In fact, Jim was Chair of ANSS the year that I joined the section. I remember when I first met him at the ANSS Social in San Diego. I didn’t know anyone in ANSS and ended up sitting next to Jim at the Social—which made me a bit nervous. Jim was the Chair of the section and a librarian at the Smithsonian Institution—and as a new anthropology librarian, who was also new to ANSS, I was a bit intimidated. But Jim immediately put me at ease with his kindness, gentle manner, and genuine interest in others. Jim had a presence about him that I think everyone who worked with him appreciated. Serving on committees with Jim was always a pleasure—he was a kind, hard-working, and dependable colleague, who treated everyone with respect. He will be greatly missed.

Maggie Dittemore, an ANSS member who was also a colleague of Jim’s at the Smithsonian, has graciously shared with us a tribute she wrote about Jim for Anthropolog, the Smithsonian’s Anthropology Department newsletter. It is reprinted below.

Liz Cooper, Chair, ANSS

John Wesley Powell Library of Anthropology
In Memory of our Colleague Jim Haug
James D. Haug, Reference Librarian in the Smithsonian Institution John Wesley Powell Library of Anthropology, passed away at home of a heart attack on Saturday, October 31, 2009. Jim came to the SI Libraries in November 1999. During his ten year stay he became known to co-workers and library users alike as an experienced, knowledgeable, and gentleman-librarian who loved a good chat and had a great but unexpected sense of humor. His subject expertise and professional reference experience made him a valuable asset to the Smithsonian. He had a Ph.D. in Anthropology from the University of Colorado with a focus on physical anthropology (his dissertation was on gorilla dentition) and some years of teaching. Although he did not like to talk publicly of his multiple degrees, he also had a M.S. in Public Health with a focus on epidemiology from the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill. His continued engagement in both of these fields helped him, as Ives Goddard put it, “to better understand the needs and interests of those he so cheerfully aided.” Jim was also an experienced librarian, coming to the SI with considerable university library reference work. Both at East Carolina University and here, he guided many through the complex and sometimes confusing mix of print and electronic resources that is now part of learning and research. He genuinely enjoyed helping people. The “memory book” in which staff and others within the museum wrote their memories of him for his family is full of anecdotes and expressions of gratitude for his help.

Beyond the SI Libraries, Jim was active in the American Library Association and held various offices. He was known among his ALA colleagues for his preparation, knowledge, thoughtful participation, and constructive contributions. He was also a member of the American Anthropological Association where he sought out opportunities in the interface between anthropology and libraries. He was an early member of the AAA Scholarly Communications Interest Group. He was also a member of the AAA Librarians’ Advisory Group which assisted then Director of Publications, Suzi Skomal, with the design and development of AnthroSource, a full-text electronic resource of AAA publications.

In addition to his knowledge and experience, Jim brought many personal traits to his position. He was not afraid to “roll up his sleeves and dig in,” whether it was bringing tools from home to work on stubborn shelving or wading into water to rescue library materials. In the latter case, when suddenly water came pouring through the ceiling above the stacks one afternoon (broken pipe on the floor above), Jim waded in without hesitation and began handing out and receiving at risk volumes until more protective steps could be taken. Jim was also very kind, polite, and generous with his time. As Jim Krakker put it, “Everyone who uses the library will miss our friend Jim, not just for his professional expertise but also for his many kindnesses.” Several contributors to his memory book referred to him as a calming influence in their daily museum life. As Mary Jo Arnoldi put it, “Jim was a gentle note in a sometimes rough and tumble landscape of the Smithsonian.” We will all miss him! Maggie Dittemore

CANDIDATE STATEMENTS

Terry Epperson: Vice-Chair/Chair-Elect

To maintain our reputation as one of the most dynamic and innovative sections in ACRL, we must continue and intensify our ongoing initiatives in realms such as Instruction, Information Literacy, and Collection Assessment. We must also maintain our focus on Annual Programs, which continue to have broad appeal and serve as an excellent recruiting tool. We should continue our efforts to mentor and recruit for the profession, presenting librarianship as a potential career trajectory for undergraduate social science students. Unfortunately, we also need to be cognizant of current economic realities, intensifying our efforts to foster virtual participation in committee and Executive Board work. ALA must facilitate virtual participation at a more reasonable cost. Finally, as subject experts in sociology and anthropology, we are ideally situated to foster and assess the application of ethnographic and qualitative research for the assessment and enhancement of libraries and librarianship.

Gabrielle Toth: Vice-Chair/Chair-Elect

My name is Gabrielle Toth, and I am a reference and instruction librarian and coordinator of government documents at Chicago State University, a 143-year-old public institution on Chicago’s far South Side. I hold an M.S.LIS from the University of Illinois, an M.A. in Latin American Studies from the University of Alabama, and a B.S. in Journalism from Northwestern University. Prior to entering library school, I completed two years toward a Ph.D. in Latin American history at the University of Pittsburgh. My eight-year-old son and I live in Chicago.

When Katie Whitson asked if I would consider running for ANSS vice-chair, I was shocked. I’m an unknown from a little-known institution who has been a librarian for a mere five years and a member of ANSS for only four years. I wondered what I could contribute to a section with so many experienced, talented members who possess both broad and deep knowledge of anthropology, sociology, criminal justice, and the materials that inform those fields’ research and teaching.
and learning. By contrast, I am a librarian at an institution that has long struggled and is suffering even more in our current economic climate.

In times like these, the experience of situations such as these may be of greater value than I would have imagined.

I am a librarian at a minority-serving institution in a library that is chronically underfunded. As such, my professional concerns revolve around access to materials, tools, and opportunities for those students, faculty, and staff who are not blessed with robust collections, to those who are not learning and working in environments that strive to maintain and seek to augment their library resources. I am equally passionate about providing access to and promoting anthropology, sociology, and criminal justice resources that document the fullness of U.S. and global experience in all their diversity. Putting these two imperatives together – namely, how to provide resources covering the wide spectrum of race/class/gender/age/orientation/methodological perspectives on a shoestring budget--is essential. Sharing such knowledge with librarians, along with best practices in promoting information literacy efforts, is imperative.

