

2018

## **Globalization of area studies: an analysis of collection development resources**

Izabella Taler  
*Queens College - CUNY*

### **How does access to this work benefit you? Let us know!**

Follow this and additional works at: [https://academicworks.cuny.edu/qc\\_pubs](https://academicworks.cuny.edu/qc_pubs)



Part of the [Collection Development and Management Commons](#)

---

#### **Recommended Citation**

Taler, Izabella, "Globalization of area studies: an analysis of collection development resources" (2018).  
*CUNY Academic Works*.  
[https://academicworks.cuny.edu/qc\\_pubs/370](https://academicworks.cuny.edu/qc_pubs/370)

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the Queens College at CUNY Academic Works. It has been accepted for inclusion in Publications and Research by an authorized administrator of CUNY Academic Works. For more information, please contact [AcademicWorks@cuny.edu](mailto:AcademicWorks@cuny.edu).

# **Globalization of Area Studies: an analysis of collection development resources**

## **Abstract**

**Purpose** – This study reports on the findings of a detailed analysis of the collection development tools of use to subject bibliographers in meeting the challenges of the ongoing changes within the broad discipline of area studies.

**Design/methodology/approach** – Select online and print resources are examined for their treatment of specific area studies subjects.

**Findings** – The study identifies the benefits of subject resources, points out inconsistencies with the use of the controlled vocabulary and notes subject access limitations.

**Practical implications** – The analyzed resources will assist library professionals in identifying and selecting relevant sources.

**Originality/value** – The detailed analysis of how this subject is treated by numerous resources is unique to the field of library science.

**Keywords:** area studies, interdisciplinary studies, collection development, academic libraries, collection management, associations, book awards.

## **Introduction**

The universities and colleges, along with various organizations, are experiencing an expansion of academic interest in the area studies subjects. On college campuses, traditional college departments, such as sociology, psychology, literature, are either redesigning area studies related courses or are partnering with other departments in exploring interdisciplinary topics and how best to administer them. These changes along with changing interests in majors among college students are identified by The College Board Book of Majors (2017). It describes itself as an “all-in-one source for what students exploring majors need to know: what the majors are about, *and* where they can be studied”. It covers the field of area studies majors in great detail with over twenty pages of college majors listed under the category of “area, ethnic, and gender studies” include African-American studies, American studies, Asian studies, Chicano studies, European studies, Latin American studies, Native American studies, Near and Middle Eastern studies and Women’s studies. The book includes a section on “Multi/interdisciplinary” studies, which covers Global studies, Medieval and Renaissance studies, and Peace and Conflict studies. Additionally, over forty more area studies subjects, including such familiar subjects as Holocaust studies, Judaic studies, LGBA studies, Media studies and Slavic studies, are dispersed throughout the volume, and detailed information about them is accessible via the book’s index.

The notable dispersion of area studies majors noted in this source, along with the extensive listing of colleges which allow students to create their own majors, point to the changes in the area studies’ disciplines. Improving and expanding area studies majors requires development of new cross department courses which in turn must face stringent accreditation demands. King (2010) notes that academic departments are exploring new and improved relationships between faculty, institutional centers, grants and development offices, and such services to students as

specialized study scholarships and study abroad opportunities. Similarly, the consolidation of area studies divisions, as was the case with the formation of University of Oxford's School of Interdisciplinary Area Studies ([SIAS](#)), is yet another approach.

The academic libraries are expected to address and respond to the needs of its constituents composed of students, faculty, and administration, but responding to academic changes is not always easy for librarians who are often faced with decreasing or at best, stagnating library material budgets. Nonetheless, subject librarians must turn their attention to how to maximize available budgetary resources in order to address and support the changes affecting area studies services and collections. Some librarians are now actively involved in this process and MacPherson (2015) reports that instructional librarians are now establishing cross department liaison relations and that in some cases librarians are also involved in co-teaching interdisciplinary courses.

This study aims at assisting bibliographers with meeting some of these challenges. The article examines select area studies sources, explores the benefits, and identifies unique problems in using select online and print bibliographic resources. The overall aim is to offer a practical approach to building and improving interdisciplinary studies' collections and services.

## **Area Studies Collections**

### **Current Trends**

The libraries' traditional practice of treating its area studies disciplines as individual subjects within the general collection development department, is beginning to be revised by some academic libraries. Perhaps as a response to the changes within the area studies disciplines as noted above, some academic libraries are beginning to take another approach in organizing and providing needed information.

Recently [Indiana University Library](#) created a specific position of Head of Area studies and brought its area studies under one umbrella. Currently it covers: African Studies, East Asian and Tibetan Studies, International Studies, Latin American and Caribbean, Spanish and Portuguese, Chicano-Riqueño, Latino Studies and European Studies, Middle Eastern and Islamic, Central Eurasian, and Jewish Studies, Slavic and East European Studies, South Asian and Southeast Asian Studies.

Similar approach was taken by [Yale University Library](#) earlier this year when it established a position of "Director of the Department of Area Studies" described as a "newly created department of subject experts who support humanities and inter-disciplinary area studies programs at Yale". At the present, librarians reporting to this position represent the following subject collections: African studies, Classics, Chinese studies, Humanities, Judaic studies, Latin American & Iberian studies, Middle East studies, Slavic & East European studies, and Southeast Asia studies.

Some university libraries i.e., Stamford University, Duke University and University of Michigan, group their area studies under the heading of "international studies", and within each of these major categories are links to research guides for specific subjects. [Stanford University](#)

[Library](#) includes area studies under the major heading of International Area Studies with links to sub-topics: American studies, Asian studies, African studies, Baltic studies, British studies, Canadian studies, Caribbean studies, Germanic studies, French studies, Iberian Peninsula studies, Islam and Islamic Middle East studies, Italian studies, Jewish studies, Latin American studies, Pacific Rim studies, Scandinavian studies, Slavic and Eastern European studies. A guide to International Studies available on [Duke University Libraries](#) site, offers subject guides to African studies, Asian studies, Canadian studies, European studies, Jewish studies, Latin American & Caribbean studies, Middle East & Islamic studies, and Slavic, Eurasian, and East European studies. [University of Michigan Library](#) does similar with its International Studies grouping but among the fifty subjects listed some are only remotely related to this heading, ex. “Cultural Competence”, and “International, Regional, and National Data Sets”.

The placement of area studies guides under the heading of specific collections is yet another approach as demonstrated by [Penn Libraries](#) . The library website lists the following major collections: African Collection, East Asian Collection, Judaica Collection, Latin American Collection, Middle East Collection, and South Asia Collection.

### **Terminology**

Collection development librarians new to a particular discipline must begin with familiarizing themselves with the subject terminology of a specific subject. Since the Library of Congress classification system is commonly used by the U.S academic libraries, [Classification Web](#) (accessed 8/20/17) the database which identifies itself as the “World Wide Web access to Library of Congress Classification and Library of Congress Subject Heading” is a good starting point for exploring the approved terminology.

A search for a term “area studies” via the Browse LC Subject Headings command leads one to the following explanation: “Here are entered general works on area studies, and with local subdivision, works on area studies carried out in specific places. Works on area studies about a particular region, country, etc. are entered under the name of the region, country, etc. with the subdivision Study and teaching or Research.”

In searching for terms which include the words “area studies”, one finds only references to “Area studies libraries - Acquisitions, and Area studies libraries - Collection development”. Many of the subjects relating to “area studies”, offer “see references” as in the case of “Jewish studies USE Jews - study and teaching”, ‘Ethnic studies USE Ethnology—Study and teaching”, or “Middle East studies USE Middle East—Study and teaching”. A search for particular types of area studies, ex. Africana studies, gender studies, media studies, Slavic studies, Germanic studies yields zero results.

