Message from the Chair
Triveni Kuchi

Greetings! Hope this finds you in good health and great spirits.

At the outset, I am sad to share the news about the loss of our colleague JoAnn Jacoby last April. JoAnn was a long-standing member of the ANSS community. I had met her when I had newly joined ALA in 2002 and engaged with her more when I began to co-chair the ANSS ad hoc Instruction and Information Literacy Task Force in 2004. She was such a friendly and happy person who immediately put me at ease as we talked about ANSS, work, and life. She was a kind mentor and encouraged me to persist in spite of challenges and continue my creative activities. JoAnn has played an important role in influencing my commitment to ANSS for nearly a decade and a half! She is greatly missed. Please read ahead the In Memoriam section for Liz Cooper’s special tribute to JoAnn.

ANSS was established in 1971 and during this 2021-2022 year we gratefully acknowledge and celebrate these 50+ years of superb programs, creative activities, wonderful professional colleagues, and lifelong friends. If you would like to locate some of the history of ANSS, please check out the ALA Archives (search using “ANSS”). Another source for some of the historical meeting minutes, agenda and newsletters is the ALA Institutional Repository. Some of the earliest correspondence goes as far back as 1972 (ACRL/ANSS Marilyn L. Haas papers (1972-1978)).
ANSS is a friendly, informal, and easy section to get involved with and we would love to get to know you and hear about your new ideas and how we can best meet the needs of this group and contribute to the profession at large. Use the ACRL Volunteer form, and please contact ANSS Vice Chair Elizabeth Fox who has been working away at making committee appointments this spring. Heartfelt thanks to all the members who have volunteered for committees or discussion groups. Special thanks to members of the ANSS Publications Committee and the Resource Review and Bibliography Committee for their tireless work on the website, Currents, and putting together valuable information and reviews to share with ANSS members and beyond. Except for the Nominating Committee, ANSS meetings are open, so please feel free to reach out to the chairs of committees and discussion groups to learn more about activities and what’s needed to serve as chair. ALA Connect is the main communication platform where messages about ANSS meetings, agendas, and minutes are posted. You can also find upcoming and important messages and communications posted to the ANSS social media and ANSS website.

This year we are particularly pleased to announce that The Companion Document to the ACRL Framework for Information Literacy for Higher Education – Sociology was approved by the Association of College and Research Libraries Board of Directors on January 27, 2022. Congratulations to ANSS Instruction and Information Literacy (IIL) Committee, its leaders and members for their hard work and persistence! Specifically, we would like to recognize and acknowledge IIL co-chairs and members Krystal Lewis, Hailey Mooney, Gina Schlesselman-Tarango, Christine Slaughter, and Priscilla Seaman for their extensive contributions to plan, develop and produce this document. Kudos!

Also, congratulations to the ANSS Conference Planning Committee for putting together a wonderful conference program, Classification and Justice: Unfinished work in Resource Description, that will be held in person on Saturday June 25, 2:30-3:30 p.m. More information is available below about the program. For all those who are attending ALA Annual conference in person, we have a meeting slot reserved for a “Meet & Greet” on Sunday, 8:30-10:00 a.m. Please drop by to say hello, chat, and network in person with ANSS colleagues! In addition, the ANSS Membership Committee is planning an in person social event at the conference in Washington, D.C. This is in addition to the virtual ANSS social. Stay tuned for details!

Looking forward to seeing many of you in Washington D.C.!

Triveni

Established in 1971, ANSS celebrates its 50th anniversary during the 2021-22 academic year.
Join your colleagues for the 2022 ALA Annual Conference, June 23-28, 2022. With high-quality programs and several discussion forums, you'll have plenty of opportunities to learn from and engage with colleagues and experts in the field. Be sure to check out the listing of high-quality programs from ACRL member units. Register today!

2022 Annual meetings of ANSS will be held online. Please look for announcements of the meetings with links on ALA Connect.

ANSS schedule for in-person events in Washington, D.C.:

- **Friday, June 24**
  - ANSS Social: (Time TBD)

- **Saturday, June 25**
  - ANSS Program: 2:30- 3:30 p.m.

- **Sunday, June 26**
  - Meet & Greet for ANSS in-person attendees: 8:30-10:00 a.m.

