LPSS News

Law and Political Science Section

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ALA ANNUAL CONFERENCE PROGRAM

Voluntary Action and Nonprofit Sector

The program sponsored by LPSS at the 1992 Annual ALA Conference in San Francisco was titled “Voluntary Action, Philanthropy and the Nonprofit Sector: Overview and Resources.” Co-sponsors of the program were ASCLA, the RASD Business Reference Services Section, the LAMA Fund Raising and Financial Development Section, the Government Documents Round Table, and PLA. Four speakers discussed the many facets of voluntary action and the nonprofit sector.

Jeanne Bohlen, director of the Jeannette Rankin Library Program at the U.S. Institute of Peace, began with an overview of the nonprofit world by pointing out that “the voluntary sector is an inherent part of American life.” A variety of terms such as charities, voluntary organizations, nonprofit organizations, and neighborhood organizations are used to describe continued on page 2

LPSS Mourns Death of Marta Lange

LPSS members were shocked to learn of the untimely death of the Section’s immediate past chair, Marta Lange. Having just returned from Japan with her husband of only a few months, Marta passed away on Monday, June 8, 1992, as a result of injuries she sustained in an auto accident as she was returning home from picking up her cat.

The loss of Marta’s sage experience, nurturing, and vitality cast a somber pall over the annual meeting. Many members fondly recalled their first interaction with Marta and how she had recruited them to LPSS and involvement with one of its committees. Marta became active in LPSS under the sponsorship of Kathleen Gunning, who was the Section’s chair in 1985/86 and her colleague at the University of Houston. The Section quickly capitalized on Marta’s talent of responding to a perceived need. In her early involvement with LPSS, Marta contributed to several Section programs which were always timely and well-received. Marta embodied grace under pressure and never appeared distraught, even when program speakers didn’t appear until after a program had begun. In her quiet, assured way, she always promoted LPSS and its goals. Never judgmental, she was always able to discuss issues from all sides and stimulate others’ input into that discussion. These qualities made her a leader in the Faculty Senate at North Carolina State University, where she was head of the reference department.

She had a keen eye for discerning people’s strengths and matching those with the Section’s needs. During her tenure as chair, membership and active participation in the Section rose and many of those she mentored, are still active and feel a deep sense of both loss and strength that she gave to all. She was a friend as well as colleague and felt that social activities, be they the Section’s open luncheon at meetings or a casually formed lunch group, were as valuable to brainstorming and camaraderie as formal meetings. Not only are we members of LPSS but we share the privilege of having worked with Marta and thereby that bond strengthens our resolve to share her high standards of excellence.

The Section has charged a task force composed of Stephen J. Stillwell, jr., Brian Carpenter, and Pat McCandless to explore establishing an annual award in Marta’s memory. Any of these members would welcome ideas about the award.

Stephen E. Atkins
Pat McCandless

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the nonprofit sector. The umbrella organization for all of them is the “Independent Sector,” which is a coalition of 850 national organizations including such distinct entities as the Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts, ALA, SLA, the Nature Conservancy, and the Rockefeller Foundation. In 1990 there were 983,000 nonprofit organizations in the United States, representing a 6.8% share of the total national income and employing 10.4% of the working population. While these statistics are impressive, Bohlen and other speakers emphasized that the nonprofit sector is too small to take the place of government action. Another topic covered by Bohlen was the tax code relating to nonprofits, and the clause in the law that “substantial lobbying” could jeopardize an organization’s tax exempt status. According to current law, nonprofit organizations are allowed to lobby.

Kirk Wilson, the executive director of the Rosenberg Foundation, described the complex world of foundations. Foundations play a secondary role in the nonprofit sector, since only 10% of the money comes from foundations, while 90% comes from individuals. While small, the nonprofit sector plays a very important role in the political and social arena by providing a platform for unpopular, non-majority points of view. Foundations can be categorized by type: local, regional, national; or by size: small, medium, or large. In all cases, foundations don’t do the work for a group; they only provide the funding. Regardless of type or size, it is important for applicants to be familiar with the mission of the foundation. The majority of rejections for funding by a foundation are a result of the applicants’ not understanding the kind of work the foundation supports.

