

Volume 22, no. 2
Fall 2007
ISSN 0895-691X

NEWSLETTER

Published by the Women's Studies Section of the, Association of College and Research Libraries, a division of the American Library Association

Emerging Technologies Show Their Stripes at the Annual Program! *Once Upon a Furl in a Podcast Long Ago: Using New Technologies to Support Library Instruction*

This year's conference program of the Association of College and Research Libraries' Women's Studies Section, entitled *Once Upon a Furl in a Podcast Long Ago: Using New Technologies to Support Library Instruction*, offered up a well-rounded panel of guests who have first-hand experience implementing new technologies in the classroom and beyond. The panelists were, respectively, Joan K. Lippincott of the Coalition for Networked Information, Kathleen Burnett of Florida State University's Information Studies Program, Kathryn Shaughnessy of St. John's University, and Heather Tompkins of Carleton College. The focus of this program was mainly on the *programmatic* uses of new technologies, acknowledging that the moment in which library instruction happens has been filtered through administrative acceptances, faculty and student input, engagement with new material, and programmatic policies requiring and providing opportunities for change. It is becoming more acceptable in academic libraries to use technology

in an experimental fashion. Yet, as in any scientific lab, these experiments occur in an environment of controlled sustainability. Projects conducted previous to the Web, social or otherwise, have left terrific paper tiger trails and much to be desired in terms of flexibility. In comparison, the academic experiments shared by our panelists seem to have regenerative properties, able to adapt to shifting administrative landscapes and student preferences. As panelist Kathryn Shaughnessy states, "Library 2.0 is always in beta."

True to its word, *Once Upon a Furl* highlighted many creative new technologies and projects. Many of these technologies have familiar names such as Skype, Blogger, RSS, PennTags, Captivate, RefWorks and del.icio.us. The overarching theme of the program, however, was not to simply showcase technology-rich projects, but to emphasize the use of technology as a vehicle for communication, collaboration, and curricular enrichment. Lippincott shared some examples of how institutions are handling multimedia on their campuses. Projects such as TeamSpot at Stanford and Georgia Tech's Practice Presentation Room have led the way, providing students with unfettered opportunities to become savvy information producers. These workspaces lend themselves to collaboration and empower students to make an important transition from, as Lippincott states, the "recreational use of technology to academic use of technology."

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Women's Studies Section

Newsletter is published semi-annually by the Association of College and Research Libraries', Women's Studies Section, a division of the American Library Association, 50 E. Huron St., Chicago, IL 60611, 1-800-545-2433, ext. 2519

The *WSS Newsletter* is available to all section members at no additional cost.

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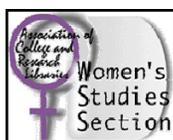
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The *WSS Newsletter* welcomes contributions from members. Please send articles, items of interest, and news to the editors, preferably in electronic format. ©American Library Association, 2007 ISSN 0895-691X

WSS Officers 2007-2008:

Jennifer R. Gilley, Chair
Diana King, Vice-Chair/
Chair-Elect
Piper Martin, Secretary
Cynthia Johnson, Member-at-large
Marilyn A. Dunn, Member-at-large

**Notes from the Chair**

With the 25th anniversary of the Section approaching, I am happy to announce that our plan for world domination is well underway! (Don't worry, it's a peaceful plan involving the proliferation of information and feminism, and feminist information). Interest in our section is burgeoning; membership is now well above the 600 mark, and the WSS informal get-together at ACRL last spring had a huge turnout. And speaking of huge turnouts, the attendance at our program at Annual, "Once Upon a Furl in a Podcast Long Ago: Using New Technologies to Support Library Instruction," could only be estimated at 215, because the crowd was too large to count!

As Kelly noted in last spring's "Notes from the Chair," when you're doing interesting things, people take notice and you get asked to collaborate. Like the Democratic presidential hopefuls, I have decided to pick a theme for my year as chair, and it is Collaboration with a capital C. Our section has a time-honored tradition of collaborating with the other feminist groups in ALA, COSWL, and FTF, and our combined social at the National Museum for Women in the Arts in D.C. was a smashing success. So much so, in fact, that we have decided to combine our socials for the next two ALA conferences as well, culminating in our 25th Anniversary Social in Anaheim. Our motto is, the more the merrier!

