



Women's Studies Section Newsletter

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Association of College and Research Libraries,
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And the Stories Were Told....

Librarians gathered around the fireplace (oh, wait, that was the Orlando heat!) to listen to three speakers with different, but similar backgrounds talk about archives at the WSS Annual Program, "Telling Our Stories Now: Women's Archives in the Digital Age." The program featured Laura

Micham, Director of the Sallie Bingham Center for Women's History and Culture at Duke University; Sherrill Redmon, Director of the Sophia Smith Collection at Smith College; Stephen Rhind-Tutt, President of Alexander Street Press and was moderated by Ellen Broidy of the Young Research Library at UCLA. All three presenters provided their perspectives into the influence of digital capabilities on manuscript and archival collections.

The Sophia Smith Collection has a long history of collecting manuscripts and multi-media materials that includes personal papers, records and oral histories. In the last few years, more finding aids have been created for their collections that are available on the Internet. The Sallie Bingham Center for Women's History and Culture has been using digital technology to scan parts of their collection for online access. Finding aids are also available for individual collections at the Center. Alexander Street Press has been the first publisher to make a commitment to creating databases exclusively filled with primary documents pertaining to and written by women.

All three have made a substantial impact on the way that primary resources are accessed and the digital arena is allowing these resources to be accessible to an even larger audience — one that doesn't have to be within driving distance to use the materials. Many thought-provoking questions were raised and answered by the invited panelists. The ACRL's College Libraries Section; Rare Books and Manuscripts Section; and University Libraries Section as well as the RUSA History Section sponsored the event. Thank you to all who participated!

In addition to the panel, more stories were shared by our colleagues, Phyllis Holman Weisbard, Women's Studies Librarian for the University of Wisconsin System and Donna M. Roe, Senior Librarian/Head of Cataloging & Database Management at University of Detroit, Mercy as they were presented with this year's Women's Studies Section awards. Both Phyllis and Donna shared their collective wisdom as recipients of this year's Career Achievement in Women's Studies Librarianship Award and Significant Achievement in Women's Studies Librarianship respectively. Thank you to Greenwood Publishing Group and Routledge Press for continuing to support women's studies librarianship by sponsoring the awards.

*-Kelly Hovendick
-Photo by Joan Ariel*

**Women's Studies Section
Newsletter**

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The *WSS Newsletter* welcomes contributions from readers. Send articles, items of interest, and news to the editors, preferably in electronic format.

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WSS Officers 2004/05:

Ruth Dickstein, Chair
Megan Adams, Vice-Chair/
Chair-Elect
Pamela Salela, Secretary
Cindy Ingold, Member-at-large
Carrie Kruse, Member-at-large

-Chair notes, cont'd

Looking forward to seeing you in Boston. As someone who lives in Arizona, I can only hope that I'll see some snow, but won't freeze.

-Ruth Dickstein

Notes from the Chair

It is hard to believe that half a year has passed since we met in Orlando, but here we are preparing for a busy Midwinter conference. For us in Arizona, the best part of the year is just beginning - cool crisp days and beautiful sunny skies. And as we begin to prepare for Midwinter, the Sections year is also beginning. Committee members begin to review assigned tasks and the real work of the section begins.

In the past few years the Section's work has grown tremendously as new committees have formed and new ideas for projects have proliferated. In an effort to increase committee participation, two other ACRL sections have experimented with electronic meetings instead of an in-person Midwinter meeting. Committee members are only required to attend one person to person meeting a year—Annual. The College Library Section reports that this experiment has greatly increased the number of participating members. It allows members who are unable to attend more than one meeting a year because of either financial, personal, or work situations to be active contributing members. In response to this experiment, ACRL has recently developed guidelines for virtual meetings. It is an ACRL policy that all meetings should be open to all members (except nominating and awards committee meetings). ACRL requires that committees announce their electronic meeting time and process to all members well ahead of the meeting date and invite all interested members to participate. At present, no decisions can be made during the electronic meetings - all decisions require face to face meetings.

How does this work? First of all, it is a committee's choice whether to hold one of the two official meetings electronically. Different committees have used different methods, email, chat, discussion lists, or conference calls. The virtual meetings take the place of real Midwinter meetings. The section would like to begin exploring whether it too should allow virtual meetings. How do you feel about this? Would you be a more active member if you were only required to personally attend one national meeting a year? Would you be able to develop networking relationships provided by the social events of the Section? What might be the disadvantages of eliminating one of the two national meetings a year?

At this section Discussion meeting in Boston, we will address these questions. The Midwinter Discussion meeting will be held on Monday morning, January 17, 9:30-11:00. Following midwinter, we will attempt to hold an open discussion on WSS-L to allow full membership participation in the discussion. Please join us either in Boston or on WSS-L and share your opinion.