Nora Silver, director of the Volunteer Project, discussed the many aspects of volunteer work. Fifty-four percent of all adults volunteer four hours per week, with more people volunteering than voting. In that sense, volunteering is the last equalizer in our society. Libraries are important links in the volunteer process because they can provide important access points for those who want to volunteer. Therefore it is important for libraries to be aware of the volunteer opportunities in their communities. Most people, if asked to volunteer, will do so. Generally, in our society most of those participating are white, middle class, married, and well off, because this section of society gets asked most to volunteer. Data shows that other socio-economic groups are equally likely to respond if they are asked. Volunteer work involves some definite “do’s” and “do not’s.” Volunteers can be involved in fund raising, special events, direct services, tutoring, visiting the elderly, etc. Volunteers should not take jobs from paid workers and they can’t provide the continuity that paid staff provides.

The last speaker, Roberta Steiner, director of the San Francisco office of the Foundation Center, gave an excellent overview of the work and publications of the Foundation Center. The Center is supported by 500 foundations and earns 60% of its income from the sale of its publications, which include directories, sourcebook profiles, a grants index, guidebooks, and specialized management books. The Center also maintains four main offices and 108 cooperative offices in libraries nationwide. These offices offer an array of services, ranging from making available the Center’s publications to fee-based reference and consultant services. Steiner invited participants to the program to visit the San Francisco office.

The program ended with a lively question and answer session, continuing the discussion about the nature, role, and functioning of foundations. The point was made that foundations are not entirely equitable, since, unlike the government, they are not designed for all. By definition, only a few, very specific entities qualify for receiving money from foundations. The speakers reiterated the fact that the voluntary sector does not have the means or the size to replace governmental action. In a sense, this point summarizes well the main function of the nonprofit sector: while sizable and important, its functions and scope are limited and they have to be recognized as such.

Sever Boedeanu
University of New Mexico
Executive Committee Meeting Minutes

The meeting began with Chair Pat McCandless advising the group that Past Chair Marta A. Lange had died on June 8, 1992, as a result of an automobile accident. Discussion followed as to various ways in which LPSS could honor the memory of Marta. A number of executive board members volunteered to explore possibilities. [See page 1.]

The LPSS program was funded by ACRL at $460.00. An across-the-board 30% reduction in section operating budgets was required by ACRL. An ACRL section newsletter policy was distributed and discussed. A liaison to the Subject Analysis Committee to review revision to the Dewey Decimal Classification schedules for Public Administration 350-354 is needed. Discussion followed concerning ways to identify academic libraries which use the Dewey schedules.

Section procedures were discussed in conjunction with a review of the LPSS manual. Particular consideration was accorded the issue of how long committee chairs remain in office, when, by whom and for how long they are appointed. The manual was reviewed element by element on an as needed basis. The duties of the vice-chair were clarified. The issue of how the bylaws can be amended was reviewed. Suggested language was that an amendment can be passed by a two-thirds vote of those attending the business meeting at the annual conference. The duties of the chair were modified. Changes to the manual which can be made without membership approval will be incorporated into a revised bylaws manual by the Publications Committee; others requiring vote(s) will appear at the appropriate time in LPSS News.

Committee Reports

Bibliography Chair Catherine Doyle discussed the speakers who are part of the San Francisco Bibliography Committee program. Brian Carpenter is the incoming chair.

Conference Program Planning for New Orleans The program will deal with political correctness (PC) and how it affects freedom of expression. A number of possible speakers were discussed, with a debate format selected, followed by a librarian who will provide background on the PC experience in libraries.

Library Instruction Chair Judy Selberg distributed copies of Pathfinder on Voluntary Action, Philanthropy, and the Nonprofit Sector and suggested readings and a list of organizations for the same topic. A discussion is again planned for midwinter, with efforts underway to find a moderator.

Membership Chair Bob Schriek continues to seek sponsors for the “LPSS Breakfast.” Lawyers Co-op, Mead Data, and West Publishing are all being contacted. Suggestions were made for modifications to the LPSS brochure. The LPSS mentoring program was discussed. Two requests have been received to date.

Nominations LPSS chair and vice chair serve on the committee.

Liaison with AALL Jim Hart will serve as LPSS liaison.

Ad Hoc Preconference Planning Possible preconference speakers were discussed, along with site location, agenda, and potential sponsors.