Classification and Justice: Unfinished Work in Resource Description

**Saturday, June 25, 2:30-3:30 p.m.**

Five decades after Sanford Berman’s influential publication, *Prejudices and Antipathies: A Tract on the LC Subject Heads Concerning People*, there’s still much work to do to rid Library of Congress Subject Headings and other schemas of sexism, racism, and other prejudicial language. The words we use to describe people of marginalized identities can have an impact on the internalized bias we hold about them. Outdated and offensive classifications cause real harm to marginalized people by perpetuating harmful stereotypes and feeding bias in research. This panel presentation will explore the longstanding harm of how we categorize people and identities in classification systems. Through panel presentations and discussion, we’ll explore actions all librarians can take to further the work of critical cataloging regardless of their day-to-day work with resource description.
Committee Reports

Conference Program Planning Committee - Washington, D.C., 2022
Carolyn Caffrey Gardner and Melissa Hackman, Co-Chairs

This year the ANSS Conference Planning Committee was made up of four members. Membership included co-chairs Carolyn Caffrey Gardner and Melissa Hackman, and members Emily G. W. Adhikari and Paula R. Dempsey. We collaborated with the Women and Gender Studies Section (WGSS) on this year’s conference proposal, which was accepted in December 2021. “Classification and Justice: Unfinished Work in Resource Description” explores actions all librarians can take to further the work of critical cataloging regardless of their day-to-day work with resource description. The panel is being held at the 2022 ALA Annual Conference & Exhibition meeting on Saturday, June 25, 2:30-3:30 p.m.

Instruction & Information Literacy Committee
Gina Schlesselman-Tarango and Jessica Hagman, Co-Chairs

The ANSS Instruction & Information Literacy Committee (ANSS-IIL) is thrilled that the ACRL Board of Directors has approved The Companion Document to the ACRL Framework for Information Literacy for Higher Education – Sociology. This document has been years in the making, and we extend many thanks to past and current committee members for their time and commitment to the project. The Information Literacy Standards for Anthropology and Sociology Students will be retained and publicly available, and the committee agreed that any further discussion about rescinding the standards should wait until the additional two disciplinary companion documents have been approved. A note has been added to the standards directing viewers to the sociology companion document.

Jessica Hagman continues to lead a subgroup hard at work on developing a draft Framework for Information Literacy in Criminology (FILC), which will ultimately be sent along to the ANSS Executive Board for initial review, after which point it will be distributed broadly to librarians, faculty, and other stakeholders for additional feedback. Similarly, Catherine Bowers has agreed to lead a second subgroup that is in the initial stages of drafting a third and final companion document, the Framework for Information Literacy in Anthropology (FILA).
Many thanks to both Jessica and Catherine, who will also be acting as ANSS-IIL co-chairs in the 2022-2023 academic year.

**ANSS Liaison Committee Report**

Tom Diamond, Chair

The ANSS Liaison Committee met to discuss the posting of recruitment calls for three ACRL liaison positions: the American Anthropological Association, the American Sociological Association, and the Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences. The committee reviewed the position descriptions and made a few changes. This included changing meeting attendance (e.g. conferences) from only in-person to either in-person or virtual. On February 1, the Committee posted the recruitment calls to the ANSS and ACRL discussion boards in ALA Connect, with an initial application deadline of March 15. David Free posted the recruitment calls on the ACRL Insider blog. The Publications Committee posted on the ANSS website and on the ANSS Twitter and Facebook pages. Unfortunately, the committee did not receive any applications. After conferring with committee members and Chair Kuchi, the committee re-advertised the recruitment calls in the same advertising venues. Instead of a three-year term for each, the committee changed this to a two-year term for each. The new application deadline was April 14. The ACRL Insider blog post is available.

**Membership Committee**

Jylisa Doney, Co-Chair

The Membership Committee is planning two socials for the upcoming 2022 ALA Annual conference. We’re collaborating with the Politics, Policy and International Relations Section (PPIRS) to plan a joint in-person social in Washington D.C. for those who will be attending the conference. This will continue a new-ish tradition of joint ANSS/PPIRS socials, and will mark the first in-person social event since the pandemic. Let’s all cross our fingers for this one! We also plan to hold a virtual social event for those of us who aren’t able to make it to Washington D.C. You can expect to see event details posted on ANSS-L as we near conference season.

