Greetings! As always, thank you to the members of the Anthropology and Sociology Section (ANSS) for all of your work so far this year. The Midwinter virtual meeting reports are demonstrative of all the great work being done by all the committees, so please be sure to take a moment to catch up on those. If you would like to learn more about ANSS committees you can find information on our website or contact the chairs. If you are interested in joining any of our committees for the upcoming year, please contact our ANSS vice-chair Jill Conte who is currently making appointments.

The cherry blossoms outside my window are blooming, which makes me think of DC and our upcoming annual conference. Thank you to the Membership Committee for arranging the social with the Politics, Policy and International Relations Section (PPIRS). The Social is always a wonderful opportunity to meet members of ANSS and PPIRS, as well as talk to potential new members. Be sure to let interested colleagues know and invite them along. I look forward to seeing everyone who is able to attend.

Our joint program, also with PPIRS, Grassroots Advocacy and Librarians: Using Research Power to Make Change will take place at ALA Annual on Saturday from 1:00-2:00pm. This is a timely and important topic, as we all recognize the importance of accurate, authoritative information and how it can and should effect positive change. This is certain to be an informative and inspiring program.
All of our members are doing great work towards advocating for libraries, research, and truth in the day-to-day of being information professionals, which is certainly quite a challenge in these times. I appreciate the time and effort dedicated to ANSS. The initiatives and ideas that come from the committees continue to strengthen our own charge to support our disciplines, as well as to contribute to the goals of ACRL, and make positive changes in many different places and ways.

-- Katie

ANSS Program at ALA Annual 2019

The Grassroots Advocacy and Librarians Program

Saturday, June 22nd
1:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.

The Grassroots Advocacy and Librarians: Using Research Power to Make Change program (co-sponsored with ACRL-PPIRS) at ALA 2019 will take place on Saturday, June 22, from 1-2 p.m. (location TBD). The program will focus on discussing the mechanics and logistics of grassroots organizing and lobbying and how libraries can provide the resources and services needed in effectively supporting initial or ongoing advocacy efforts. The panelists will be Darcy Gervasio and Aliqae Geraci. Ms. Gervasio is the Coordinator of Reference Services at Purchase College Library, SUNY. Her publications and presentations have addressed library outreach to the Occupy Wall Street movement, leading fake news/media literacy “teach-ins,” and proactive ways to fight misinformation. Ms. Geraci is the Assistant Director of Research and Learning Services at Cornell University’s Catherwood Library. She has served as a union researcher and a public librarian. She is a co-author of the 2012 ALA Editions publication Grassroots Library Advocacy. A LibGuide to support the program will be available in the near future.

Preliminary Annual Meeting Schedule

2019 Washington, D.C.

Friday, June 21
ANSS Social 7:30-9:30 pm

ANSS Program 1:00-2:00 pm
Cri. Just. Lib. Discussion 4:00-5:00 pm

Saturday, June 22
All-Comm. (session 1) 8:30-10:00 am
All-Comm. (session 2) 10:30-11:30 am
Soc. Lib. Discussion 10:30-11:30 am

Sunday, June 23
Nominating (2020) 9:00-10:00 am
Anthro. Lib. Discussion 4:00-5:00 pm

Monday, June 24
Executive 8:30-10:00 am

Photo credit: Carol M. Highsmith
CONFERENCE PROGRAM PLANNING COMMITTEE - WASHINGTON, D.C., 2019
Tom Diamond and Lora Kay Baldwin, Co-Chairs

The Conference Program Planning Committee for the 2019 Washington, D.C. Annual meeting did not meet during ALA Midwinter, but is pleased to announce that the program, in collaboration with PPIRS-ACRL (Politics, Policy and International Relations Section) Program Committee, has been accepted by ACRL. The program, Grassroots Advocacy and Librarians: Using Research Power to Make Change, will be held on June 22 from 1-2 p.m. (location TBD).

The program will focus on discussing the mechanics and logistics of grassroots organizing and lobbying and how libraries can provide the resources and services needed in effectively supporting initial or ongoing advocacy efforts.

The program speakers are Darcy I. Gervasio, Coordinator of Reference Services, Purchase College Library, SUNY and Aliqae Geraci, Assistant Director, Catherwood Research and Learning Services, Cornell University Library and co-author of the ALA Editions publication Grassroots Library Advocacy.

A LibGuide to support the program will be available in the near future.

LIAISON COMMITTEE
Triveni Kuchi, Chair

The Liaison Committee met on January 23, 2019 for the ALA Midwinter meeting. The minutes from this meeting have been posted. The Liaison Committee is currently in the process of recruiting an ACRL/ANSS liaison to the American Sociological Association (ASA). Many thanks to outgoing ANSS ASA liaison Hailey Mooney for her extensive contributions to ANSS. She will be continue to be active in the ANSS Sociology subgroup that is working with the ACRL Framework disciplinary companion document. Melissa Chomintra’s term as the ACRL/ANSS Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences (ACJS) liaison has been extended. Celia Emmelhainz continues as the new ACRL/ANSS American Anthropological Association (AAA) liaison. The ANSS liaison committee has decided that a virtual annual meeting would be preferable to accommodate committee members’ conflicts in schedules during Annual. This would help increase attendance in general at meetings and discussion groups, and the annual ANSS meetings could be used by chairs and liaisons for reporting purposes. The group is planning to meet in early April for the annual meeting and to select and recommend the ASA liaison to ANSS executive. The committee commend the ANSS liaisons’ valuable efforts in engaging and participating with members of AAA, ASA, and ACJS. Please take a moment to read the ANSS Liaison reports and updates on the liaison blog.

ACRL - AMERICAN ANTHROPOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION LIAISON REPORT
Celia Emmelhainz, UC Berkeley

Last summer I was appointed as the ACRL liaison to the American Anthropological Association, continuing the work of previous liaison Juliann Couture. At the association’s rather smoke-filled annual meeting in San Jose, California, in November 2018, I represented the librarian perspective on a roundtable on The State of Digital Scholarship in Cultural Anthropology.

