

## Get to Know RCL

# Jeremy Darrington

RCL Subject Editor for Political Science since 2013

Politics Librarian, Princeton  
University Library



### **Describe your educational background.**

I have a BA in international studies from Brigham Young University and graduate degrees in library and information science from the University of Washington and in political science from UC Berkeley.

### **What was your path to librarianship like?**

I worked as an assistant at the social science reference desk at BYU's library as an undergrad for two and a half years, and though I loved that job, it never occurred to me to consider a career as a librarian. After graduating from BYU, I went on to a doctoral program in political science at UC Berkeley. I eventually decided that that career route wasn't right for me, so I left ABD (all but dissertation). After some soul searching—and many career tests and exercises—I remembered one day how much I had enjoyed working at the library as a student. The more I researched the possibility, the more it seemed to fit. I managed to land some part-time positions working in public libraries and the Idaho state law library and went back to school to get my MLIS from the University of Washington. Shortly after graduation, I got my job at Princeton.

### **Tell us about a recent professional achievement of which you are particularly proud.**

Last year I was granted continuing appointment status at Princeton.

### **Describe RCL in three words.**

Core academic resources.

### **What are some of the most useful resources for selecting core books in your discipline?**

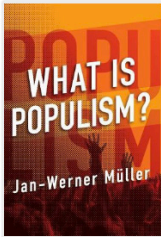
I use Choice reviews, of course, but I also look at reviews in major political science journals. We have a really extensive approvals plan at Princeton, so I scan that every week for new titles that look promising.

### **What is the biggest challenge for you in maintaining the RCL subject collection?**

The sheer scope of the subject. Political science is a very large and diverse discipline. Trying to keep up with all the scholarship produced on just American politics can feel overwhelming, let alone international relations and the politics of other countries. And then there's political theory, which is in many ways like an entirely separate discipline.

## If you could select the campus-wide read using a book from your RCL subject, which book would it be? Why?

Actually, our campus-wide read this year is from my RCL subject! It's *What is Populism*, by Jan-Werner Müller (U Penn, 2016). It's a brief, but compelling read, exploring what the essential features of populism are, how populists govern, and what explains populism's growing appeal. Obviously, it's quite timely.



**What Is Populism?**

Title:	What Is Populism?
Author:	Müller, Jan-Werner
Publication Year:	UNITED STATES: 22 Aug 2016
Copyright Date:	2016-01-01
Ship Date:	UNITED STATES: 8 Sep 2016
Publisher:	UNITED STATES University of Pennsylvania Press <a href="#">View Publisher Info</a>
Publisher Country:	UNITED STATES
Market:	UNITED STATES
ISBN-10:	0-8122-4898-8
ISBN-13:	978-0-8122-4898-2
Item status:	UNITED STATES: Active Record
Format:	Hardback
Pages:	136
RCL Format:	Book
RCL Add Date:	07-13-2017
RCL Audience Level:	Upper Lower Faculty

**Overview**

- Table of contents
- Annotations
- My RCL
- Professional Reviews
- Publisher Info

## What is your best advice for new subject selectors?

Try to read and skim as widely across the discipline as you can and also talk with faculty and especially grad students about their work, as they can help you become aware of trends rippling across the discipline.

## Stereotypes about librarians abound. What is the most unlibrarianlike thing about you?

I didn't vote for Bernie Sanders or Hillary Clinton (Or Donald Trump, for that matter).

## Complete this sentence: "When I'm not in the library, you can find me \_\_\_\_\_."

Doing housework and cooking in the kitchen (I have four young kids!)

## You've been shipwrecked. What one book do you want with you to read while you await rescue?

*The Book of Mormon*. No other book has been a more profound influence for good on my life or given me as much hope or peace as it has.

## Is there anything else you'd like to tell us?

Being a subject editor for RCL is a challenging, but rewarding service. It's also quite personal, as it reflects my own effort to make sense of the discipline of political science, how different parts relate to each other, and which works and disciplinary themes best represent the discipline.