Juliann Couture: Member-at-Large

ANSS has provided me with a network of professionals who work in my area and with a great deal of support as I have embarked in my first professional position. I believe that professional service is beneficial to the organization and to the individual. If elected, I will use the accomplishments of ANSS to recruit new members while also determining how to reach out to get current members more involved. Our section has a lot to offer to those working in the areas of sociology, anthropology, and criminology through committee work and discussion groups but I would also like to use the position to find out from members how the section can grow to better serve our profession.

Annie Paprocki: Member-at-Large

If elected Member-at-Large, I will draw on experience serving on both the ANSS Membership and ACRL Membership Advisory committees to help develop initiatives that increase membership and encourage participation. In my work as a subject specialist in anthropology and sociology at the University of Illinois, I regularly recognize the value of ANSS membership. I will work to ensure that our organization remains indispensable for current members and for new librarians with an interest in anthropology, sociology, and criminology.

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ANSS ANNUAL PROGRAM 2010

Standing Up and Sitting In: Libraries and Social Change
Sunday June 27, 2010 from 8:00-11:00 a.m.
ALA Annual Conference in Washington, D.C.

Libraries have long promoted social causes and supported social movements, like the fight for civil rights and the women’s movement. And librarians are working both to preserve this grassroots history and to educate their communities about today’s social issues. For this program, activists, historians, librarians, and other creative thinkers will discuss their research and involvement in promoting civic engagement and human rights, inviting conversation about how librarians can become engaged in social movements. Breakfast will be served.

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COMMITTEE REPORTS

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

The Assessment Tool for Sociology Collections and Services in Academic Libraries, developed by the Ad Hoc Committee, was approved by the ANSS Executive Committee at Midwinter. It has subsequently been published on the ANSS website.

The Ad Hoc Committee met at Midwinter to discuss submission of the Tool to the Board of ACRL. The ACRL Board has been approached and asked if the Tool requires ACRL Board approval. The ACRL Board has stated that it does not fall under its purview and that ANSS Executive Committee approval is the appropriate level.

Bibliography Committee
Helen Clements, Chair

Committee members are Maureen Morris, Elizabeth Williams, Sherise Kimura, Helen Clements-Chair, Sue McFadden, and Jameatris Johnson. At January’s meeting we discussed issues and news items from the Executive Board, including the Ad Hoc Committee report on the assessment of sociology collections, and the appointment of Annie Paprocki as AAA liaison, joining ASA liaison Sally Willson Weimer.
We also discussed the ANSS *Currents* publication. It has been our custom for some time to provide a review of a current reference source, written by one of the committee members and edited by the committee members. The article for Spring 2010 takes a somewhat different approach. Maureen Morris’ article, “The Place of Anthropology Plus in the Age of Google Scholar,” compares Anthropology Plus, the core indexing database in anthropology, with Google Scholar, in their coverage of anthropological topics and the retrieval of articles from journals that actually belong to the field of anthropology. Jameatris Johnson has volunteered to write the article for the Fall issue of *Currents*.

We also discussed the possibility of exploring other types of reference or bibliographic sources for future committee articles. We mentioned the possibility of looking at the publishing market in anthropology and sociology video, with collection development issues in mind, given the emergence of new video databases. We would welcome input from other ANSS members about their desires for the content we can give.

### Conference Program Planning Committee 2010

Annie Paprocki, Chair

It’s going to be a great program this year in D.C., so mark your calendars and invite your friends!

In keeping with the proud ANSS tradition of putting on excellent programs, the 2010 program will feature entertaining speakers, engaging discussions, and catered breakfast with coffee. In a break from prior programs, *Standing Up and Sitting In: Libraries and Social Change* will be three hours long. On evaluations, past audience members expressed a wish for a slightly shorter schedule that starts promptly at 8:00, so the committee decided to experiment with a condensed lineup.

We’ve invited three speakers to talk about libraries and social movements:

- Kathleen de la Peña McCook -- School of Library and Information Science, University of South Florida
- Cheryl Knott Malone -- School of Information Resources and Library Science, University of Arizona
- John Feffer -- Writing Fellow, Provisions Library in Washington, D.C.

Expect more details, including a subject bibliography and program website, soon.

### Instruction and Information Literacy Committee

Stephanie Alexander and Jason Phillips, Co-Chairs

The Instruction and Information Literacy Committee reviewed a number of options for situating the permanent home of the ANSS Repository of Teaching and Assessment Materials. However, it remains in the New York University Faculty Digital Archive at: [http://archive.nyu.edu/handle/2451/28103](http://archive.nyu.edu/handle/2451/28103).

The most important criteria remain stability as well as control over submissions and metadata management. We welcome submissions from members as we work to populate the resource. Submissions can be made to the chairs Jason Phillips [jason.phillips@nyu.edu](mailto:jason.phillips@nyu.edu) and Stephanie Alexander [Stephanie.Alexander@Colorado.EDU](mailto:Stephanie.Alexander@Colorado.EDU).

### Membership Committee

Jennifer Darragh and Jenny Bowers, Co-Chairs

ANSS members had a wonderful evening catching up with colleagues at the Midwinter Social in Boston. Although travel budgets are tight and many people were unable to attend Midwinter, we still had a good turnout with approximately twenty attendees.

At our committee meeting, we discussed strategies for encouraging new people, in addition to the “familiar faces,” to attend the Social. Ideas included moving the Social start time to later in the evening, advertising through multiple venues, and promoting the Ambassador program. Through the Ambassador program, members of the Membership Committee will offer to meet up with interested people to accompany them from their hotel to the Social, to meet at the Social, or to meet at another point during the conference. We hope that this program will make people feel more comfortable with traveling around a new city, and also provide one-on-one opportunities to meet fellow colleagues.

The Membership and Publications committees plan to work closely together to enhance communication with our members through the new ANSS Facebook page and Twitter feed. To assess how members prefer to receive their information, as well as to get a sense of how well ANSS is serving its members, the committee proposed developing a survey to be distributed to our entire membership. We suggested initial questions for the survey, such as asking members about the perceived value of belonging to ANSS, what members like the most and least, their preferred means of communication, whether they prefer in-person or virtual committee participation, and the direction they would like to see ANSS take in the future. If you have any specific suggestions or recommendations for the survey, please contact the committee co-chairs.

### Publications Committee
Carol Bell, Chair

The Publications Committee met on January 13 by Skype, as not all participants could travel. The committee agreed to change from a single chair to co-chairs, with one co-chair leading the website and the other leading all other aspects of publications. Erin Gratz volunteered to be the co-chair for the website starting June 2010, and Carol Bell volunteered to continue in the other role until 2011.