This panel brought together anthropologists, a publisher, an editor, and a librarian to discuss how anthropological exhibits, archives, and data sharing online could be improved. As a librarian, I urged
practitioners to focus on sustainability and scalability, and to consult models in related disciplines, such as the Digital Archaeological Record (tDAR) in archaeology.

At this annual meeting, other sessions of interest to librarians included those about publishing, anthropological archives, design thinking, museum anthropology, and a data scavenger hunt. I found very little that directly addressed instruction.

However, an afternoon-long workshop on gaming, led by Nicholas Mizer, coached scholars on understanding and creating tabletop games to improve student learning. Attendees worked together to design and share their own instructional games around core anthropology concepts. I provided feedback on one game, and put another scholar in contact with field sites for future research on gaming. This growing interest in games might be one way for instruction librarians to connect with anthropologists around interactive learning and critical information literacy.

In addition, several workshops on archiving were of overlapping interest to librarians. At a roundtable on Approaches to Expanding the Use of Anthropological Archives, archivists sought feedback on how to make finding aids and digital archives more accessible. Ricky Punzalan from the University of Maryland shared his challenges in describing objects from multilingual areas of the world, where no one language may adequately describe an object, and cataloging expertise may be hard to come by.

And finally, archivists Gina Rappaport and Diana Marsh from the National Anthropological Archives led a workshop to increase awareness and use of disciplinary archives among contemporary scholars. Such subject archives are looking for ways to make their primary resources available without signing closed access contracts with database vendors—an area for further collaboration with academic libraries.

This is my first year as a liaison to AAA, and I am honored to have the role. At this first meeting, I focused on advocating for the value of academic libraries in digital scholarship and building collaborations to improve access to scholarly research. I look forward to expanding the connection between librarians and anthropologists and am open to your comments at emmelhainz@berkeley.edu.

ACRL - AMERICAN SOCIOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION LIAISON REPORT

Hailey Mooney, University of Michigan

My term as the American Sociological Association (ASA) liaison will come to a close this summer. I want to thank ACRL and ANSS for the opportunity to serve as the ASA liaison. It has been a great experience and I hope that the associations have benefited from the connections that I endeavored to maintain and foster during my service. The call for applications for the next ASA liaison went out on ANSS-L in February, and as you are reading this, the Liaison Committee will likely be in the process of reviewing applications. I look forward to working with the next liaison to help them keep up the momentum on the various opportunities for engagement between ACRL/ANSS and ASA.

Mary Romero, the 2018-19 ASA President, reached out in the fall of 2018 with an offer to submit an invited session proposal on librarian contributions to sociology. Fellow ANSSers Paula Dempsey and Jesse Klein joined me in developing an outstanding session proposal titled Librarians & Sociologists: Intersections & Collaborations. You may have noticed a call for proposals posted to ANSS-L soliciting speakers for this program. Unfortunately, due to a number of factors including low response rates, quick turnaround times, and miscommunications on the timeline and process with ASA, we were not able to finalize this session in time for the ASA Annual Meeting 2019. The good news is that ASA automatically resubmitted our proposal for the 2020 Annual Meeting, so all signs are positive for our program to make it in next year.

Another ongoing project is the Framework for Information Literacy Companion Document for Sociology. Along with members from the Information Literacy Committee, I was involved in drafting the Companion Document in 2017-18. Paula Dempsey and I presented an early draft at the ASA Annual Meeting.
2018 last August. The Companion Document is currently undergoing internal peer review within the Information Literacy Committee. As the draft was well received, I expect that we will find willing peer reviewers in the ASA membership when the Companion Document is ready for external peer review.

The upcoming ASA Annual Meeting is scheduled for August 10-13, 2019, in New York City. I will not be able to attend this year; however, I encourage those planning to attend to connect over ANSS-L and plan an informal librarians meet-up, as these events are a great opportunity to make connections and have a little fun together.

Thanks again to ACRL and ANSS for supporting the liaison program. I am grateful to have served as the ASA liaison. It has been a worthwhile experience, both for my own professional growth and for the edification of continuing to build and maintain organizational connections through personal outreach. We have a historically sound connection—especially within the ASA Section on Teaching & Learning—thanks to former liaisons like Sally Wilson Weimer, who still continues to advocate for librarians within ASA and took me under her wing when I first started in this role. My goal is to provide the same supportive transfer of activities for the next liaison.

**Membership Committee**

Susan Silver, Chair

As of December 2018, ANSS has a total of 666 members.

The Membership Committee will be arranging a social during ACRL in Cleveland. ANSS and PPRIS (Politics, Policy and International Relations Section) once again will be hosting a joint social at ALA Annual, held this year in Washington D.C. The social will tentatively take place on Friday, June 21 at 7:30 pm (location to be determined). HeinOnline is sponsoring the event.

At the ACRL Section membership meeting in December 2018, we learned that ACRL will be publishing the results of the 3-year membership survey conducted in 2018. The results and data will be made available on Connect. The ACRL 2019 membership initiative is focusing on recruiting new members while they are in library school.

**Nominating Committee**

Helen Clements, Chair

The committee holds closed meetings and reports to ACRL in September. Helen asked Priscilla Seaman and Mimmo Bonanni to be members in order to include people who have wide knowledge of ANSS membership and who have been involved with really active committees, and would thus know people who are interested in making further contributions to the organization. The committee met largely by phone and email. Our mission was to recruit two candidates for each office—actually, we had three volunteers for Member-at-large. The Secretary office is a two-year commitment, so we did not need to elect a Secretary in 2017-2018, but Mimmo and Priscilla deserve special thanks for their work to contact our prospective candidates. They were both most persuasive; we had only a few “no” answers. The ANSS members who have volunteered also deserve our thanks and appreciation for their desire to serve.

Megan Griffin and Mariel Colbert of ACRL also deserve our thanks for their work to send out reminders and guide us through the nomination process.