Though above results are disappointing, the subject headings listed for women’s studies represent a major improvement. In addition to using the current terminology, the inclusion of the note of the former heading “women-study and teaching” shows that this popular heading has been revised and expanded. Perhaps with time, LC will update the subject headings for other area studies as well.

## **Bibliographic Tools**

Some of the standard bibliographic tools familiar to academic librarians are American Reference Books Annual, Books in Print, Choice Reviews, and Resources for College Libraries. These four tools are analyzed below for their treatment of area studies subjects.

### **American Reference Books Annual (ARBA)**

ARBA (2016), produced by Libraries Unlimited, is known as the “far reaching review service for reference books and electronic resources”. The introductory statement included in the print source, states that ARBA provides a “comprehensive coverage of English-language reference resources, both digital and print, published in the United States and Canada during a single year”. ARBA’s reviews include a full bibliographic information and a critical review of every title included.

The annually published volume is composed of broad subject parts such as humanities, social sciences, etc., and two indices: author/title index and subject index. Each part is further subdivided into chapters. The 2016 volume subdivides the social sciences part into 17 individual chapters, and of special interest are the following chapters: chapter 3, area studies, is subdivided strictly by geographic areas, ex. Asia, Europe, U.S., chapter 6 covers ethnic studies and anthropology, chapter 12, military studies, and chapter 18 is focused on women’s studies.

Additional area studies subjects are accessible only via the use of ARBA’s subject index. Reviewing its coverage for the years covering 2010 through 2016, one finds references to many more area studies listings, ex., Celtic studies ,cultural studies, deaf studies, ethnic studies, food studies, gender studies, international studies , lesbian studies, military studies, museum studies, urban studies, women’s studies, and sex studies. Though the index lists related subjects such as African American history, or Jews, it fails to label or include them as part of area studies subjects. Due to this discrepancy, collection development professionals will need to peruse the index section in great detail for a complete list of relevant titles.

### **[Books In Print Global Edition \(BIP\)](#)** (accessed 8/20/17)

Produced by Bowker, a ProQuest affiliate, this database provides information about in-print, out-of-print and forthcoming books and multimedia titles published in U.S., Canada, Europe and Australia. BIP describes its subject coverage as in “LC style but less specific”. The subject categories include Bowker subjects, general subjects which include BIC subjects (Book Industry Communication), BISAC subjects (Book Industry Standards and Communication), Thorpe (created by Bowker for Australian users in mind) and Sears. In addition to above listed subject categories, the database offers searching all subjects, and keyword in subject. Available refinements include markets, format, author, status (ex., in-print , out of print), availability (ex., available for order, hard to find), price, publication date, as well as audience, Lexile measures, media mention, age range, LC class, and Dewey range.

As the database does not provide its own thesaurus or a list of subject terms, a search for keyword “studies” as either BIC, BISAC, or Sears subject, gives one some idea of area studies coverage. Among the BIC subjects listed one finds Black & Asian studies, communication studies, development studies, ethnic studies, gender studies, Jewish studies, literary studies, media studies, and regional studies. The BISAC results show: African American studies, Black studies, children’s studies, communication studies, ethnic studies, indigenous studies, media studies, Native American studies, regional studies, and women’s studies.

With regard to searching Sears subjects, one finds references to women, gender role, minorities, etc., but none of these terms are identified as “studies” categories, and therefore searching “women studies” as Sears Subject returns zero results. Best results are obtained by simply searching “area studies” as a subject.

The Australian-centric Thorpe subjects, created by Bowker Australia office (email with Stacey Volanto, ProQuest’s Product Manager June 5, 2014) lead to Australian indigenous studies, Australian studies, Maori studies, pacific studies subjects, and include the more common categories such as women’s, Asian, gender and cultural studies.

Since BIP does not use the “interdisciplinary studies” as a subject heading, it is best to search it with Search All command. Similarly, selecting the Search All when searching “area studies”, produces most exact results. Overall, U.S. academic libraries will most likely benefit from limiting the search to either or both BIC and BISAC categories.

### **Choice Reviews** (accessed 8/20/17)

The recently re-designed online version from Choice “the publishing branch of the Association of College & Research Libraries, a division of the American Library Association” offers access to “600 reviews every month, identifying the best new books and digital content in academia.”

The database provides three search options: Reviews, Quick Search and Advanced Search. The Reviews search points a user to four major subject categories: Humanities, Reference, Science & Technology, and Social & Behavioral Sciences. To search in this area, one needs to start by pre-selecting one of these categories and follow search paths offered by the database. For example under Social & Behavioral Sciences, user is directed to “History, Geography and Area Studies” category which is further subdivided by geographical area, ex., Africa, Middle East & North Africa, Western Europe or North America. Even though this section leads one to many of the titles one finds when searching directly via the database’s Interdisciplinary Subjects link, Choice Reviews does not provide any information as to why this grouping of “area studies” is listed separately.

The Quick Search offers immediate access to such categories as “Reference Titles”, “Outstanding Academic Titles”, “Essential Works”, “Community College Recommended”, and “Interdisciplinary Subjects”. The Interdisciplinary Subjects option brings one to a “Review Search Results” page which includes results for all of the following: African and African American studies, Asian and Asian American studies, Canadian studies, classical studies, environmental studies, food and agriculture, Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender studies, Islamic studies, Latin American and Latina/o studies, law and society, Middle Eastern studies,

Native American studies, urban studies, and women's & gender studies.

One can eliminate any of the categories from the search by deselecting each one individually. However, clicking on Clearing Results, does not bring one back to the interdisciplinary categories, instead it takes one into all the reviews offered by the database. The database does not provide an explanation for the "interdisciplinary studies" selections and though majority of the categories included are standard categories used by many databases, the following two categories "food and agriculture" and "law and society" seem to be unusual choices for area studies. Similarly, the exclusion of such frequently encountered area studies as American studies, Holocaust studies, Jewish studies, and Slavic studies from the interdisciplinary list of subjects is surprising.

The Advanced Search label is not listed on the database's page but the Help screen identifies it as part of a "drop-down arrow next to the Search box", and it includes useful suggestions on how to do a better search. This search option allows one to search for a specific area of interest to subject bibliographers. Clicking on the drop down arrow results in a display of a fill in screen which allows one to search with exact bibliographic information such as title, author, publisher, LC class or utilize a Search All Fields with either "all the words", "with the exact phrase", "with at least one of the words", or "without the words". It is interesting to note that a search for either Slavic studies or Jewish studies via a Search box or as an exact phrase in Advanced Search, yields same results. Therefore, the Search box on the main screen offers an easy option for bibliographers interested in quickly identifying titles with a specific area study category.

### [RCL Resources for College Libraries](#) (accessed 8/20/17)

Based on a partnership with ACRL's Choice and ProQuest, RCL markets itself as the "the essential bibliography for four-year undergraduate institutions". It provides an excellent description of the covered "area studies" subjects, but considering its mission statement, it is surprising that it fails to include some that are commonly seen in college course catalogs. The list of included subjects includes African American studies, American studies, Asian American studies, Environmental studies, Film studies, Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgendered studies, Gender studies, Latino studies, Medieval studies, Native American studies, Renaissance studies, Urban studies, and Victorian studies. Among the omitted subjects are Jewish studies, Middle Eastern studies, and Slavic and East European studies.

Subject searching can be done via a Basic, Browse, or Advanced Search. Though results obtained via Basic or Browse are similar, the Browse option is well organized and easy to follow. Browse tab from the main page leads one to a page displaying RCL's subjects including the area studies identified above. The user can focus on one or multiple subjects and select additional subheadings via a very a useful "Expand Selected" tab.

An Advanced Search option is available via the homepage's search box. This option allows one to narrow the subject search to keyword in subject, subject all, BIC, BISAC, or Sears.