During our Midwinter meeting, the committee also discussed reinvigorating the practice of sending letters to new, reinstated, and dropped members. This had been put on hold due to the lack of available updated reports and statistics for a period of time. We are receiving membership reports now (although they are a few months delayed). The committee has updated the letter templates and documented the process for this task.

As of November 2021, ANSS had a total of 576 members, a slight increase from November 2020 (571 members). In November 2021, 16 new members joined ANSS, 37 members renewed or reinstated their membership, and 18 members dropped. Student membership (146 members) and support staff membership (10 members) were slightly higher in November 2021 than in November 2020 (135 members and 4 members, respectively). However, regular membership in November 2021 (349 members) was lower than in November 2020 (364 members). In the coming year, the ANSS Membership Committee will continue exploring ways to recruit and retain ANSS members.

**Nominating Committee**

Jill Conte

The Nominating Committee is excited to put Jessica Hagman on the 2022 ballot for ANSS Vice Chair/Chair Elect, and Rebekah Lee and Krystal Lewis on the 2022 ballot for ANSS Member-at-Large. Jessican Hagman is Social Sciences Research Librarian at University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, Rebekah Lee is Branch Manager and Senior Librarian at Collin College’s Technical Campus, and Krystal Lewis is Information Commons Librarian at DePaul University. Many thanks to these three candidates for agreeing to run for ANSS office and for their continued outstanding service to the section! Special thanks go to Nominating Committee members Ilka Datig and Miriam Rigby for their tireless work helping to finalize the ANSS ballot this year.

**Publications Committee**

Steve Rokusek, Chair

The Publications Committee held a virtual meeting on Monday, February 28. Website manager Nidia Banuelos announced that users are now regularly visiting the new ANSS website, whereas earlier many were still visiting the old site. Nidia added that the site gets about 500 to 800 visitors per month, with the “Cataloging Questions & Answers” page being the most popular draw.
Social Media manager Jennifer Joe reported that the ANSS Facebook page has 885 followers, up slightly from the middle of last year. Over that period, the number of ANSS Twitter followers remained the same at 256. Jennifer added that the Facebook post with the most engagement (likes, comments, clicks) was the announcement that the Fall 2021 issue of *Currents* was available.

It was also announced that Nidia will be stepping down as website manager. The committee thanks her for all her excellent years of service. We welcome Melissa Gonzalez as the new website manager and newest member of the Publications Committee.

**Resource Review and Bibliography Committee**

Tom Durkin and Virginia Pierce, Co-chairs

The Resource Review & Bibliography Committee (RRBC) met for the Virtual Meeting scheduled around the LibLear-nX (formerly Midwinter Conference) via Zoom on February 2, 2022. All committee members were in attendance.

The committee successfully moved Jess Hagman’s article, “Free Tools for Qualitative Data Analysis,” through the peer-review and editing process in September 2021. It was published in the Fall 2021 issue of *Currents*. In discussion with the editors of ANSS *Currents*, our spring deadline to have all content submitted was April 1st, 2022. We planned our spring peer-review schedule accordingly. Author submissions were due to the committee by March 10th and the peer-review process was completed by March 25th. In January and February, the committee sent out calls for resource review articles to the ANSS and ACRL communities through ALA Connect. Two article submissions were submitted for the spring 2022 issue of *Currents*. These are currently in the peer-review process and cover the following resources: Homosaurus.org, an open, linked data vocabulary of LGBTQ+ terms, and topo-View, a digital repository of historical and current United States Geological Survey maps. The committee brainstormed ways to encourage future article submissions from the ANSS community. The new editor of ANSS *Currents* is open to expanding the types of articles accepted in the Resource Review Section of *Currents*, and the committee included this information in the calls for new articles. We now accept submissions on topics such as instruction, collection development, and book reviews, in addition to reviews of databases.

RRBC will have another virtual meeting in June 2022 to plan for the Fall 2022 issue of *Currents*. Please contact RRBC Co-Chairs, Tom Durkin (thomas.durkin@wisc.edu) or Virginia Pierce (vpierce@statelibrary.sc.gov) if you have any questions.