As *Currents* is now only online, we discussed ways to make it more appealing. Under consideration are: resuming member profiles, short bibliographies of resources, short informative articles, more pictures, and assessments of library collections and services in anthropology and sociology. (We plan to look into the tool developed by the Ad Hoc Committee for Assessments led by David Woolwine.)

On the website, we plan to implement a Facebook site and link it to Twitter. The content will be the same, for efficiency, but the typical age demographic of use is different. Content for the two may include events and news, member profiles, photos, and more. Eventually, we want to add RSS to the website, so that ANSS members can subscribe and discover new additions and updates to the site. This will make the website more dynamic. We will also return the Jaguar to the ANSS homepage and other pages.

**Review and Planning Committee**
Jennifer Nason Davis, Vice Chair

The Review and Planning Committee made minor corrections to the ANSS Manual and discussed the need to make further revisions in several sections. The committee resolved to post past Executive Committee and Review and Planning Committee minutes in a common area, such as ALA Connect, ANSSWeb or the ANSS Wiki. The committee discussed ways to encourage and support virtual meetings. ANSS committee chairs who wish to hold meetings virtually will be encouraged to announce the meeting on ANSS-L a minimum of one month in advance. Other topics centered on ANSSWeb, the 2011 Program Planning Committee and budget for the program, the ACRL Council of Liaisons, and ideas for possible new committees for ANSS.

**Subject and Bibliographic Access Committee**
Isabel del Carmen Quintana and Wayne Sanders, Co-Chairs

The committee met on Saturday to discuss our progress and plan additional ways to better serve our community.

Once again we will focus our work on the theme of the 2010 ANSS Program. Wade Kotter will meet with the Conference Program Planning Committee regarding developing a list of subject headings to accompany the program. We will also center our next few Q&As on issues such as GLBT issues, genocide, and civil rights versus human rights.

In terms of the logistics of our committee, we decided to update our Q&As and our lists of new subject headings in the social sciences on the ANSS Wiki from now on. It is easier to keep them current on our wiki. Our ANSS-L postings will have links to our wiki. We also discussed making changes to our description in the ANSS Manual to allow for further participation by members of our community who may not be catalogers but are interested in our committee’s work.

Finally, we discussed two additional avenues for helping the greater ANSS community. We hope to create an index to the Q&As on our wiki. We also hope to conduct a survey on ANSS-L soliciting feedback on how we can further educate our ANSS colleagues on metadata issues.

**DISCUSSION GROUP REPORTS**

**Anthropology Librarians Discussion Group**
Christina Smith, Convener; submitted by Janet Steins

Christina Smith, Co-Convener, opened the meeting, with twenty-one participants in attendance. Self-introductions were made.

Andrea Eastman-Mullins, Vice President – Editorial at Alexander Street Press (eastmanmullins@alexanderstreet.com), made a brief presentation on their newest film collection entitled *Ethnographic Video Online* (Will Whalen is editor of this resource). It will consist of 1,000 films and 750 hours of streaming video when complete, of which 60% will be Documentary Educational Resources (DER) titles highlighted by the films of DER founder John Marshall who filmed the !Kung Bushmen in Namibia beginning in the 1950’s. See [http://alexanderstreet.com/products/anth.htm](http://alexanderstreet.com/products/anth.htm). It will launch in February with 200 titles.

Bennett Lovett-Graff, Project Manager of the Archaeology of the Americas Digital Initiative, described this Mellon Foundation-funded project which aims to collaboratively develop a digital collection of New World archaeology scholarship consisting of both print and digital monographs, with the later supplemented by data in digital format (including large data sets, color illustrations, video components, three-dimensional and rotating images, and possibly
interactive components such as reader comments). Six university publishers (University Press of Colorado and Florida, plus the University of Alabama, New Mexico, Arizona, and Utah Presses) will jointly explore ways to deliver data- and illustration-rich digital editions of cutting-edge archaeological research which is typically unavailable to readers of traditional archaeology monographs. Developers of this digital publishing platform are reaching out to archaeologists and librarians for comments and input, and hope to create a new paradigm for the scholarly archaeology monograph that could be used by scholarly presses around the world. For more information see http://aaupnet.org/news/press/mellon12008.html.

Discussion: Dormant Budgets and Dwindling Spaces: What’s an Anthropology Bibliographer to Do? A discussion followed in which many in attendance described severe budgetary and staffing cuts in their libraries, which are forcing drastic reductions in anthropology acquisitions and outreach activities to anthropology students and faculty. At least one library, however, noted that they are filling positions.

Barbara Miller, GODORT member and ALA Council representative, spoke about ongoing efforts to support open-access initiatives, including federal legislation enabling same. She referred us to SPARC (http://www.arl.org/sparc/), the ALA Washington Office District Dispatch (http://www.wo.al.org/districtdispatch/), the Federation of American Scientists (http://www.fas.org/), and Open the Government (http://www.openthegovernment.org/), as well as information coming out of the offices of Senators Lieberman and Cornyn for additional information, and urged us to actively support these efforts both individually and in our libraries.

Announcements:

Greg Finnegan, Managing Editor of *Anthropological Literature*, distributed a postcard with information on and a URL to connect to a new I-Site which has been developed to enhance use of this online index. See http://isites.harvard.edu/anthrolit. Janet Steins, also at Tozzer Library, Harvard, distributed a postcard with information on and a URL to connect to an online exhibition of anthropology books being produced with the input of Harvard anthropologists (faculty and graduates) with the goal to enable them to feel connected to Tozzer Library wherever they may be. See http://hel.harvard.edu/libraries/tozzer/collections/great_books/index.html.

Annie Poprocki and Janet Steins reported briefly on the meeting of the AAA’s Librarians’ Advisory Committee held at the association’s annual meeting in December. *AnthroSource* was not including superseded titles on their title list when this content is contained within the file of the current title. They are also not yet providing links to individual titles in monographic series such as *Archeological Papers*.

**Sociology Librarians Discussion Group**

Jennifer Nason Davis, Acting Facilitator

Thirteen librarians discussed the topic, “The Impact of Budget Cuts (and Other Turbulent Changes) on Sociology Collections and Liaison Activities: Desperate Measures or Creative Alternatives?”