Graham R. Walden
LPSS Secretary
Library Instruction Committee

Government Information in Electronic Formats

The Library Instruction Committee will sponsor a discussion session at the midwinter meeting on Sunday, January 24, from 2: to 5:30. The discussion will focus on instructional issues relating to the increasing amount of government information available in electronic formats. Of particular interest are: a) Geographic Information System (GIS); b) U.S. Code on Compact Disc; c) TIGER Files; d) National Trade Database (NTD); and e) National Economic, Social and Environmental Data Bank (NESE).

The following questions will start the discussion:
1. Who are you serving instructionally? What levels of instruction are you providing for the various user groups: library staff? students? campus faculty and staff? the public?
2. What methods of instruction do you find most effective in working with these users and formats?
3. What type of staffing and equipment resources are needed to provide adequate instructional services for these files?
4. How have you responded to classroom assignments requiring use of electronic resources?
5. Does the increasing amount of government information in electronic formats affect the concept of access in a depository library?
6. Is your library participating in the ARL GIS Project? Can you describe your participation in the program, as well as the implications for library services for users?

The committee invites anyone interested in these issues to attend the session. For additional information, contact:
Laura Bartolo, Law and Political Science Librarian, Kent State University Libraries and Media Services, Kent, Ohio 44242; e-mail LBartolo@KentVM.Kent.edu; phone (216) 672-3048.

Heckart Receives Saur Award for 1991 C&RL Article

Ronald J. Heckart, librarian at the Institute of Governmental Studies Library, University of California, Berkeley, was named the winner of the K.G. Saur Award for Best College and Research Libraries Article for “The Library as a Marketplace of Ideas,” which appeared in the November 1991 issue of C&RL. The award, $500 and a plaque donated by Saur Publishing Company, was established to recognize the most outstanding article published in C&RL during the preceding volume year.

As reported in the May, 1992, issue of C&RL News, Anne Woodsworth, chair of the award jury, said, “Ronald Heckart’s thoughtful essay on intellectual freedom is timely and important for librarians in the 1990s. Global political and economic changes are highlighting access to information as a critical counterweight in the democratic system. In this context, his theoretical analysis is a powerful argument for the profession to reassess its social responsibilities.” The report also notes that Heckart’s article “takes a broad analytical view of intellectual freedom using the concept of the marketplace of ideas and identifies the strengths and weaknesses of intellectual freedom as an ethical cornerstone of the profession.”

Heckart received his award at the ACRL President’s Program in San Francisco.
Urban Morgan Human Rights Collection

Reprinted with permission from FCIL Newsletter, (Feb. 1991), the newsletter of the Foreign, Comparative and International Law Special Interest Section of the American Association of Law Libraries. It was written by Taylor Fitchett, Head Law Librarian, Marx Law Library, College of Law, University of Cincinnati.

On the walls of the room that houses the Urban Morgan Human Rights Collection hang the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and a pair of recently embroidered quilts (molas) made by the mothers of Plaza de Mayo, a group of Chilean women protesting the abduction and disappearance of their children. These two pieces paint a vivid picture of the people who suffer loss of basic human rights and the instruments drafted for their protection. They also broadly describe the body of books in the Urban Morgan Human Rights Collection that depict violations of human rights, both civil and political, and support research in the post-World War II field of human rights.

In 1979, the University of Cincinnati College of Law established the Urban Morgan Human Rights Institute through a generous grant by William J. Butler, human rights activist, scholar, and Trustee of the Urban Morgan Educational Fund. The first endowed institute at an American law school devoted to the study of international human rights law, the Institute has taken an active lead in humanitarian causes and supports both a Scholars-in-Residence Program and a Distinguished Visitors Program. The Institute fellows edit the Human Rights Quarterly, an interdisciplinary journal covering those areas encompassed by the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. They also edit Amnest International Legal Support Network Newsletter, and The Pennsylvania Studies in Human Rights.

The core special collection that supports the work of the Urban Morgan Human Rights Institute is housed separately from the Library’s general collection and contains research materials, primarily in English, on the international protection of human rights as defined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and other human rights instruments. United Nations documents, a treaty collection, international law journals, and other international materials central to human rights research are integrated into the general collection. Monographs and serials in the Human Rights Alcove pertain exclusively to international human rights issues and range broadly from the Yearbook of the European Convention on Human Rights, containing information on the European Commission and Court of Human Rights, to such popular fictional works as The Caterpillar Cop by James McClure, which depicts the brutal death of a young Afrikaner boy. The collection covers primarily the years following the establishment of the League of Nations in 1920 to the present day.