The search results can be further refined by format, author, availability, price, publication date, publisher, media & opinion, audience, awards, subjects, series title, LC or Dewey class range, and related keywords. One can easily return to the original result list by deselecting any of the

refinements. Though the result list could benefit from an inclusion of the exact search query string, it offers other helpful information for its titles such as overview (a detailed bibliographic information), table of contents, annotations (a summary of the book), professional reviews (the most common being a copy of Choice Review), author biography, and publisher information. A bit more puzzling is the inclusion of a prominently displayed “Compare and Buy” tab which leads one to a price comparison table for new and used copies from various sellers including Amazon, B&N, AbeBooks, Alibris, etc.

RCL site includes brief tutorials, and though some need revisions to reflect the implemented screen changes, they will be of benefit to librarians new to this source.

## **Subject Specific Databases**

Among the vast number of commercially produced databases, the following subject specific databases with current coverage were selected for the analysis of their treatment of the specific area studies: ATLA Religion Database, Diversity Studies Collection, Gender Studies Collection, Ethnic Newswatch, HAPI Online, Education Source, LGBT Life with Full Text, and RAMBI. The bibliographers interested in examining African American studies databases, should consult Pillow’s (2005) detailed coverage of this subject.

### **[ATLA Religion Database](#)** (accessed 8/20/17)

Produced by the American Theological Library Association, this EBSCOHost database is described as a “definitive index for religious and theological literature”.

Similar to other EBSCOHost databases, it offers a Thesaurus search, as well as a Basic and Advanced search. A thesaurus search takes one to a “Browsing: ATLA - Subject Thesaurus” screen. A search for a term “area studies “ as “term begins” or “term contains”, leads one to an explanatory note informing the user that it is used for “area research” or “foreign area studies”, and executing the search produces very limited results. Much more successful is searching for “studies” with a limit of “term contains” which retrieves the following subjects: African American studies, Arabic studies, Byzantine studies, Chinese studies, Coptic studies, Cross-cultural studies, Ethnic studies, Gay and lesbian studies, Middle East studies, Syriac studies, and Slavic studies. It is not clear why some other area studies terms such as Afro-Asian studies, or Women's studies, are referenced with Use: Asia -- Study or Use: Women – Study. Similarly, it is also unclear as to why the thesaurus directs a user interested in “Judaic studies” to using the term “Jewish literature”.

An Advanced search with “studies” as a phrase in subject, generates too many results, and using the terms identified in the thesaurus lead to better results. The search results can be further refined by selecting a date, source type, publication, publisher, and language.

The database would benefit from a review of discrepancies noted above and it should also focus on making EBSCOHost Help screens’ information about the thesaurus more useful.

### **[Diversity Studies Collection](#)** (accessed 8/20/17)

“Discover an essential set of scholarly journals and cultural interest titles” is how the publisher, Gale Cengage Learning, describes this database. The database offers multiple access points. The “Search” option, prominently displayed on the main screen, defaults to Basic Search but one can change to “Subject, Publication, or Entire Document”. This screen also provides access to Subject Guide Search, Publication Search, Topic Finder, Top Searches, and the Advanced Search.

According to the publisher, the Subject Guide “is like a thesaurus for finding the right search terms, especially when starting your research.” Searching for “area studies” in the Subject Guide results in limited number of hits, but results are exponentially increased by using the Related Subjects terms supplied by the database. Retrieved terms are listed alphabetically, and narrow and related terms are included. This is especially helpful for the area studies bibliographers who are not familiar with specific discipline.

The Topic Finder is an interesting visualization of the topics within this database and Gale publisher recommends using “the Topic Finder to discover the context of your search term and uncover hidden connections”. The Help function accompanying this feature is quite detailed and helpful. A subject search within the Topic Finder provides the user with two ways – wheel or tiles - to see “which words and subjects are found most often in the text of your search results”.

The Help screen is available via “More” link. It provides a detailed information on what each search option offers and how to do it best. This is especially useful since the link to “About Diversity Studies Collection” at the bottom of the main page, leads one to Periodicals on InfoTrac’s page.

Since the list of Top Searches categories which includes Harlem renaissance, Hispanic heritage, Sigmund Freud, women rights, and workplace diversity has not changed in the recent months, the database should offer information on how top searches are generated.

### [Gender Studies Collection](#) (accessed 8/20/17)

Produced by Gale Cengage Learning , the architecture of this database is almost identical to the GALE’s Diversity Studies Collection . It describes itself as a “comprehensive periodical collection supporting significant aspects of gender in culture and society”.

There are numerous ways of searching this database. The Search tab leads one to the Basic search with an option to limit the search to a subject, publication or entire document. Advanced search screen provides such standard search features as ability to limit the search to very specific fields, ex. Author, abstract, brand name, etc. Additionally, it contains two tabs, the Subject Guide Search, and the Publication Search. The Subject Guide Search is very helpful in guiding user to a list of subject terms including narrow subdivisions and related subjects. Retrieved results can be further refined by secondary subjects identified by database.

The multiple spot-checks of the database’s Top Searches feature carried out over the last few months produced the same subject categories: gender identity, masculinity, privacy, same sex marriage, and women studies. Obviously, the issues with Top Searches results here are similar to those affecting the Diversity Studies Collection, and need to be addressed.

### [Ethnic NewsWatch](#) (accessed 8/20/17)

According to ProQuest's informational description, this database "is the only current database devoted to presenting multi-ethnic and multi-cultural publications in one resource. Coverage begins in 1990 and is updated daily with new content".

The information in the About tab states that this database "comprehensively covers these ethnic categories: African American/Caribbean/African, Arab/Middle Eastern, Asian/Pacific Islander, European/Eastern European, Hispanic, Jewish, Native People".

A search for a specific ethnic group in Advanced Search is an easy way to locate information. In addition to the traditional limiters such as document type, date range, language, etc., it's "Modify search" feature allows to refine a search by an ethnic group and one can do so by selecting "all" or by limiting the search to a specific ethnic group.

Access to the Thesaurus is from the Advanced search screen. A search in the Thesaurus for "area studies" yields zero results but a simple search for a term "studies", results in a lengthy list which includes the following: African American studies, African studies, American studies, Asian studies, Baltic studies, Bible studies, Biblical studies, Black studies, Canadian studies, Caribbean studies, Cinema studies, Classical studies, Comparative studies, Consumer & family studies, Cross cultural studies, East European studies, Ecosystem studies, Environmental studies, Ethnic studies, European studies, Film studies, Hispanic American studies, Holocaust studies, Individual & family studies, Latin American studies, LGBTQ studies, Middle Eastern studies, Military studies, Museum studies, Native American studies, Native studies, Near Eastern studies, North African studies, Pacific Rim studies, Peace studies, Regional studies, Religious studies, Scandinavian studies, Slavic studies, and South Asian studies. Though this is an extensive list, it is unclear as to why Jewish studies is omitted from it. A Thesaurus search for "Jewish studies" with "contains all words", or "begins with" directs one to use "Judaic studies", but this subject term is also omitted from this list. An explanation as to why it is included in the About tab and excluded from the list produced with a thesaurus search, would be useful.

The Help feature is well developed but it is focused on assisting the user with general ProQuest features rather than those unique to the specific database, and even though it offers a section labeled "Database specific field codes", it does not cover this specific database.

### [Education Source](#) (searched 08/20/17)

According to EBSCO the database producer, Education Source is "designed to meet the needs of education students, professionals and policy makers". Though it is not "area study" specific, it's coverage of the field of education, is the reason for including it in this analysis.