Nearly all attendees reported reduced budgets at their institutions, and this affected their work in a number of ways. Some libraries have protected collections budgets at the expense of staff and facilities. Many librarians have been asked to take on additional subject assignments or administrative duties. When staff is reduced, librarians may let collection development take a back seat to other responsibilities. One librarian reported that staff reductions are affecting the online catalog, as they do not have enough staff to load MARC records regularly.

Some libraries are relying heavily on local consortia for shared collection. Most have approval plans to save time on book selection and to receive discounted prices. Electronic collections are changing, as libraries acquire increasing numbers of electronic books, and as electronic books and journals are integrated into course management systems. Some librarians reported a move towards full-text databases, though this may mean foregoing archival rights for journals. Only a few reported cancelling databases, but some cancellations have been based on cost-per-use, which may disadvantage highly-specialized databases. Print journals have been withdrawn extensively, especially at universities that participate in local or regional print repositories. Some also reported extensive reductions of print reference collections.

The allocation of liaison responsibilities was also discussed. New subject areas may be simply assigned to librarians, or they may be invited through a “call for interest.” One librarian reported a creative, team-based approach to collection development, liaison, and instruction duties.

An announcement was made that Alexander Street Press is considering developing a criminal justice/criminology...
database. ASP is currently soliciting suggestions of content to include in this product.

**Criminal Justice and Criminology Librarians Discussion Group**
Venta Silins, Convener

Seven people, including a graduate student in library science, participated in the Criminal Justice/Criminology Discussion Group at the Seaport Hotel on Saturday, January 16, 2010.

A representative from Alexander Street Press was present, and we discussed if streaming videos would support the needs of students and faculty in criminal justice or criminology programs. For example, Alexander Street representative, Greg Urquhart, asked if the videos need to be more research or practice based. We also discussed the many old VHS videos in libraries and their need to be updated. Many programs serve distance and evening students, and streaming videos could be an effective way to get information to the students. The ability to have any time/any place video capabilities could free up valuable teaching time for instructors. Rather than showing films during class, students could watch them outside of class. Pricing of streaming videos is an important issue. Some criminal justice programs are seeing a decrease in enrollment thereby making cost a significant concern. It was an energetic and thought provoking discussion.

**ANSS MEMBER PROFILES**

![Wendy Highby](image)

Wendy Highby, as interviewed by Helen Clements

Wendy Highby serves as the Social Sciences and Reference Librarian at the University of Northern Colorado at Greeley’s Michener Library. She joined the faculty at UNC in 2002, and has been in her present work since 2005. She has lived in the Colorado-Arizona region most of her life, but she was actually born in Siloam Springs, Arkansas, near the Arkansas-Oklahoma border. As a young child, Wendy lived in Oaks, a little northeastern Oklahoma community where her father was a Lutheran minister in the Cherokee mission. Wendy moved with her family to Safford, a small town in southeastern Arizona, when she was four, and lived there through her high school years.

Wendy is one of many for whom librarianship is a second career. She earned an associate’s degree in Paralegal Studies from the Community College of Denver, Colorado, and served as a paralegal in a Denver corporation for about ten years. During that time she earned her B.A. in Sociology from the University of Colorado at Denver. She says that work with corporate records and franchisee contracts was becoming a little boring, and she was searching for a new generalist’s career, but the *Occupational Outlook Handbook* wasn’t providing a lot of leads for extremely lucrative work. She had always loved libraries and doing research, and the example of her brother’s godmother, a librarian in Safford, encouraged her to go to library school. So, while Wendy continued her paralegal labors, she also went to library school, earning her MLS from Emporia State University’s satellite program in Denver.

Though most of Wendy’s library career has been located in Colorado, it has been a varied one, and many of her jobs have been in small academic libraries. She has cataloged digitized photographs on a grant for the Denver Public Library/BCR, and given reference services and bibliographic instruction in four colleges or universities. She has also been an interlibrary loan librarian, and managed access services and serials departments (the latter at two different colleges).

Perhaps the past job that Wendy remembers most fondly was being a bookmobile librarian for Rural Bookmobile Southwest, based at Fort Bayard, New Mexico. This was in southwestern New Mexico, in a circuit around Silver City. She loved going to the different communities, each with its own character, in the beautiful high country. People were always happy to see her coming, and she loved the direct contact with the customers and their concrete reference needs.

After a number of years in Denver and New Mexico, Wendy went to Otero Junior College in La Junta, Colorado, followed by several years at Western State College in Gunnison. In 2002 she moved from the western part of the state to Greeley, her current library home. At UNC, Wendy now combines reference work and some bibliographic instruction with collection development and liaison work. Her subject specialties are as wide-ranging as her library experience—africana studies, anthropology, hispanic studies, political Science, psychology, and sociology. Wendy does indexing for the *Hispanic American Periodicals Index (HAPI).* She is also on the ABC-CLIO Advisory Board.
Be sure to visit Wendy’s LibGuide webpages at http://libguides.unco.edu/profile.php?uid=439. The guides give simply written, practical help to students at all levels. Wendy’s legal background may show most clearly in her page on politics, which includes material on political processes at the national, state, and local levels. While focusing on the 2008 national elections, it also has a great deal of useful material on state and local politics that could serve to model coverage for other localities. One of Wendy’s efforts, the “Journal Publication Information” guide, is of special interest to librarians, faculty, and graduate students. It provides links to information on citation analysis, journal rankings, general journal directories, and lists of core journals in various social science disciplines http://libguides.unco.edu/jpubinfo.

Some of Wendy’s recent research interests include the Open Access movement. Her “Journal Publication” page includes information on SPARC, the Scholarly Publishing and Academic Resource Coalition, and on author’s rights to their academic publications.

Wendy also maintains an interest in research on Parkinson’s disease (she was diagnosed with the illness in 2004). While she does find it slows her down somewhat (she used to love snowshoeing), she also looks forward to making contact with others interested in Parkinson’s. She just returned from a conference on Young Onset Parkinson’s in Sacramento, California.

Wendy is a member of several ACRL sections, including ANSS, AFAS, EBSS, and LPSS. She has been an active contributor to ANSS Currents. You’ll find her profiles of Rebecca Blakeley (Fall 2008) and Wade Kotter (Spring 2009) in the Currents archive. She’s also a contributor to the open-access review database, Educational Media Reviews Online, sponsored by the State University of New York at Buffalo Libraries http://emro.lib.buffalo.edu/emro/about.asp.

