The Serendipity of Browsing: An LPSS Community Project

Lucy Eleonore Lyons, Northwestern University Library

I. The Serendipity of Browsing

In the past, I have associated the serendipity of browsing with strolling the stacks and discovering gems one might have missed in the catalog. Then one day, I bumped my head on a shelf and realized that it is possible to browse virtually as well. Thus the birth of “Browse Online OR Browse On Foot” for the enhancement of all ways of browsing.

Although I’m slow on the uptake, I did know that ever since the invention of electronic catalogs it has been possible to browse online. However, many people do not know how. They do not understand how classification systems work and/or believe that anything beyond keyword searching is too much of a strain on the brain.

And though it has always been possible to browse open-stacks on foot, students and faculty are less inclined to do so now than in the past—due to busyness or laziness or the web or a lack of experience or the ease of online searching or the belief that “everything” of relevance is online. In addition to these conditions, the increase in inter-

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Member To Know: Emily Keller

By Roger Kossen, Denison University

Emily Keller is the Political Science and Public Affairs Librarian at the University of Washington (Seattle), where she has worked since 2007. This Kansas native found her way to Washington for grad school, and it didn’t take Emily long to consider herself a solid Pacific Northwesterner with little resilience in the face of the Midwest weather she left behind.

Emily earned her MLIS from the Information School at the University of Washington in 2002. It was there that she got a taste of public affairs-related librarianship, working in the Suzzallo Library at UW in reference and government publications.

Prior to UW Seattle, Emily worked as a librarian at the UW Tacoma Campus Library, serving their Interdisciplinary Arts & Sciences department and coordinating the library’s instruction program. After four years there, she took a one-year hiatus, working part-time at Pierce College Library, which she found to be an excellent community college with amazing staff.

Emily’s past experience in reference, instruction, and collection development in a number of disciplines prepared her well for her current position of serving faculty and students in a field that wasn’t a particular focus of her undergraduate or graduate school studies. And for someone who didn’t necessarily have a strong interest in the subject area before, Emily has surprised herself in terms of how she has taken to the discipline. This came to mind recently when she saw a special issue of Public Administration Review on the future of public administration in 2020 and thought, “Ooooh...cool!”

As the Political Science and Public Affairs Librarian, Emily has a broad portfolio, including reference, instruction, and collection development in military science, international studies, and state & local documents. She enjoys the variety in her day-to-day work, occasionally referring to herself as the “Political Science and Other Stuff Librarian.”

Emily loves the intellectual challenge and continual learning that her work requires. Working with students on such a wide range of research topics takes full advantage of her natural curiosity, intellectual agility, and genuine interest in students’ work. And from her perspective, she has the best of both worlds: the discovery and intellectual growth of being a student, but without all the pop quizzes and papers.

As with many of us, it was her intellectual curiosity that drew Emily to become a librarian. During college – at her hometown school of Wichita State, where she was a women’s studies major in one of the oldest autonomous women’s studies programs in the country – Emily fell in love with higher education and the idea of an institution in which the main purpose was learning, exploration and transformation. Wanting to go to grad school but being interested in fields as varied as art history, sociology and women’s studies, Emily came to realize that academic librarianship offered the best of all possible worlds: working in higher education while not having to chose a single field.

In terms of hobbies, what librarian doesn’t like to read? Not Emily, whose current obsession is graphic novels. No surprise as well that this public affairs librarian is a news (and podcast) junkie. And what Seattle resident doesn’t like to walk around the beautiful city with no particular destination in mind.

*Is there an LPSS member whom you’d like to know better through a profile in the LPSS News? Is there a member you could profile in 500-600 words who would interest the rest of the section? Email your suggestions to the editor at
disciplinary studies has made it less obvious where to begin for those inclined to take an on-foot or on-line stroll through the holdings. So, I decided to make a map.

Browse Online OR Browse On Foot is a fairway to foraging. It includes interdisciplinary topics such as the relationship between the press and politics. Works on this subject are found, at Northwestern University Library (NUL), within the general call number ranges for political science (320s) but also reside within classification ranges for the journalism collection (070s). With the Browse map, a wanderer will find relevant titles within the political science collection as well as another eighty-six titles identified under “Journalism: The Press and Politics.”

In addition to trail markers for interdisciplinary studies, the map identifies small paths to specific topics within the large landscape of the political science collection. For example, to get started on the subject of diplomacy one can, as instructed, go directly to the shelf that begins with 327.2 in the 3North tower or click on “Diplomacy” and review the online records for 300+ works.