The database's coverage of the area studies subject can be easily viewed via the use of its Thesaurus. Searching for "area studies" with "term begins with", provides a clear information of the database's coverage: "Here are entered general works on area studies, and with local subdivision, works on area studies carried out in specific places. Works on area studies about a particular region, country, etc. are entered under the name of the region, country, etc. subdivided by -- Study & teaching or -- Research". The narrower terms listed are as follows: Caribbean studies, European studies, Indian Ocean studies, Latin American studies, Mediterranean studies

and Pacific studies. A Thesaurus search for term contains “ studies” , offers these additional “area studies” related terms: Asian American studies , cultural studies , developmental studies, disability studies, ethnic studies, gay & lesbian studies, gender studies, genre studies, global studies, Jewish studies, men’s studies, museum studies, popular culture studies , urban studies , and women’s studies.

In addition to the standard refinement features, language, publication type and date, both Basic and Advance searches offer additional faceted search options aimed at producing focused search results.

### **[Hispanic American Periodicals Index \(HAPI\)](#)** (accessed 8/20/17)

Based on the database’s description, HAPI “provides complete bibliographic citations to the contents of scholarly journals published around the world on Latin America and the Caribbean since 1970”. Produced by UCLA’s Latin American Institute as a nonprofit, subscription based source it offers a Banner Search (HAPI’s version of basic, keyword search) and an Advanced Search option. The FAQ and Help screens are simple and easy to use.

A basic Banner Search for area studies, resulted in over 1100 hits, but enclosing the term with quotation marks, significantly reduced the number of retrieved results. The display of results via basic or advanced search provides full bibliographic information with an option to display keywords and subject headings. The refinement commands include standard limits such as language or publication date, and its geographic limiter allows the user to select only references to articles dealing with U.S. population of Hispanics and Latinos.

According to information provided by HAPI, the database’s subjects are based on the subject headings developed by the Library of Congress. HAPI does not offer a direct access to subject terms via a thesaurus but an Advanced Search, though not intuitive, offers users to view HAPI’s subject headings via the “Browse subjects” option. Browsing HAPI subject headings for the term area studies, produced zero results, but searching only for the word “studies”, resulted in a useful list of the following related terms: Brazilian studies, Caribbean studies, Cultural studies, Latin American studies, Latino studies, and Mexican American studies. However, looking at the individual citations, one notices that some terms such as Chicano studies, border studies, ethnic studies or transatlantic studies are listed as keywords rather than subjects. Therefore, for best results it is useful to search for subjects and keywords.

### **[LGBT Life with Full Text](#)** (accessed 8/20/17)

Produced by EBSCO, the database provides access to scholarly and popular LGBT sources. In addition to periodical literature, it also includes access to over 150 full text monographs.

The database offers easy access to literature via the Basic and Advanced Search with or without Boolean Search operators. A detailed thesaurus allows one to see the extent of indexing terms related to this field. A thesaurus search for Term Contains “studies” , identifies the following subject terms : gay & lesbian studies , women's studies , men's studies , gender studies , sexual orientation -- cross-cultural studies , and queer theory .

The database includes a list of indexed publications, and allows for a “cited reference “search.

The refining commands in this database are similar to those in other EBSCO products, and they include ability to limit by publication date (back to 1950's), source type, thesaurus term, publication, publisher, company, language, geographic location and industry.

**[RAMBI - The Index of Articles on Jewish Studies](#)** (accessed 8/20/17)

According to the information supplied by the database, RAMBI is “a selective bibliography of academic articles covering all of the fields of Jewish studies”.

RAMBI offers a bilingual search option of English and Hebrew languages. The search system has been recently revised but new and old version continue to be available. A note on the website informs the user that “Rambi is currently converting its subject index to conform with that of the National Library and the Library of Congress (LCSH)”.

The Basic and Advanced search options are available but unfortunately the database does not offer a thesaurus search. A subject search for ‘area studies’ produced zero results, but searching it as keyword was more successful. A search for the phrase “Jewish studies” as keyword, resulted in over 7,000 hits, though many of them were references to citations to a journal title Jewish Studies. Limiting the searches to specific subject terms related to this discipline, i.e., antisemitism or holocaust, is recommended since it leads to better results.

**[Urban Studies Abstracts](#)** (accessed 8/20/17)

Produced by EBSCO, this database “includes bibliographic records covering essential areas related to urban studies, including urban affairs, community development, urban history, and other areas of key relevance to the discipline”.

The database does not offer subject terms or thesaurus tabs but it does have an “Indexes” tab which can assist with identifying subject terms. Though the database is focused on a very specific type of area studies, i.e., urban studies, it actually uses the term “area studies” as a subject. A phrase search “area studies” as keyword, increases results somewhat as it also includes this term as a keyword used by the author. Similar to other EBSCO databases, one can refine the results by source type, publication date, publisher, etc. The contents of retrieved citations include full bibliographic information, abstract, subject terms and the author supplied keywords.

## **Multidisciplinary Databases**

In general, the multidisciplinary databases are not of significant importance to collection development bibliographers but as such databases are widely used by college students, the subject bibliographers should review these for the coverage of specific area studies subjects.

**[Academic Search Complete](#)** (accessed 8/20/17)

According to EBSCO, this database is “designed specifically for academic institutions, (and) is the world's most valuable and comprehensive scholarly, multi-disciplinary full-text database”.

To identify the relevant search terms, one can use the database's tab Subject Terms or Browse and Index via the More tab. The Subject Terms tab brings one to Browsing: Academic Search Complete -- Subject Terms" screen. One can limit browsing to "terms begins with", "term contains" and "relevancy ranked". Browsing for area studies as a "term begins with", produces the following subjects: area studies , area studies libraries, area studies libraries – acquisitions, area studies libraries - officials & employees, and two "see" references : "area studies libraries – collection development use collection development in area studies libraries, and area studies specialists use area specialists". The scope notes, as well as narrower and related terms are useful features of this section. The listed narrower terms were : Caribbean studies, European studies, Indian Ocean studies, Latin American studies, Mediterranean studies, and Pacific studies, and Area studies libraries was the related term.

A search for term contains " studies", yields many more non-geographic subject categories, including cultural studies, disability studies, gay & lesbian studies, gender studies, global studies, Jewish studies, media studies, men's studies, museum studies, popular culture studies, urban studies, and women's studies.

It is not clear why the results are different if a search is executed via the use of database's Subject Terms tab vs. an Advanced Search subject term field, and unfortunately the help screen does not provide any assistance in explaining the discrepancy.

#### **Expanded Academic ASAP** (accessed 8/20/17)

Produced by GALE Cengage Learning, the database describes itself as "one of Gale's premiere resources for research across academic disciplines, offering in-depth coverage of virtually any concentration".

Similar to other GALE products described in this article, this database offers multiple access points: Topic Finder, Basic Search, Subject Guide Search, and Advanced Search. The Subject Guide Search allows one to see the database's subject terms with subdivisions and related terms. The search for "area studies" in Subject Guide Search offers over 100 citations and provides a detailed breakdown of numerous subdivisions with "analysis" and "forecast and trends" yielding most results. The Related subjects lead one to narrower and related terms. Among the narrower terms listed are American studies, Asian studies, Canadian studies, Latin American studies, Middle Eastern studies, and Russian studies. Among the related terms one finds area specialists, ethnic studies and interdisciplinary approach. Each of these terms can also be expanded to other "related terms", and for example American studies leads one to Asian American studies.

Since the database treats "area studies" primarily as a geographically related term, expanding the search to "studies", retrieves information about other area study related subjects. Though the results are extremely broad, they include an alphabetical list of familiar area study subjects such as, Black studies, Hispanic studies, cultural studies, gay and lesbian studies, Jewish studies, men's studies, and women's studies. Each term offers narrower and related terms, and results can be further refined by format, date, etc.

## **Serials: Journals, Magazines, Newspapers**

The databases discussed herein lead users to periodical literature but bibliographers specializing in area studies must also be able to identify appropriate periodicals for their collections. Some of the serial sources which can assist librarians with building and evaluating area studies periodical collections are analyzed below.