We also have a strong agenda of collaboration with library schools. For the past couple of years, the Membership Committee has organized programs at individual library schools to recruit future librarians to ACRL (with, of course, a strong emphasis on WSS). This past summer the Research Committee collaborated with Hope Olson's "Feminism, Librarianship, and Information" class at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee's library school. Hope asked her students to do research projects based on items from the Research Agenda for Women's Studies Librarianship. (You can check out the agenda on our website, <http://libr.org/wss/>). These students are now not only potential members of the section, but have furthered the record of knowledge in our field.

Next, I would like to see us expand our Section's collaborative efforts beyond librarians and into the other half of ourselves, women's studies. Although there exists a Librarians Task Force at the National Women's Studies Association conferences, lack of travel funding and the time scheduling conflict of the ALA and NWSA conferences has resulted in a somewhat weak connection between the two. Phyllis Holman-Weisbard has been our tireless representative at NWSA, but she needs company! Happily, we have several upcoming opportunities to swell our ranks at NWSA: an Action Plan that, if approved, would fund some of our Instruction Committee members to work with NWSA on a project to develop information literacy standards for women's studies; the interest of the Program Administration Section of NWSA in developing curriculum standards with the input of librarians; and the possibility of getting NWSA into the official ALA Liaison Program. You can also strengthen the relationship individually by going to NWSA. Next year's conference is June 19-22 in Cincinnati, Ohio.

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ACRL WSS Award Winners

As has become tradition, the *ACRL Women's Studies Section Award for Significant Achievement in Women's Studies Librarianship* (sponsored by Routledge Press) and the *ACRL Women's Studies Section Award for Career Achievement in Women's Studies Librarianship* (sponsored by Greenwood Publishing) were awarded before the WSS Program got underway. The *Award for Significant Achievement* recognizes a significant or one-time contribution to women's studies librarianship. The *Award for Career Achievement* honors significant long-standing contributions to women's studies in the field of librarianship over the course of a career.

Megan Adams Brooks (Wellesley College), chair of the Awards Committee, introduced the award winners for *Significant Achievement*: Jennifer Gilley (Head Librarian, Pennsylvania State-New Kensington), Kayo Denda (Women's Studies Librarian, Rutgers University), Jenna Freedman (Coordinator of Reference Services and Zine Librarian, Barnard College), Sharon Ladenson (Gender Studies and Communications Librarian, Michigan State University). Jennifer, Kayo, Jenna, and Sharon presented a panel at the 2006 National Women's Studies Association (NWSA) meeting entitled "Locating Women's Studies Information: Contemporary Quandaries in Providing Effective Access to Feminist Materials." As explained by Megan: "The panel covered important issues related to women's studies resources" and was significant in taking the initiative of librarians presenting at a professional conference attended primarily by women's studies faculty and researchers.

Following the Award for Significant Achievement, Dolores Fidishun (Penn State, Great Valley) presented the *Award for Career Achievement* to Sandy River, Architecture and Humanities Librarian at the Texas Tech University Libraries. In discussing Sandy's career, Dolores highlighted that Sandy has served on every committee in the Section, has mentored many new librarians who have joined the Section, and

has been "a shining star in the profession generally." Sandy thanked the Awards Committee and spoke of her reasons for originally joining WSS: in WSS she found a home and community and, as in any other community, "new folks come and revitalize, other people move on but come back and visit...The nice thing about community – it lets us share in each other's successes." While acknowledging that the award was given to her for the many contributions she has made to the Section, Sandy also expressed her belief that the Section has given "as much or more" to her than she has given to the Section.

Cynthia Johnson
University of California, Irvine



Sandy Rivers



Left to Right: Jennifer Gilley, Routledge representative, Sharon Ladenson, and Kayo Denda

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Notes from the Chair

Welcome to our new members! Your ideas and energy will be vital to our growth. If you haven't been to a WSS meeting yet, you will soon discover that we are not only an active group, but a very social one as well. We like to have fun, and I look forward to a great Midwinter.

See you in Philadelphia!

