

ACRL WOMEN'S STUDIES NEWSLETTER

Women's Studies Section
Vol. 1, No. 1 December 1986

Deb Schneider and Deb Biggs, Co-Editors

With this, the premiere issue of the ACRL Women's Studies Section Newsletter we hope to begin a tradition of bringing you news and information of particular interest to women and Women's Studies. As the official reporter for the Section, we will highlight projects, committees, task force work and the like, in which our membership is engaged. Additionally we will provide information on other women's groups and programs within the ALA structure and without.

This issue contains updates on three of our on-going projects two of which are carry-overs from the Women's Studies Discussion Group. The Women's Studies Collections Survey and the Women's Studies Collection Development Checklist were begun as WSDG projects and we are pleased that they are nearing completion. The Women's Studies Section By-Laws will enable our new section to take its proud place among the ACRL Sections. We think you will find these reports a good indication of the diversity and areas of interest of the Women's Studies Section. Co-Editor Deb Schneider and I welcome your comments, suggestions, reports and news items for the next edition of the newsletter due in May 1987. Looking forward to seeing you in Chicago at ALA Midwinter!

--Deb Biggs, Co-Editor
ACRL Women's Studies Newsletter

HELP!...ALA SAN FRANCISCO

ACRL Women's Studies Section is seeking help in planning the program for ALA Annual in June 1987. The theme will be information to, for, and about ethnic women in the United States, including the newer Asian immigrants. Help is needed in recruiting speakers, suggesting ideas, and in general organization. Contact:

Jacquelyn Marie
McHenry Library
UC-Santa Cruz
Santa Cruz, CA 95064
(408) 429-2081, 2082

THANK YOU

The Co-Editors of the ACRL Women's Studies Section Newsletter would like to thank the the University of Michigan Libraries and Deputy Director Carla Stoffle for supporting the publication of our first issue.

FROM THE HEAD OF THE TABLE

At last June's ALA Annual Conference in New York, the progress women have made within ALA was evident everywhere. The Committee on the Status of Women in Librarianship celebrated its tenth anniversary with outspoken black feminist Flo Kennedy giving the keynote speech. The Women's Materials and Women Library Users Discussion Group held a lively session with three members of City Fiction, a group of NYC feminist writers, and the SRRT Feminist Task Force continued its merry tradition of "Women's Night Out" at a local bar. Spirits were high, but perhaps nowhere higher than at the meetings of the ACRL Women's Studies Discussion Group.

As you know, at the close of next year's conference, the discussion group will become a section of ACRL. This "elevated" status brings us increased visibility in ALA, a budget for a newsletter, greater opportunities to sponsor programs at conferences, and the pride--and responsibilities--of inching up the organizational chart. Responsibilities such as bylaws, formal elections, budget preparations, and what seem to be an endless number of forms and reports have become the work of the discussion group this year. But it is important for us to keep in mind what this change in status says about Women's Studies.

The shift from discussion group to section heralds the growing importance of Women's Studies specialists on library staffs. A few years ago, most librarians' involvement in Women's Studies activities went unrecognized and unrewarded. Like the pioneering professors who developed the first courses in Women's Studies, dedicated feminist librarians often assumed as an "overload" the challenging tasks of selecting women's materials, reforming sexist cataloging practices, and working closely with Women's Studies researchers. But increasingly, responsibility for library services in the area of Women's Studies is being written into position descriptions (although job titles rarely reflect this job assignment). On many campuses, librarians are welcomed on the faculty committees of Women's Studies programs. And now, through the Women's Studies Section, we have the opportunity to make a difference on a national level within our professional association as well.

This statement is an important one to remember in this year of organizing ourselves into a section. The new status not only benefits and legitimizes our work; it also provides us with the opportunity to work towards change within ACRL. Granted, ACRL is a bureaucracy where change is going to be slow and perhaps painful, both for the changer and the changed. It is critical that we remain challenged and inspired by the work of the section, even though it may seem that we are becoming absorbed into the association and its paperwork, committees, and other red tape. We hope that the section's bylaws, (included in this issue) and elections procedures will present a fresh approach that reflects the spirit of sisterhood and the dedication to Women's Studies and resources upon which the discussion group was founded. By our example, we can benefit as well as be benefitted by, ACRL.

