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ANSS CURRENTS

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MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

Liz Cooper

Welcome new and continuing ANSS members! We have another interesting year ahead of us and I look forward to working with all of you in the coming months. ANSS is fortunate to have so many dedicated members who volunteer their time and energy to the organization. Thanks to everyone who took on a role in ANSS as a committee chair or committee member this past year. It is because of your hard work that ANSS continues to move forward. I especially would like to thank our outgoing Chair, Randy Hertzler, for his leadership and his willingness to take on (with gusto!) whatever event, problem, or issue ANSS required. Thanks also to our outgoing Past-Chair, Katie Whitson, for all her support and guidance.

This year's conference program in Chicago, "Chicago's Ethnic Mosaic: Cultural Identity and Neighborhood Change," was a stimulating session that generated interesting audience response and dialogue. Congratulations to the 2009 Program Planning Committee for a very successful program. The work of the Ad Hoc Committee on Assessment of Library Collections and Services in Sociology is also to be commended. Under the leadership of David Woolwine, this group has put much time and effort into the difficult task of developing an assessment tool for the ASA. We look forward to their final document this year. This committee's work is an excellent example of ANSS' deep commitment to working with our related scholarly societies.

You may notice some changes for ANSS and ACRL this year. For example, this is our first online-only issue of *ANSS Currents*. In order to save money and be ecologically friendly, ANSS, and most of the ACRL sections, are moving to online-only publications. Additionally, this year we will have the first Midwinter and Annual meetings that follow the new (one day shorter) ALA meeting calendar. So take note that there

may be some changes to the usual time slots of events at the meetings.

Another change we are all unfortunately facing is the recent economic downturn. I know that with shrinking budgets, it is often difficult to participate in organizations such as ALA/ACRL in the way we have in the past or would like to in the future. Please note that even if you cannot travel to the ALA meetings this year, it is still possible to participate and contribute to ANSS. If you are on a committee, talk with your committee chair and volunteer for virtual work. If you are not yet on a committee, don't let not being able to travel discourage you. There is much work to be done in ANSS that can be done online and your contribution will be valued.

Please browse through the committee reports below to learn more about your colleagues' work. If you are not currently serving on a committee, please consider joining one. Our current Vice-Chair, Jennifer Nason Davis, will begin making appointments soon. To volunteer, visit <http://www.acrl.org/volunteer>. Also, if you haven't already subscribed to our listserv, ANSS-L, please visit <http://lists.ala.org/www/info/anss-l>. It is a great way to learn more about ANSS' work and events. I hope to see many of you at the ALA Midwinter meeting in Boston!

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Ad Hoc Committee on the Assessment of Library Collections and Services in Sociology

David Woolwine, Chair

In May 2009, Jason Phillips and David Woolwine presented at the pre-conference of the Canadian Library Association meeting in Montreal. They gave a conference paper entitled "Developing a Rapid Assessment Tool for Collections and Services in Sociology: The Experience of the ANSS."

The Ad Hoc Committee on the Assessment of Library Collections and Services then met at the ALA Annual in Chicago and further refined the tool presently entitled "Assessment Tool for Sociology Collections and Services in Academic Libraries." A draft of the tool was presented to the ANSS Executive Committee where it found general support. The Ad Hoc Committee has been working since then to bring out a final draft.

Sally Willson Weimer, David Woolwine, and Tom Van Valay (one of the sociology consultants) presented on the tool at a workshop entitled "Are the Sociological Titles You Need in Your Institution's Library? Building Collection Standards for Sociology Departments" at the August 2009 American Sociological Association annual meeting in San Francisco.

Bibliography Committee

Jeff Knapp, Chair

The committee reviewed Helen's draft review of *Annual Reviews*. The committee shared its thoughts on the focus of the review, which were overwhelmingly positive. Helen plans to have a revised review ready to share by August 15, for one last round of feedback before submitting to *ANSS Currents*.

Maureen Morris volunteered to write the next review. She will work out with Helen Clements, the committee's new chair, which resource to review. Instead of the standard review of a single resource that the committee usually prepares, the committee is considering writing an article on ways to stretch collections dollars during the economic downturn.

Conference Program Planning Committee 2010

Annie Paprocki, Chair

Our program, *Standing up and Sitting in: Libraries and Social Change*, was approved by the ACRL Professional Development Coordinating Committee (PDCC)! Committee members are now working on solidifying speaker contracts and planning. The program will be held at the 2010 American Library Association Annual Conference in Washington, D.C., on Sunday, June 27 from 8:00 to 11:00 am.

To take advantage of the location of the 2010 conference, Washington, D.C., the ANSS program will focus on libraries and social movements. An interdisciplinary panel of scholars, curators, archivists, and librarians will engage questions such as: What role have libraries and librarians played in promoting social change or civic engagement? How have social movements changed libraries? What are libraries doing to document grassroots movements? A variety of

perspectives, both historical and contemporary, will be represented.

Instruction and Information Literacy Committee

Stephanie Alexander and Jason Phillips, Co-Chairs

The Instruction and Information Literacy Committee has established a temporary home for its Repository of Teaching and Assessment Materials. It can be found in the New York University Faculty Digital Archive at: <http://archive.nyu.edu/handle/2451/28103>.

At this point, the committee is going to turn its attention to the promotion of the repository and the development of the materials by reaching out to our colleagues in ANSS and beyond. Jason Phillips of New York University and Julianne Couture of Arizona State University will be probing colleagues through a virtual focus group later in the fall or winter. We hope to gain insight into what librarians expect from the repository and to gather feedback about the way we have approached the construction of the repository thus far.