Jennifer Gilley
Chair, Women's Studies Section

(Continued from page 1)

Emerging Technologies

Communication

Increasingly, it has become a priority for academic librarians to create multiple channels of communication with both students and faculty. In an effort to provide resources and services to a generation that, as Lippincott states, “never were tethered to communication in a place,” librarians have built new outposts of communication that extend the building, the classroom, and our self-definitions (24/7 good buddy). By building social networks and using technologies that students have already embraced, librarians can ensure more timely delivery of resources and services. These technologies provide the flexibility to repackage resources and services, in order to meet, as they say in the corporate world, client specification. As panelist Heather Tompkins aptly states, these new technologies are ideally suited “social web applications as a tool for organizing research.” Tompkins also points out that meeting students where they are comfortable is an opportunity to teach concepts about academic research in a non-threatening environ. In addition, by sharing resources and project goals with other academic departments, librarians can more closely examine their success in teaching many of the core skills needed to transform information literacy. According to Lippincott, these core skills, as extrapolated from Henry Jenkins’ work, *Confronting the Challenges of Participatory Culture*, include the ability to multitask, simulate, and meaningfully appropriate.

Collaboration

Selective and successful appropriation, or sampling, of different media sources means that students and faculty alike are more likely to, as Kathleen Burnett suggests, “bring other voices and faces into the discussion.” And, by expanding our concept of acceptable forms of scholarly communication, we create new opportunities for interdisciplinary collaboration. Collaboration flattens the learning environment, coaxing it into one more akin to mutual aid, whereby everyone’s contribution is appreciated and maximized. Kathryn Shaughnessy points to this in

her discussion of social justice concerns for instruction, where she emphasizes learning from students, in “recognition of experience/expertise in their own area.” The benefits of collaboration and teamwork threaded through each panelist’s presentation. As Burnett emphasizes in her discussion of digital natives, this is especially beneficial to Library and Information Science students, who come to the profession from diverse backgrounds and have much to gain from an increase in “peer-to peer (collaborative) learning” strategies.

Curricular Enrichment

Burnett and others also note that new technologies have made a variety of experiential learning activities possible, such as gaming and simulation. These types of activities match the learning preferences of digital natives, which include a desire for active engagement and constructive versus theoretical learning experiences. They want to do rather than discuss, and they want the unadulterated version of what they are learning. In short, new technologies give students and faculty more flexibility in the types of material being presented, how that material is presented, and the ways in which it is delivered. This means a change in expectations, not only as to what constitutes scholarly communication, but in how faculty and students interact.

As we move forward with these and other new technologies, it seems important to recognize that this is ever-shifting terrain. What seemed anathema to learning 20 years ago (studying via podcast while driving?), or structurally impossible 10 years ago (transnational synchronous distance learning?), is now part of our learning culture. The best piece of all of this is that through technology, academic librarians have transformed into a new breed of professor, capable of teasing out the hidden pedagogical potential of technology and, more importantly, the ever sought-after student *wow* factor.

Jennifer Nace

Penn State Worthington Scranton

Committee Reports From Annual in Washington, DC

Collection Development and Bibliography Committee

The Collection Development and Bibliography Committee had a productive meeting in Washington, D.C. The committee discussed our recent work on the Women's Studies Section Collection Development Resources site, including updates made to the following pages: Women's Studies Publishers, Collection Development in Women's Studies: A Bibliography, Checklist to Evaluate Women's Studies Collections, Keeping Current with Women's Studies Scholarship, and Promotion of Women's Studies Projects and Publications: Suggested Venues for Announcements. Carrie Kruse also provided an update on the Women's Studies Section Core Books database project. The Core Books lists were updated successfully this past spring and two new lists have been added (African Women and Middle Eastern Women).

*Sharon Ladenson, Chair
Michigan State University*

Membership Committee

At ALA Annual we discussed the second and final year of our action plan promoting outreach to library students; retention of library school student members; and the WSS MySpace and Facebook pages. Although we will not have ACRL support for the library student outreach plan, we agreed that it is a worthy plan and we will continue to promote it and have our members present if the opportunity arises. We learned that WSS has a large number of members who join our section as students and then drop the section when they get a job that is not directly related to women's studies. Suggestions included doing targeted communication to students and profiling WSS members in the newsletter who are not women's studies librarians. We

planned our MySpace page, which is now live at myspace.com/wssofacrl. Lastly, we are pleased to report an increase in membership – we are now up to 617 members!