**Review and Planning Committee**

Juliann Couture, Chair

The Review and Planning Committee met virtually on February 14, 2022. This year’s members are continuing work begun by the previous year’s committee regarding the ANSS Manual for Officers, Chairs and Committee Members and coordinating a list of eligible external reviewers. We made a plan to collaborate with the Publications Committee to work out the logistics of posting updates to the website and maintaining living documents. We also discussed how to maintain a list of ANSS-eligible external reviewers for tenure, appointment, and promotion reviews. The previous committee created a form and this year’s committee began developing a workflow to maintain, store, and provide access to the list as a service provided by ANSS. Finally, the committee discussed how to support early career librarians and encourage committee participation.

**Subject and Bibliographic Access Committee**

Carolyn McCallum, Chair

The Subject and Bibliographic Access Committee (SBAC) met virtually on January 31 for ALA Midwinter 2022. Committee members proposed and scheduled topics for “Cataloging Q&As” for the months of February-May 2022. SBAC members will be investigating and reporting on the following topics: Library of Congress Subject Headings (LCSH) used for works about monuments, statues, and memorials; LCSH used for artists and their nationalities; LCSH used for non-western musical instruments and for musical performers/groups of musicians; and the creation of name authority records for transsexual and transgender individuals.

Diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) issues and initiatives are being discussed by and incorporated into the work produced by catalogers at various institutions. In recent years, DEI in cataloging has become a popular presentation topic at local and national library conferences. With this in mind, SBAC members unanimously...
agreed that once every six months a DEI issue/initiative/topic in cataloging would be researched and reported on in a cataloging Q&A.

Additionally, ideas for the recruitment of new members to the SBAC were discussed. Committee members have promoted the SBAC and advertised for new members on two outlets (the ACRL ANSS Digest on ALA Connect and the Program for Cooperative Cataloging’s (PCC) listserv). Before the meeting adjourned, Carolyn McCallum reminded the committee that a new SBAC Chair would need to be selected as her term concludes at the end of June.

ACRL Books
ACRL publishes a range of books that can help academic and research library workers worldwide develop their careers, manage their institutions, and stay on top of developments in librarianship, providing timely, thought-provoking, and practical content and research. Some recent titles:

- **TEACHING BUSINESS INFORMATION LITERACY**
- **THE RISE OF AI**
- **THE COMMUNITY COLLEGE LIBRARY: ASSESSMENT**
- **THE CC LIBRARY: REFERENCE & INSTRUCTION**
- **IMPLEMENTING EXCELLENCE IN DEI**
- **ACADEMIC LIBRARY MENTORING**
- **ETHNIC STUDIES IN ACADEMIC & RESEARCH LIBRARIES**
- **THE SCHOLARLY COMMUNICATIONS COOKBOOK**
- **MIND, MOTIVATION, & MEANINGFUL LEARNING**
- **ENVISIONING THE FRAMEWORK**
- **TEACHING ABOUT FAKE NEWS**

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

Submit an ACRL 2023 conference proposal

ACRL invites proposals for the **ACRL 2023 Conference** to be held March 15-18, 2023, in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Higher education has changed dramatically over the last few years. Academic libraries are addressing an increased emphasis on remote learning, rising calls for social justice, and an acknowledged need for flexibility that supports a sustainable work-life balance. At ACRL 2023, explore these issues and more around the theme of "Forging the Future."

ACRL 2023 features seven session formats to suit a wide range of presentation and learning styles. Contributed paper, panel session, and workshop proposals are due June 3, 2022. Lightning talk, poster session, roundtable discussion, and virtual conference presentations are due October 13, 2022.