“Getting Published”

The WSS 2005 Annual Program for Chicago will be practical and enlightening, titled: “Getting Published: From Practice to Print.” The program will provide an overview of the publishing process in both library science and women’s studies featuring a panel of two distinguished editors, Dr. Gloriana St. Clair, first editor of portal, and Dr. Theresa Kemp, co-editor of Feminist Teacher. They will speak about their experiences in working with practitioners and offer advice on how librarians can successfully publish. Following the panel presentation, the audience will break up into smaller groups to address and discuss with experts – how to go from the presentation to the article, getting started in publishing, an editor’s perspective in publishing, finding opportunities collaborate, revisions and turn-downs, and writing a book. You will leave this program equipped with the knowledge of how to become a published academic librarian.

Welcome New Members!

Aryana F. Bates, Timothy Bogue, Kirsten Clark, Marjorie Clayman, Donna Close, Jennifer King, Kathleen Labadorf, Cheryl Mahan, Elizabeth McMahon, Jennifer Nace, Jane Nichols, Debra Olson, Analiza Perez, James Riordan, Lindsey Schell, Marsha Stender

ACRL Board of Directors to Vote on Dues Increase

At the June 2004 Annual Meeting, the ACRL Board of Directors passed a resolution, at the recommendation of Budget and Finance Committee, to consider a dues increase for certain categories of ACRL membership.

A variety of factors contributed to the development of the resolution, including the following:

Although the “cost of doing business” has risen steadily over the past 15 years, ACRL has not raised member dues since 1991. Therefore, the dues revenue collected from each member has failed to keep pace with natural increases in operating expenses due to inflation.

Advertising revenue from ACRL publications has decreased over the past few years and is not projected to rebound in the foreseeable future. Advertising revenue helps subsidize many member services including programs at the ALA Annual Conference, section newsletters, and committee activities such as standards development, awards, as well as recent major initiatives in the areas of scholarly communication and information literacy. The dues increase will help offset the reduction in advertising revenue and ensure that important ACRL programs and services receive the funding they need.

Development of new programs and services that add value to membership will require funding. As outlined in our recently adopted strategic plan, in the coming years ACRL will be developing additional programs and services that assist members in the areas of technology, delivery of services, standards development and implementation, issues papers, and local and national advocacy as requested in the recent member survey. The dues increase will provide necessary funding to make immediate progress on these important initiatives.

After reviewing several options, the Budget and Finance Committee determined that a moderate dues increase would be the best funding mechanism to provide the necessary capital to sustain ACRL's quality publications, continuing education programs, awards, standards development, and advocacy initiatives.

The proposed dues increase for personal members of ACRL is \$20, bringing annual dues to \$55. Student and retiree members will experience no dues increase at present.

Announcements

Do you know the next winners of the Women's Studies Section Achievement Awards? The Awards Committee is currently seeking nominations for our two awards honoring major contributions to women's studies librarianship. The deadline for nomination submissions is December 3, 2004.

The *ACRL Women's Studies Section Award for Significant Achievement in Women's Studies Librarianship*, sponsored by Routledge Press, recognizes one-time achievement in any area of women's studies librarianship, by a group or individual, during the year of the award. The *ACRL Women's Studies Section Award for Career Achievement in Women's Studies Librarianship*, sponsored by Greenwood Publishing, Inc., is designed to honor individual career achievement in women's studies librarianship. Each includes an award of \$1000.

More information about the awards, including the nomination forms, can be found on our web site at <http://libr.org/WSS/awards/index.html>. Past winners of the awards are profiled at <http://libr.org/WSS/awards/winners.html>.

Women's Studies: A Recommended Bibliography, 3rd ed., edited by Linda A. Krikos and Cindy Ingold is now available. Intended as a reference and collection development tool, the bibliography maps the literature in the field from 1986 through 1998, covering approximately 4,000 titles and web sites in nineteen subject areas. Each entry provides publication information for the work and a detailed annotation that summarizes the work's content, its importance to women's studies, and its relationship to other titles on the subject. The bibliography includes an appendix that lists special issues of both new and selected older women's studies journals published between 1986 and 1999, lists of key (print) titles published in 1999, and author, title, and subject indexes.

Ruth Dickstein, University of Arizona, and Kelly Hovendick, Syracuse University, published "Women's Studies Databases" in the *Encyclopedia of Library and Information Science*, 2nd edition (Marcel Dekker, Inc.). The article discusses the history, emergence, and growth of women's studies electronic resources from their early existence as print sources through CD-ROM to the Web. It is available through the online edition.

