PASTICAL SCIENCE PROGRAM REVIEW
LIBRARY AND INFORMATION SERVICES

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COLLECTIONS

The library owns approximately 5000 titles in the Library of Congress 'J' classification, for political science, and about 1450 titles under 'K,' for law. Both of these areas of the collection provide the primary support for students in the Political Science program. However, the total size of resources for political science is much larger. For example, political science students likely constitute significant users of the HT (urban studies) collection of 700 titles. Given the global scope of the examples that political scientists use, many of the materials classified under national or regional histories will be used by the Political Science program. For example, the over 2000 titles classified under F 1201-3799, Latin America, support both the history and the political science programs. Much of the 7800 title collection of materials classified under economics, HB-HD, also proves useful to the political science program, particularly in areas such as developing economies and transition of centralized economics to capitalist models. There has been no particular emphasis to build the political science collection in any one area, but the library has attempted to purchase a good selection of materials on current political developments in the Pacific Rim, on developments relating to the NAFTA agreement, the dissolution and reconfiguration of the Soviet Union, and the integration of Europe.

LIS has received a number of gifts from retiring political science professors, but also has received duplicative material from UC San Diego and UCLA (for example), which we regularly add to the collection, as appropriate. We have no endowments or other special funds to support Political Science, although a federal grant to internationalize the curriculum did allow us to purchase a number of materials related to Japanese Studies and to French Studies, some which supported the Political Science program. One professor in the Political Science program provided some funding to purchase a number of videos related to U.S. politics. LIS was able to purchase some microfiche collections, for example, of Foreign Broadcast Information Services, a news services for various parts of the globe.

In 1994, Library and Information Services became an official depository for United States Government publications, and in 1995, for California State publications. An official government inspection of our federal depository gave the library high marks in all areas, but encouraged LIS to select more than the 7.5% of items available. Although we continue to add more titles and to increase our percentage of selection very slightly, LIS also has encouraged students to find an increasing percentage of these items online. We remain cautious in our selection of printed or compact disk materials while the federal government pursues its plan to provide all materials in electronic format within the next few years. For California State publications, we have accepted depository items without
acquiring additional printed documents available upon order or request from state agencies, making it truly a minimal selection. During 1998/99, we are developing procedures to procure other publications listed in the Monthly Publications. There are currently over 3000 items in the federal depository collection and nearly 400 in the California collection. Because of financial restrictions, we have been unable to develop the United Nations documents program. While not all of the documents in these collections relate directly to political science, many of them support research in state and national political issues.

For both monographs and the government documents collections, students, faculty, and staff can order materials through the San Diego Circuit, providing access to hundreds of thousands of additional titles related to the Political Science program at CSUSM. Most materials requested arrive within 24 hours of request.

In addition to the periodical and annual titles included in the depository programs, LIS subscribes to 54 general titles in political science, supplemented by other relevant titles in area studies, history, economics, and so on. Faculty regularly request additional titles, but no resources have become available to expand the printed periodical collections. As listed under Reference and Electronic Resources, political science related materials have become increasingly available through our cooperative purchase of online access. Some items are full-text, while others provide citations and abstracts.

REFERENCE AND ELECTRONIC ACCESS

The reference collection contains standard works that support research in political science. Aside from specialized encyclopedias such as The Encyclopedia of Human Rights, The Encyclopedia of the American Constitution, and the encyclopedias of both the Republican and the Democratic parties, the reference collection includes periodical resources such as CQ Weekly Reporter, CIS Legislative Histories, Abstracts, and Cumulative Indexes, as well as the Index to Legal Periodicals. The government document area includes key reference resources such as Country Studies and U.S. Statutes. While we continue to subscribe to some indices in CD-ROM format (e.g., Ethnic Newswatch), LIS has switched access from CD to Internet access for a number of resources, making them more widely available to students, faculty, and staff at home, in their offices, in the library, or in campus computer labs.

DATABASES

A number of general library databases, such as World Cat (the database of OCLC, the most comprehensive online catalog of publications in the world) are available through LIS's subscription to First Search. Other databases relevant to Political Science through that service include Article First, GPO, Papers First, Proceedings, and Social Science Abstracts. We currently have CD-ROM access to Social Science Citation Index, America History and Life and Historical Abstracts, but as with other CD products, we continue to investigate web access, which will make the works more widely available. LIS subscribes to PAIS, Lexis Nexis, Dow Jones, Women's Resource International and
PopLine (an interdisciplinary database relevant to geography, political science, economics, sociology, etc.) through the Internet. We have some full text interdisciplinary databases which include some political science titles, such as EbscoHost and Project MUSE, while some reference resources such as Britannica Online and Encyclopedia of Associations are available for our public's use online on and off the physical campus. Many government documents periodicals titles are now appearing online with full-text, while we continue to receive CD-ROM format for some documents, databases, and data sets.

As the campus continues to grow, the continued lack of corresponding increases in the library materials budget results in the failure to support the growing number of subject area and degree programs and the ability to support basic collection building. By formula based standards set by the Association of College and Research Libraries, the cost per year to purchase adequate materials to maintain and build a collection that supports CSUSM curriculum should exceed $3,000,000. Our average materials budget for the three fiscal years, 1996/97-1998/99 has been $563,605 per year, or approximately one sixth of what is required. New, one-time state funding will add $124,000 to our library materials budget this year. While such funding is a step in the right direction, it does not address our urgent, ongoing needs. For example, in the 95/96 fiscal year, the average spent on monographs by four of the small CSU campuses (Bakersfield, Humboldt, Sonoma, and Stanislaus) was $259,500, while CSUSM spent $122,348. The average expenditures for periodicals by the same four campuses equated to $304,700, when CSUSM spent $191,328. While the growth in electronic resources and the San Diego Circuit program have given us wider and quicker access, the LIS mission continues to require on-site collections for immediate use. The growing cost of electronic and delivery options reduces our ability to maintain a core on-site collection. After the one-year funding from the CSU system, LIS may have to cancel print or microform serials publications in order to balance our budget.

SERVICES

The following is a statistical representation of the impact of the Political Science Program on library services. LIS is still working to standard collection of some data.

INSTRUCTION

The LIS instructional program has increased significantly its service to students and faculty in the political science program. In 1993/94-1995/97, LIS served 78 students in 6 sections. In 1996/97, library faculty gave instruction to 190 students in 11 sections; in 1997/98, to 222 students in 15 sections.

RESEARCH CONSULTATION (individual reference appointments with library faculty)

1997/98  8

INTERLIBRARY LOAN REQUESTS (no reliable measures for past few years)
CIRCULATION

Items in the J-K classifications constituted an average of 1.3% of total library material circulated during 1996/97 and 1997/98

RESERVES

69 items placed on reserve for 22 courses during 1997/98

MEDIA USE

Number of items on reserve, 1997/98 1
Number of items rented from outside sources, 1997/98 3

LIBRARY OPEN HOURS DURING THE SEMESTER 68.5/week

NUMBER OF HOURS STAFFED BY REFERENCE LIBRARIAN 54/week