In other words, Wendy Highby’s work has gifts for all of us. Thanks to her for this chance to meet at a distance, and I’m really looking forward to meeting her in person at the upcoming joint conference of the Mountain Plains and Oklahoma Library Associations in April!

(Interviewer’s note: If you’re a James A. Michener fan, you should definitely visit the UNC Libraries website. The Michener Library is home to the major collection of Michener’s research materials for his novels, including Centennial, which featured Colorado history: http://www.unco.edu/library/archives/)

Have you been in ANSS for a few years? Do you like meeting new colleagues? Do you enjoy coming to the ANSS socials and program at ALA? If you’ve answered yes to these questions, we want YOU to sign up as an ANSS Ambassador. We need ANSS Ambassadors for the ALA conference who are willing to either a) meet up with other ANSS members at their hotel to travel to the social; b) meet up with other ANSS members who would like to learn the ins and outs of an ALA conference from the social sciences librarian perspective. To sign up, please contact Jenny Bowers at jennifer.bowers@du.edu or Jennifer Darragh at jendarragh@jhu.edu.


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<td>Standing Up and Sitting In</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conference Prgm Planning 2011</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Instruction &amp; Info Lit</td>
<td>1:30 – 3:30 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nominating 2011</td>
<td>1:30 – 3:30 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anthropology Lib’s Disc Grp</td>
<td>4:00 – 5:30 p.m.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
LIAISON REPORTS

Meet Your ACRL AAA Liaison
By Annie C. Paprocki, University of Illinois-Urbana-Champaign

Late last year, I was appointed the ACRL Liaison to the American Anthropological Association (AAA). What does an ACRL Liaison do? According to the Council of Liaisons website, “ACRL liaisons work to make library related interests and concerns an active part of the target organization’s culture. Liaisons develop a relationship with groups within both ACRL and the liaison organization; forming links for exchanging information and ideas, sharing publications, sponsoring programs or engaging in unique activities. They improve the knowledge of both organizations about the work of the other group’s membership.” And I hope to do just that. My two-year term will focus on scholarly communication and publishing models in anthropology.

News from the AAA Annual Meeting

To begin, I went to the 108th AAA Annual meeting in Philadelphia in early December. Since my goal was to participate in committee meetings and programs that focused on areas of interest shared by ACRL and AAA, I attended the Library Advisory Committee. It is composed of the AAA publishing team, editors, and other representatives from Wiley-Blackwell, and academic librarians who are subject specialists in anthropology. The group meets annually to inform each other about trends at the intersection of research, publishing, and higher education.

This year, the conversation centered on the potential of AnthroSource to be a fully-realized portal for anthropological content. Librarians at the meeting drew on their knowledge of user needs and experience instructing students and faculty on the use of AnthroSource to encourage a more user-friendly design for the database. The group talked about new publishing models for AAA, including open linking to non-AAA publications, providing electronic access to conference abstracts, and exploring online access to Anthropology News.

AAA Survey of Anthropological Information Needs

In addition, Oona Schmid, the Director of Publishing, shared the results of a 2009 survey of the AAA membership. The resulting data, pulled from 2,763 responses, is a window into the anthropological information needs of the faculty, students, and practicing anthropologists who make up AAA. Schmid summarized the survey data in a September 2009 article in Anthropology News. Members were asked to rank their use and access to materials that they use to “stay current in the discipline” and “to create their own work.”

Table 1: Access and Usage for Materials Used to Stay Current in the Discipline

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Access Rating</th>
<th>Usage (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Journals</td>
<td>4.66</td>
<td>94.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Books</td>
<td>4.64</td>
<td>83.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-peer-reviewed content</td>
<td>4.63</td>
<td>70.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peer-reviewed content</td>
<td>4.63</td>
<td>69.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unpublished papers</td>
<td>2.96</td>
<td>62.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dissertations</td>
<td>3.65</td>
<td>54.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Data sets</td>
<td>2.23</td>
<td>40.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Field notes</td>
<td>2.22</td>
<td>40.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Survey data</td>
<td>2.43</td>
<td>40.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Photos, AV</td>
<td>3.08</td>
<td>39.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Films and visual media</td>
<td>3.25</td>
<td>38.9</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Access Rating</th>
<th>Usage (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Journals</td>
<td>4.66</td>
<td>92.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Books</td>
<td>4.64</td>
<td>81.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Data sets</td>
<td>2.23</td>
<td>77.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Field notes</td>
<td>2.22</td>
<td>77.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Survey data</td>
<td>2.43</td>
<td>77.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unpublished papers</td>
<td>2.96</td>
<td>69.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dissertations</td>
<td>3.60</td>
<td>68.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Photos, AV</td>
<td>3.08</td>
<td>59.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peer-reviewed website</td>
<td>4.63</td>
<td>53.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Government docs</td>
<td>2.81</td>
<td>50.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reference</td>
<td>4.64</td>
<td>48.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grant proposals</td>
<td>2.50</td>
<td>34.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Films and visual media</td>
<td>3.25</td>
<td>29.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Court decisions</td>
<td>2.81</td>
<td>22.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AAA docs</td>
<td>3.11</td>
<td>19.4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Schmid 2009

Journals and books ranked at the top of both categories. Of particular interest were the types of materials that were ranked high in usage but relatively low in access. Schmid identified these as areas where additional AAA investment could potentially provide a high return to the membership:

- Unpublished works in progress, such as presentations, abstracts, working papers
- Dissertations and theses
- Source materials (photographs, maps, audio & video recordings)
- Government or NGO reports (prepared for corporations, state agencies, or non-profits)
- Primary documents (field notes, survey results, NIH datasets)
- Ethnographic films and visual anthropological productions

There were other helpful findings for anthropology librarians, especially those with collection development responsibilities. For example, 64.7% of respondents indicated they used some non-English materials, but that they only make up 10%-50% of their information sources. They read in over seventy languages; the most common being Spanish (21.8%) and French (12.5%).

When asked about the types of work they were creating, members most commonly mentioned authoring a paper or presentation of a meeting or conference, followed by an article for a peer-reviewed journal. Not surprisingly, a majority also write syllabi and grant proposals.