Each link to a subject in the Browse map initiates a search in NUL’s catalog. This is thanks to Texas A&M University’s Canned Search Generator which produces an edited URL from Voyager-based library catalogs that “can be used as a hypertext link to the results of a specific pre-determined search within the catalog.” In short, I run a search in the catalog, copy the URL from the results page, paste it into the Canned Search Generator, and use the produced URL as the link you find in the Browse map. For those on foot, locations are provided via links to online maps.

There are, to be sure, virtuous reasons for providing the Browse map—e.g., interdisciplinarity, unfamiliarity with classification systems—but its origins do include a subversive element. Browsing online has one very big and important disadvantage to the less popular, going-out-of-fashion browsing on foot: unless it is an e-book, you cannot open the work and be surprised. Perhaps Browse On Foot will remind former walkers of the pleasures of the old path and encourage new foot traffic.

II. An LPSS Community Project

What luck to be in a community. With this newsletter and our listserv we can freely share practical advice, notions, information, and experiences. (Our good editor encourages us: “Write to be useful to the membership.”) This article attempts to straddle both concepts: to provide an idea and information to you and to request your assistance for the benefit of the greater membership.

I would like to offer Browse Online OR Browse On Foot to you to copy and edit for your own library, and also to improve and expand it with your help. (We can even give the project a name to record on our annual reports.) Here are a few ways we can work together:

Would you please identify other classification ranges of multidisciplinary and cross-disciplinary studies of interest to political science scholars?

And/or would you like to contribute other topics of importance within political science classification ranges?

And/or would you please let me know of any errors in these lists?

And/or would you please contribute LC equivalents to the listings that do not have them? Unlike most research libraries, NUL primarily uses the Dewey Decimal Classification system; like most, NUL has a mix and includes some LC.

If yes, please send your contributions, corrections, and comments to l-lyons@northwestern.edu. I will compile a master list—by the end of March, 2013—to share with the LPSS community (online, and regretfully not on foot).

Goodbye From the Outgoing Editor
By Jodi Shepherd, California State University, Chico

Thank you for three fun years as editor of the LPSS Newsletter. I plan on continuing with LPSS in other capacities and hope to see you at ALA! Also, thank you to everyone who contributed to the Newsletter, my job was easy because of your excellent work. As always, please send in your ideas and articles to the new editors, Merrill Stein (merrill.stein@villanova.edu) and Dennis Lambert (dennis.lambert@villanova.edu). Thank you!
Teaching in Political Science: the Ultimate Embedded Librarian

By Lynda Kellam, University of NC at Greensboro

Embedded librarianship has become the new library buzz phrase and the opportunities this idea affords are definitely worth exploring. According to Nixon and Shumaker, embedded librarians attempt to “build relationships so we can gain deeper insights into what our customers are doing and how they will use the information we provide” (2009, p. 240). At UNCG I have attempted to build closer ties with my Political Science students by teaching a credit course. While this approach may not be feasible for everyone, I have seen some interesting outcomes.

Let me give a little background on how this situation evolved. Like many librarians, I came to this field with a second master’s, additional PhD work, and previous career experience. As a graduate student I was never really interested in the research side of academia but I loved teaching. When I decided that the research life of a faculty member was not for me, I switched to academic librarianship as a means of remaining in higher education and providing public service.

As time passed, I realized I missed working in the classroom with a single group of students for the entire semester. In the spring of 2011, the Political Science faculty member specializing in international relations left the University just when the State of North Carolina had severe budget issues. Because the department lost this faculty line, I offered to teach the introduction to international relations class. I had the requisite degrees and teaching experience so they readily accepted my offer.

The first semester required a huge investment of time and energy. Because I had worked with the outgoing professor for three years, I met with him before he left the university and was able to draw on his advice as I prepared my materials. Now that I’m teaching the class my third time, the start-up costs have decreased. Not only am I able to create new lectures and activities in less time, but I am more confident that my assignments and exams are effective assessment tools for student learning.

Most importantly, I have seen a marked increase in the number of political science students who seek me out for help with research. During 2009-2010 I had 84 “questions” in-person or via email, chat, or telephone. For 2011-2012 the number increased to 162. While some of these students know me from library instruction sessions for other Political Science classes, many students are from my international relations class or they heard from friends in my class that I was helpful. And while many of these questions could be answered by my colleagues, I believe that students perceive the added value of contacting someone they know. I understand the terminology and processes of the discipline and the reasoning behind their arguments. Perhaps I could have achieved my goal of becoming embedded in the department without teaching a credit course, but becoming a “professor” in the eyes of the students has given me added credibility.