**Publications Committee**

Mimmo Bonanni and Allison Ringness, Co-Chairs

The ANSS Publications Committee met virtually on January 22, convened by co-chairs Mimmo Bonanni and Allison Ringness. The committee welcomed new member Carin Graves. Nidia Bañuelos and Allison Ringness presented the website statistics and an outline for the website update. Our Facebook and Twitter accounts continue to gain followers. ANSSWeb traffic continues to grow, with *Currents* and Cataloging Questions and Answers continuing to be among the most visited content. The website update has two major elements: organizing and consolidating working storage for ANSSWeb files in Google, and migrating ANSSWeb from a free Wordpress.com site with ads to
an ads-free Wordpress.org site hosted by ACRL. This plan was approved by the committee and shared with the ANSS Executive Committee and Anne Larrivee of the Review and Planning Committee. Additionally, Allison and Nidia reminded the committee that Nidia will be taking over as webmaster on July 1, 2019 and at that point all email correspondence for ANSSWeb should be directed to her.

The committee reviewed content for the Spring 2019 issue of Currents and established deadlines for the issue. An ongoing challenge is collecting content for the History Corner, a brief memory from a past ANSS meeting or social. Currents editors are considering changing the name to something less intimidating to encourage submissions.

Allison Ringness will roll off as committee chair at the end of June 2019 and a new co-chair will be needed. Some members have expressed interest, but as not all members were present, the decision was delayed. The committee is also seeking additional members.

**Review & Planning Committee**

Anne Larrivee, Chair

The ANSS Review & Planning Committee met in January 2019 to think about whether our by-laws seem up-to-date and to discuss ANSS’ virtual presence. Since they were last revised in 2009, the committee agreed that it was time to review the by-laws. Reviewing this document will give the committee an opportunity to think about whether the wording still accurately reflects the structure and actions of the section. The committee will edit the document within a Google doc and follow a timeline leading up to ALA Annual.

The committee also discussed our section’s web presence and our ability to navigate around ALA Connect. After the committee met, we held further discussions with the current and previous ANSS webmasters who have already developed plans for the future of the ANSS website. In regards to ALA Connect, we contacted our ACRL liaison, Megan Griffin, and learned that ALA has an [ALA Connect “Getting Started” page](https://www.ala.org/connect). The page includes informative videos about managing privacy, managing email notifications, joining/leaving a community, finding people and groups, uploading files, and posting discussions. Post meeting, the committee determined it’s best to focus most of our energy on revisions of the ANSS by-laws.

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**Project Outcome for Academic Libraries**

ACRL recently launched Project Outcome for Academic Libraries, a free toolkit is designed to help academic libraries understand and share the impact of essential library programs and services. It provides simple surveys and tools for measuring and analyzing outcomes.

The toolkit includes:

- Quick and simple surveys
- Easy-to-use survey management portal
- Ready-made and customizable data reports
- Interactive data dashboards
- Resources and training
- Peer discussion boards

Learn more and sign up at [https://acrl.projectoutcome.org/](https://acrl.projectoutcome.org/)!
The Subject and Bibliographic Access Committee held a virtual ALA Midwinter meeting on February 21, 2019. The meeting was attended by Isabel Quintana, Rachel Turner, Wade Kotter, and Tom Durkin (chair).

The primary topic addressed at the meeting concerned upcoming “Cataloging Questions & Answers” topics for the ANSS website. For the April edition, Isabel is planning to create a Q&A that addresses the genre form terms that are used for ethnographic film, like nonfiction films and documentaries. Rachel plans to create a Q&A that focuses on the headings for Judaica, Judaic and Israeli studies, and religious minorities in Israel, for May or June. Isabel will also create a Q&A for July related to her work with the important Tozzer anthropology collection. Isabel establishes the official headings for archaeological site names, and will do a Q&A on how to establish archaeological sites in LCSH. Tom will create a Q&A that the committee can schedule as needed between other topics. Potential topics for this Q&A are: headings for sociological theory, archaeological theory, physical/biological anthropological theory, or forensic anthropological or archaeological research; or an overview of the ways that metadata is created and made accessible for anthropological or sociological archival collections.

The group also discussed methods for generating additional membership for the group. The committee will work on collaboratively drafting an announcement that can be sent out to various listservs to generate membership interest. The announcement will be modified to fit the context of each list.

For our virtual Midwinter meeting, the Anthropology Librarians Discussion Group was pleased to invite anthropologist Ashley Lemke to speak about her recent research into submerged prehistoric archaeology. We welcomed thirteen attendees to our forum conversation.

Dr. Lemke is on the forefront of submerged prehistoric archaeology, a new field that explores ancient archaeological sites that are now underwater due to past climate change and rising sea levels. While most people think of shipwrecks when they hear underwater archaeology, in addition to wreck sites, we are also discovering more and more sites of great antiquity that are submerged. Since 2013, Dr. Lemke has studied 9,000-year-old caribou hunting sites that are 100 feet underwater in Lake Huron. Caribou hunting structures, stone tools, ancient trees, and other remains have been preserved intact by the cold and fresh water. Dr. Lemke is currently finishing her book which documents these sites in addition to hunting sites, or hunting architecture, all over the world. She has worked on archaeological projects across the United States, as well as in Germany, Spain, and Romania. Overall, her research seeks to explore the complexity of what we often call “simple” hunter-gatherer cultures.
The presentation went very well. Dr. Lemke discussed her ongoing research in the Great Lakes. She highlighted new research and new technologies she is working on to help students study the ancient landscapes she and her team are researching. Virtual reality is one such technology. She also briefly spoke about her forthcoming book for which I (Brooke Troutman) have been assisting her with copyright permissions for images. Questions at the end pertained to her actual research in the field and its impact on the environment. She commented on the work as being friendlier to the environment than other forms of archeological research. Another question and comment was about some new ideas to use Creative Commons licensing with some of the images for her new book. Finally, a question was asked about my work with Dr. Lemke as her liaison librarian. I spoke about our metrics consultation service we provide at the University of Texas at Arlington. I have worked very closely with Dr. Lemke in preparing her metrics and advising her on journals and grant funding, as well as promoting her research to increase her digital identity and scholarly impact.