The basic working tools in the Human Rights Collection are the bibliographies, guides, journals, yearbooks, treaties, and selected United Nations documents devoted to human rights research. The Human Rights Internet Reporter, begun in 1976, compiles documents covering actions of both non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and significant actions of inter-governmental organizations (IGOs), providing a timely and comprehensive global overview of human rights violations. Additionally, the collection contains documentation from the Council of Europe and organizations in the European Communities, from the Organization of American States, the Organization of African Unity, the International Labor Organization, and from the numerous non-governmental organizations, such as Amnesty International and religious organizations, such as the World Council of Churches, which are active in the field of human rights. There are also numerous current awareness publications such as the Multinational Monitor, and the OECD Observer, both of which cover world events that impact on human rights, and Refugee Reports, a news service of the U.S. Committee for Refugees.

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Annual Conference, San Francisco, 1992

Business Meeting Minutes

Ron Heckart received the K.G. Saur Award for his article in College and Research Libraries. [See page 4.] Steve Atkins received the SRRT Social Issues Resources Peace Award for his book on arms control.

The minutes from the San Antonio conference were approved by the board.

Marta A. Lange, former LPSS chair, was killed in an automobile accident June 8. A resolution will be submitted to Council in memory of Marta. Naming or establishing an award in her name was suggested as a way of honoring her contributions to the section, with a task force consisting of Stephen Stillwell, Jr., Brian Carpenter, and Pat McCandless named to achieve this goal. [See page 1.]

ACRL has requested that all units submit revised budgets showing a 30% reduction. The San Francisco budget was funded at $460,000. ACRL is proposing a revised policy on newsletters which has been submitted to the LPSS Publications Committee. A liaison to the Subject Analysis Committee to review revision to the Dewey Decimal Classification schedules for Public Administration 350-354 is needed. Discussion followed on various suggestions for identifying academic libraries using Dewey.

The bylaws were discussed during the executive committee meeting, with a number of revisions proposed. Some of these changes will come to the membership for approval.

Liaisons to GODORT from section committees were encouraged, and Sandra da Conturbia agreed to serve as overall liaison from LPSS to GODORT.

Committee Reports

Bibliography Ronald Bolheim from University Publications of America and Susan Jover from the Congressional Information Service (CIS) were the program speakers who discussed their companies' products. Subjects discussed included imaging technology, price cost concerns, problems with readers' guides and finding aids, increasing use by undergraduates of research collections, preference of microformat over 35 mm film, and an expansion of the information found in the indexes of Statistical Masterfile. CIS announced a forthcoming research collection titled American Foreign Policy Index, to be available in February 1993.

Conference Program Planning for San Francisco A number of very positive observations were recounted from members of the program audience. The program was tape recorded and is commercially available.

Conference Program Planning for New Orleans The program title is: “To Be or Not to Be: Political Correctness in Academe. The Debate.” Pro and con. speakers are being sought, with a third speaker to address the issue as it pertains to libraries. Co-sponsors are SRRT, GODORT, and the Intellectual Freedom Roundtable. The program is scheduled for Sunday morning with an 8:30 breakfast. Anticipated attendance is between 300 and 500. A discussion of appropriate pathfinders for the Library Instruction Committee to generate for the New Orleans Conference Program took place.

Bibliography The ACRL Activities Committee seems to want groups not to start planning programs too early, but at the same time the committee wants different sections to be aware of the planned activities of other sections through the use of e-mail and LISTSERVS. There seems to be a desire to reduce the number of programs and to have those which are conducted to be cooperative ventures with multiple sections involved. One suggestion made was to have sections simply alternate years in which programs are offered. Another idea was to have ACRL assign a fixed dollar amount per program. A further approach would be to alternate program years with years for “discussion groups.”