Membership Committee

Terry Epperson and Jennifer Darragh, Co-Chairs

The Annual ANSS Social was a success given tight travel budgets with approximately twenty-two attendees at the Goose Island Brew Pub in Chicago, and we are looking forward to our next social in Boston. This year the Membership Committee received two lists ahead of the conference; one of ANSS members who were attending Annual, and one with ANSS members who were attending their first ALA Conference. Outgoing Co-Chair Terry Epperson was able to reach out to these members personally about our "Buddy Program." We only received two interested responses (and Terry served as "silverback" buddy to both), but those that did not want a buddy did appreciate the offer. We hope to continue to receive attendee lists in the future to make attendees feel welcome and involved.

We are changing what was known as the ANSS "Buddy" program to be the "ANSS Ambassador" program. This name change is intended to let people know that they do not necessarily have to be on their tenth conference to be an ambassador. Having just one conference under your belt is enough. Stay tuned for a call for ANSS Ambassadors and ANSS Ambassador sign-ups for Midwinter 2010. Another development for the ANSS Membership Committee is that we are committed to hosting a "hybrid" meeting for our committee at Midwinter 2010. With diminishing travel budgets, we are hoping that if our hybrid meeting is successful, then we can serve as a model for other ANSS committees looking to host hybrid meetings.

Publications Committee

Carol Bell, Chair

After reporting on publication of the spring issue of *ANSS Currents*, the committee discussed whether or not to move entirely to an online version for the fall issue. In an effort to cut costs, the Council proposed that sections produce a hard copy for fall and then switch to online format only. We decided to send out a message on ANSS-L asking our members if anyone objected to the online-only format, with the intention of switching to online for the fall issue if there were no objections.

The website discussion focused on the need to cultivate our “public face” and we agreed to review the website and make suggestions for changes. The website will be the committee’s priority in the coming year. In addition, Carol Bell urged everyone to take the Collage training, we addressed updating the roster by August 1, Erin Gratz volunteered to recreate Jaguar man, and Jen Darragh offered to contribute her expertise on website editing.

The committee also considered developing the wiki and discussed possible content, as well as how to distinguish the wiki from our website and ALA Connect. Committee members decided to look at the Literatures in English (LES) section wiki for ideas and to share recommendations by email.

Review and Planning Committee

Katie Whitson, Chair

The Review and Planning Committee met on Monday, July 13. The group focused on three subjects: the dissolution of the Liaison Committee, virtual attendance on committees, and the ACRL Action Plan process. By a virtual vote, the Executive Committee dissolved the Liaison Committee. The Review and Planning Committee will make changes to the Manual to address this change. All references (except historical) to the Liaison Committee will be removed from the Manual. The R&P Committee acknowledged Helen Clements for serving as chair of the Liaison Committee and for working with Executive Committee members to help determine the future of this group. One of the main functions of the Liaison Committee had been to distribute paper copies of the newsletter to non-member institutions. Since *ANSS Currents* is now only available electronically, Helen will contact remaining recipients to let them know the print newsletter will no longer be mailed.

Members also discussed virtual attendance on committees. Because of budget cuts to libraries, many

members are unable to attend one or both conferences. To address the need to accommodate virtual membership, the R&P Committee suggested adding the following wording to the Sample Letter for making Committee Appointments: “Virtual or distance participation may be permitted at the discretion of the chair.”

The committee members suggested that the R&P Committee be responsible for developing a list of action plan ideas for incoming Vice-Chairs. R&P might also coordinate with committee chairs to determine which action plan(s) would be submitted to ACRL. This strategy will be reviewed at the Midwinter 2010 meeting.

Subject and Bibliographic Access Committee

Wayne Sanders, Chair

In preparation for the ANSS 2009 Annual Program on Chicago’s Ethnic Mosaic, the committee produced a handout of “Subject headings for finding additional resources.” At our meeting in Chicago, the committee decided to pursue the possibility of preparing a similar handout for the 2010 Annual program.

Several additional items were discussed and decisions made during this meeting. First, since Wayne Sanders has been elected ANSS Secretary, Isabel Quintana and Wade Kotter agreed to serve as Co-Chairs for 2009-2010. Second, the committee established the schedule of cataloging Questions & Answers for the remaining months of 2010 and decided to continue distributing the monthly lists of new subject headings in the social sciences. Third, the committee decided to continue the migration of existing cataloging Questions & Answers from the ANSS website to the ANSS wiki, with the monthly lists of new subject headings to follow. Fourth, the committee decided to continue work on developing a survey to evaluate the value of our products and services to be sent out via ANSS-L with a deadline of Annual 2010. And finally, the committee commended Wayne Sanders for his outstanding job as Chair.

DISCUSSION GROUP REPORTS

Anthropology Librarians Discussion Group

Katie Whitson, Acting Facilitator

The Anthropology Librarians’ Discussion Group met on Sunday, July 12, with seventeen individuals in attendance. Tim Lloyd from Alexander Street Press discussed a new project. The company is interested in developing a streaming media database for anthropology materials. Attendees were encouraged to get in touch with Tim if they had suggestions for the database.

Janet Steins at Harvard's Tozzer Library was unable to attend the conference but she sent handouts describing a new online exhibit she created, *Anthropological Influences: Great Books Chosen by Harvard Anthropologists*. Harvard anthropologists are invited to suggest a book for the online exhibition. Janet has also asked contributors to explain why the book is important to them. The online exhibit may be accessed at http://hcl.harvard.edu/libraries/tozzer/collections/great_books/index.cfm.