### **SAGE Journals** (accessed 8/20/17)

SAGE describes itself as “the world’s 5<sup>th</sup> largest journal publisher”. The database’s subject access is via “Discipline” links on the main page. A tab for “Discipline” at the top of the page, points the user to the three very broad disciplines including Social Sciences & Humanities, which leads one to journals in the following “area studies” : area & ethnic studies (including South Asia studies, Asian studies, African studies, Black studies ,South East Asian studies , Chinese studies , Irish studies, Latin American studies, and migration studies) , communication & media studies, cultural studies, economic & development studies, family studies, gender & sexuality studies, vocational & professional studies. Another choice is a link to subjects within the prominently displayed “Discipline” box. Here one finds some of the same, but it lacks family studies and instead includes the religion, theology and biblical studies.

An alphabetical list of SAGE journals for each of the “area” subjects is included and one can browse current issue or search previous issues. For each journal title, it offers a list of most cited and most read articles.

It should be noted that this source’s subject categories vary over periods of time since only a few months ago, the area & ethnic studies subjects listed under “Discipline” included currently absent ones such as group studies, management & organization studies, peace studies & conflict resolution, regional studies, science & society studies, and urban studies & planning.

This product could benefit from providing information regarding its subject classification. It is not clear how subject selection is done and why subject categories change within short periods of time.

### **The Serials Directory** (accessed 8/20/17)

According to publisher’s description,” The Serials Directory™ provides access to the most up-to-date and accurate bibliographic information for popular serials.” Utilizing the Indexes tab, and browsing area studies as subject, produces zero results. A search for via “area studies” as a phrase in Basic or Advanced search, yields same limited results.

A search for a specific type of area studies is best as a keyword search. A search for “women’s studies” as subject produced zero results but searching as a keyword yielded over 600 hits. One can then refine the search to subject and the Serials Directory subject used for this search is “women’s interests”.

The results can further be refined by a variety of options, such as broad subject, type of publication, language, date, country of publication, publisher, active titles, etc. Retrieved results

include detailed information about the publication as well as description of the publication, where it is indexed, frequency information, and LC and DDC classification number.

### **Ulrichsweb - Global Serials Directory** (accessed 8/20/17)

Based on the publisher's description, "Ulrichsweb is an easy to search source of detailed information on more than 300,000 periodicals (also called serials) of all types: academic and scholarly journals, e-journals, peer-reviewed titles, popular magazines, newspapers, (and) newsletters".

Advanced search for keywords area studies produced a massive number of results –over 15,000 – so limiting this pool of results becomes a priority. This list can be narrowed by using the following "key features": abstracted or indexed, website URL, available online, refereed / peer-reviewed, Copyright Clearance Center (CCC), table of contents, electronic-only, Magazines for Libraries review, Journal Citation Reports, RSS availability, or open access.

The database claims to cover "more than 900 subject areas" and the Advanced search allows one to limit a search to a "subject area". It mostly includes broad subject categories such as business and economics, philosophy and religion, education, but one of them, the "ethnic studies, gender, and lifestyle", is specifically related to area studies. For all other "area studies" related sources one needs to search for the specific subject such as women's studies, Middle Eastern studies, etc. Results can be filtered by serial type, format, content type, publication status, publishers, online providers, and edition types. One can also impose needed filters prior to executing an Advanced Search. This method allows to place all of the available filters at the start of a search, and this is especially useful when there is a need to limit by language or place of publication.

## **Audiovisual Sources**

The library support of academic curricular needs necessitates access to audiovisual sources. Two databases offering online access to audiovisual materials were reviewed for area studies coverage: Academic Video Online and Kanopy.

### **Academic Video Online** (accessed 8/20/17)

Produced by Alexander Street, a ProQuest company, Academic Video Online offers access to video collection. According to the site's promotional material, it "includes every kind of video material available with curricular relevance: documentaries, interviews, performances, news programs and newsreels, field recordings, commercials, and raw footage".

An easy access to producers of included sources is via the Browse All command which takes one to a Browse Publishers screen. An Advanced Search link takes one to an "Advanced Search: All Disciplines/Multidisciplinary" search page. A search for area studies subjects can be done in a variety of ways. A "Diversity" facet takes one to Asian studies, Black studies, LGBT studies and women's studies. The search screen associated with this facet allows one to search the following subjects: disability studies, Middle Eastern studies, and North American Indian studies. Additionally, a Social Sciences facet identifies these: environmental studies, human

rights studies, and media studies. Though the area studies subjects retrieved this way are limited, one can expand the search for other area studies by using a Topic/Theme search which offers an alphabetical listing of search terms.

Any search can be refined by a variety of fields including author, title, subject, contributor, publisher, format, language, discipline, and date. Retrieved results provide useful links to actual sources and “See Details” takes one to a description, bibliographic information and for some sources full text/transcripts of the source.

[Kanopy](#) (accessed 8/20/17)

Originally produced by an Australian company, Kanopy offers “more than 26,000 films to over 3,000 higher education campuses worldwide”. Access to streaming videos in various categories is via a Search box on the main page or by pointing to Subject and selecting a general category. Clicking on Subjects allows one to “Browse by Subject” and under available categories, one can focus on specific “area studies” subjects so for example, under Global Studies & Languages, one finds African studies, Asian studies, Australian studies, European/Baltic studies, German studies, Indigenous studies, Latin American studies, Middle Eastern studies, North American studies, and under Social Sciences one finds additional categories: gender studies, Jewish studies, and race & class studies.

An alternative approach via a keyword search takes the user to a page with additional search options including links to subjects, formats, etc. The results can be sorted by choices listed under “Most Relevant”, which include most popular, or title a-z, and they can also be filtered by filmmakers, suppliers, languages, date, etc.

Kanopy should consider assisting users by including a ‘help’ screen with explanatory information about available search options.

## **Associations**

### **Library Groups and Chapters**

Among the aims of professional associations’ chapters, sections, or councils is to provide support for its members in advancing the common interests. Such groups organize meetings, conferences, promote specific publications, offer book and scholarship awards and at times create and provide access to subject specific resources. The list below provides a brief description of each group’s objectives and wherever possible, it identifies specific resource of use to the area studies collection development librarians.

#### [African American Studies Librarians Section \(AFAS\)](#)

As part of the ACRL, a division of American Library Association, this interest group’s mission is to provide “the resources—ideas, programs, discussion forums and networking opportunities—to support the development of African American Studies librarianship and resources in academic and research libraries”.

#### [Africana Librarians Council \(ALC\)](#)

ACL, part of African Studies Association (ASA), was founded in 1957 and currently it serves

librarians with interest in “preservation of or access to Africana”. ALC offers a bi-annual Conover-Porter Award for Africana Bibliography or Reference Work and a list of previously awarded titles is provided on ALC’s site.

#### [APALA Asian Pacific American Librarians Association](#)

Created to “address the needs of Asian Pacific American librarians and those who serve Asian Pacific American communities”, it offers an award for literature about Asian/Pacific Americans, and includes a list of [Literature Awards Winners](#).

#### [Asian, African and Middle Eastern Section \(AAMES\)](#)

Another section of the ACRL, it “represents librarians and specialists in the fields of Asian, African, and Middle Eastern area studies” and offers networking opportunities for librarians with similar subject responsibilities. Information on the section’s site includes a list of related library chapters.

#### [Association of Christian Librarians \(ACL\)](#)

Aimed primarily at evangelical Christian librarians, the association produces Christian Periodicals Index and a link to [Virtual Theological Library Project](#) leads one to many sources in the area of religious area studies.