--Susan Searing and Lori Goetsch, 1986-87 Co-Chairs

PUBLICATIONS

WOMEN/HISTORY

Announcing the publication of Women are History: A Bibliography in the History of American Women, by Gerda Lerner. This 4th revised edition contains 1356 entries on such topics as Historiography of Women's History, Family in History, Women and Work, Women and the Arts, Lesbian History, Black and Minority Women and other areas. Copies are \$5.00. Make checks payable to Women Are History Fund. Send to:
The Graduate Program in Women's History
History Department, University of Wisconsin-Madison
3211 Humanities Bldg.
455 Park St.
Madison, WI 53706

WOMEN'S STUDIES

Women's Studies: A Recommended Core Bibliography, 1980-1985 by Catherine R. Loeb, Susan E. Searing, and Esther F. Stineman is available. This book has received high praise since its first edition which was selected as an Outstanding Academic Book 1980-1981 by Choice. Contact Libraries Unlimited, Inc. (Littleton, CO) for order information.

WOMEN'S STUDIES/WESTERN EUROPE

Women's Studies in Western Europe: A Resource Guide edited by Eva Sartori and Stephen Lehmann is available. It includes a directory of publication sources by and about European women, reviews the state of Women's Studies in western Europe, and describes collection management for Women's Studies collection at London's Fawcett Library. The guide is available from ACRL Publications. (\$15 for members, \$18 for non-members). Send prepayment to: ACRL Publications
Attn: Mary Ellen Davis
ACRL/ALA
50 East Huron St.
Chicago, IL 60611

WOMEN'S STUDIES COLLECTION DEVELOPMENT CHECKLIST

Building Women's Studies Collections: A Checklist for Libraries, Research and Resource Centers, and Individual Collectors compiled by the ACRL Women's Studies Discussion Group will be published in Choice early in 1987.

Established in 1983, the ACRL Women's Studies Discussion Group's primary purpose was to promote Women's Studies collections in academic and research libraries. Group members decided a checklist of resources for collection development and evaluation would help fulfill this goal.

(continued)

Compilation of the Checklist began as a collective activity of the Discussion Group. Contributions from fifteen members constituted the first draft and several of these librarians continue to update their contributions throughout developmental stages. The scope of the work reflects the broader needs of librarians in all types of libraries and the potential use by women's research centers, policy and service organizations, individual Women's Studies scholars, instructors, students, and activists as they seek sources of information on women.

The Checklist will be published as a booklet in the Choice bibliographical essay series. It contains 18 categories of English language materials and sources for Women's Studies collection development covering print, audiovisual, and electronic media.

--Joan Ariel
Checklist, Editor

NEWS BRIEFS

FEMINIST TASK FORCE/MIDWINTER

The Feminist Task Force would like to invite any interested visitors to its meetings at ALA Midwinter: 2-4 p.m. Saturday, 9:30-11:00 a.m. Monday, and 8-9 a.m. Tuesday. Items on the agenda include consideration of ALA office candidates, decisions on program for ALA-San Francisco, and monitoring the exhibits for sexist or racist displays. Important discussion will also be centered on the preconference planned for ALA Annual. This preconference will be co-sponsored by COSWL and other interested groups.

--Kay Jones, Coordinator

NATIONAL WOMEN'S STUDIES ASSOCIATION 1986 CONFERENCE LIBRARIAN'S TASK FORCE PROGRAMS

The 1986 conference was held at the University of Illinois at Champaign-Urbana in June. Program themes included "Working for Change: Librarians as Activists" and "Bringing Global Feminism into Libraries". For information on topics and speakers included at this conference contact: Luisa R. Paster

Firestone Library
Princeton University
Princeton, NJ 08540

CALL FOR PAPERS

National Women's Studies Association Librarians' Task Force seeks papers for their 1987 annual conference to be held June 24-28 at Spelman College in Atlanta, GA. Conference theme will be "Weaving Women's Colors: A Decade of Empowerment". The panel theme will be women and literacy. For more information contact:

Luisa Paster
Firestone Library
Princeton University
Princeton, NJ 08540

SURVEY

A pre-test of the questionnaire for the survey of academic library services in Women's Studies has been completed. The questionnaire is nearing its final stage and a mass mailing is planned for January 1987.

--Beth Stafford
Women's Studies/WID Librarian
University of Illinois

INFORMATION WANTED

The Women's Studies Program at the University of Albany announces a project, Computer Applications in Women's Studies, to incorporate computing technologies into Women's Studies courses. One part of the project is to develop a self-instructional module for students to learn how to find and use library resources in Women's Studies. Albany would like to hear from anyone with a similar module (either written or computerized format) or one that could be adapted to Women's Studies.

Contact: Bonnie Spanier
Women's Studies Program
The University of Albany
State University of New York
Albany, NY 12222

COSWL QUICKIES

--The Committee on the Status of Women in Librarianship has celebrated its 10th anniversary this year. Look for an article featuring COSWL's anniversary in the December 1986 American Libraries.