**MOVE YOUR LIBRARY FORWARD WITH AN ACRL ROADSHOW!**

Bring local, in-person professional development to your campus, chapter, or consortium worldwide. Led by expert presenters, ACRL’s one-day RoadShow workshops engage participants and help academic and research libraries tackle the greatest issues facing the profession today. Current workshop topics include:

- Assessment in Action
- Engaging with the ACRL Framework
- Intersections of Scholarly Communication and Information Literacy
- Research Data Management
- Scholarly Communication
- Using the Standards for Libraries in Higher Education

For more information about each of these workshops, including program descriptions, sample schedules, and a list of presenters, visit [www.ala.org/acrl/roadshows](http://www.ala.org/acrl/roadshows).
ANSS ACRL Social 2019

The ANSS ACRL 2019 Social was held at The Greenhouse Tavern in Cleveland on Thursday, April 11. It was a small showing but a great time was had by all!

Celia Emmelhainz (left), Christine Slaughter (middle), and Ilka Datig (right).

Photo credit: Ilka Datig

The Greenhouse Tavern

Photo credit: Meg Shalala
NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

NEWS

Lora Baldwin, a member of ANSS, passed away on March 29, 2019. Lora was an active member of our section, particularly within the ANSS Program Planning Committee. Our hearts go out to her and her friends and family. An obituary has been published.
Memories of ANSS Social Events

We’re presenting another installment in the series “Memories of ANSS Social Events,” in which ANSS members describe their first or most memorable ANSS Social from a past ALA Annual or Midwinter conference. Please join us at the upcoming ANSS Social at ALA Annual 2019 in Washington, D.C. In this installment, Mimmo Bonanni recounts a treasured ANSS social at the ALA 2014 Annual.

It was a June 27, 2014 social in Las Vegas! We decided to have our ANSS social on "the strip" at a fittingly lougy Indian restaurant near the MGM Grand. I knew immediately I would like the place. At the entrance, I was greeted by statues of gods, beautiful art, and an elegant bamboo entrance with a bright red neon sign: Tamba Indian Cuisine.

I remember being delighted about going to Las Vegas, and being part of ANSS again. It was 2014, just after I had taken a seven year hiatus from ANSS to focus on digital repositories and data management. I was excited to return to being a social sciences librarian again and re-joining my membership with ANSS.

When I arrived, I looked around the restaurant and spotted a friendly face. Wade Kotter was standing in the buffet line making important food decisions among colorful, savory, delicious dishes: lamb vindaloo, aloo saag, and mattar paneer. I caught Wade's easygoing smile and was immediately greeted with a, “Hello Mimmo!” and a strong handshake. Then I spotted other old friends Sally Willson Weimer and Pauline Manaka, and I felt immediately welcome. I thought to myself how much I had missed ANSS and all of the great members.

I hit the buffet line and sat with the big group. If I had to wager, I think the restaurant manager knew we were librarians since they placed our tables near a lighted bookshelf stocked with Indian books. I met several new friends for the first time that evening, too, like Anne Larrivee and Jill Conte. As we ate together, shared stories, and the group caught me up on the past seven years, I felt welcomed and happy to be part of a great membership, reminisced with old friends that I dearly missed, and fostered new long-lasting friendships. Oh, and the garlic naan was kinda amazing, too!

Mimmo Bonanni

Social Sciences Librarian, Arizona State University Library
ACRL Books
ACRL publishes a range of books to assist academic librarians in developing their professional careers, managing their institutions, and increasing their awareness of developments in librarianship, providing timely, thought-provoking, and practical content and research to academic and research librarians worldwide. Some recent titles:

- Scholarship in the Sandbox: Academic Libraries as Laboratories, Forums, and Archives for Student Work
- Critical Approaches to Credit-Bearing Information Literacy Courses
- Motivating Students on a Time Budget: Pedagogical Frames and Lesson Plans for In-Person and Online Information Literacy Instruction

Interested in writing for ACRL? Contact Erin Nevius, ACRL’s Content Strategist, at enevius@ala.org for more information, or visit www.al.org/acrl/publications/publishing to learn more about our book publishing program and submit a proposal.

RESOURCE REVIEWS

FAMILY AND SOCIETY STUDIES WORLDWIDE DATABASE (EBSCO)
Tom Durkin
Anthropology, Folklore, & Sociology Librarian
University of Wisconsin-Madison
thomas.durkin@wisc.edu

Reviewed: February 2019
Publisher: EBSCO
URL: https://www.ebsco.com/products/research-databases/family-society-studies-worldwide
Cost: Institution-specific pricing can be obtained from EBSCO at https://www.ebsco.com/request-information
Introduction
Academic research into family studies incorporates various facets of the study of psychology, social work, health, sociology, economics, and other aspects of the social sciences that pertain to the wellbeing of families. The Family and Society Studies Worldwide database provides unparalleled searching of the academic family studies literature. For more than 20 years, several vendors have provided access to the Family and Society Studies Worldwide database. In the late 1990s, the National Information Service Corporation (NISC) purchased the Inventory of Marriage and Family Literature from the National Council on Family Relations, and then also incorporated the Australian Family and Society Abstracts and the United States Military Family Resource Center Documents Database. NISC expanded indexing and grew the database from 135,000 records to 500,000 records by 2002 (Davis, 2002). The Family and Society Studies Worldwide database was subsequently purchased by EBSCO in 2008 (Cision PRWeb, 2008). Since that time, EBSCO has more than tripled the size of the database.

Coverage/Indexing/Subject Access
The Family and Society Studies Worldwide database currently includes "more than 1.7 million records" that cover "1930 to the present" for sources in “social work, social science, and family practice” (EBSCO, 2019a). EBSCO’s title list for the database includes 818 publications from around the world. The database coverage is primarily focused on academic peer-reviewed journals from the U.S. and the U.K. Records have been indexed for documents including book chapters, books, conference papers, discussion materials, government reports, professional journals, statistical documents, theses and dissertations, and working papers (EBSCO, 2019a). In addition to the 818 core publications, the database also includes selective indexing from “thousands of titles containing articles that are relevant” (EBSCO, 2019b). Citation indexing includes Author, Company Entity, Document Type, Entry Date, Geographic Terms, ISBN, ISSN, Keyword, Language, People, Publication Name, Reviews and Products, Subject Terms, and Year of Publication. Each index is browsable by accessing the “Indexes” option at the top of the search interface.