Off-RoadShow Virtual Workshops

ACRL’s traveling RoadShow in-person workshops remain on hold, but we’re working to bring you the same great content through virtual experiences. These “Off-RoadShows” will continue to help academic library professionals tackle the greatest issues facing the profession today. Host a multi-day virtual workshop for your library or organization! Learn more at ala.org/acrl/offroad.
Discussion Group & Liaison Reports

Sociology Librarians Discussion Group
Jessica Hagman and Stephanie Crowe, Co-Conveners

The Sociology Discussion Group held a conversation on January 31, 2022 centering around the relationship between sociology librarianship and scholarly associations. The discussion was born out of a blog post by sociologist Philip Cohen in November 2021 entitled, “Why I’m leaving the American Sociological Association,” in which Cohen details some of the issues he has with the American Sociological Association (ASA) and why it does not fulfill his expectations for value, equity, change, openness, and transparency. A portion of Cohen’s blog post is devoted to a discussion of ASA’s lack of support for open access publishing; Cohen, as a founder of SocArXiv, strongly supports, and of course has an interest in, open scholarship.

In the conversation, attendees discussed how, despite our professional ideals, incentive structures mean that academic libraries will not unsubscribe from core journals such as the American Sociological Review. The point was made that Cohen, as a tenured faculty member at an R1 institution, doesn’t “need” ASA, but many untenured and contingent faculty, and graduate students, still do. We had a conversation about how we as librarians can promote open access publishing with our faculty, but that change is and will be incremental. Discussants agreed that ASA is too big (the “800-pound gorilla in the field”) to fail. Finally, we discussed the general concept of a scholarly society, and in particular how it’s interesting that if a society is its members, and members are in favor of open scholarship, then theoretically the scholarly society should be as well.

Looking forward, the Sociology Librarians Discussion Group looks forward to hosting an online discussion with Sebastian Karcher and Dessi Krilova of the Qualitative Data Repository on June 8 at 11am Central time. Please register to get the Zoom link for this event.

AAA Liaison Report
Celia Emmelhainz

The American Anthropological Association (AAA) held its 2021 meetings in hybrid mode on the web and in Baltimore, MD in November. Due to the pandemic, I wasn’t able to attend in person. Instead, I joined most attendees on a rather buggy online conference platform. As a librarian representative on the board of the Society for Humanistic Anthropology (SHA), a subsection of AAA, I also attended and voted at board meetings online.
At the 2021 AAA meeting, several talks were of interest to librarians and archivists:

- In *Analysis of Multilingualism in Protest Signs*, Delin Deng compares US and French protest signs to better understand code-switching at protests.
- In *Democratizing Social Narratives Using Visual Storytelling Methods*, Peggy Peattie discusses how visual storytelling can inspire change, but looks critically at the asymmetrical power involved in storytelling.
- In *A Three-Phase Method for Determining Saturation in Ethnographic Studies*, Anthony DiStefano examines how we know we’ve done ‘enough’ qualitative interviews, and how to determine saturation in multi-method studies.
- In *Shaking the Colonial Archive*, Aaron Glass discusses how Kwakwaka’wakw communities in British Columbia produce, criticize, and consume anthropology as they build towards a future for their community.
- In *Keeping the PECE*, leaders from the Platform for Experimental Collaborative Ethnography discussed their collaborative digital showcase for ethnographic projects worldwide.

As mentioned above, I also attended fall 2021 board meetings of SHA, which convened a special meeting to discuss whether to move their society journal to open access. This is a question that other subsections of AAA were also debating. It seems that academic societies and subsections often charge membership fees which fund the society itself, their journals, and even the awarding of book prizes. To make this system work, a “free” copy of a journal is an incentive for scholars to pay to join an academic society.

Moving journals open access therefore involves the double challenge of how the work of the journal can be sustainably funded (an issue even if hosted on an OA platform) and how the rest of the society’s operations can be funded in the absence of a journal incentive for membership. Anthropology societies and sections have discussed options to address this, including having universities pay OA fees, or seeking endowments to fund an open access journal in perpetuity.