I know that my circumstances are unique. Nevertheless, my experience has made me question why various academic units, and especially libraries, tend to operate in isolation from other campus departments. While interdisciplinary departments have been creative in overcoming this problem, especially through joint appointments, it is a newer phenomenon for libraries to participate in cross-campus initiatives. The question is: How do we create these unique experiences that fit with our abilities, break us out of our silos of expertise, and foster the goal of truly embedded librarianship?

Chair's Message (Continued from page 1)

Facebook presence, ALA Connect space, and the ACRL Wiki site. Lorena O'English has graciously agreed to serve us in this position.

Outside of our traditional liaison and committee roles, a number of months ago we were contacted by the ACRL Mentoring Committee and asked to identify a member to volunteer as mentor for an E.J. Josey Spectrum Scholar with interests in law librarianship. Debra Denslaw, an LPSS member and law librarian agreed to represent the Section in this capacity.

Looking ahead, preparations for the ALA Midwinter 2013 conference in Seattle are already underway and more on our virtual and in-person meetings will be forthcoming. Additionally, I’d like to thank all of you who shared comments and suggestion on the revised LPSS Strategic Plan in the past few months. That document has been finalized and is now on the LPSS website at: [http://www.ala.org/acrl/sites/ala.org.acrl/files/content/aboutacrl/directoryofleadership/sections/lpss/lpsswebsite/publications/LPSS_Strategic_Plan_2012_final.pdf](http://www.ala.org/acrl/sites/ala.org.acrl/files/content/aboutacrl/directoryofleadership/sections/lpss/lpsswebsite/publications/LPSS_Strategic_Plan_2012_final.pdf)

Our work over the coming months will be to see whether we can build on this plan by exploring some of the new directions it outlines and what it would take to move progress down those roads. One of the themes in that document centers on the research and scholarly environment, with a focus on more open systems of scholarship. To that end, this year's Program Planning Committee, led by co-chairs Jeremy Darrington and Lucy Lyons, is currently working on a program entitled “Preparing, sharing, and archiving: What scholars in political science and law need to know and how we can help them”, for the 2013 ALA annual conference in Chicago. Our goal is to bring together different perspectives (librarians, publishers, content distributors) on some of the key issues today's scholars face in relation to open access, publishing, and the dissemination of research.

Finally, this wouldn’t be a law and political science focused newsletter if we didn’t mention the upcoming U.S. Presidential election, and a number of you are hurriedly producing and updating course pages and subject guides on the topic. In addition to our educational role we each have a civic role to play as well, so for those of you based in the United States, be sure to get out and vote!

**2012 Marta Lange/CQ Press Award**

By Nadine Hoffman, University of Calgary

LPSS celebrated John Eaton as the 2012 recipient of the Marta Lange/CQ Press Award on Sunday, 23 June, 2012. John Eaton is at the University of Manitoba in Winnipeg and the first Canadian to receive this award. His exemplary accomplishments to service and scholarship in law librarianship were highlighted through John’s dedication to the Canadian Association of Law Libraries (CALL) as Past-President and now Archivist and Historian for their current 50th anniversary celebrations.

Two bibliographic monographs were noted for their assistance to researchers in the structure of legal research for Canada and the United Kingdom: *Finding English Law: Key Titles for Non-UK Lawyers and Researchers* and *Essential Sources of Canadian Law*. The nominator stated “In researching and writing these two monographs John has made a valuable contribution to legal bibliography and has provided librarians and researchers with two excellent starting points for research.” These publications are in addition to numerous articles and presentations on a variety of topics.

The committee would like to particularly thank CQ Press/Sage Publishing (Lisa LaMont, Rolf Janke and others) for sponsoring the award and the luncheon. Others involved with the ceremony and luncheon include Mary Gilles, Rosalind Tedford, Chad Khal, Megan Griffin, and Jodi Shepherd.
After an exciting term that included healthcare and immigration blockbusters, the justices of the U.S. Supreme Court could hardly have been blamed if they had decided to “take it easy” for the new term that started this month. However, as the Court raises the curtain on the 2012 term, it appears as though the justices are right back at it, digging into some of the most controversial, hot-button topics of our day.

For each of these cases, a number of amicus curiae (friends of the court) have filed briefs before the Court explaining why they think a given case is important and how the Court should rule. The website of the ABA’s PREVIEW of United States Supreme Court Cases makes all the briefs for each case available, for free, at www.supremecourtpreview.org. Below we detail some of the issues before the Court this month and throughout the coming term and highlight a selection of the most interesting amicus briefs.