Other discussions focused on collection development, shrinking budgets, and electronic resources. Almost everyone at the table was dealing with a budget cut. Many libraries are cutting print journals where online access exists. Several libraries have tried patron-driven e-book selection. While not everyone in attendance was in favor of e-books over print, many believed funds can be saved by purchasing e-books instead of expensive texts. Almost everyone agreed that e-books are especially useful for reference.

Suggested topics for the next meeting of the Anthropology Discussion Group included

- Weeding: Best Practices
- How do new Anthropology Librarians Learn Collection Development

Sociology Librarians Discussion Group

Triveni Kuchi and Afeworki Paulos, Co-Conveners

Ross Housewright, Research Analyst at Ithaka presented on the topic, "Implications of Changing Faculty/End User Attitudes for Library Information Services: Ideas and Strategies from Ithaka with Special Reference to the Social Sciences."

Ithaka is a not-for-profit organization that conducts research based on its mission to accelerate the productive uses of information technologies for the benefit of higher education worldwide. One of its research services includes helping Information-Services organizations meet the needs of scholars by understanding their changing attitudes and practices. Ross Housewright discussed findings from their faculty and librarian surveys, highlighting changing attitudes, perceptions, and preferences of the practice and communication of scholarship, research and digital/electronic resources and archives. (Note: In January 2009, JSTOR joined Portico and NITLE as a coordinated set of offerings made available under the Ithaka organizational name.)

Housewright's presentation summarized *Ithaka's 2006 Studies of Key Stakeholders in the Digital Transformation in Higher Education* (Housewright, R., and Schonfeld, R., Ithaka, August 18, 2008) and a conference presentation made by Kevin Guthrie, "Who's in Charge: Reflections on Faculty and Librarian Surveys Concerning Changes in Scholarly Communication" (UC Berkeley library New Directions symposium, January 8, 2008). This report draws on both notes taken during the July 11 meeting and direct quotes and paraphrased text from the white paper and conference presentation. The datasets resulting from the survey are available from ICPSR.

In September 2008, Ithaka released a white paper and data from its 2006 survey of faculty members, which sought to determine attitudes related to online resources, electronic archiving, teaching and learning, and related subjects. Housewright presented a summary of the white paper and the findings, and noted trends apparent in comparing findings of the 2003 and 2006 surveys. The current study allows comparison with the attitudes and perspectives of academic librarians on the perceived roles of the library and librarian on campuses; the impact of transitioning to electronic material on library practices; the place of digital repositories in the campus information-services landscape; and the future plans of academic libraries. Librarians surveyed include both directors and collection development leaders from a wide variety of four-year academic institutions across the United States. A 2009 survey is also underway, with reports expected to be released in 2010.

In particular, the 2006 study explored:

- Attitudes towards the possibility of a transition away from print format, both for scholarly journals and monographs
- Perceptions of libraries and their value, including specific library functions, and how these perceptions are changing
- Preferences in research practices, including disciplinary differences and changes over time
- Attitudes towards archiving of both print and electronic resources
- Preferences that lead authors to choose among scholarly journals in which to publish their articles, as well as attitudes towards digital repositories

In an interactive session, Housewright highlighted the following points:

- Across all disciplines, electronic resources are seen as of great value and likely to grow in importance over time
- Social scientists are increasingly tied to electronic resources, in contrast to humanities researchers

Humanities researchers are more tied to print because these resources aren't available online

- Researchers in economics show a larger fall off in dependence on the library 2003 to 2006, as compared to sociologists. Researchers in economics are largely using preprint publications found in RePec and SSRN
- Electronic resources are more heavily used when research utilizes quantitative vs. qualitative methodology
- From 2003 to 2006, a decline of 50% was noted in use of the library building as the starting point of research - differences across disciplines were noted: Among sociologists, approx 35% start in the library (physical space) or in the library catalog, approx 22% start with a general search engine, and approximately 42% start with a specific electronic resource
- Social science researchers do not want to go to the library; preference is clearly for electronic availability
- While faculty are satisfied with replacing current journal content with electronic format, they do not accept replacing backfiles with electronic content: the preference was print for backfiles
- Faculty perception of the role of the library as gateway declined 2003 to 2006
- Faculty continue to perceive the role of the librarian as just as important as it has been in the past. 80% of sociology faculty survey agreed with this statement
- The most important factor determining where faculty publish is to publish in a place where others in their field publish, the least important factor is whether that publication is open access

A lively discussion highlighted the following points:

- While the landscape has changed considerably since the survey was conducted, the results provide historical perspective on trends in usage of electronic resources
- GoogleScholar was a relative unknown when the study was conducted
- Question for scholars isn't the format of content; it's the content that is valued
- Many questions arose on survey research design, particularly on influence of survey question wording on results
- Some researchers are looking well beyond journals, which isn't taken into account in the survey: social science scholars use primary and preprint sources, particularly economists
- Will sociologists move to a research workflow more similar to economists, i.e., toward preprint materials

ARTICLE

The ANSS Repository of Teaching and Assessment Materials: Promoting Information Literacy in Anthropology and Sociology

By Jason Phillips

- Librarians continue to see themselves as serving a gateway function, whether users do or not, and that discrepancy may be perfectly acceptable
- If faculty are satisfied with GoogleScholar results, do we compete or accept and focus on other areas instead
- The indexing available in library resources (electronic databases) is considered very important; it is very hard to find materials in non-indexed archives, e.g., JSTOR and DOAJ
- The library's role is one of educator: with GoogleScholar, users don't get the context of the discipline or topic, they only get a result. They also don't know if their retrieval is exhaustive

Preliminary Meeting Schedule, 2010 Boston

Friday, January 15

ANSS Social 6:00 – 9:00 p.m.