This concludes my three-year term as ANSS liaison to the American Anthropological Association. Serving as ANSS’ liaison has been a great way to connect with scholars and their societies, and to help them make decisions with sustainable library and archival issues in mind.
In Memoriam: JoAnn Jacoby

by Liz Cooper
Social Sciences Librarian
University of New Mexico

JoAnn Jacoby, a most exceptional librarian and person, passed away in April 2021, and I'd like to share a bit about how wonderful she was. I'll start by sharing some basic biographical and ANSS-related details about JoAnn. First, you may have heard of JoAnn because she co-wrote Cultural Anthropology: A Guide to Reference and Information Sources, the book that has been the bible for new anthropology librarians for years (and that's just one of the many highlights of her outstanding career). JoAnn earned a B.A. in English in 1989 from the University of New Mexico.
of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, and both an M.S. in Library and Information Science and an M.A. in Anthropology from Southern Illinois University at Carbondale in 1997. In 1998, she joined the staff of the University of Illinois as an Assistant Librarian at the Illinois Natural History Survey Library, where she met her much-loved husband (Steve Taylor, a cave biologist with whom she explored caves around the world discovering species new to science, including a cave-adapted springtail from Belize, which Steve named in her honor, Trogolaphysa jacobyi!). JoAnn served in a variety of roles at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign University Library, taking on increasing responsibilities through the years (Anthropology and Sociology Subject Specialist [Assistant Professor, then Associate Professor], 2002-08; Coordinator, New Service Model Programs [Associate Professor], 2008-12; Head, Research and Information Services [Associate Professor], 2010-15; Associate University Librarian for User Services and Associate Dean of Libraries, 2015-17). She also served three years as the Director of Tutt Library at Colorado College, 2017-20, before retiring to coastal North Carolina with her husband.

I met JoAnn while drinking margaritas at my first ANSS Social in 2004 in San Diego. Over the years and through many adventures, she became not just a colleague but one of my best friends. We worked together on numerous ANSS committees (JoAnn was Chair 2006-07 and I followed as Chair a few years later), laughed and danced at ANSS Socials (and post-social socials!) and presented at (and snuck out of) conferences around the world. The friendship we developed is testament to what a professional organization like ANSS can do – it can introduce you to colleagues and mentors who can help you with your work, and if you are lucky and pay attention, it can also introduce you to friends who change your life.

JoAnn’s way of being in the world was an inspiration to me and so many others. In one of her many roles at UIUC, she supervised graduate students who worked at the reference desk, training dozens of young librarians as they embarked upon their new profession. I cannot think of a better person to mentor and welcome people into the profession than JoAnn. As one of her former students wrote, “Working with JoAnn helped me find my professional voice and I think of her often….JoAnn seemed to succeed because she was pleasant and smart and funny and kind. Not despite it. She opened my eyes to how one could be at work….”

As her husband wrote in her obituary, JoAnn "was well known to colleagues, friends, and family as an upbeat, caring, and compassionate person, a strong and decisive leader, an adventurous traveler and explorer, a connoisseur of fine literature, an amazing cook, and just generally a joy to be around…. [She] sailed the Ionian Sea, got drunk in South Korea, hiked lava fields in the Galapagos, danced in Cuba, ate grasshoppers in Mexico City, dove cenotes in the Bahamas, picked up giardiasis in Oaxaca, trained librarians at the Bibliotheca Alexandrina in Egypt, had safari adventures in South Africa, watched the fishing boats come in off the coast of Zanzibar, kayaked over a whale in Alaska, and many, many other fine adventures which she shared with various people close to her.”

JoAnn faced her final days as she faced everything, with an equanimity I can only marvel at. After her diagnosis of stage 4 pancreatic cancer, she wrote, “I am grateful for the incredibly rich life I’ve had, including all the amazing experiences we have shared. I was looking forward to lots more, but I’ll take what I can get which has already been amazing.” Even at the end of her life, JoAnn was modeling how to be in the world, and how to leave it. During her last weeks she was hiking and kayaking with her husband, laughing and telling stories with friends and family, hoping to travel to Mexico one last time, writing poetry, expressing her gratitude for life, and just being JoAnn.

JoAnn continues to be well-loved and greatly missed by her family, friends and colleagues. (And that laugh of hers, I really miss it.)
There is little doubt that the Library of Congress Subject Headings and other established subject vocabularies do a very poor job of making works related to historically marginalized and oppressed peoples discoverable in our collections, largely because these vocabularies were created primarily, if not exclusively, by people from the majority population. In other words, these standard vocabularies often fail to reflect the perspective of people from marginalized and oppressed groups, resulting in unnecessary and unwelcome limitations on discoverability (Hardesty & Nolan, 2021). One such group that is very poorly served by these standard vocabularies is the LGBTQ+ community. As with other marginalized and oppressed groups, people in the LGBTQ+ community and their allies, including librarians and other information specialists, make a very strong case for supplementing the Library of Congress Subject Headings and other standard vocabularies with subject headings created by members of this community. One example of this is Homosaurus, an international subject vocabulary begun in 1997 by a small group of information specialists from the LGBTQ+ community. Homosaurus is completely free to access and use, and the latest version (3.1) was released in December 2021.