*Piper Martin, Chair
Wright State University*

National Museum of Women in the Arts Reception and Viewing at Annual

WSS and the Feminist Task Force (FTF) held a reception and viewing of the exhibition *Italian Women Artists from Renaissance to Baroque* at the National Museum of Women in the Arts. This combined social between WSS and FTF was well-attended, fun, and informative.



Right: The National Museum of Women in the Arts



Left: Sharon Wasserman of The National Museum of Women in the Arts hosted the event

Committee Reports From Annual in Washington, DC

Research Committee

At ALA Annual, the WSS Research Committee discussed how WSS could accommodate ACRL type research presentations at ALA conferences. The Committee brainstormed that poster presentations could be held during the second half of the WSS Annual Membership meeting. The Research Committee would send out a call for proposals and then evaluate and choose proposals as needed. Executive Committee approved our proposal to develop criteria prior to Midwinter, to send out a call for proposals after Midwinter, and to present posters at Annual 2008.

The Research Committee is also happy to announce our collaboration with Hope Olson, library science professor at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. She required the students in her summer 2007 class, "Feminism, Librarianship, and Information," to use the WSS Research Agenda to generate the research questions for their projects. Jennifer Gilley acted as a consultant on the project, providing individual research counseling to the students. In order to share their results with the larger community of Women's Studies librarians, we are planning on posting their final papers to the WSS web site, linked from the Research Agenda. (To see the Research Agenda go to: <http://www.libr.org/wss/committees/research/resagenda.html>).

*Jane Nichols, Chair
Oregon State*

Instruction Committee, no report submitted

Awards Committee, closed deliberations

Publications Committee, no report submitted

Program Planning Committee, no report submitted

Nominating Committee, no report submitted

Electronic Resources and Access Committee, no report submitted

New Assistant Newsletter Editor

Julie Biando Edwards, Ethnic Studies Librarian and Multicultural Coordinator at the University of Montana (UM), is the new Assistant Editor of the *WSS Newsletter*. Julie provides liaison and collection development services to eight departments and programs at UM, performs general and specialized reference work, and provides library instruction in cultural studies and women's studies. She sits on a variety of Library and University committees, including the Library Diversity Committee and the Women's Studies Steering Committee and reviews books in women's and cultural studies for *Choice*. She and her husband, Stephan P. Edwards, have recently completed an essay entitled *Culture and the New Iraq: The Iraq National Library and Archives*, "Imagined Community," and *the Future of the Iraqi Nation*, examining the reconstruction of the INLA in the context of Iraqi nation building. Her research interests are in libraries as cultural institutions, cultural genocide and reconstruction, and library services as a human right. Julie received her BA in English from the University of Montana; her MA in English from the University of Connecticut; and her MS in Library and Information Science from the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign in 2005. Julie is delighted to be a member of WSS and has found section members to be welcoming, progressive, involved, and energetic. She looks forward to working on the newsletter and getting to know members over the next few years.

WSS Member Profiles



Chimene Elise Tucker, Librarian for Film & Media Studies, History (World), UC Santa Barbara

Education: BA Women's Studies, San Diego State University; MLIS San Jose State University

What Do You Do in Your Current Job? I do many of the traditional things: reference, liaison work with faculty, teach an introductory course on library research, answer reference questions in our government information center and main service desk. I add to the collection with the increasing serials and monographs. My favorites responsibilities are working with the outreach task force to connect with students outside of the library and doing magic!

What Books Have You Read Lately? *A Long Stay in a Distant Land* by Chieh Chieng and *My Husband Betty: Love, Sex, and Life with a Crossdresser* by Helen Boyd.

What Do You Enjoy Doing in Your Spare Time? I enjoy long road trips, photography, running (even with the pain), bike riding, and searching for the best Thai restaurant.

Why Did You Join WSS? I joined WSS to stay connected with the academic work within the field of Women's Studies and collaborate with some of the most talented professionals in the library profession.