**New Directions for Publishing at AAA**

These survey results have led AAA to consider taking on whole new directions in publishing, like building support for less-accessible resources, assisting members with creating syllabi, finding unpublished materials, sharing preliminary research, viewing multimedia work, and securing grants. At the Library Advisory Committee meeting, we also learned that AAA is giving serious consideration to publishing books again. Even though there is strong membership support and
interest in these services, AAA leadership has expressed concerns about the ability of a scholarly society to monetize these types of services.

Most AAA members I talked to during the Annual meeting, including editors and authors, appeared ready take on the challenge of exposing anthropological information to new audiences and bringing in new voices from around the globe. More about that in my next column, Transnationalizing Scholarly Communication in Anthropology.

References

Council of Liaisons Website: Retrieved March 12, 2010


Meet Your ACRL ASA Liaison
By Sally Willson Weimer, University of California, Santa Barbara

This report provides information on opportunities that build communication tools between ASA and ALA/ACRL, to serve as a clearing house for projects and programs of interest to both ASA and ALA/ACRL members, and to work as a team to build this liaison service to enhance value for both associations.

American Sociological Association (ASA), Annual Meeting
San Francisco, August 7-11, 2009

I participated in the ASA departmental workshop: Are the Sociological Titles You and Your Students Need in Your Institution's Library? Building Collection Standards for Sociology Departments; Departmental Workshop Sunday, August 9, 2009, Hilton San Francisco. The session organizer was David E. Woolwine of Hofstra University.

ACRL Anthropology and Sociology Section (ANSS), Assessment of Library Collections and Services Ad Hoc Committee members, collaborated to create the Assessment Tool for Sociology Collections and Services in Academic Libraries report, December 2009. David Woolwine, Hofstra University, serves as committee chair and I serve as an advisor.

This document provides an opportunity to develop a conversation between sociology faculty and students and sociology librarians about building library resource collections and providing research services in sociology. The document grew out of discussions between ANSS members and the American Sociological Association. ASA was interested in creating a “universally applicable tool that could be used to rapidly assess collections and services in sociology,” as mentioned in the above listed report. The project with the resulting report was collaborative and received input from sociology faculty and sociology librarians, from both committee members and advisors.

ACRL, ANSS Instruction and Information Literacy Committee (IIL), shared information literacy standards in sociology and anthropology with ASA. These documents can be found at the link below:
http://www.ala.org/ala/mgrps/divs/acrl/standards/anthro_soe_standards.cfm

The ANSS IIL Committee is collaborating to build a Repository of Teaching Materials to support the information literacy needs of sociology librarians and sociology faculty, located at http://archive.nyu.edu/handle/2451/28103. Jason Phillips, New York University, and Co-Chair of the IIL Committee, is overseeing the development and use of this teaching repository.

ASA Section on Teaching and Learning in Sociology (STLS), Cooperative Initiatives Committee

Services provided by STLS include offering to provide collaboration between ASA Teaching and Learning Section and sharing information with and about ACRL, especially information about academic and research libraries, collections, and research services.
I attended the ASA STLS business meeting during the ASA Annual meeting, Sunday, August 9, 2009, San Francisco, Parc Fifty-Five Hotel. Betsy Lucal, Indiana University South Bend, served as the Section chair. General information about the ASA Annual meeting, San Francisco, August 2009, is at http://www.asanet.org/meetings/index.cfm (detailed information may not be available); see http://www.asanet.org/footnotes/mayjun09/index.html for Annual Meeting Supplement of ASA Footnotes 37, 5 May/June 2009. As Footnotes is moving to a new Web location, the preceding Web addresses may not be active.

ASA Footnotes Newsletter
The ASA Footnotes newsletter, December 2008, reports the Teaching Resources Library is in the process of being developed and produced into a Digital library of teaching resources, see http://www.asanet.org/footnotes/dec08/index.html. In the ASA Footnotes November/December 2009, the ASA Academic and Professional Affairs Program is seeking seventeen subject area editors to serve in the ASA Digital Library of Sociological Teaching Materials, as one of ASA’s new initiatives, see http://www.asanet.org/footnotes/nov09/apap_1109.html (please note they are also seeking a new name for the digital library).

During the ASA annual meeting, August 2009, I composed and distributed a draft Flier: Academic and Research Librarians Work to Partner with Sociology Faculty & Students at the ASA STLS meeting. I welcome your comments and criticisms about this process of sharing ideas and building a partnership with ASA and ALA ACRL.

American Sociological Association Meeting
The next ASA Annual Meeting is August 13-17, 2010, at Hilton Atlanta and Atlanta Marriott Marquis Hotels, Atlanta, Georgia. The meeting theme is Toward a Sociology of Citizenship: Inclusion, Participation, and Rights. The Section on Teaching and Learning offers an excellent variety of programs and roundtable discussions. This is an important opportunity to become more active in the Section, and gives sociology librarians a venue to share their teaching goals, strategies, and resources with sociology faculty and students. It also permits collaboration with ASA members to offer roundtable groups focusing on academic library services, collections, and liaison with faculty and academic departments.

ACRL Council of Liaisons
The ACRL Council of Liaisons is exploring a proposed restructuring of the Council, including funding processes and developing four new committees to oversee coordinating grants, development, and community. Your comments on this proposed restructuring are welcome.

My special thanks to Margaret Weigers Vitullo, ASA Academic and Professional Affairs, for her comments and suggestions; to David Woolwine, for his leadership and excellent communication between ASA and ANSS; Betsy Lucal, for her helping to bring our academic libraries and librarians into the STLS activities; Tom Van Valey, Western Michigan University, for his suggestions for the Assessment Tool for Sociology Collections and Services in Academic Libraries report; and Susan Kroll, ACRL Council of Liaisons Chair, for her excellent suggestions. I welcome your comments to help build continuing and more effective relationships between ACRL, ANSS, and ASA to achieve the ACRL liaison program goals.

ARTICLE
Information Literacy in the Social Sciences at Wake Forest University
By Carolyn J. McCallum & Bobbie L. Collins

In 2003, the Z. Smith Reynolds (ZSR) Library began offering information literacy (IL) courses to the students at Wake Forest University. As a result of the overwhelming success of these courses, the Associate Dean of the College asked Ms. Rosalind Tedford, coordinator for all IL classes, to develop additional subject-specific library credit courses. Thus, in the Fall 2008, Ms. Tedford and two of her colleagues, Ms. Bobbie Collins and Ms. Carolyn McCallum, began teaching LIB210 Social Science Research Sources and Strategies, an information literacy course developed specifically for the social sciences.