Saturday, January 16

Executive I (1st of 2) 8:00 – 10:00 a.m.
Membership 8:00 – 10:00 a.m.
Sociology Lib's Disc. Group 10:30 – 12:00 p.m.
Subject & Bib. Access 10:30 -- 12:00 p.m.
Assessment of Lib. Collec. 1:30 – 3:30 p.m.
Publications 1:30 – 3:30 p.m.
Bibliography 4:00 – 5:30 p.m.
Criminal Justice/Crim Disc Grp 4:00 – 5:30 p.m.

Sunday, January 17

Conf. Program Planning 2011 8:00 – 10:00 a.m.
Nominating 2011 8:00 – 10:00 a.m.
Conf. Program Planning 2010 10:30 – 12:00 p.m.
Instruction & Info Lit 10:30 – 12:00 p.m.
Anthropology Lib's Disc Grp 4:00 – 5:30 p.m.

Monday, January 18

Review & Planning 8:00 – 10:00 a.m.
Executive II (2nd of 2) 10:30 – 12:00 p.m.

As noted on the ANSS website, the Instruction and Information Literacy Committee has been primarily responsible for developing standards of information literacy (IL) for anthropology, sociology, and related fields. Beginning as an ad hoc committee in 2004, it became a standing committee several years later. Heretofore, its most significant achievement has been the development of the Information Literacy Standards for Anthropology and Sociology Students (2008) that were approved last year by the ACRL Board. Congratulations should be extended to Patti S. Caravello, Triveni Kuchi, and Susan Macicak for their excellent work on these standards. The collaboration between the American Sociological Association and the committee is ably described by Caravello et. al. (2008).

To further its charge, it was logical for the committee to create a mechanism for the continued support and promotion of these information literacy standards. With that goal in mind, the committee has created the ANSS Repository of Teaching and Assessment Materials. The goal of the repository is to provide access to assignments, curricula, information literacy projects, syllabi, and descriptions of active learning techniques. The committee hopes that librarians and faculty will be able to adapt and repurpose submissions to the repository to ensure that undergraduates who are exposed to sociology and anthropology become critical researchers and are information literate in their fields. It also should help faculty and librarians more easily assess whether students are acquiring the important skills that they need to understand sociology and anthropology and to succeed in becoming both confident library patrons and competent researchers.

While there are information literacy standards in a number of fields, the committee believes that IL is very critical to the effective teaching of anthropology and sociology. However long may be the exposure of an undergraduate to sociology or anthropology, the primary, measurable outcome of that exposure should be the ability to distinguish social and cultural perspectives from the perspectives that come from other disciplines. These are the goals of both the committee and of our faculty colleagues who teach (Task Force on Sociology and General Education 2007).

The repository represents a long-term, ongoing project. And while the committee works to augment its functionality and expand its scope and utility to librarians, teaching faculty and undergraduates, it has a provisional home in the Faculty Digital Archive at New York University. The URL is: <http://archive.nyu.edu/handle/2451/28103>.

In the coming months, one of my colleagues from the committee, Julianne Couture of Arizona State University, and I hope to query librarians about the functionality they would like to see added to the repository as it is developed. It is important to gather information about these needs as we contemplate a permanent home for the repository's materials.

The committee is also now ready to start accepting submissions and hopes that colleagues will consider submitting the materials they have used in their own bibliographic instruction and teaching. (Please contact my co-Chair, Stephanie Alexander, or me if you would like to make a submission or help us evaluate the repository.) Of course, it is not simply sufficient to provide teaching materials as they might be currently constituted in a drawer or on a hard drive. When I submitted my own lesson plan and had it evaluated by members of the committee, I was surprised how much further revision and thought had to be applied to the revision process. Indeed, we are proposing a type of peer review process for repository submissions. However I was also quite pleased by the end result. I believe that rewriting my lesson plans in the context of the IL standards has greatly improved them and ultimately benefited the many students who are exposed to them here at New York University.

As the committee moves forward in developing the repository, we hope to enlist your help. In order to be successful, the repository will need to contain a diversity of materials that cover many topics in anthropology and sociology and that are appropriate for undergraduates with varying levels of exposure to the social sciences. It will also need to appeal to the many needs of teaching faculty at our various institutions. With rapid changes in the organization of knowledge, the constantly evolving information seeking behavior of undergraduates, and emerging challenges to the social sciences, the committee would hope to see our emphasis and our insistence on information literacy grow. And to that end, this repository could be an important tool for promoting information literacy once it is fully developed.

References

- Caravello, Patti S., Edward L. Kain, Triveni Kuchi, Susan Macicak and Gregory L. Weiss. 2008. "Information Literacy: The Partnership of Sociology Faculty and Social Science Librarians." *Teaching Sociology* 36(1):8-16.
- Task Force on Sociology and General Education. 2007. *Sociology and General Education: ASA Task Force Report to Council*. Washington, DC: Task Force on Sociology and General Education, American Sociological Association.

Retrieved October 15, 2009

(<http://www.asanet.org/galleries/Governance/TF%20on%20Sociology%20and%20General%20Education.pdf>).

