



KNOWLEDGE EXCHANGE

Research Skills for Anthropology and Sociology Students

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What is distinctive about doing research in anthropology and sociology that differs from, say, biology, philosophy or engineering? What do anthropology and sociology students at various levels need to know about research, information and constructing knowledge in their disciplines?

After exploring these questions, a group of librarians from the Anthropology and Sociology Section of the Association for College and Research Libraries (ACRL) drafted *Information Literacy Standards for Anthropology and Sociology Students*, which describes critical research and information skills needed for effective work in the two disciplines. The draft, based on the ACRL's *Information Literacy Competency Standards for Higher Education*, reflects how knowledge is produced in anthropology and sociology and is tailored to both anthropology and sociology's research tools and methodologies, primary sources and ethical principles. The draft is open for comment from anthropologists.

ACRL librarians envision that these standards can be useful in providing ideas for infusing coursework, assignments and websites with content that will both increase students' anthropol-

ogy or sociology knowledge and enhance their research skills; assist faculty and librarians in communicating with students about research and critical approaches to information; equip faculty and librarians with a discipline-specific understanding of "information literacy," which can be useful in discussions with administrators, curriculum committees and accreditation teams; facilitate faculty-librarian communication about information literacy goals and provide opportunities for wider discussion of these issues; inform the teaching and consulting that librarians provide anthropology and sociology students; and help students understand what is expected of them in specific terms for research and writing in these two disciplines. Like the ACRL standards, the standards in this draft are: determine information need, access information, evaluate sources, use information, and understand relevant ethical and legal issues.

Unlike the ACRL document, however, the draft incorporates the ethics standard into the others, so that it is not separate from but integral to all the knowledge and behaviors of critical information literacy.

Local institutions, academic departments and curricular committees will decide how and when students are introduced to the incre-

mental concepts and skills, and at what point in the education for a major or a graduate degree each standard should be partially or fully met. The standards can be used in department assessments and program reviews, as well as in conjunction with statements by the AAA on learning outcomes, major requirements and education for anthropology and sociology.

After these standards are endorsed, the ACRL plans to create an online repository of assignments, curricula, course syllabi, tutorials, exercises and active learning methods that can be used by faculty and librarians to enrich coursework and enable students to meet the standards. Such materials will be gathered from librarians and faculty across the country.

ACRL invites comment from anthropologists to these draft standards, particularly responses to the following questions: Does the draft address the kind of research you want your anthropology or sociology students to do? Are important areas missing from this draft? Do you have specific examples of research skills or situations to share that might enrich the document with elements you value? If students could perform the "key behaviors" identified in the document, would they be doing better anthropology or sociology research and writing better papers? Are the standards overly ambitious? Are they realistic and attainable?

ACRL plans to revise the draft document with the input of anthropologists and sociologists by mid-January, 2007. The draft is available at <http://www2.lib.udel.edu/subj/soc/anssiilstandardsdraft.doc>. Please send comments, examples and any feedback to the librarians working on this project: Susan Macicak, University of Texas at Austin, macicak@mail.utexas.edu; Triveni Kuchi, Rutgers University, kuchi@rci.rutgers.edu; Patti Caravello, UCLA, patti@library.ucla.edu. ☐

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Surprise Discovery Of Early Anthropological Papers In Adelaide

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In late July 2006 the South Australian Museum in Adelaide, Australia, received a donation of an old tin trunk full of papers and photographs, which had been saved from a demolition site. Missing for decades, the trunk's contents were professional papers of anthropologist Ursula Hope McConnell (1888-



Wik women, Cape York Peninsula, prepared for ceremony, late 1920s. From the discovered papers of Ursula McConnell

1957), an Australian who was trained by A R Radcliffe-Brown at Sydney and Edward Sapir at Yale, among others, and carried out anthropological and linguis-

tic field work with Aboriginal people in Cape York Peninsula, Queensland, in the period 1927-34.

The correspondence in the trunk includes letters from Sapir, A C Haddon, W J Perry, Radcliffe-Brown, A P Elkin, Elton Mayo (her sister's husband), T G H Strehlow and others. There are linguistic fieldnotes of about 100 pages on the language Karuk (Klamath Valley, California), including texts, plus a phonograph record which has Phoebe Maddux telling a Bluejay myth and giving a Deer Formula and Sky Water Dog Formula in Karuk. Maddux was an informant for J P Harrington and, briefly, Franz Boas. The papers also include many records of lectures in linguistics and anthropology given by Sapir, Clark Wissler, Richard Thurnwald, Peter Buck (aka Te Rangi Hiroa), Stanley Newman and Charles Loram at Yale 1931-33. Five of the courses she attended then were Sapir's. ☐

Washington Association of Professional Anthropologists Turns 30

The Washington Association of Professional Anthropologists, WAPA, turns 30 this year and is celebrating with a gala event on December 5. The first local professional organization for anthropologists, WAPA remains vibrant. WAPA was organized in 1976 by the late Conrad Reining, Gretchen Schafft and a small group of anthropologists primarily from the Catholic University of America. Most WAPA members work outside the academy, but WAPA includes and welcomes academically-based anthropologists as well as students. WAPA presents an annual Praxis Award, organizes workshops at AAA, SfAA and NAPA meetings, and has hosted monthly meetings for 30 years that have given professional anthropologists an opportunity to learn, to network and to build their careers.

Please join WAPA members at the Sumner School, 1201 17th Street, NW, Washington DC, on Tuesday, December 5, 2007, from 6-8:30 pm to celebrate WAPA's rich past and ongoing support to the profession.