--COSWL announces the forthcoming (December 1986) publication of the 4th edition of the Directory of Library and Information Profession Women's Groups, compiled by Katharine Phenix. For order information, write to COSWL at: ALA

50 East Huron St.
Chicago, IL 60611

SYMPOSIUM

Witnesses for Change: Quaker Women 1650-1987 symposium will be held at Haverford College on Monday, April 6, 1987. Sponsors are the Quaker Collection of the Library, History Department and Gender Studies Concentration at Haverford College. Speakers include Phyllis Mack, Rutgers University; Mary Maples Dunn, Smith College; Elisabeth Potts Brown, Haverford College Library, and Jean Soderlund, Swarthmore College Peace Collection. For registration information write: Quaker Collection
Haverford College
Haverford, PA
19041

CONFERENCE

The University of Kentucky at Lexington and its Continuing Education for Women center are pleased to announce their annual Women's Writers Conference at the University of Kentucky, April 1-4 1987. Gloria Steinem will be the keynote speaker, and the conference will feature other well known writers such as Gloria Naylor, Joy Harjo and Alexis DeVeaux. For more information contact: Continuing Education for Women
University of Kentucky
Lexington, KY 40506
(606) 257-3295

ATTENTION EXHIBITORS

The coordinators of the annual Women's Writers Conference are seeking book exhibitors for their 1987 conference, April 1-4 at the University of Kentucky, Lexington. Contact: Laura Rein
Reference Department
M.I. King Library-South
University of Kentucky
Lexington, KY 40506-0039

ACRL WSS NEWSLETTER 2

The next issue of the ACRL WSS Newsletter should be published by May 1987. Please submit news items to the Co-Editors by April 1, 1987. Submissions may be made to: Deb Schneider/Deb Biggs
106 N. Hatcher Graduate Library
University of Michigan
Ann Arbor, MI 48109-1205

ACRL WOMEN'S STUDIES SECTION BYLAWS

The following is a draft of proposed Bylaws for the Section prepared by Sarah Watstein, Sherrie Bergman, Janet Freedman, and Bernice Lacks. The Bylaws will be reviewed by the ACRL Constitution and Bylaws Committee at Midwinter on Saturday, January 17, 1987. *Please read them carefully and submit you comments and criticisms no later than December 31, 1986.*

Direct your remarks to:

Lori Goetsch

Information/Reference

Michigan State University Libraries

East Lansing, MI 48824-1048

(517) 353-8705

WOMEN'S STUDIES SECTION

A Section of the

ASSOCIATION OF COLLEGE AND RESEARCH LIBRARIES

AMERICAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

BYLAWS

Article I. Name

Section 1. The name of this organization shall be the Women's Studies Section of the Association of College and Research Libraries, a division of the American Library Association.

Article II. Purpose

Section 1. This Section shall represent librarians and others who specialize or are otherwise professionally involved in the cross-disciplinary field of Women's Studies. It may cooperate with other professional groups in regard to those aspects of library and information services that require special knowledge of Women's Studies.

Section 2. The Women's Studies Section has specific responsibilities:

(a) To discuss, promote, and support Women's Studies collections and services in academic and research libraries

(b) To foster the development of bibliographic instruction, liaisons with faculty, and database searching in this cross-disciplinary field

(c) To encourage cooperative collection development of and access to Women's Studies materials

(d) To foster cooperation among Women's Studies librarians, scholars, students, and publishers

(e) To work with other ALA groups to promote library and information science to women.

Article III. Membership

Section 1. Any member of the association of College and Research Libraries may select membership in this Section by payment of dues to the American Library Association and any additional dues required for membership in ACRL and its sections. Every member has the right to vote and is eligible to hold office.

Article IV. Officers and Member-at-large

Section 1. Officers. The officers of this Section shall be a chairperson, a vice-chairperson/chairperson-elect, the immediate past chairperson, and a recorder.

Section 2. Member-at-large. The member-at-large shall be a representative to the Executive Committee who acts on behalf of the membership.

Section 3. Terms. All officers and the member-at-large shall serve for a term of one year which ends at the adjournment of the annual meeting.

Section 4. Vacancies. In case of a vacancy in the office of chairperson, the vice-chairperson/chairperson-elect shall succeed to the office of the chairperson and shall continue in that office until the expiration of the term for which s/he was originally elected to serve as chairperson.

In case of vacancies in both the offices of chairperson and vice-chairperson/chairperson-elect, the member-at-large shall act as chairperson until the next election.