As shown in Figure 1, the Homosaurus home page presents a brief description of the nature and purpose of the vocabulary.
One can access the full vocabulary and other information via the menu bar at the top of the page, which provides the following links:

- "Homosaurus.org," which takes users to the home page
- "Home," which also takes users to the home page
- "Vocabulary," which takes users to a page providing several ways to access the vocabulary (see below)
- "Search," which takes users to a search box through which they can search the vocabulary terms by keyword or phrase (see below)
- "Releases," which takes users to a page giving the release history of the vocabulary
- "About," which takes users to a page that provides various information, such as the mission of Homosaurus, its goals, the current editorial board, etc.
- "Contact," which takes users to a form for submitting feedback to the editorial board

For most users of Homosaurus, the "Vocabulary" and "Search" links will be of most value. The "Vocabulary" page provides links to the following: (a) The full vocabulary in three machine-readable formats (N-Tuples, JSON-LD, and TTL); (b) Two graphical views, a “Tree View” and an “Indented Bars View,” with links to individual vocabulary term pages; and (c) An alphabetical list...
of all current terms linked to individual vocabulary term pages. Perhaps the most useful is the “Indented Bars View” or “Indented tree,” which is easy to browse and reveals the hierarchical structure of the vocabulary in a clear and concise manner.

The “Search” page provides a single search box where users can type a single word, such as “gay,” or a phrase, such as “gay men.” The search tool returns a list of vocabulary terms with links to the individual page for each term. When you search for the word “gay,” it returns 10 terms: “Gay sauna,” “Gay choruses,” “Gay clergy,” “Gay parents,” “Gay Latinx,” “Gay men,” “Gay movement,” “Gay slang,” “Gay youth,” and “Gay autobiographies.” When you search for “gay men” without quotation marks, it returns the following ten terms: “Children of gay men,” “Closeted gay men,” “Daughters of gay men,” “Fathers of gay men,” “Gay men,” “Gay men of color,” “Parents of gay men,” “Mothers of gay men,” “Older gay men,” and “Persecution of gay men.” However, if you type “gay men” instead of gay men, it returns the following nine terms: “Chubs (Gay culture),” “Clones (Gay culture),” “Closeted gay men,” “Gay men,” “Parents of gay men,” “Gay disabled people,” “Gay deaf people,” “Gay blind people,” and “Gay men with chronic illnesses.” Clearly, using quotation marks around phrases doesn’t work as one might expect. Unfortunately, after trying several other searches, the logic of the search system never completely revealed itself, except that no search retrieved more than 10 terms. The editors of Homosaurus should consider providing an explanation of what is being searched, how the search engine handles different types of queries, and the reason behind the apparent limit to 10 results. Why, for example, does “gay” retrieve only 10 terms, while searching the alphabetic list on the “Vocabulary” page using a browser search box yields 148 results for terms with the word “gay” in them?

Regardless of how they are discovered (by searching or by browsing), each official term in the vocabulary has an individual page with a URL incorporating the alphanumeric identifier for that term. These URLs can be added to catalog records to promote interlinking of data between databases (including library catalogs) across the web, thereby enhancing the effectiveness of searching by subject. All individual term pages include the following fields:

- Preferred Term: the official term, including the original source language for the term
- Issued (Created): the date the term was added to the vocabulary
- Modified: the date the entries for the term were last modified
- Hierarchy Display: the local context of the term in the overall hierarchy
- Other Formats: machine readable records in different formats for the specific term

Additional fields included on some individual term pages include:

- Description: similar to Library of Congress Subject Heading scope notes
- Alternative Term (Use For): similar to UF (Used for) terms in the Library of Congress Subject Headings
- Broader Terms
- Narrower Terms
- Related Terms
- Replaces: indicates the term used for the same concept in Version 2 of Homosaurus

The individual page for “Gay men” provides an example of a page that includes all of the above fields.