Publications Contents of the Fall newsletter were discussed.
MIDWINTER SCHEDULE (DENVER, 1993)

SATURDAY, JANUARY 23
9:30-12:30  EXECUTIVE BOARD
2-4        PROGRAM PLANNING, NEW ORLEANS
2-4        PUBLICATIONS
2-4        PRECONFERENCE PLANNING

SUNDAY, JANUARY 24
9:30-12:30  BIBLIOGRAPHIES
9:30-11     PROGRAM PLANNING, MIAMI
11:30-12:30 REVIEW AND PLANNING
2-4         MEMBERSHIP
2-5:30      LIBRARY INSTRUCTION/DISCUSSION GROUP

MONDAY, JANUARY 25
9:30-12:30  BUSINESS MEETING
2-4         PRECONFERENCE PLANNING

At the business meeting Monday morning Sarah Thomas, director of cataloging at the Library of Congress, will discuss the proposed change moving international law from JX to the KZ schedule.

Review and Planning  The ACRL checklist of items to be forwarded to the incoming chair was discussed, along with the issue of the LPSS archives materials older than five years.

Ad Hoc Preconference Planning  Preparations for the Chicago preconference were reviewed, including issues related to the location and availability/possibility of refreshments. The committee is seeking contacts from the Chicago area to serve as consultants and to render assistance as appropriate. The topic/working title is "Legal Resources for Non-Law Librarians." The committee is seeking a prominent speaker to open the preconference, followed by a summary of the first year law school curriculum. Legal bibliography would be the major topic of the preconference, with typical reference questions identified. The issue of "practicing law without a license" would be addressed. Lexis and Westlaw are to be invited to participate in some as-yet-undefined manner. Legi-Slate was suggested as an additional vendor to contact. Discussion continued as to whether the Chicago program should be an all-day preconference, what possible accommodations are at the university facility, and how much the preconference fee should be.

Liaison to/from AALL  Jim Hart (Law Library, University of Cincinnati) planned to attend AALL in July.

Graham R. Walden, LPSS Secretary
Urban Morgan Collection (continued from page 5)

While these tools are fundamental to human rights research, there are a host of sources in history, anthropology, political science, sociology, and philosophy that augment and enrich the collection. Although the greatest concentration of materials in the collection is legal in nature, the scope transcends the boundaries of jurisprudence. Browsing the shelves of the Human Rights Collection, one finds historical works, such as The Origin of Rights, by Canadian author Roger Salhany, describing events leading to the drafting of the Canadian Constitution and Charter of Rights. A few shelves away is a book by Richard Tuck entitled Natural Rights Theories: Their Origin and Development in which the history and philosophical development of personal rights are documented beginning in 1515 with Dominican theologian Silvestro Mazzolini. Also present are The Tanner Lectures on Human Values, intercultural essays encompassing the entire range of values pertinent to human conditions.

The collection contains materials on labor that describe workers in their jobs, their rights and the organizations designed to protect them. World Labour Rights and Their Protection, by James Avery Joyce, explores the fundamental freedoms of the working class, explains how the International Labor Organization works, and describes the UN covenants specific to labor. Women Workers in Fifteen Countries, a collection of essays written by female anthropologists, sociologists, economists, and legal scholars in honor of Alice Hanson Cook, a pioneer in the comparative study of women workers, ranges from an overview of the situation of women workers in advanced industrial countries to their status in Third World nations.

The multidisciplinary world of human rights includes an increasing number of studies on human rights and the environment, addressing food production and starvation, population, the encroachment of the desert, and the global politics of resource scarcity. Works by such organizations as The Institute for Food and Development Policy and The Overseas Development Council produce documentation relating the control of the world ecosystem to the protection of human rights.

Other areas of significant development within the Human Rights Collection fall into the categories of slavery, works on aliens and refugees, and such works as the series Holocaust and Genocide Studies that study torture, terrorism and other man-made atrocities. The collection holds materials about human conditions around the world in such titles as Human Rights in Developing Countries, by The Danish Center of Human Rights, and it holds many country reports by groups such as American Watch, Asia Watch, and Helsinki Watch. These reports often tell the stories of the oppressed and suffering. Inside the cover of a 1985 report by Barnett Rubin, a member of the Asia Watch Committee, the pleas of an Afghan refugee for his country appear. Next to this documentary resides a 1984 book by radical sociologist Albert Szymanski describing the history of tolerance and repression in the Soviet Union.

In addition to supporting the work of the Urban Morgan Human Rights Institute, the Law Library supports other libraries and information centers in search of human rights materials by means of interlibrary loans. The library also welcome inquiries by phone.