#### [Association of Jewish Libraries \(AJL\)](#)

One of the goals of this international association, established in 1966, is the recognition and support of Judaica librarianship. AJL offers various book awards including the Judaica Reference & Bibliography Awards for academic scholarship and includes a [list](#) of winning titles going back to 1984.

#### [Black Caucus of the American Library Association \(BCALA\)](#)

Aimed at developing and improving library services and resources to the African American community. It offers book awards for fiction and nonfiction by African American authors and a list of winning books is included.

#### [Committee on Research Materials on Southeast Asia \(CORMOSEA\)](#)

As part of the Association for Asian Studies (AAS), one of its goals is to make the Southeast Asia research materials available to Southeast Asia scholars. The site offers links to Asian studies reference materials, and to digital and archival collections at various libraries.

#### [Committee on South Asian Libraries and Documentation \(CONSALD\)](#)

CONSALD’s interest is in the “development of North American library resources on South Asia”. Though the website is no longer updated, some of the links posted on this site, ex. regional library consortia, might be helpful to area studies librarians.

#### [Committee on Libraries and Information Resources \(CLIR\)](#)

Comprised of “scholars and librarians in the fields of Slavic, East European, and Eurasian studies”, CLIR is involved in collection development, copyright, and related issues.

#### [Council on East Asian Libraries \(CEAL\)](#)

Under the umbrella of the Association for Asian Studies (AAS), CEAL is an organization for East Asian librarians in North America. It is comprised of committees focusing on Chinese, Japanese and Korean materials. The site includes a detailed list of East Asian Library Websites

in North America.

[Council for Slavonic and East European Library and Information Services – COSEELIS](#)

Based on its description, it represents “the interests of UK libraries and other information organisations offering services in the field of Slavonic and East European studies”. The group sponsors conferences, and includes relevant news items.

[Ethnic and Multicultural Information Exchange Round Table \(EMIERT\)](#)

EMIE is an ALA roundtable and one of its mission is “to serve as a source of information on recommended ethnic collections, services, and programs”. Among the diversity and multiculturalism resources listed on the site are bibliographies, blogs, book awards, and book collections.

[Middle East Librarians’ Association \(MELA\)](#)

Aimed at Middle East area studies librarians, its goal is “to improve the quality of area librarianship through the development of standards for the profession and education of Middle East library specialists”. The site includes useful links to such resources as Arabic and Persian Romanization tables.

[MELCom International](#)

Describes itself as the European Association of Middle East Librarians, it broke off from the MELCOM (UK) and established its own constitution in the early 1990s. Its interest is in “all aspects of (Middle East) librarianship, book collecting, the book trade and publishing”.

[MELCOM \(UK\)](#)

Originally formed in the 1960’s as the Middle East Libraries Committee, it concentrates on collecting and organizing library material dealing with Middle East. It offers information about available publications, and a detailed description of the acquisition policy.

[National Committee for Information Resources on Asia NACIRA](#)

Established in 2008, it aims to “provide a general forum for librarians, archivists and researchers involved in the collection, development and use of library resources and services for Asian and Middle Eastern studies”. Among the useful links are links to “Regional Library Group Home Pages”.

[SALALM Seminar on the Acquisition of Latin American Library Materials](#)

Founded in the late 1950s, its focus is on “Latin Americana and Caribbeana” library collections and services. The website offers very useful information related to this area study.

[SCOLMA](#)

According to the site’s description, “SCOLMA is the UK Libraries and Archives Group on Africa” and its main objective is to “to provide the best possible service for academics, students and other researchers working in African studies”. The site lists useful links to African Studies resources such as information about Africa on the web, library catalogues and professional associations.

[Slavic and East European Section \(SEES\)](#)

Based on the site’s information, the section’s history goes back to 1963, making it “one of the oldest sections of the Association of College and Research Libraries, a division of the American

Library Association”. SEES represents librarians and specialists in the fields of Slavic and Eastern European studies but this might change soon since according to the note posted on the site, “as of September 1, 2017 SEES will merge with the Western European Studies Section of ACRL (WESS) to form the new European Studies Section (ESS)”. The resources currently available on the site – cataloging manual, newsletter about various libraries and activities – are aimed at supporting and assisting SEES librarians.

#### [Special Libraries Association: Asian Chapter](#)

Among the detailed statements listed in the group’s mission statement, one notes the following goal: to “provide guidance, guidelines and professional support to librarians on topics of interest and importance to the profession”. The chapter and its site aim at providing contact and a networking opportunity for librarians with “Asian studies” responsibilities.

#### [WESLINE](#)

With the acronym for West European Studies Library and Information Network, it describes itself as “ an umbrella group created to enable collaboration between the individual Library Groups for West European Languages and to facilitate the dissemination of information and discussion of issues in West European studies in the UK “. The site offers information about the various groups as well as information about the conferences, meetings, etc.

#### [Western European Studies Section \(WESS\)](#)

WESS is a section of the ACRL, established in the 1970’s. The group aims “to promote the improvement of library services supporting study and research in Western European affairs from ancient times to the present”. The WESS covers the following subject areas: British Studies (England, Scotland and Wales), Classics Studies, Dutch Studies, French Studies, German Studies, Iberian Studies (Spain and Portugal), Irish Studies, Italian Studies, Medieval and Renaissance Studies, Scandinavian Studies. WESS provides links to useful library resources, and various subject oriented sites, ex., culture, history, cinema, etc. This section might eventually be combined with SEES in order to conform with ALA’s requirements on section size.

#### [Women and Gender Studies Section \(WGSS\)](#)

A section of the ACRL, it was formed to “discuss, promote, and support women's studies collections and services in academic and research libraries”. It offers useful links to women and gender studies collections. The listed sources include links to collection development resources, books and journals, publishers, digital archives, and subject specific web sites.

### **Academic Associations**

Academic associations utilize variety of activities including conferences, grants, and awards to promote their areas of interest. Identifying and tracking activities of area specific associations offers an opportunity to subject librarians to learn about research trends, forthcoming publications, and changes in academic interests. An analysis of the Associations Unlimited database and a list of academic organizations provided below will assist area studies librarians with identifying relevant associations.

[Associations Unlimited](#) (accessed 8/20/17)

This standard tool for researching associations is produced by Gale Cengage Learning and is defined by the company as a “premier source for information on associations and professional societies”. Based on the directory’s description, it covers 125,000 U.S. national, regional, state, and local associations and 27,000 international associations. It offers three types of searching: simple, custom and expert. Within the simple search, one can search by association name or acronym, by location, and by subject or keyword in subject. The custom and expert search is the database’s version of advanced search. The custom search allows one to search multiple fields simultaneously, and if using an expert search, the user can design a search strategy to focus on certain criteria. The database offers a detailed “help” screen which can easily assist users.

In identifying “area studies” associations, the keywords “studies” and “academic” were used. Additional results were obtained by searching for particular terms of studies as “free text”: African and educational, Asian and educational, Black studies, cultural studies, ethnic studies, gender studies, gay studies, gay/lesbian, Jewish, media studies, religious, Slavic, and women’s studies.

The websites of all the associations listed in the directory with “studies” content were reviewed and selected for inclusion in the alphabetical list below. The usefulness of the content for area studies librarians varies but majority of listings include such information as suggested resources, book awards with a list of awarded books, suggested bibliographies and syllabi, as well as associations’ lectures, grants, blogs, publications, and upcoming conferences. Wherever possible such information is noted and even though some of the websites lacked this type of information, the associations’ names were included for reference purposes.

[African & Diasporic Religious Studies Association \(ARDSA\)](#)

Aiming at promoting scholarly communication, ARDSA website does not currently offer links to particular resources, but it does include a section on news and it might become more useful with time.

[African Studies Association \(ASA\)](#)

Presents a prize for best book on East African Studies and the site includes information about related awards as well as a list of previously awarded books.