ALA / ACRL / ANSS (Anthropology and Sociology Section) Instruction and Information Literacy Committee Task Force on IL Standards. 2008. *Information Literacy Standards for Anthropology and Sociology Students*. Chicago, IL: Association of College and Research Libraries. Retrieved October 15, 2009 (http://www.ala.org/ala/mgrps/divs/acrl/standards/anthro_soc_standards.cfm).

The co-Chairs of the Instruction and Information Literacy Committee are:

Stephanie Alexander
University of Colorado at Boulder
stephanie.alexander@colorado.edu

Jason Phillips
New York University
jason.phillips@nyu.edu

REVIEW

Annual Reviews

<http://www.annualreviews.org>

Helen P. Clements, Associate Professor
Humanities & Social Sciences Division
Edmon Low Library
Oklahoma State University
helen.clements@okstate.edu
Reviewed June-October, 2009

Annual Reviews (AR) are annual journals, which offer synthetic, critical reviews of the literature in nearly forty disciplines in the physical, life, biomedical, and social sciences. They are published by *Annual Reviews*, a non-profit organization managed by scientists and dedicated to promoting the growth of the sciences by providing essential analytical reviews of developments by authorities in each field. As the home page notes, *Annual Reviews* publications are frequently cited in the scientific literature, including the leading journals indexed by ISI Web of Science (<http://annualreviews.org/>).

Each of the *AR* journals now appears both in print and online. Although online access is available for prior volumes, many academic libraries will also have print copies, at least of older volumes. For the purposes of this review, the electronic versions of *Annual Reviews*, especially those for Anthropology and Sociology, were visited. The *AR* website allows any user to search by keyword for citations and abstracts across all the series, or in selected titles. Searching is free, but access to the full texts of articles, in .html or .pdf format, requires a subscription (see Pricing, below).

Overview

Based in Palo Alto, California, *Annual Reviews* was founded by Stanford biochemist J. Murray Luck, in response to his experiences as a young professor in a rapidly growing field. Dr. Luck's delightful account of and his colleagues' creation of the first *Annual Reviews* is available at (<http://annualreviews.org/about/jmluck.aspx>).

The first *Annual Reviews* series, the *Annual Review of Biochemistry*, began publication in 1932. The *Annual Review of Physiology* followed in 1938, and the *Annual Review of Microbiology* in 1947. New series have begun publication as the scientific disciplines expand and mature. New or upcoming additions in the sciences include Analytical Chemistry (2008), Marine Sciences (2009), and Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering, Condensed Matter Physics, and Food Science and Technology (2010).

Most of the social science journals are relative newcomers. *Psychology* began in 1950. *Anthropology* joined the series in 1972; a precursor, *Biennial Reviews in Anthropology*, was published by Stanford University Press from 1959 to 1971. *Sociology* began in 1975, and *Political Science* in 1998. *Law and Social Sciences* and *Clinical Psychology* both began publication in 2005. Three new titles--*General Economics*, *Financial Economics*, and *Resource Economics*--are being added to the social sciences suite in 2009. This brings the totals to twenty-five titles in Life/Biomedical Sciences, fourteen in Physical Sciences, and eleven in Social Sciences.

AR Mission and Content

The *Annual Reviews* current editor-in-chief is Samuel Gubins. In addition to the editorial and management committees, each *AR* series has its own editorial committee, made up of distinguished scholars and production staff members. Subjects for each year's reviews are chosen by academic members of the series editorial board. The names and affiliations of the members of the *AR* boards and committees can be found via the Welcome page at (<http://www.annualreviews.org/People/default.aspx>). Many of the authors of individual articles have won prestigious awards in their respective fields, as the News/Releases page indicates (<http://annualreviews.org/press/index.aspx>).

The editors of each *Annual Review* invite leading scholars in their discipline to provide a comprehensive and systematic critical review that “not only summarizes a topic but also roots out errors of fact or concept and provokes discussion that will lead to new research activity.” (*Annual Reviews* Mission Statement (<http://www.annualreviews.org/about/mission.aspx>).

The importance of the literature review article for the social sciences has been documented by numerous authors, including Benson, Sporakowski and Stremmel (1992) and Huang and Chang (2008). Knowing what has already been done and clarifying what has been done well (or poorly) are essential to establishing one's own research contributions, encouraging research that is timely as well as sound theoretically and methodologically. Articles that synthesize and evaluate prior developments in a given field and relate them to current issues are important for any scholar who wants to move in new directions, or wants to learn about the development and integration of a discipline not his own. For a student struggling to orient herself in a class in social theory or area studies, for example, the *AR* reviews can cut Gordian knots of scholarly argument. Literature reviews are the results of complex processes (Benson, Sporakowski and Stremmel, 65). They are essential to the growth and learning that take place in the preparation of a thesis or dissertation, so articles written by established scholars serve as good models of literature reviews and are invaluable. *Annual Reviews* meet these needs.

As the website points out, *Annual Reviews* articles in the various disciplines are highly cited. The analyses published by ISI in its Journal Citation Reports for 2008 indicate that the *AR* social science journals are, indeed, important sources of information for professionals.