Title List: https://www.ebscohost.com/titleLists/flh-coverage.htm

Search Interface
The Family and Society Studies Worldwide database is accessed using the current standard EBSCO search interface that is shared with a very long list of other EBSCO database products. The EBSCO interface provides a simple “Basic Search” and an “Advanced Search.” The Advanced Search mode provides ready access to a variety of search filters, such as Author, Title, Subject Terms, and others (as the available indexes listed above allow). Users can further filter their searching by date, full-text, document type (e.g., article or book chapter), and publication type (e.g., academic journal or conference paper). A checkbox allows filtering sources by their status as scholarly peer-reviewed journals. The EBSCO interface provides a “Search History” searching option, where users can re-run searches and combine previous searches. When a user retrieves search results, further filtering can be performed on the initial set of results by using a convenient left-side panel of filter options (such as by publishing date or source type). Citations can be temporarily saved into a “Folder” storage space (linked at the top of the screen) that allows a user to print, email, save, and export citations. The export option provides access to the controls needed for sending citations to a citation manager. The EBSCO advanced search interface is pictured below.
RecordFormat/Layout
Records from the Family and Society Studies Worldwide database are displayed in the current standard EBSCO layout. When a citation is opened, the citation information is displayed in a central pane. EBSCO refers to this as the “detailed record.” The item title is helpfully prominent. Authors are identified with numbers referencing their institutional affiliations. The journal title, and other remaining components of the citation are listed under “Source.” Clickable subject terms from the database index are provided, as are any author-supplied keywords. Citations contain useful abstracts. The right side pane has links for uploading information to Google Drive, adding the citation to the temporary EBSCO storage folder, and tool buttons for printing, citation-emailing, record saving, obtaining permalinks, and exporting to a citation manager. The “Cite” tool will pop open a box that provides the article citation formatted in common citation styles such as Chicago, APA, MLA, and others. If a user logs into their EBSCO account, notes can be attached to a citation with the “Create Note” tool. A sample citation from the Family and Society Studies Worldwide database is pictured below.
Document Availability
The Family and Society Studies Worldwide database is not a full text database, but EBSCO does provide links out to “linked Full Text” from other vendors such as SAGE and Science Direct, depending on local institutional subscriptions. EBSCO also helpfully provides a space for institutionally branded link resolvers.

Help
EBSCO appears to provide the same help file for all of the databases that use the standard EBSCO search interface. Fortunately, this help file is extensive and provides examples for a variety of searching techniques, including advanced techniques such as truncation and proximity searching. Significantly, the help file provides an "Accessibility Navigation Guide" with tips for ways to navigate the interface while using a screen reader.

Comparison and Overall Review
EBSCO also offers the similar Family Study Abstracts (FSA) database. Based on data provided directly from EBSCO and the FSA web page (EBSCO, 2019b, 2019c), the Family and Society Studies Worldwide (FSSW) database is a much larger database than the FSA. The list of titles indexed by the FSA is only about 27% of the size of FSSW’s list. About 62% of the list of titles indexed by the FSA overlaps with the title list indexed by the FSSW, but about 84% of the titles indexed by the FSSW are unique. The FSSW is also a much bigger database when comparing the total number of citations indexed. At 1.7 million citations, the FSSW is more than 14 times larger than the FSA (120,000 citations).

The Family and Society Studies Worldwide database is a large and useful searching tool for researchers in Family Studies and allied fields such as social work, psychology, and sociology. EBSCO provides its standard but robust
searching interface to retrieve and access citation data. Institutions that are contemplating beginning a subscription should keep in mind that both the Family and Society Studies Worldwide database and the Family Study Abstracts database do not include full text.

**References**


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**CALL FOR REVIEWERS — CHOICE/ACRL CORE BIBLIOGRAPHIES IN ANTHROPOLOGY AND SOCIOLOGY**

*Resources for College Libraries* (RCL), the Choice/ACRL bibliography of essential titles for undergraduate teaching and research, seeks experienced subject librarians to serve as peer reviewers in the RCL social sciences sections, including Anthropology and Sociology.

Reviewers are tasked with assessing the subject collection comprehensively, providing recommendations for editorial improvement and feedback on how well the core title selections support the college curriculum. Past reviewers have found this a "thoroughly rewarding" project that strengthens collection development skills and builds subject expertise.

If you are interested in serving as a peer reviewer, please submit a brief description of your relevant background, along with your CV to Anne Doherty (adoherty@ala-choice.org), RCL Project Editor. Preference will be given to those who apply by June 1, 2019. Learn more about RCL at: [http://www.choice360.org/products/rcl](http://www.choice360.org/products/rcl).
**Academic Video Online (AVON)**

Helen Clements  
Associate Professor, Humanities & Social Sciences Division  
Edmon Low Library, Oklahoma State University  
helen.clements@okstate.edu

Reviewed: August-September, 2018; briefly revisited February 2019  
Publisher: Alexander Street Press  
URL: https://alexanderstreet.com  
Cost: Purchase models available include one-time purchase of the entire package, or demand-driven acquisition. Inquire about consortial pricing. (Additional details below.)  
Coverage Dates: Release/publication dates of videos range from before 1910 to the present; majority of the collection released from 1990 to the present

**Introduction: Issues in the Academic Library Adoption of Videos**

One of the recent and transformative changes in academic library collection development has been the adoption of streaming video as an instructional tool in higher education. Stephen Rhind-Tutt, former head of Alexander Street Press, has said that moving into this new environment, a streaming format that does not depend on a physical copy, presents challenges to libraries (Rhind-Tutt, 2013). One of these is the amount of material readily available. As evidenced by articles which have previously appeared in *Currents* (Acadia, 2016; McCallum & Eller, 2017), publishers who aggregate a variety of material have been quick to develop large catalogs of resources and offer them in a variety of formats and purchase/subscription options. The present review examines Alexander Street Press’s contribution, *Academic Video Online (AVON)*. As of this writing, AVON is one of the largest academic video packages available.