Article V. Meetings

Section 1. Annual Meetings. The Section shall hold an annual business meeting at the time and place of the Annual Conference of the American Library Association.

Section 2. Quorum. Members of the Section present at an annual meeting shall constitute a quorum.

Article VI. Executive Committee

Section 1. Composition. The Executive Committee shall consist of the officers, the chairpersons of standing committees, and the member-at-large.

Section 2. Powers and Duties. The Executive Committee shall conduct the business of the Section during the period between annual Section meetings.

Section 3. Meetings. Regular meetings of the Executive Committee shall be held at the time and place of the Annual and Midwinter meetings of the American Library Association. All Executive Committee meetings shall be open to all members of the Section. Special meetings may be called at the discretion of the chairperson.

Section 4. Quorum. A majority of members shall constitute a quorum at any meeting of the Executive Committee.

Article VII. Committees

Section 1. Standing Committees. Standing committees to consider matters of concern to the Section that require continuity of attention may be authorized by the Section at the annual Section meeting. The size, name, purpose, membership, terms of membership, and chairpersons of a standing committee shall be specified at the time of its authorization. The vice-chairperson/chairperson-elect shall appoint committee members to fill vacancies due to occur during her/his term as chairperson. Unexpected vacancies on a committee shall be filled by a special appointment made by the chairperson of the committee with approval of the chairperson of the Section. A standing committee may be discontinued by a majority vote of the members present and voting at an annual Section meeting.

Article VIII. Nominations and Elections

Section 1. Nominations. The vice-chairperson/chairperson-elect of the Section, with the approval of the chairperson, shall appoint a Nominating Committee of at least three personal members of the Section. This committee shall choose a slate of at least two candidates for each office of the Section and for the member-at-large. Additional nominations may be made by petitions signed by no fewer than five Section members. All nominees must be members in good standing of the Section and must consent to candidacy in writing. All nominations shall be filed both with

the Executive Director of ACRL and with the recorder of the Section within the deadlines prescribed by ACRL.

Involvement in or commitment to the acquisition, organization, or use of Women's Studies information sources should be considered in selecting nominees for office.

Section 2. Elections. Elections shall be conducted by mail ballot in accordance with the procedures and deadlines established by the American Library Association. For each office, the candidate receiving a plurality of votes cast shall be elected.

In case of a tie vote, the office of vice-chairperson/chairperson-elect will be determined by vote of the members present at the next annual meeting. In case of a tie vote, the office of recorder and the member-at-large shall be determined by lot.

Article IX. Amendments

Section 1. Proposals. Amendments to these bylaws may be proposed in writing to the membership of the Section by the Executive Committee, a committee appointed specifically for the purpose, or by any five members of the Section. Proposals shall be filed with the recorder at least three months before the annual meeting.

Section 2. Notification. The recorder will main a copy of the proposed amendments to each member of the Section at least thirty days before the annual meeting and also may announce proposed amendments in College and Research Libraries News in an issue appearing prior to the annual meeting.

Section 3. Voting. A plurality vote of the members present and voting at an annual meeting or casting ballots in a mail vote shall carry a proposed amendment.

Article X. General Provisions

Wherever these Bylaws make no specific provisions, the organization of and procedures in the Section shall correspond to those set forth in the ACRL Constitution and Bylaws.

Article XI. Temporary Provisions

These Bylaws shall take effect upon the adjournment of the meeting at which they are adopted.

Deb Schneider
106 N. Hatcher Graduate Library
University of Michigan
Ann Arbor, MI 48109-1205



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Main Reading Room
Jefferson Bldg.

ALA/ACRL WOMEN'S STUDIES SECTION MIDWINTER AGENDA

Sunday, January 18, 1987

9:30-11:00 a.m.

Business Meeting

- 1. Introductions and Announcements**
- 2. Reports: Collection Development Checklist Update, Women's Studies Librarian, University of Wisconsin Report, Women's Studies Collections Survey.**
- 3. Discussion: 1987 Annual Conference Program, WSS Bylaws, WSS Elections, WSS Committees.**

Tuesday, January 20, 1987

9:30-11:00 a.m.

Discussion Meeting

- 1. Introductions and Announcements**
- 2. Discussion: Anti-feminism and its effect on Women's Studies. Please read the following articles to prepare for the discussion:**
Elton, G. R. "History According to Saint Joan," American Scholar 54 (Autumn 1985): 549-555.
Levin, Michael. "Women's Studies, Ersatz Scholarship," New Perspectives (Summer 1985): 7-10. SuDocs #CR1.12:17/3.