[American Association for Chinese Studies \(AACCS\)](#)

Offers an extensive list of links to conference presentations.

[American Association for Italian Studies](#)

Includes a list of book prizes.

[AATSEEL \(American Association of Teachers of Slavic and East European Languages\)](#)

With its roots going back to 1941, AATSEEL’s interest is in languages, literatures and cultures. The association offers book prizes and provides an extensive list of previously awarded books.

[American Institute for Contemporary German Studies](#)

Includes various publications, blogs and videos related to German Studies.

[American Institute of Indian Studies](#)

Awards a book prize for unpublished book manuscript, and includes a detailed biographical

information about the authors.

[American Institute of Pakistan Studies \(AIPS\)](#)

Includes news updates and a list of ‘facts and figures’ about Pakistan.

[American Men's Studies Association \(AMSA\)](#)

Provides extensive links to online resources and to periodical titles related to the “study of men and masculinities”.

[American Society for Ethnohistory](#)

With the mission of creating an “inclusive picture of the histories of native groups in the Americas”, the organization provides the Erminie Wheeler-Voegeln Award for a best book on ethnohistory.

[American Studies Association](#)

ASA’s publications Encyclopedia of American Studies and the journal American Quarterly, will be of potential interest to area studies librarians. The ASA offers a John Hope Franklin Publication Prize for the best American Studies book. A list of winners is available on the site.

[Association for Asian American Studies \(AAAS\)](#)

AAAS promotes the “teaching and research in the field of Asian American Studies”. It includes a list of books awarded by the association.

[Association for Asian Studies \(AAS\)](#)

The site offers a list of publications on the subject of Asian Studies, and includes a list of AAS book prizes administered by the regional councils of the AAS.

[Association for Canadian Studies in the United States](#)

Includes primarily information for academics, but librarians might be interested in seeing various posted [course syllabi](#).

[Association for the Social Scientific Study of Jewry](#)

As “a cross-disciplinary organization of individuals whose research concerns the Jewish people throughout the world”, it offers a variety of links to organizations, archives and research centers.

[Association for Israel Studies](#)

It awards the Shapiro Prize for the best book in Israel Studies, and includes the list of winning books.

[Association for Jewish Studies \(AJS\)](#)

AJS “seeks to promote, maintain, and improve teaching and research in Jewish Studies”. Among the listed resources is a directory of programs in Jewish Studies.

[Association for Slavic, East European, and Eurasian Studies \(ASEEES\)](#)

Established in 1948 and previously known as American Association for the Advancement of Slavic Studies (AAASS), ASEEES awards a number of book prizes and a list of awarded books can be found under the programs tab, with external prizes listed under resources.

[Association for the Study of African American Life and History \(ASALH\)](#)

Established in 1915, its mission “is to create and disseminate knowledge about Black Life, History, History and Culture”. The list of awards can be found under the “About” tab.

[Association for the Study of Nationalities \(ASN\)](#)

This is “a scholarly association devoted to the promotion of knowledge and understanding of ethnicity, ethnic conflict, and nationalism studies broadly defined, with a particular geographic focus on Central, Eastern, and Southeastern Europe, Russia, Ukraine, the Caucasus, and Eurasia.” The website includes a list of books published by ASN and a list of awarded books.

[Association for the Study of the Middle East and Africa \(ASMEA\)](#)

Aimed at promoting research and teaching in Middle Eastern and African studies, it offers a links to publications and various resources related to this subject.

[Association for Women in Slavic Studies \(AWSS\)](#)

AWSS “sponsors research and teaching for scholars interested in women's and gender studies in Central/Eastern Europe, Russia, and Eurasia.” The site includes a list of awarded books since 2005, and links to related sources, including bibliographies and listservs.

[Association of African Studies Programs \(AASP\)](#)

AASP aims to promote and develop African studies in the U.S. and Africa. Similar to ASMEA, it offers a link to various African Studies resources.

[Association of American University Presses \(AAUP\)](#)

Comprised of more than 130 academic publishers, AAUP maintains a [list of awarded books](#) which were published by its members. Arranged by the name of the publisher, the list offers brief bibliographic information and includes links to “Browse notable books from this press”.

[Austrian Studies Association](#)

Offers links to resources dealing with Austria.

[Brazilian Studies Association \(BRASA\)](#)

According to its website, “BRASA is dedicated to the promotion of Brazilian studies around the world in general, and in the United States in particular”. It includes information about the most recent Roberto Reis BRASA Book Award titles.

[Center for Cuban Studies \(CCS\)](#)

Provides a list of recommended book titles.

[Center for LGBTQ Studies \(CLAGS\)](#)

According to its website this is the “first university-based LGBTQ research center in the United States”. It offers awards for fellowships, papers and manuscripts.

[Center for Migration Studies \(CMS\)](#)

Provides free access to some of the CMS’s books, articles and bibliographies.

[Communal Studies Association \(CSA\)](#)

Includes a list of awarded books about communal studies.

[Cultural Studies Association](#)

Offers information about conferences and working forums.

[Cyber Conflict Studies Association](#)

Its “Resources for Researchers” offers links to documents related to cyber conflict studies.

[Early Slavic Studies Association \(ESSA\)](#)

An affiliate of Association for Slavic, East European, & Eurasian Studies, it covers pre-18<sup>th</sup> century Slavic studies, and offers links to general resources.

### [GLAAD](#)

Aims to promote the acceptance for LGBTQ people, and it offers links to useful resources.

### [Hungarian Studies Association](#)

Includes a list of resources and titles of awarded books.

### [Institute for Palestine Studies \(IPS\)](#)

Offers access to IPS library, resources, and a variety of links to organizations and documents.

### [International Council on Korean Studies](#)

Includes useful links to a variety of Korean studies sites.

### [International Cultic Studies Association \(ICSA\)](#)

Offers extensive bibliography on the subject of cults with links to videos, FAQs, etc.

### [International Studies Association \(ISA\)](#)

Composed of many sub-sections centered on specific subjects dealing with international studies, it offers an extensive list detailing the awards and winning books.

### [Iroquois Studies Association \(ISA\)](#)

ISA provides “educational and cultural programs about American Indians”. It offers extensive links to internet resources.

### [Justice Studies Association \(JSA\)](#)

Dedicated to “all areas of criminal, social, transformative, and restorative justice”, it includes links to related links.

### [Latin American Studies Association](#)

Offers multiple book awards and includes a list of previously awarded books.

### [Middle East Studies Association \(MESA\)](#)

MESA is “a non-political association that fosters the study of the Middle East” and it offers two book awards.

### [Modern Greek Studies Association](#)

Aimed at promoting Modern Greek Studies in North America, it maintains an extensive resource portal and includes a list of awarded books.

### [National Association for Chicana and Chicano Studies \(NACCS\)](#)

Created in 1972, NACCS concentrates on “issues pertaining to Mexican Americans, Chicana/os, and Latina/os”. It offers a book award and cites current winner.

### [National Association for Ethnic Studies \(NAES\)](#)

This association’s focus is on the “national and international dimensions of race and ethnicity”. NAES has a named book award, but the site does not offer a list of winning books.

### [National Association of African American Studies](#)

Founded in 1992, NAAAS is comprised of multiple affiliates and it offers “information and support for research related to the African and African American, Hispanic, Latino(a) and Chicano(a), Native American and Asian experiences”. The following associations link to this site and offer information about conferences and related sources:

International Association of Asian Studies, an affiliate of NAAAS since in 1998

National Association of Hispanic and Latino Studies, an affiliate of NAAAS since in 1996

National Association of Native American Studies, an affiliate of NAAAS since in 1998.