Librarians seeking to adapt to this new format to increase the range of content in their collections, and to make those collections accessible to their patrons, can benefit from work their colleagues have done. There is a rapidly developing, practical, evidence-based literature about issues involved with adding videos to academic library collections. For example, in 2014 a committee of CARLI, the Consortium of Academic and Research Libraries in Illinois, published a white paper detailing their discussions. The group found that libraries encountered numerous issues in deciding to add streaming to their range of services. Among these were: the content of the videos; their relevance to local needs for instructional, research, or entertainment materials; the existence or lack of proper technological infrastructure; copyright issues; rights to use specific formats and limits on use; the complexity and cost of purchasing agreements; and the amount of work involved (CARLI Commercial Products Committee, 2014, 2018b).

Wahl’s brief article in *Online Searcher* pointed out that there are a number of considerations for libraries: licensing options, the availability of usage data, whether videos are accessible to those with disabilities, whether the video content is presented in a discovery system, and what “cool features” may add to users’ satisfaction (Wahl, 2016, p. 12-13). Dixon noted that much of the use by students was for specific assignments, class uses, demonstrations of how to do some activity, to introduce an unfamiliar topic, or as a primary source (Dixon, 2017). Disciplines in the social sciences, humanities, and arts were the most frequent users. Prevalent types of content included documentaries, full-length movies or television series, and archival footage. Dixon also provides information on the selection models used by libraries and the leading content providers. Horbal (2018) reported that instructors interviewed for his study say they used streaming videos predominantly in connection with their classes. In general, participants believed that the offerings compared well to common commercial and non-streaming formats. They appreciated the ability to add links to their course management systems. When students could watch videos outside of class time, classroom time was freed for presenting other content using other methods. In their article on purchasing models for streaming video, Spratt and her
colleagues (2017) discuss the complexities and workflow issues associated with evidence-based or demand-driven acquisition.

To address these issues, this review attempts to answer three questions:

1. What is the content of Academic Video Online, specifically the subjects it covers and the formats in which that content is available?

2. How does AVON work, both in its use by library patrons and its administration by librarians?

3. What are the options for subscribing to or purchasing AVON content?

Background: What is the Content of AVON?

In an environment of rapid change and exponential growth, Alexander Street Press (ASP) stands out as an industry leader. Founded in 2000, the Press seeks to publish high-quality digital collections in the social sciences and humanities. According to their website, ASP began offering streaming video in 2006. ASP’s content covers a large range of topics and disciplines, from anthropology, criminal justice, and sociology, to literature, music, art, and the sciences.

Today ASP is probably the largest single provider of streaming video for academic institutions, followed by Kanopy, Swank, and other companies (CARLI, 2018a, 2018b). ASP became part of ProQuest in 2016. It uses the resources of the ProQuest platform, which offers users technical support, as well as an extensive LibGuide for AVON. At the same time, ASP maintains its unique systems for searching and delivery of videos from its curated collections.

ASP’s largest single video collection is Academic Video Online (AVON). This is a rich source of films of many types, especially documentaries and instructional videos. History, music, ethnography, psychology, and health figure prominently among the disciplines included, but there is also coverage of literature and art, as well as the sciences and engineering. Many of the videos come from the multiple subject collections assembled by ASP.

Selection of Materials for AVON

In keeping with its practice of building thorough content collections of digitized scholarly resources, AVON’s editorial staff includes curators with extensive background in both academic studies and media collection development. Sketches of current editors and other staff members are featured on AVON’s website. ASP’s Video Advisory Board is made up of librarians and other media specialists from a number of universities.

As of August 2018, AVON’s items number close to 67,000. Depending on the subscription package chosen, AVON offers all the content of 29 ASP subject collections, all the videos (videos only) from nine more, and selected films from another five. The collections will be of special interest to social scientists. Of the roughly 67,000 individual titles, some 17,000 are available exclusively from Alexander Street (some relevant books and documents are also included). ASP is constantly adding new material to AVON, so any number given for total items may soon become outdated.

Multiple options for acquiring content from the collection will be discussed briefly below.

According to information from ASP, they have made all of the videos and some other content from many of their digitized collection packages available for purchase in AVON. Collections of interest for the social sciences which have all videos and some other items available include: American History in Video, Black Studies in Video, Criminal Justice and Public Safety in Video, Filmmakers Library, LGBT Studies in Video, PBS Video Collection (3rd edition), and World Newsreels Online. Examples of collections with all videos available are Human Rights Studies Online, Psychological
Experiments Online, and Social Work Online. Selected films are available from Documentary Educational Resources, Sony Pictures Classics, and Independent World Cinema.

ASP has absorbed a number of video providers and works in partnership with others. Users of AVON can search to see if a film from a given vendor is actually available for purchase or if they want to request ASP to add it. A quick search function is linked in the ASP Resource Center; it may help lessen the time necessary to check on the item. (See the discussion of purchasing models below.)

Some examples of providers include Sony Pictures Classics (selectively), BBC, Bloomberg Media Distribution, CBS, HBO, Criterion Collection, National Geographic, and First Run Features. Other examples are PBS (selective coverage), Stanley Milgram (social psychology), Documentary Educational Resources (DER), and Insight Media. Readers wishing for more detail can consult the latest Excel spreadsheet available in the bibliographies section. In December 2018, ASP announced an agreement that increases the number of BBC Studios videos available through ProQuest. The initial group, to be added in “the coming months,” is to include at least 1,500 titles. According to the AVON page on the ProQuest Support Center, recently added videos include several dozen from PBS, and other updates are ongoing.

Some users have pointed out that the collection’s older materials outnumber more recent items. In part, it may simply be more difficult to license recent content, especially from small producers. Acquisition of videos takes time because the material may take years to become commercially available. At the same time, the need for recent content is valid, especially in topics that are developing and changing, such as immigration. “Classic” items (some ethnographic films, for example) may give misleading information because the social facts they contain are outdated. AVON is a very large and complex resource with much content of historical value. While recency is an important consideration, users bear responsibility to think critically about their use of videos. Needing the latest information can be counterbalanced by the need to understand how issues have developed through time. What’s “too old” for one topic may be essential background for another.