In summary, while the search tool leaves something to be desired, Homosaurus is a highly recommended source of supplementary and/or alternative subject terms for use in enhancing local catalog records to increase the discoverability of LGBTQ+ resources in our collections. It is also very useful for subject librarians who are assisting users searching for LGBTQ+ resources, both as a source of potential search terms and a source for definitions of specific terms from the perspective of the LGBTQ+ community.

References

TopoView is a free digital repository of historical and current United States Geological Survey (USGS) topographic maps that document the changing landscape of the United States and its territories from 1880 to the present. It has immense research value to students, instructors, librarians, and researchers working in many disciplines but specifically in the social sciences such as anthropology, archaeology, geography, and history. According to the site’s home page, topoView offers researchers the ability to study specific locations, changes of land use, and “can be particularly useful for historical purposes such as finding the names of natural and cultural features that have changed over time.”

The website notes that “topoView highlights one of the USGS’s most important and useful products, the topographic map,” which began in 1879 when the USGS undertook the mapping of the United States’ topography.
The web interface was created by the USGS’ National Geologic Map Database project in support of a topographic mapping program managed by their National Geospatial Program. While it is not yet a comprehensive collection of every topographic map produced in the United States, there are currently over 400,000 quadrangle topographic maps available in the growing collection. The goal of the project is to scan all scales and all editions of USGS topographic maps produced since the 1880s. The maps currently available are from the USGS’s US Topo Series and Historical Topographic Map Collection (HTMC), though they are actively seeking to fill in gaps in these collections by working with libraries, universities, and state geological surveys in each state. The digitized files of original paper maps are being georeferenced and tied to real-world coordinates, which allows them to be imported into Geographic Information Systems (GIS) platforms and layered with other valuable geospatial data. This has made topoView an easily navigable and intuitive resource for both traditional map users and those comfortable using digital maps.

The “Get Maps” page opens an interactive map viewer that allows users to search by location to see all the maps for a particular geographical area. Alternatively, a user can select any point on the map viewer with their cursor to retrieve all available topographic maps at that location. Users can enter as specific or general searches
Figure 3: TopoView Allows Users to Access and Download Maps Free of Charge

Once a user has chosen a location or map name, they can select to view all available maps for that location in the results list on the right side of the page. From there they can filter results by map scale by selecting the color tabs above the results list. These tabs represent the many different scales that developed over time. The largest and sometimes earliest map scales were 1:250,000, which covered large geographical areas and provided fewer details of the land surface. More recent maps are often 1:24,000 scale and provide greater detail of features such as elevation contour lines, structures, roads, cultural features, and location names. For instance, on a 1:24,000 scale map, every inch on the physical map represents 24,000 inches (or 2,000 feet) covered on the ground. Results can also be sorted by the map name, date, or state. Sorting by date arranges available maps chronologically from oldest to newest publication date.

Figure 4: Users Can Select Maps, Zoom In, and Move Around the Map Viewer to Get a Close-Up View

as they wish. For instance, one can enter street addresses, latitude and longitude coordinates, zip codes, town names, park names, and the like. Users can also search by quadrangle map name in the map search box by selecting the “Map Name” tab at the top right.
TopoView allows one to access and download maps free of charge. Each map record provides basic information such as date of publication, scale, and file format download options. Once a particular map is selected, a user can view the map with zoom and pan features, and can download the map file in the following formats: JPEG, KMZ, GeoTIFF, or GeoPDF. One great feature is the Show button which displays the selected map as an overlay of its georeferenced location (see Figure 5). When using the map overlay option, one can use a sliding bar to change the map’s transparency over the georeferenced location to see the current map data for that location. For users who are unfamiliar with reading USGS topographic maps, the “Help” page links to several symbol guides that will explain the various map features.

Figure 5: The “Show” Button Shows the Map as an Overlay of a Geo-Referenced Map of the Larger Area

There are many more features in topoView that can be utilized by researchers. Anyone interested in learning more about this excellent resource can watch a five-minute demo on YouTube that gives a quick overview of topoView’s latest iteration. There is also a very detailed Help Guide under the “Help” tab.

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