Beginning in the fall 2005, Sherri Barnes, University of California, Santa Barbara, will be assuming the role of Editor for the WSS Newsletter. We are looking for a volunteer who is interested in becoming the Assistant Editor. For more information about responsibilities and length of commitment, please contact Kelly Hovendick at kbhovend@syr.edu



**ACRL 12th National Conference
Currents and Convergence:
Navigating the Rivers of Change**

The 12th National Conference includes more than 200 programs and seven theme tracks that reflect the diversity and dynamics of our profession. The tracks are:

- ◆ Changing environments & culture
- ◆ Changing political realities
- ◆ Converging & collaborating
- ◆ Evolving modes of scholarly communication
- ◆ Managing electronic and digital information
- ◆ Redefining traditions
- ◆ Teaching & learning

**For more information, go to
<http://www.ala.org/acrl>**

Check out these websites for activist resources including fact sheets, statistics and articles —

Madre—international human rights group; includes articles and fact sheets on Iraq and other areas of conflict
[Http://www.madre.org](http://www.madre.org)

Coalition Against Trafficking in Women—includes fact book and legislation relating to sex trafficking
[Http://www.catwinternational.org](http://www.catwinternational.org)

Book Review

"No matter how wise a mother's advice is, we listen to our peers."

At least that's writer Naomi Wolf's take on the differences between her generation of feminists—the third wave—and the feminists who came before her and developed in the late '60s and '70s—the second wave. In *Not My Mother's Sister*, Astrid Henry agrees with Wolf that this has been the case with American feminism, but says there are problems inherent in drawing generational lines.

Henry begins by examining texts written by women in the second wave, and illustrates how that generation identified with, yet also disassociated itself from, its feminist "foremothers."

Younger feminists now claim the movement as their own by distancing themselves from the past. By focusing on feminism's debates about sexuality, they are able to reject the so-called victim feminism of Catherine MacKinnon and Andrea Dworkin.

Rejecting the orthodoxies of the second wave, younger feminists celebrate a woman's right to pleasure. Henry asserts, however, that by ignoring diverse older voices, the new generation has oversimplified generational conflict and has underestimated the contributions of earlier feminists to women's rights. They have focused on issues relating to personal identity at the expense of collective political action.

Just as writers like Wolf, Katie Roiphe, and Rene Denfeld celebrate a "new" feminist (heterosexuality posited in generational terms, queer

and lesbian feminists of the third wave similarly distance themselves from those who came before. Henry shows how 1970s lesbian feminism is represented in ways that are remarkably similar to the puritanical portrait of feminism offered by straight third-wavers. She concludes by examining the central role played by feminists of color in the development of third-wave feminism. Indeed, the term "third wave" itself was coined by Rebecca Walker, daughter of Alice Walker.

Not My Mother's Sister is an important contribution to the exchange of ideas among feminists of all ages and persuasions.

Not My Mother's Sister: Generational Conflict and Third Wave Feminism by Astrid Henry. Bloomington, IN: Indiana University Press, 2004.

Astrid Henry is an Assistant Professor of Women's Studies and English at Saint Mary's College, Notre Dame, Indiana. She received her Ph.D. in English from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee.

-Janet Fore

For additional book reviews, consult *Feminist Collections: A Quarterly of Women's Studies Resources*. This resource is invaluable for librarians responsible for women's studies collection development or women's studies research. In addition to book reviews, audiovisual and Internet resources are reviewed. Go to <http://www.library.wisc.edu/libraries/WomensStudies/> for more information.

For the best in women's studies resources, go to:

<http://www.libr.org/wss>

You'll find recommendations for purchasing:

Women's Studies Core Books

Core List of Journals

Collection Development Resources

Electronic Resources Information & Assessment

You'll also find resources for teaching:

Database Instruction Guides

Women's Studies Section Committee Reports

Publications Committee

The meeting started with a review of the web version of the Preliminary Publications Information Form. Committee members made lots of constructive comments and contributions on the form. We are hoping to have the final version of the Information Form mounted on the WSS webpage by Midwinter 2005.

The Publications Committee received \$750 from ACRL for the redesign of the WSS brochure.

This is the first time Publications has worked on the brochure and we're looking forward to it.

The committee will be soliciting comments and suggestions about the new design from WSS members over the next few months.

To finish off Orlando's packed agenda, we recommended the Executive Committee approve for publication the Research Committee's, "Bibliography of Scholarship on Women's Studies Librarianship."

-Pamela Mann

Instruction Committee

At the annual meeting in Orlando, the Instruction Committee reviewed and revised three new database instruction guides: one for Women and Social Movements in the United States and one for British and Irish Women's Letters and Diaries both from Alexander Street press, and one for Defining Gender 1450-1910 from Adam Matthew Publications. These guides will be added to the list of guides currently available. The guides are linked off the WSS web site under "Publications & Resources".