Table I. Recent *Annual Reviews* Social Sciences Volumes and Their ISI Rank

Annual Review Title (Year of First Volume)	Latest Volume Date	Number of Articles in Latest Volume	Rank, Among Journals Indexed in Comparable ISI/Web of Science Category	5-year impact factor (<i>Journal Citation Reports</i> for 2008)
Anthropology (1972) (2009 volume announced for October)	Oct. 2009	18	10/61	3.240
Environment and Resources (1976)	Nov. 2008	20	1/58	6.726
Law and Social Science (2005)	Dec. 2008	17	81/104	0.657
Political Science (1998)	June 2009	27	7/99	2.414
Psychology, Clinical (2005)	Apr. 2009	20	23/88	3.842
Psychology,	Jan.	28	1/102	17.608

Multidisciplinary (1950)	2009			
Public Health (1980) (Public, Environmental & Occupational Health)	Apr. 2009	21	1/76	7.491
Sociology (1975)	Aug. 2009	27	3/99	4.954

Sources: *Annual Reviews*, “ISI Rankings.” Accessed 10/19/2009 at <http://www.annualreviews.org/catalog/isi-rankings.aspx>; *Journal Citation Reports*, tables for Social Sciences. Accessed 10/19/2009 at <http://admin-apps.isiknowledge.com/JCR/JCR?PointOfEntry=Home&SID=2Bbi8aF8MD4dHi8Dhg1>

The readers of *AR* journals find them valuable and use them in further work. *AR* journals consistently rank high among leading titles in their fields, as indicated by the impact factor measures of *Journal Citation Reports*, a Thomson Reuters database associated with the *Science Citation Index*. Even relatively new *AR* journals appear high in the rankings. (The three economics journals first issued in 2009 have not yet received a ranking.) Further information about JCR and impact factors may be found on the Thomson Reuters website at http://thomsonreuters.com/products_services/science/academic/impact_factor/ The relative youth of several of the *AR* social sciences titles suggests that longer-established disciplines in the sciences (and business) increasingly recognize the contributions of the social sciences.

A further indicator of the importance of *Annual Reviews* publications is their coverage by major journal databases in the disciplines. *Sociological Abstracts* indexes both the *Anthropology* and *Sociology* titles among its Core Journals (all substantive articles indexed). *Law and Social Sciences* is indexed as a Priority journal (50% or more of articles indexed), and *Political Science* and *Public Health* both receive Selective coverage (less than 50% indexed, but monitored for substantive articles). JSTOR has provided access to *AR*'s *Sociology*, *Anthropology*, and *Ecology, Evolution and Systematics* titles, as well as the *Biennial Review of Anthropology*, in its first collection of journals.

Another gauge of *AR*'s importance may be found in OCLC *WorldCat*, in which around 1,700 libraries report *AR Sociology* holdings, and around 1,500 report holdings in the *AR Anthropology* and its predecessor. (By comparison, the *Annual Review of Biochemistry* is held by some 1,750 libraries.)

Topical Coverage

The range of topics covered in each *Annual Review* may be found in the editorial statement provided in the Publications Catalog area (<http://www.annualreviews.org/catalog/2008/an37-pop.aspx>). The broad range of topics covered in the *Annual Reviews* of both *Anthropology* and *Sociology* reveal the diversity of the disciplines and their interconnections with other areas of study. Articles with a specific national or regional focus may be subsumed in the categories for the sub-fields. Most articles are in English, although many cite works published in other languages, or authored by international scholars.

Themes in *Annual Review of Anthropology*

The volume editors for *AR Anthropology* generally choose topics that reflect important developments, as well as current issues and controversies in archaeology, biological anthropology, linguistics and communicative practices, regional studies and international anthropology, and sociocultural anthropology. Through the varying themes of successive volumes, the editors reflect the discipline's holistic approach, where “students and scholars... can find food for thought, material for teaching, and inspiration for research” (Brenneis and Ellison, 2009). Evolution and human reproduction are the dual themes of the 2008 volume, and in 2009, the themes are current research on gender and anthropology and human health. The editors actively seek essays that will be intellectually stimulating, in the hopes that “the intellectual energy released by reviews of these topics will lead to more research, discussion, and debate in the years ahead” (Durham, 2008).

The volume for 2009 includes articles on reproduction, human development and social evolution, and the development of societies in Asia and Oceania. The fact that a search for what might be considered an anthropological topic may show results from sociology, psychology, or the life sciences, point to the interdisciplinary nature of the social sciences,

especially anthropology. Many of the articles in recent volumes represent sociocultural anthropology, showing its diversity of regional and topical focus. In *Sociology*, the articles appear to be divided more finely by sub-discipline, without a marked predominance of any area scholars. Table II shows themes covered in recent *Anthropology* volumes, and Table III shows a similar breakdown for *Sociology*.

Table II. Articles in Recent *Annual Reviews of Anthropology*

Year of Publication	Major Volume Theme(s)
2009 (October)	Dual themes, gender in anthropology and human health.
2008	Evolution, reproduction Returned to “theme” approach
2007	Skipped “theme” approach, emphasized “the core”
2006	Environmental conservation, Food

Source: *Annual Review of Anthropology*, Tables of Contents for 2006, 2007, 2008, and 2009

Themes in *Annual Review of Sociology*

The *AR Sociology* also “covers the significant developments in the field... (including the) major theoretical and methodological developments as well as current research” Editorial Statement, <http://www.annualreviews.org/catalog/2009/so35-pop.aspx>. The volumes are structured along broad thematic lines and reveal the variety of interests among sociologists. Categories that have appeared in most or all volumes from 2006 to 2009 are: theory and methods; social processes; institutions and culture; formal organizations; political and economic sociology; differentiation and stratification; individual and society; policy; and demography. The categories societies and world regions; urban and rural community sociology, and historical sociology, have appeared twice in these four years.

Table III. Articles in Recent *Annual Reviews of Sociology*

Sociology	Major Volume Theme(s)
2009	Interdisciplinary, gender, work and labor issues, marriage and family structure, inequality, societal responses to war and terrorist attacks, Asia
2008	Reproductive biology... Gender inequality G.H. Mead (and his legacy)
2007	Statistics/Analysis
2006	Sociological Knowledge

Source: *Annual Review of Sociology*, Tables of contents for 2006, 2007, 2008, and 2009.