LIB210 is a half-semester course focused on the sources and strategies necessary for doing research in the social sciences (i.e., anthropology, communication, economics, education, political science, psychology, and sociology). Topics include strategies for developing research projects, resources available in each discipline, finding information, interpreting
research results, and evaluating sources. The majority of students are junior and senior social science majors, but majoring in a social science is not a prerequisite for enrollment.

From the beginning, the instructors established increasing students’ knowledge of the social sciences as the primary goal. They also wanted, however, to provide experience with collaboration and teamwork, skills prevalent and highly valued in the academic, business, and medical worlds. During one of the brainstorming sessions, the discipline presentation assignment emerged as a way to incorporate a group project and allow students to learn from each other as they explore a specific topic in depth.

Since the Spring 2009 semester, the instructors have assigned students groups to research one of the seven social sciences. The assignment culminates in a fifteen- to twenty-minute class presentation on their specific social science discipline. Group assignments are based on the results of a brief survey distributed on the first day of class. The survey asks students, “Of the disciplines listed, rate your top three, in order of preference, those you would like to research.” Instructors try to group students based on their first or second preferences. The instructors reserve the discipline of education and use it as an example in a PowerPoint presentation to demonstrate their expectations for the assignment. Students can use the example as a model and adapt it for their specific discipline.

Once groups have been assigned, instructors set aside class time for groups to plan and organize their presentations. Specific points to be covered in each presentation include:

- Brief history of the discipline (e.g., when did it begin to be taught at the college level?)
- Major divisions or areas of research
- Types of research done by academics
- Some of the main journals in the discipline
- List of the major databases available through the ZSR Library that provide discipline-related information
- In-class demonstration of one of the identified databases that points out features useful to researchers (New for Spring 2010—Groups schedule meetings with instructors to go over specific database features and searches for the demonstration.)
- The titles of recent journal articles in the discipline on the topics of homelessness and/or poverty and gender
- New and emerging areas of study
- Other social science disciplines that overlap with the assigned discipline
- National associations for researchers in the discipline (name, URL, number of members, divisions, journals published, etc.)
- Three interesting facts learned about the discipline in doing research for the presentation
- Explanation of how the discipline is portrayed in the media (i.e., TV, movies, news) and the accuracy of that portrayal
- A final slide listing sources consulted in APA format.

To assist students with gathering information for their research, instructors recommend the following resources:

- *The Social Science Encyclopedia* (3rd ed.) edited by Adam Kuper and Jessica Kuper
- Other subject encyclopedias and dictionaries
- Yearbooks or annual reviews for specific disciplines
- Websites of professional associations of specific disciplines
- Introductory textbooks
- Information from faculty members.

Groups email a copy of their PowerPoint presentation to the instructors the day of their discipline presentation. To monitor and encourage participation in this assignment by all group members, each student submits a brief group dynamics report that lists and evaluates each person’s contributions.

From course evaluations and student comments, most LIB210 students, especially those considering graduate school, find this assignment beneficial in gaining a broader understanding of their chosen majors and minors as well as the numerous areas of study and research within the social sciences.
REVIEW

The Place of Anthropology Plus in the Age of Google Scholar
Maureen Morris
Reference Librarian
Anthropology and American Indian Studies Selector
Olin Library
Cornell University
March, 2010

Introduction

Google Scholar, which debuted in beta in 2004, has been the subject of hundreds of library science articles since it first appeared. Since its inception librarians have been struggling with what role this search engine, self-described on its website as “a simple way to broadly search for scholarly literature,” should play in the research process. While early reviews often questioned the scholarly value of Google Scholar, particularly in terms of weak content coverage (Jacso, 2005), recent articles have reported more positive results in measuring content coverage and search results, including Jacso’s own reevaluation three years later (Jacso, 2008). Two substantive studies from 2009 in particular, Google Scholar Search Performance: Comparative Recall and Precision (Walters, 2009), and How Scholarly Is Google Scholar? A Comparison to Library Databases (Howland, Wright, Boughan, & Roberts, 2009) have both ranked Google Scholar ahead of several subject-specific databases in the overall quality of search results.

While these recent studies have focused on a variety of databases including sociology and general social science resources, none have deeply examined anthropology databases. The scope of this study is to look specifically at one resource, Anthropology Plus, the core database for anthropology which combines two major indexes, Harvard University’s Anthropological Literature database and the United Kingdom’s Anthropological Index. The primary impetus for this work comes from the budget reductions currently affecting many libraries, including Cornell. In a time of reduced spending, all resources are being reconsidered and indexing and abstracting databases are being scrutinized to determine the benefits of continuing to subscribe to these in a federated search world.

Unlike some previous studies, such as the ones cited above, the goal of this study is not to determine which resource is “better” for particular topics, but rather to determine what benefits, if any, Anthropology Plus brings to the table both in terms of content coverage and delivery of relevant search results. The purpose of this review is to examine Anthropology Plus as a tool not just for general users but also for expert searchers. As such, the examples are relatively complex and make use of the various search features of both Anthropology Plus and Google Scholar.

Methodology

For this study two questions are being considered; overall coverage of Anthropology Plus resources in Google Scholar, and the relevance and characteristics of a Google Scholar search for anthropology topics.

In order to measure coverage in Google Scholar, five topics were determined based on questions asked at the reference desk or in instruction sessions in the past semester at Cornell University. A search string was developed to be run against Anthropology Plus. No date, format, or language limits were used for the searches. For each topic the first thirty results from the search were then individually searched in Google Scholar to determine if they could be found. A thorough search of Google Scholar was done to locate these citations. Title searches were the first approach but if they were not found this way, author and source were searched to definitively determine if an item could be found in Google Scholar. This was particularly necessary for translated foreign-language citations which could potentially only be found in their original language in Google Scholar. Table 1 presents the five topics and the search string used in Anthropology Plus.
For the second part of the study, the first three of the chosen topics were run in Google Scholar to further examine the search results. The search examples had to be modified somewhat in order to take advantage of the search capabilities of Google Scholar. As there are no standardized subject headings or true Boolean OR operator in Google Scholar, two searches were often needed to adequately replicate a similar search in Anthropology Plus. After running the search, the first thirty results were examined both to compare them to the results in Anthropology Plus, but also to look at them independently in terms of relevance to the topic and characteristics of the material covered. Table 2 shows the three topics tested and the search strings run in Google Scholar.