The committee also discussed how to create and maintain a web page specifically for the committee. Finally, we discussed ideas for possible future annual programs or midwinter discussions including information literacy and feminist pedagogy.

-Cindy Ingold

Research Committee

The Research Committee is thrilled to announce the latest addition to our web site: a bibliography of scholarship on women's studies librarianship going back to 1977. The Committee compiled

this bibliography over the last couple of years as part of our project to create a research agenda for the future. After compiling the bibliography, the list was split up among the members of the committee to be analyzed for subject matter and nature (research, theoretical, or descriptive).

Research questions were then pulled from the items that involved research studies and compiled by broad subject categories to give us a snapshot of the current intellectual record of women's studies librarianship.

The Committee is now in the process of using this snapshot to identify areas where new research is needed. This effort will result in the creation of a research agenda that will be published both on our web site and in article form, hopefully next year.

Sound exciting? The Research Committee needs new blood, as all but two of our members are rotating off after Annual 2005. Please email me (jrg15@psu.edu) if you are interested in being a member of the committee. We have other exciting projects in the works that are just waiting for you to take them on!

-Jennifer Gilley

Electronic Resources & Access Committee

The Electronic Resources and Access Committee is responsible for two projects, the ongoing maintenance of the Electronic Resources, Information and Assessment Web page <http://libr.org/wss/projects/electronic.html> and Women's Studies in Digital Archives, which is under development. The Electronic Resources, Information and Assessment page provides descriptive and acquisition information on women's studies databases. It is designed as a selection tool for librarians responsible for developing women's studies collections. The committee updates the information on the Web page annually, prior to the ALA annual conference. This year's update is has been slightly delayed, but is in progress.

The Women's Studies in Digital Archives project is an assessment of the women's studies content in open access digital archives on the Internet. Archives covering a variety of topics and formats, including the Civil War, Home Economics, the South, Civil Rights, Fidel Castro,

Collection Development Committee

The Core Lists project has officially changed names to the "Women's Studies Core Books." The titles have all been inputted into the database, but this is still considered to be a pilot project. The project will also be seeking a new co-editor in the spring of 2005.

Members of the group were assigned to review different components of the CD website to check for currency, links, etc. There was also a suggestion to build upon one member's existing list of microform collections with women's studies content. Everyone agreed that this would be a useful tool and plans are underway to follow through with this addition to the resources webpage.

A list of women's/gender/lgbt studies collection development policies was created over a year ago. These policy links will be checked again for currency. An introduction to the scope and use of these policies will be drafted, approved by the committee and subsequently posted on the website.

There was also an exploration of future projects for the committee including use of the ARL Spec kits to create an organizational model for women's studies collection development; updating journal lists; and contributing to the Research Committee's list of existing literature.

-Kelly Hovendick

Membership Committee

The committee discussed the name change from Communications Committee to Membership Committee and agreed to change our name to the Membership Committee. Most other sections have a membership committee and people might be more willing to join a committee that has a structure with which they are familiar. We looked over the actions currently in place to welcome and recruit new members and noted that it would be beneficial to get

the message out that one does not need formal collection development responsibilities in women's studies in order to join WSS. We suggested making a flyer that is less formal than our brochure in order to grab people's attention and get them interested in the section. Susan and Diane will put together a flyer for Midwinter. We also discussed reaching out to library school students.

This committee will no longer produce the brochure; the Publications Committee will be responsible for it from now.

-Brita Servaes



Dues increase, cont'd from pg. 3

The Board plans to vote on adopting the resolution at its Midwinter Meeting in January. If the motion passes, a ballot to approve the dues increase will be distributed to all members in the spring of 2005.

The Board of Directors would like to hear from you as they consider this important decision. The first Board meeting at the Midwinter Meeting will include a 30-minute question and answer session in which we encourage you to participate. You may also contact individual board members (see the roster on the Web at , click . on "About ACRL," then "ACRL Board of Directors," and "ACRL Board of Directors Roster") at your convenience to share your comments, questions, and ideas.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter and for your continued support of ACRL.

-David Connolly

Do you need recommendations for quality websites to support women's studies research & teaching?

Check out —

WSSLinks: Women & Gender Studies Website

<http://www.libr.org/wss/WSSLinks/index.html>

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WSS Midwinter Schedule

All Committees Meeting - Sunday, 1/16/2005 9:30-12:00 am
Awards Committee (closed) - Sunday, 1/16/2005 2:00-4:00 pm
General Membership Meeting - Sunday 1/16/2005 4:30-5:30 pm
WSS Social Hour - Sunday 1/16/2005 5:30-7:00 pm
Discussion Meeting - Monday 1/17/2005 9:30-11:00 am
Executive Board meeting - Monday 1/17/2005 2:00-4:00 pm