Figure 1: AVON Menu—Available

Disciplines Included
ASP includes broad disciplinary categories in its database. The Menu in the upper left corner is key to using the collection. Its Disciplines section links lead to the general divisions of information. From that top level, users are able to drill down from disciplines to the more detailed levels.

The Disciplines category arranges the major areas: All Disciplines, American Studies, Art & Design, Business & Economics, Diversity, Health Sciences History, Literature and Language, Music & Performing Arts, Personal Interest (How-To, Cooking, Travel), Psychology & Counseling, Science & Engineering, and Social Sciences. Each category has multiple sub-topics, which are also searchable through the AVON interface.

Within the Social Sciences disciplines, the number of videos in the sub-disciplines varies (Table 1). These figures will change as the curators expand the AVON collection. Note that while sociology is not a separate category, many AVON
videos are clearly of interest to sociologists. A given title may be indexed in the categories for several topics. The terms currently used in the tutorials for discipline levels, “Platform, Discipline, Community, and Collection,” seem unclear. A suggestion for improvement would be to use different labels that more clearly indicate the levels, by number if not by topical name.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sub-Discipline</th>
<th>Number of Videos</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Anthropology</td>
<td>6,043</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Business &amp; Economics</td>
<td>6,049</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Criminal Justice &amp; Public Safety</td>
<td>891</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education</td>
<td>5,861</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Environmental Studies</td>
<td>1,212</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Global Issues</td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Media Studies</td>
<td>3,614</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Politics &amp; Current Affairs</td>
<td>2,861</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Psychology</td>
<td>2,067</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Religion &amp; Thought</td>
<td>529</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social Theory</td>
<td>484</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social Work</td>
<td>392</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Table 1. AVON Social Sciences Categories and Videos Included in Each Category*

The richness of AVON’s resources can also be seen in the number of content items in its categories. It is understandable that documentaries and educational materials loom large, but there are also interviews, panel discussions, biographies, and dozens of types with smaller numbers of items (Table 2). A full list of the types is available via the Advanced Search function.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Content Type</th>
<th>Number of Items</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Documentary</td>
<td>28,398</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Instructional material</td>
<td>14,935</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Newsreel</td>
<td>7,925</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Performance</td>
<td>7,071</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>News story</td>
<td>6,317</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interview</td>
<td>6,247</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lecture/presentation</td>
<td>3,941</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Table 2. Common Content Types, By Number of Items

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Content Type</th>
<th>Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Panel discussion</td>
<td>2,344</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Counseling session</td>
<td>1,298</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Speech/Address</td>
<td>634</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Corporate training</td>
<td>265</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Animation</td>
<td>239</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Commercial</td>
<td>210</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Biography</td>
<td>142</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Other AVON Content Features

ASP provides very detailed information about AVON functions and content. Among the positive features of AVON are the existence of a detailed bibliography, a LibGuide, and a number of tutorials. Some of these resources (notably the LibGuide and the Resource Center) are rather difficult to locate.

Bibliography of Films Included

The latest bibliography of AVON titles is a massive Excel spreadsheet. It lists the video title, title of the series, publisher, year of publication, the collection that includes the item, the discipline or disciplines to which it belongs, and if there is an option to subscribe or to own. Whether the video is exclusive to AVON, and the world regions in which there are territorial rights to play it, are also listed. A recent copy of this spreadsheet-bibliography is linked to the AVON brochure.

Functionality: How does AVON Work?

Using ASP products fluently can be challenging for the beginning user, especially given the number of videos offered. AVON provides several help features; however, they can be hard to locate. Libraries wishing to market this or other streaming video services will need to consider holding hands-on workshops, especially for faculty or teaching assistants. Using the AVON LibGuide and providing Quick Reference Guides available from the Resource Center are also recommended.

Tutorials

Short videos on making clips, creating playlists, searching the collection, using the video player, and using the audio player can be found linked to several AVON pages. Other tutorial help, including webinars, can be located by using the LibGuide and the Alexander Street Press website.

Resource Center

The Resource Center is a critical component which provides access to multiple help features for ASP resources, both for users and for librarians. These are a few of the Resource Center features:

- Links to the administrative portal (available to subscribers or by asking for assistance from an AVON staff member).
- List of discovery services used by ASP. The main current services are EBSCO Discovery Service, OCLC WorldCat Local, Ex Libris Primo Central, and Serials Solutions Summon. ASP offers to consider adding other services.
- Accessibility information: ASP supports and complies with national and international Web Content Accessibility Guidelines. AVON conforms to JAWS screen reader compatibility. Users can access output in speech or Braille. Most videos have closed captioning, as well as transcripts synchronized with the video. If a transcript is available, it toggles with the Details view, the bibliographic record for each video. Users can also request the preparation of a transcript if needed.
• Links to Quick Reference Guides on using video, audio, text and MARC records, as well as the features of the administrators’ old and new statistics interfaces.

• Links to AVON usage statistics. In the new interface, granular reports on playbacks by title, subject, and collection are available. Administrators can also generate COUNTER 4 reports.

• Public performance rights: All videos available from ASP, either streaming or DVD, have limited public performance rights—they can be shown in the classroom and at public screenings where there is no admission charge.

Searchability
As with any complex information resource, searching AVON can be somewhat frustrating. The Browse function allows users to browse AVON levels by title, discipline, publisher, or content type. Titles can be browsed by segment and track (which produces more results). Titles can be sorted alphabetically, or by newest or oldest first. The Search function covers four levels of the collection, from more broad to more narrowly focused: Platform (AVON as a whole); Discipline (History, Social Sciences); Community (American History); Collection (searches within the collections a given library subscribes to). The detailed “Refine Your Search” facets on the left column allow more targeted searching. If one is looking for a specific title, the Discipline or Subject levels may offer a simpler way to search because the Advanced Search function presents a plethora of choices. Many of the fields have “Select Terms” drop-down menus which allow users to choose specific terms. Moreover, each discipline has a different array of search terms; for example, the Advanced Search for Music and Arts allows searches for playwrights, composers, choreographers, performers, and so forth (see Figure 2).