**Affirmative Action in Higher Education**

_Fisher v. University of Texas_ was argued in early October. _Fisher_ involves a challenge to the University of Texas at Austin’s use of race in undergraduate admissions. Specifically, the Court has been asked to determine whether such a program is permitted under the Court’s interpretation of the Equal Protection Clause. This case is a follow up to the 2003 _Grutter v. Bollinger_ holding that a narrowly tailored use of race during the admissions process does not necessarily violate the Equal Protection Clause. The now-retired Justice Sandra Day O’Connor was the important fifth vote, and author of the _Grutter_ opinion, which let the University of Michigan Law School affirmative action plan stand. Since 2003, the line-up of justices has shifted and many Court-watchers will be waiting to see if _Fisher_ is just _Grutter_ Part II with the role of Justice O’Connor being played by Justice Samuel Alito (and possibly with a completely different ending). It is important to note that there are some other key differences between _Grutter_ and _Fisher_, mostly due to the University of Texas’s admissions process; race was not a consideration for the majority of students admitted to the University of Texas. The university uses a “Top Ten Percent” program for all Texas high school students whereby any student in the top ten percent of his or her graduating class is granted admission. This program is race-neutral, but given the segregation of many Texas communities, actually produced a diverse student body. Race was only used as an admissions factor for those students who were not part of the top ten percent program.

A variety of organizations weighed in on this issue as amicus, including:

- The CATO Institute
- The Texas Association of Scholars
- The American Civil Liberties Union
- The Anti-Defamation League
- Teach for America

**Police Searches**

Two cases of interest in the criminal law arena will be heard towards the end of October: _Bailey v. U.S._ and _Florida v. Jardines_. _Bailey_ involves a search that was conducted with a search warrant; however, the police detained an individual who had recently left the home subject to the search warrant. The Supreme Court has held that officers
executing a search warrant may detain individuals within the premises while the search is being completed; it is now up to the Court to determine whether that rule extends further.

Amicus curiae weighing in on this issue include:

- The National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers
- The National Association of Federal Defenders
- Twenty-four states led by the state of Michigan

*Florida v. Jardines* involves a challenge to a search, but of a much different type: one involving dogs. This case asks the Court whether the use of a drug sniffing dog at the front door of a suspected grow house is a Fourth Amendment search requiring probable cause. The Miami-Dade Police Department had received a “crime stoppers” tip that marijuana was being grown at the home of Joelis Jardines. Two police officers, accompanied by an experienced police K-9 dog, walked up the Jardines’s driveway and approached the front door. The dog immediately sat down at the front door, a signal that he had identified contraband odors. This information was then used to obtain a warrant to search the Jardines’s home which was subsequently confirmed to be a grow house. During his trial, Jardines asserted that the dog sniff constituted an unreasonable search under the Fourth Amendment.

Given the frequency with which dog sniffs are used throughout the country, a large number of organizations and groups have filed amicus briefs in *Jardines*, including:

- A group of Fourth Amendment Scholars
- The National Police Canine Association and Police K-9 Magazine
- The state of Michigan and a number of other states
- The federal government

**Additional Cases**

There are also a number of attention-grabbing cases waiting in the wings that, although not currently before the Court, will likely be before the term is out. These cases are on the Court’s petition list (meaning cases it is considering hearing. The two leaders among this pack are the numerous challenges to the Defense of Marriage Act/same sex marriage cases and to the Voting Rights Act.

**Voting Rights**

Two other headliners are percolating in the lower courts: *Shelby County v. Holder* and *Nix v. Holder*. These cases both focus on Section 5 of the Voting Rights Act, which requires the preclearance for any changes to voting procedures for select counties throughout the nation with a history of discriminatory voting practices. The challengers claim that the section exceeds Congress’s enforcement powers under the either the Fourteenth of Fifteenth Amendments. These cases come on the heels of a 2009 case referred to as NAMUNDO, or *Northwest Austin Municipal Utility District No. 1 v. Holder* which involved a similar challenge to Section 5. After the oral argument in NAMUNDO, many Supreme Court watchers thought the Court was going to completely overturn the Voting Right Act, but instead, the justices said the Act was still constitutional. However, there was language in the decision indicating that a majority of the justices may believe that the constitutionality of the Voting Rights Act, particularly Section 5, is suspect.

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Most Supreme Court watchers assume these challenges to the Voting Rights Act and the cases dealing with same sex marriage will be before the Court by the end of April. If that holds true, these cases combined with the blockbusters that the Court has already agreed to hear or has heard, will result in a term that will rival last years in terms of controversy, debate, and the amount of ink and bandwidth taken up by analysis and review.