Special Features

The online *AR* version also offers special compilations of articles previously published and gathered by the *AR* editors. Another feature of interest, “Supplemental Materials,” is a digital repository that allows authors to make available graphics, charts, videos, figures, tables, additional bibliographies, and other material that could not be included in earlier journals. A link appears in the individual volume, as well as on the website at <http://www.annualreviews.org/catalog/supmat/default.aspx>. The Audio Series feature, another effort to enhance *AR* services, is available from the home page and from the pages of series that include interviews with series editors and article author; see the link at <http://arjournals.annualreviews.org/page/audio>. At present, the list includes interviews in clinical psychology and chemistry. Hopefully this feature will expand to others.

The “Quick Links” feature is a functional sidebar that accompanies the abstract and .html versions of each article. Each series has a varying number of links, which may include the Advanced Search function, a link to the current series editors, errata for the volume, to related articles in the *AR* or in the Web of Science databases, “add to one’s favorites list,” “send a link to a friend,” “set up alerts or RSS feeds,” “view most cited and most downloaded articles,” and so on. At the article level, the reader finds the “chain of reviews” (earlier articles that the current article cites), and a sign-up for alerts when the present article is cited). The first page of the .pdf version also contains the “Further” feature, which provides links to additional sources.

Article Format

All publications in *AR* appear to have a similar presentation format. Print volumes are hard bound, with reviews arranged by sub-discipline and topic. Online reviews can be searched by keyword or browsed by year of publication. Each review is divided into sections, generally including an introduction, several sections which develop the theme historically or discuss developments in theory or methodology, a conclusion, and acknowledgements. At the end of each essay is a lengthy bibliography, often over 100 items long. In the online version, there is a feature that allows the reader to jump from section to section of an article, and each text reference is hyperlinked to the corresponding item in the bibliography.

Database/Site Navigation and Article Retrieval

Site Navigation

As might be expected with an important interdisciplinary series, the *AR* website is complex but well-organized. It allows any user to search for citations and abstracts to all journals. Access to the full texts of articles, in .html or .pdf format, requires a subscription (see Pricing). The Browse page may be a good one for libraries to set as their default entry page for *AR*; it gives access to all volumes, telling which volumes are actually subscribed to by the library. Perhaps the one hard-to-locate feature of the *AR* site is that access to information about *AR* is linked to the series tagline at the top of the entry page. With this link readers can find a directory of the *AR* editorial staff and individual editorial committees, a history of the organization, links to events, and a description of *AR*’s participation in efforts to disseminate scientific knowledge at low cost in the developing world (described elsewhere in this review).

The journal home page features tabs for accessing various functions: ordering, browsing entire *AR* series or individual titles, searching, and creating a user profile. The help section is clearly organized, with a detailed table of contents and a link to the FAQ page. There is a separate tab for information about contacting the *AR* staff or editorial committees. The home page also has an index with links to ordering and account information, setting up a user profile, librarian resources and library administration tools. *AR* is a CrossRef member and is Counter compliant.

For authors of *AR* articles, links to detailed guidelines for submission, formatting, bibliographic citation, charts and other illustrations, and other issues, are available on the Welcome page (entry through the *AR* tagline, at <http://www.annualreviews.org/>). The downloadable author guidelines for anthropology and sociology and other social sciences are available in .pdf format in a handbook known as the “green book,” available on the *AR* website at <http://www.annualreviews.org/authors/index.aspx>.

Searching

Searching the *AR* database is relatively easy. (As mentioned, searches for articles and abstracts are available without a subscription, but retrieving full-text access requires one.) The Browse tab allows access to individual series and volumes. On each volume page a Quick Links area allows access to keyword or advanced searching. In the search and browse areas, the user can choose from quick links that enhance the accessibility of a number of *AR* resources to:

- Search one volume, one series, or all series at the same time – this can reveal related content in other series, giving the potential for tracing the influence of a person or theory in other disciplines
- View article abstracts and full text in .html or .pdf format
- Save advanced searches and receive search alerts
- Create lists of favorite articles
- View the “Chain of Reviews,” other *AR* articles related to the current article

- View citations to related articles from the ISI *Web of Knowledge* index
- Track later citations to the *AR* article; this can also be set up as an RSS feed
- Download the article to one's computer, or to a citation manager software
- Use several training materials on *AR* content and navigation available via the Resources for Librarians link
- Interface with the JSTOR and Web of Science databases

Using the Advanced Search option (available under the Search tab) makes further features available:

- Search by all words supplied, exact phrase, at least one word, none (exclude a term)
- Search by author
- Search anywhere in the article, in the title, in the image or table captions (an improvement would be to add searching in the abstract)
- Limit the search by the published date of *AR* articles

Publication Schedule

Annual volumes appear throughout the year on a rolling schedule, which can be found at (<http://www.annualreviews.org/catalog/pubdates.aspx>). RIAs, Reviews in Advance, are published online as soon as they have been edited and revised (but may still have minor changes). If RIAs are available for a given volume, a link appears on the publication schedule and on the table of contents for the upcoming volume.

Pricing

Subscriptions are available to individuals, institutions, or corporate bodies. Pricing for all *AR* volumes appears at <http://www.annualreviews.org/order/pricing2009.aspx>. Orders can be placed online, or by telephone, mail, or fax. Details on shipping, including international orders, may be found at <http://www.annualreviews.org/order/index.aspx#general>.