#### [National Women's Studies Association](#)

Aimed at “promoting and supporting the production and dissemination of knowledge about women and gender through teaching, learning, research and service”. It includes useful documents, ex., “A National Census of Women's and Gender Studies Programs in U.S. Institutions of Higher Education” and a 2016 edition of the “Bibliography: Women's Centers in U.S. Higher Education”. It offers two book prizes and provides a list of past recipients for each.

#### [North American Association of Islamic and Muslim Studies \(NAAIMS\)](#)

Established in 1972, it sponsors conferences and lecture series.

#### [Peace and Justice Studies Association](#)

Provides a bibliography of books and articles as “teaching materials” on the subject of peace and conflict studies.

#### [Society for Italian Historical Studies](#)

With the main aim of promoting the study of Italian history and culture, the organization offers a Helen and Howard R. Marraro Prizes in Italian History for a book dealing with Italian history or Italian-American relations; a list of past recipients is included. Additional resources include descriptions and links to archives, libraries, organizations, and a variety of digital resources including journals, news media, research guides, and digital archives.

#### [Society for Medieval Feminist Scholarship \(SMFS\)](#)

SMFS “promotes the study of the Patristic Age, the Middle Ages, and the Early Modern era from the perspective of gender studies, women's studies, and feminist studies”. It maintains a bibliography of books which received the SMFS’s awards for “Best First Book of Feminist Scholarship on the Middle Ages”.

#### [Society for Romanian Studies](#)

With a main interest in cultural studies of Romania and Moldova, SRS awards a biannual book prize, and a list of awarded books is available on the site.

#### [Society for Utopian Studies \(SUS\)](#)

Established in 1975, SUS site provides a link to utopian studies resources.

#### [Syrian Studies Association](#)

Offers a prize for outstanding book on Syria, and includes a list of previously awarded books.

#### [World Association for Vedic Studies](#)

“It is a forum for all scholarly activities and views on any area of Vedic Studies variously called Indian Studies, South Asian Studies or Indology” and it includes a link to subject resources.

#### [World Association of International Studies](#)

In addition to a brief list of publications and reviews, it offers an extensive dictionary of idioms, synonyms, antonyms, and anecdotes in various languages.

### **Additional Associations**

A few relevant associations were omitted from the Associations Unlimited and for the purpose of providing a comprehensive coverage herein, they are listed below.

[Association for Israel Studies](#)

Includes a list of awards and resources.

[Association of Chinese Political Studies \(ACPS\)](#)

Provides a list of published books.

[Central and East European International Studies Association \(CEEISA\)](#)

Offers a link to association's publications.

[National Council for Black Studies \(NCBS\)](#)

The site includes a useful link to a 2015 document compiled by Robert Fikes, Jr., Librarian at San Diego State University: [What Can I Do With a Black Studies Major](#) .

[UACES, the Academic Association for Contemporary European Studies](#)

Previously known as the University Association of Contemporary European Studies, the UACES offers an annual Best Book Prize and includes a link to books awarded since 2005.

## **Book Awards**

The bibliographers new to the collection development responsibilities can benefit from familiarizing themselves with a vast variety of book awards within the specific area studies. Since the process of identifying the sources of such awards can be cumbersome, the following represent good starting points: websites of the academic associations with specific area studies focus as identified in previous section, American Library Association's (ALA) list of awards, and the Library and Book Trade Almanac's Distinguished Books list.

[ALA – Book Awards List](#) (searched 8/20/17)

The site is very well organized and offers an extensive list of book awards. The main page entitled as “Awards, Grants and Scholarships” offers various search options of which: ‘Book, Print and Media Awards’, and “Recommended Lists (Best of...)” leads one to additional information.

The “Book, Print and Media Awards” section is arranged alphabetically by name of award. The link for each award leads one to a page which describes the award and in many cases it includes information about the most recent awarded titles. The page also provides links for “Further Information” which offers additional links to a list of previous winners, or one can select a particular year.

The “Recommended Lists (Best of...)” leads one to a page labeled “ Award Name“ and it includes links to a much more limited list of names. Of special interest might be the following: Booklist's Top of the List, Booklist Editors' Choice: Adult Books, Booklist Editors' Choice: Reference Sources, Outstanding Reference Sources and Outstanding Academic Titles

## **Library and Book Trade Almanac**

Formerly known as The Bowker Annual, it is published by Information Today, Inc. The section entitled “Distinguished Books” (2017) contains a chapter on book awards which are

listed in alphabetic order. The almanac provides a brief description of every award, the authors' names and titles of winning books, but unfortunately it fails to include a subject access to awarded books. Since the process of identifying which books meet "area studies" subjects is time consuming, including this information in the almanac's subject index would be of great benefit to bibliographers.

## Conclusion

Historically, geographically based representation of area studies subjects, ex., Latin American, German or Russian area studies, has been a standard practice among academic institutions, but based on the current social and political trends which have been responsible for globalization of area studies, the policy of assigning such programs to specific regions is no longer viable. Similar view is expressed by Westbrook's study (2009) on area and interdisciplinary studies. She defines area studies as "a subset of interdisciplinary studies" and further notes that area studies "concentrate holistically on the culture, nature, concerns and problems of a particular geopolitical or cultural region thereby generating that essential integration of disciplines".

The academic institutions are responding to rising interests in interdisciplinary studies by restructuring its college offerings and departments, and therefore it is imperative for librarians with responsibilities for building library collections and providing needed information to address these needs as well. The collection development librarians must keep up with the expanding base of interdisciplinary subjects, and use a variety of bibliographic tools to create and build new collections. This paper's critical analysis of bibliographic tools, should prove to be of use to library professionals with responsibilities in a variety of area studies subjects, and the review of additional sources will assist the library professionals in quickly identifying useful sources of information.

In closing, the general discipline of area studies would benefit greatly from improved subject indexing by individual databases. It is recommended and hoped, that the study's documented search problems of inadequate and inconsistent subject indexing, will encourage database producers to review and implement some of the needed improvements. The revision of the women's studies heading, as seen in Classification Web, shows a progressive move and perhaps it will serve as a model for revision of other area studies related subjects in the future.

## References

- American Reference Books Annual*. (2016), Libraries Unlimited, Littleton, Colo., v. 47, p. xiii.
- The College Board Book of Majors*. (2017), College Board, New York, pp. 1, 69-89, 401-415, 1371-1374, 1387-1391.
- King, C. Judson. (2010), "The Multidisciplinary Imperative in Higher Education. Research & Occasional Paper Series". ERIC ED511967, available at: <https://eric.ed.gov/?id=ED511967>
- "Distinguished Books" (2017), in *Library and Book Trade Almanac*. 62nd ed., Information Today, Medford, NJ, pp.353-396.
- MacPherson, Kristina Ruth. (2015),"Decoding Area Studies and Interdisciplinary Majors:

Building a Framework for Entry-Level Students”, *College Teaching*, 63, 2: 40–45, available at: <http://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/87567555.2014.977215>

Pillow, Lisa. (2005) “African American Studies Databases” , in Drake, M.A. (Ed)*Encyclopedia of Library and Information Science*. 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. Taylor & Francis, Boca Raton, FL., pp. 45-52.

Westbrook, Lynn. (2009). “Area and Interdisciplinary Studies Literatures and Their Users” *Encyclopedia of Library and Information Sciences*, 3<sup>rd</sup> ed., pp. 221 -232  
<https://doi.org/10.1081/E-ELIS3-120043493>

### **Further Reading**

Hazen, Dan and Spohrer, James Henry, eds. *Building area studies collections* (2007). Harrassowitz-Verlag, Wiesbaden, Germany.

Pitman, Lesley. (2015) *Supporting research in area studies: a guide for academic libraries*. Elsevier: Chandos Publishing, Waltham, MA.

Taler, Izabella. (2011), “The Jewish Studies Book Awards: a collection development strategy for non-sectarian academic libraries”. *Collection Building*, Vol. 30(1), p.11-38