**Same Sex Marriage Cases**

There are actually a number of petitions dealing with same sex marriages and the Defense of Marriage Act that are circulating in the lower courts; the cases are coming to the Supreme Court on varied grounds and legal theories. For example, *Brewer v. Diaz* asks the Court to determine whether a state can deny state-employee benefits to the partner of a state employee when those benefits are available to the heterosexual spouse of a state employee. The well-known California “Prop 8” case, *Hollingsworth v. Perry*, is another petition currently before the justices; it specifically asks whether the actions of the state of California, in defining marriage as the union of a man and woman, violates the Fourteenth Amendment’s Equal Protection Clause. Another case, *Windsor v. United States*, involves a New York woman who was required to pay federal estate taxes for her same-sex spouse; if federal law had recognized Edith Windsor’s marriage in the same way it does heterosexual marriages, Windsor would have owed no taxes. Windsor directly challenged the Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA) as a violation of her Equal Protection rights; DOMA is a federal law that defines “marriage” as a legal union between one man and one woman. Additional cases also challenge DOMA as a violation of the Equal Protection Clause on slightly different facts. Which case ends up before the Court, and when, is anybody’s guess, but the safe money is on the justices dealing with same sex marriage and DOMA challenges before the curtain closes on this term.

Whatever case, or cases, on the issue of same sex marriage the Court decides to hear, you can be assured that there will be reams of amicus briefs filed in support of the parties and those briefs will be found at www.supremecourt.org.

**Copyright**

In late October, the Court will have the opportunity to define the copyright and resale restrictions that apply to copies of products that are made and legally acquired abroad and then imported into the United States. *Kirtsaeng v. John Wiley & Sons, Inc.* focuses on the “gray market” – where items are purchased overseas at prices below the U.S. market and then brought into the United States for resale. Here, the issue is text books that are purchased, legally, overseas and then brought into the United States and sold to students at higher prices; the sellers claim this is legal under the “first-sale doctrine” and the copyright owners disagree. The “first-sale doctrine” generally allows someone who legally buys a copyrighted work to dispose of that work without the approval of the owner of the copyright; the Court has yet to determine how the international dynamic impacts the doctrine. *Kirtsaeng* is the follow up case to one decided two years ago, *Costco v. Omega*. Justice Kagan was recused from that case and the Court split 4-4 leaving the issue unresolved. Organizations weighing in on Kirtsaeng include:

- The American Library Association
- The Association of American Publishers
- A group of text and academic authors
- 25 Intellectual Property Law Professors
Call for Nominations:
Marta Lange/CQ Press Award

This annual award, recognizes a academic or law librarian who makes distinguished contributions to law or political
Award: $1,000 cash and a plaque donated by CQ Press
Deadline: Friday, December 7, 2012
Committee Chair: Mary Gilles, gilles@wsu.edu

Criteria and submission information is available at:
http://connect.ala.org/node/112902

Guidelines for contributors

The deadline for the next edition of the LPSS News, subject to decisions by ACRL, will be around March 10, 2012.

Email articles, illustrations, and correspondence to merrill.stein@villonova.edu and dennis.lambert@villonova.edu

Length: most articles should run fewer than 400-600 words.

Write in short paragraphs. Use the most direct, energetic style you can muster. Have a point, and don’t be reluctant to have a point of view, too. Write as an analyst or critic, or at least as a journalist, not a booster.

Write to be useful to the membership. The format and publication frequency make features, not old news, the strength of the newsletter. The LPSS listserv is the best place to post, discover, and comment on breaking events. The LPSS website is the official repository of official reports and meeting minutes.

Connect with other Law and Political Science Librarians -- Join the LPSS Discussion List

To subscribe send an e-mail to:
listserv@listserv.kent.edu

Note: The subject line should be empty and the body of the message MUST only contain: Subscribe lpss-l Firstname Lastname

Did you know that LPSS-L has a searchable archive?
Archives of LPSS-L are maintained at Kent State University and updated every week. Messages are arranged by date, and searchable by keyword, with archives dating back to August 2007. To access the LPSS-L archives, point your Web browser to http://listserv.kent.edu/archives/lpss-l.html.

The LPSS-L Archives are available only to subscribers to the LPSS-L list. The first time you access this URL, you will be prompted for your email address (as your account ID) and a password of your choice. You will need to reply to the email to confirm access. Add the LPSS-L archives to your knowledge base. You never know when you might need it!