All *AR* journals are currently offered in both print and electronic versions. In some cases, the electronic version provides supplementary material not available in the print versions, such as large tables or graphics or extended bibliographies. If a customer has subscribed to any online volume, that access remains permanent, whether or not the customer maintains that subscription in the future. For either the *Anthropology* or the *Sociology* annual volume, pricing for individuals is \$78 for print and online access (available with an access token from *AR*). Pay-per-view access for one 24-hour period may also be purchased by individuals who have registered with *AR*.

Institutions should contact *AR* to place their orders. Institutional pricing is \$197 for either annual volume in print or online, and \$236 for either volume if the institution orders both print and online. The social sciences collection includes eight titles. Pricing for this collection's site license for 2009 will be \$1,537, which reflects a 2.5% discount for purchasing the entire collection. (Online access to the economics titles is only available as a site license http://www.annualreviews.org/institutions/2009_econ.aspx.) For access to the complete series of *AR* back volumes from 1932 to 2003, there is a one-time charge of \$6,000. In keeping with its non-profit mission and its history of keeping subscription prices relatively low, *AR* has announced that it will not raise prices for 2010.

Site license pricing is available for institutions wishing to order all titles in one or more collections, and to consolidate all *AR* purchases. Moreover, pricing for multi-campus locations, consortia, corporate and government entities is also available via an *AR* contact. (Andrea López at alopez@annualreviews.org; see also the service page at <http://www.annualreviews.org/service/contact.aspx>).

Because of the importance of encouraging the development of the sciences in developing nations, *AR* also participates in several programs for the free or low-cost dissemination of scientific information. They include:

- AGORA, Access to Global Online Research in Agriculture, sponsored by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
- PERI, the International Network for the Availability of Scientific Information (INASP) sponsors PERI (now in Phase Two as PERii), a UK-based program

- TEEAL, a full-text digital library of nearly 150 agricultural journals and a searchable database of citations from major indexes in the biomedical and life sciences, created by Cornell University, which can be used without having Internet access

Further information about these projects can be found at the Philanthropy link on the About *Annual Reviews* page <http://www.annualreviews.org/about/philanthropy.aspx>.

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Comparison/Evaluation of *AR*

Although many other journals publish literature reviews, the *Annual Reviews* series are exceptionally useful. The helpful format and added features of the electronic versions make the *AR* database a highly recommended purchase for any academic library, especially those whose institutions offer advanced degrees in the social sciences. For graduate education, they are invaluable, providing the perspectives of well-known scholars on the history and theoretical development of each discipline. The reviews can also be used by advanced undergraduates seeking to increase their exposure to the professional literature in their fields. *AR* can be especially helpful when used for course readings in conjunction with handbooks or companions to social theory, such as those published by Blackwell and Sage.

Libraries that serve undergraduate students at the introductory level, may want to examine Blackwell's *Compass*, an online collection featuring survey articles in the disciplines of history, geography, literature, religion, sociology, social and personality psychology, and language and linguistics. These appear to be designed somewhat more for beginning students than the *Annual Reviews*.

Suggestions for Improvement

Like the content of the reviews, the quality of appearance and ease of navigation are quite high. Nevertheless, a few small opportunities for improvement may be noted. *AR*'s scholarly, selective approach may prevent very recent developments in a given area from being covered every year. In navigating the complex website, one must remember to use the *AR* tagline at the top of the page to locate the Welcome page's information. An "about *AR*" link on the home page would remedy this.

A link to special features, such as the Supplemental Materials and the Audio Reviews, could be added to the search page for each series that currently has such materials, or to the Browse Publications page to call attention to these attractive features. While the current search engine resembles Google's, fielded Boolean searching might prove more powerful. On the whole, given the wealth of user-friendly *AR* features, the drawbacks for this resource are minor.

Conclusion

By their nature, reviews of the literature emphasize developments through time, putting today's controversies in context. Because the articles are prepared by leaders in their respective disciplines, they are essential as tools for research and teaching. *Annual Reviews* admirably complements specialized encyclopedias or companions to the disciplines, and journals of commentary and debate such as *Current Anthropology*.

Overall, the *Annual Reviews* website and database are easy to access; documentation is thorough and thoughtful. The usability of *AR* compares favorably with that of both JSTOR and Science Direct. Numerous user-friendly *AR* features, such as their interface with Web of Knowledge and JSTOR, make this a particularly good research tool. It will probably encourage others to follow the Web of Knowledge leadership in the art of citation searching.

The focus of the *Annual Reviews* in specific disciplines makes them valuable not only to encourage research, but also as tools for teaching students about the intellectual heritage of the disciplines. The *Annual Reviews* deserve their reputation as essential journals in their disciplines.

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Co-Editor: Jenny Bowers, University of Denver, 2150 East Evans Avenue, Denver, CO 80208, (303) 871-3403. jbowers@du.edu

Co-Editor: Lesley Brown, Michigan State University, MSU Main Library, 100 Library, East Lansing, MI 48824, (517) 432-6123, x312. brownles@mail.lib.msu.edu

Production & Circulation Office: 50 East Huron St., Chicago, IL 60611.

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Chair, 2009-10: Elizabeth Cooper, Emory University, 540 Asbury Circle, Atlanta, GA 30322-1006 404-727-115. liz.cooper@emory.edu

Vice Chair/Chair-Elect, 2009-10: Jennifer Nason Davis, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI 48109-1205, 734/647-5293. jnasond@umich.edu