Results and Discussion

Question 1: Content coverage

As displayed in Table 3, Google Scholar ranged from 66% to 79% content coverage of the various topics from Anthropology Plus for an average of 74%. This is somewhat lower than recent studies have shown for other topics and databases. Howland (2009) reports a range of 77-100% coverage across six databases, with one outlier database, LLBA, reporting no coverage for the topic searched. And Walters (2007) reported Google Scholar coverage of 88–100% over seven databases, although their methodology preselected only the core articles for the topics searched.
Not surprisingly, the articles that could not be found in *Google Scholar* were mainly from smaller society journals and foreign-language journals. However, Table 4 does show that foreign-language citations only fared 5% more poorly in *Google Scholar*. The inclusion of the Catalog of the Institut de l’Information Scientifique et Technique (National Center for Scientific Research) in *Google Scholar* is the primary reason foreign-language articles did this well, since 70% of the foreign-language citations searched in *Google Scholar* were located on this domain. Indeed, Mayr and Walter (2008) in their study of journal coverage in *Google Scholar* cite this catalog as the second most hit Web server for the lists of journals they queried.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>AP Foreign language articles found in <em>Google Scholar</em></th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Topic 1 (Human remains repatriation)</td>
<td>No foreign language articles to test</td>
<td>NA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Topic 2 (borders)</td>
<td>11/17</td>
<td>80%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Topic 3 (Lévi-Strauss)</td>
<td>9/12</td>
<td>63%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Topic 4 (Food and gender)</td>
<td>4/5</td>
<td>75%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Topic 5 (Alternative medicine)</td>
<td>5/8</td>
<td>65%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Average Coverage</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>69%</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Table 4**

For the second question, exploring the results of a search in *Google Scholar*, the most striking difference is the almost complete lack of overlap between the two sets of search results. Of the three topics searched, only one article shows up in both *Anthropology Plus* and *Google Scholar*, an article on human remains repatriation in the *American Journal of Physical Anthropology*. The other significant observation is the very small number of anthropology journals that appear in any of the *Google Scholar* results. Table 5 represents the number of citations that come from anthropology journals in the first thirty search results. Although imperfect, ISI ranked anthropology journals or journals classified by Library of Congress as anthropology were used to determine subject categorization.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Example</th>
<th><em>Google Scholar</em> Search</th>
<th><em>Google Scholar</em> citations from anthropology journals</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Topic 1 (Human remains repatriation)</td>
<td>Search 1: “human remains” repatriation “native american” Search 2: “human remains” repatriation “american indian”</td>
<td>2 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Topic 2 (borders)</td>
<td>Search 1: “national identity” boundaries Search 1: “national identity” borders</td>
<td>1 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Topic 3 (Lévi-Strauss)</td>
<td>myth “Lévi-Strauss”</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Table 5**

In order to further explore the characteristics of the *Google Scholar* search results, a closer look at the individual topics are presented below.

**Topic 1: Human Remains repatriation:**

Much like the results from *Anthropology Plus*, the first thirty results for this topic in *Google Scholar* were all relevant in that they focused on the topic of human remains repatriation, however the disciplinary focus of the resources were markedly different. In *Google Scholar*, twenty-one of the first thirty results were law review journal articles, two articles were from American Indian Studies journals, and two others were from anthropology journals, *Annual Reviews* and the *American Journal of Physical Anthropology*. The rest of the results were books or book chapters since *Google Books* is now part of the *Google Scholar* search. A researcher would gain a great understanding of the legal aspects of this topic but would have a more difficult time locating an anthropological perspective on the issue.
Topic 2: Lévi-Strauss and myth:

For the Lévi-Strauss search, twenty of the first thirty results were books, chapters, or articles written or co-written by Lévi-Strauss. Google Books results were predominant in this search with only four of the thirty results coming from journals. While undoubtedly useful to be able to pull together this primary source material for the topic, the researcher would be left without much secondary critical material. Only three of the results provided a discussion or criticism of Lévi-Strauss’s work on myth which was the focus of the majority of articles in Anthropology Plus.

It is possible to eliminate an author from Google Scholar searches so an advanced search [“Lévi-Strauss” myth -author: “Lévi-Strauss”] was also run to see if better results could be obtained this way. Eliminating the primary source material did increase the number of critical articles slightly and more books and book chapters discussing Lévi-Strauss were located. Indeed Google Books remained prominent with only six of the thirty results representing journal articles, three of which came from marketing and advertising journals.

Topic 3: National identity and borders:

National identity and borders was the most interdisciplinary topic that was tested and this is reflected in the Google Scholar search results. This set of results had the greatest mix of disciplines and types of material represented. Slightly more than half of the results were books, reports, or book chapters. Of the journal articles represented, the disciplines of political science, law, sociology, European studies, human geography, and one article from an anthropology journal were covered. If the goal of researching this topic is to gain an interdisciplinary perspective this would be a successful search. If the goal is to look at this from an anthropological perspective the researcher would get little from this search.

Conclusions

Google Scholar has many strengths, including its ease of use, its very large cross-disciplinary database of article and book content, full-text searching for many documents, and of course the fact that it is free to search. However, to return to the main question of this study, if a library did not subscribe to Anthropology Plus and relied on a system such as Google Scholar, this shift would clearly be a disservice to the researcher.

At this point in time there would be some loss of content, particularly from smaller journals and foreign-language material. Although with the tremendous growth rate of the Google Scholar database it is reasonable to conclude that this gap will shrink and we may reach a point where coverage approaches 100%. The greater loss is the inability to search the world of anthropological journal literature. As demonstrated in this study, anthropology journals do not appear to rise to the top of search results in Google Scholar. This study employs a small sample and further work would be needed to test this, but as many of the questions studied in anthropology have an interdisciplinary nature it is likely this would be a recurring problem. As such, the student new to anthropology and unfamiliar with the literature would miss the anthropological perspective on their chosen topic, and the graduate student wanting to ensure that they were not missing a key anthropology resource in their work would have a challenging time determining this. While it would be financially advantageous to begin eliminating fee-based indexing and abstracting databases, this would clearly be a loss for the anthropology scholarly community and is not recommended.

References


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