Erin Stalberg, Head of Metadata and Cataloging, North Carolina State University Libraries

Education: BA Spanish/Religion, Mount Holyoke College; MLS, Drexel University

Your Current Position: I am currently transitioning positions. For the past four years, I have been Head of Cataloging at the University of Virginia Library. Beginning September, I will be Head of Metadata and Cataloging at North Carolina State University Libraries. I also traveled around the world spring 2007 as the on-board Librarian for Semester at Sea, a study-abroad program affiliated with the University of Virginia. I managed the Library with Sherri Barnes (also an WSS member!). Additionally, I serve as webmaster of the WSS website.

What Do You Do in Your Current Job? I have managerial responsibility for our centralized cataloging operations and I lead the metadata activities for our digital initiatives (working with vendor provided data and various flavors of XML). As Head of Metadata and Cataloging at NCSU, I will provide leadership during this critical period of change for technical services, by directing the enhancement of metadata infrastructures and practices within the department and collaborating with colleagues to support growing metadata and digital collections initiatives.

What Books Have You Read Lately? *Animal, Vegetable, Miracle: A Year of Food Life* by Barbara Kingsolver; *Harry Potter & the Deathly Hallows* by J.K. Rowling; and *Pink Ribbons, Inc.: Breast Cancer and the Politics of Philanthropy* by Samantha King

What Do You Enjoy Doing in Your Spare Time? Traveling, reading, lounging, dog-walking, and also I'm newly addicted to Facebook, where I have found many other WSS colleagues!

Why Did You Join WSS? As a women's college alumna, these issues are obviously very important to me. My day-to-day job responsibilities are not terribly tied to women's studies activities, so I find WSS a nice way for me to connect to women's studies issues, like-minded colleagues, and to this part of my psyche.



Piper Martin, Reference & Instruction Librarian, Wright State University

Education: BA English Literature, University of California, Santa Cruz; MLS, University of Texas, Austin

What Do You Do in Your Current Job? I provide reference services (in-person and IM) and I am the selector and instruction librarian for art, philosophy/religion, anthropology/sociology, social work, and women's studies. I am also on the library's web team.

What Books Have You Read Lately? *One Good Turn* by Kate Atkinson; *After Dark* by Haruki Murakami (currently reading); *The Omnivore's Dilemma* by Michael Pollan.

What Do You Enjoy Doing in Your Spare Time? Trite as it may sound for a librarian, but I spend a large part of my free time reading. I also love to garden, visit prairies, spend time with my cats, and plan my future travels.

Why Did You Join WSS? I received such a warm welcome from the people in WSS. I attended a couple other sections' meetings and nothing compared to the great projects and the wider concern for women's issues and social justice to which WSS is committed.

Welcome New Members!

Craighton Hippenhammer	Rachel McGee	Susan Wortman
Lisa Hendricks	Robert Steele	Robin Brown
Martha Czop	Molly Hazleton	Rumie Imm - Stroukoff
Catherine Johnson	Vivian Fisher	Shelley Nituama
Staci Elliott	Anne Houston	Judith Hillkert
Artemida Kabashi	Paula Contreras	Patricia Feeney
Selena Thomas	Jennifer Mayer	Jennifer Dixey
Rebecca Shaknovich	Amy Arnold	Liorah Golomb
Carrie Donovan	Jennifer Foucher	Taneya Getthers
Deborah Bilal	Beatrice Calvert	Sara Finch
Sarah Brechner	Meghan Banach	Danelle Moon
Julie Biando Edwards	Kim Whitlsey	Amanda Maddock
Jason Phillips	Gennice King	Jennifer Phipps
Irma Quinones	Julie Miller	Rebecca Lossin
Amber French	Laurel Bliss	Marc Selvaggio
Jane Ouderkirk	Sarah Hambleton	Christina Thach
Frederick Augustyn	Mandy Henk	Rhonda Chadwick
Margaret Phillips	Jewell Anderson	Hedi Abbey
Andrea Slomsky	Megan Zellner	Samanthi Hewakapuge
Claudia Shorr	Janelle Hubble	Gabrielle Toth
Pamela Read	Irene Yelovich	Chimene Elise Tucker
Ashley Romans		

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