Browsing or searching using the Browse function typically returns fewer hits than a Search. The FAQ section explains that the browse results come from pre-processed lists entered in specific facets and therefore may return fewer results. Browsing options, however, can reveal content that could be missed with the more pinpointed Search.
It is also advisable to search several sub-disciplines when following a topic like “disaster recovery.” The results reveal a lack of overlap. Several searches revealed that disasters may include hurricanes, oil spills, or financial crises, and also responses to them, such as PTSD. Obviously, short news segments appeared more frequently in the results for Media Studies, while in Global Issues there were more items longer than one hour. For example, a search on Katie Couric produces 39 results in Media Studies, but none in Global Issues (though one could argue that her focus on gender in 2017 would count as a global issue).

One suggestion for ASP is to add a “phrase search” option at the top set of search boxes, or to add the capability of displaying suggested keyword combinations from previous searches (a feature in ProQuest journal databases). For help with searching, users can also consult the Resource Center document. The search capability here may make finding single videos easier than the main search function. It contains details on searching, what is contained in search results, how to use the video and audio players, how to play back a film on a mobile device, streaming quality, citations and playlists, and how to make a list of citations with a choice of bibliographic styles.

**Metadata**

Given the range of disciplines and subjects, the metadata seems to appear more loosely structured than a controlled vocabulary, dependent on subject headings. Metadata for each item appears in the Details view of the bibliographic record, and can also be found on the search results page and on the video display page.

In addition to the Details and Transcript view, the video screen may also feature related items such as a list of segments or a brochure for the video. The video screen can be expanded to full screen (see Figure 3).

![Figure 3. Video/Details/Transcript Display Screen](image)

**Transcripts**

Many of the transcripts or closed captions are human-produced, but some are created using voice-to-text software.
Although a mistake often involves a single, similar-sounding word, it can result in errors in the text which lessen understanding of the video. Sarah Brennan, Product Manager for AVON, notes that if users will contact Alexander Street to note the errors, they will use human transcription to correct the problem (personal communication, August 28, 2018). Given this reviewer’s viewing of one video in February 2019, specific problems should be reported.

**Adding Clips and Playlists**
The ability to make playlists and clips from the videos enhances AVON’s usefulness for teaching. Two of the tutorials show users how to make shareable playlists and clips. Playlists can be kept private or shared, and clips can easily be embedded in a course management system. Overall, the numerous ways to search and share AVON’s information make it a strong contender as a source of educational information in video format.

**What Are Options for Purchasing?**
ASP offers a number of possible plans for acquiring videos. Each plan differs somewhat, depending on whether the library's patrons, or its collection development staff, play the leading role in selecting items. ASP also honors acquisition plans made when acquiring earlier collections. The brochure that explains purchasing options can be found at the Details page. Contact information for ASP staff is also available through the publisher’s website.

Briefly, current ways to acquire AVON content include choosing among several options:

- **Subscribing to AVON as a package (Curated Content model).** Many of the videos in other collections can also be purchased as single titles. The Build by Choice feature of this model allows libraries to apply the subscription costs they have incurred toward perpetual rights to the films that they choose. For example, they may pick titles that have been heavily used, or which are important for their content. This purchase option is possible for most films. The Build by Choice option gives access to the largest number of videos and offers video hosting on the ASP server.

- **Choosing Demand-Driven Acquisition (DDA).** In this plan, patrons choose from over 36,000 titles. The library creates a profile of the types of videos that can be chosen, and sets a prior spending cap. When patrons play back a given video four times for at least 30 seconds, it triggers an automatic one-year subscription. For most titles, the library can also upgrade to a three-year subscription term. It can also choose perpetual ownership. This feature, called Access-to-Own, is triggered automatically after a title has been viewed frequently enough that it meets the full purchase price, and is possible for most titles. Additionally, the DDA includes a Select option, which allows patrons to choose from over 13,000 titles available only through Alexander Street. It also guarantees that titles already purchased from other vendors are not duplicated.

- **Choosing Evidence-Based Acquisition.** This is a contrasting purchasing type in which librarians select the packages of videos from which patrons will choose. For this option, the price cap can be fixed in advance.

In September 2018, ASP announced that some 36,000 videos are available within the ProQuest OASIS system, which some libraries use to control their purchasing workflows. In addition, the company has recently added a notification about a package designed for public library use, Public Library Video Online: Premium, to its brochure for streaming offerings.

**Suggestions for Improvement of AVON:**
Given the vast amount of material covered in AVON, it is probably inevitable that some resources can be hard to find. At the same time, the metadata appear to be very loosely structured; search results do not appear consistent across groups of videos. One suggestion would be to produce a thesaurus of search terms as has been the practice in Sociological Abstracts, PsycInfo, and other article databases. While the Advanced Search function has many, many
options, a few additions such as the capability to do a search for a phrase, similar to the “phrase search” in Google, would be helpful. Renaming the subdisciplines in the Disciplines content category should help to clarify how Advanced Searches are being conducted. Since having the most current videos possible is important for many scholars and students, displaying the date searching function more prominently would be an improvement. Also, as noted above, users will likely want to report errors in the closed captioning of videos, so that they can be corrected.

AVON has developed over time, with input from many devoted specialists. In other words, it is a little challenging to use, as is any large academic library.

The amount of help that ASP offers users is remarkable; it would be easier to find if the Help feature provided direct links to the LibGuide and to the Resource Center. In other words, a clearer integration of its multiple help features would be welcome.

**Conclusion**

Overall, *Academic Video Online* is the result of eclectic, imaginative, and devoted efforts to create order among a large universe of diverse content, from providers large and small, and to preserve the content as a repository of knowledge as it existed in the late twentieth and early twenty-first centuries. In addition to this historical function, *AVON* has great potential to aid scholars, those with decades of experience and those whose careers began this September, to create new bodies of knowledge and, hopefully, wisdom. At a time when literacies are rapidly evolving and when print seems to be losing its privilege, Alexander Street Press and its members should be congratulated, however cautiously, for their work to create literacies in new ways.

**References**


