

WGSS Newsletter

women & gender studies section

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Notes From The Chair

by Sharon Ladenson



Dear WGSS Members and Friends,

First and foremost, I hope that you and yours are safe and well. I also hope that you have been able to cultivate space for self-care. While this can be a challenge, Audre Lorde rightly noted that it is also necessary for self-preservation.

The opportunity to connect with WGSS colleagues has been especially valuable during these uncertain times. WGSS Vice-Chair Julie Adamo and I have been meeting this fall with members of the WGSS Executive Committee to engage in conversation about how our section can develop meaningful goals for equity, diversity, and inclusion. We are thinking about what our goals will look like not only for the immediate future, but also long term, as intentional work to combat systemic inequality certainly requires an abiding commitment.

I appreciate the flexibility and dedication of our committee members in their efforts to facilitate opportunities to connect. Our 2020 Conference Program Planning Committee worked collaboratively with the ACRL Arts Section

to offer a virtual program in August on *Building Bridges between Libraries and Marginalized Arts Groups: A Closer Look at Engaging with Women Artists of Mexican Ancestry to Preserve their Work*. The committee worked quickly and effectively to shift this program online, and I really appreciate their efforts! I also want to extend a big congratulations to our ACRL-WGSS 2020 award winners who were recognized at the program. Shawn(ta) Smith-Cruz, Associate Dean for Teaching, Learning, and Engagement at New York University Libraries, earned the Significant Achievement Award. Smith-Cruz was recognized for her outstanding contributions to preserve and promote the voices and experiences of queer women of color, most notably through working to collect materials from the Salsa Soul Sisters group for the Lesbian Herstory Archives. Emily Drabinski, Interim Chief Librarian and Critical Pedagogy Librarian at the Graduate Center, CUNY, earned the Career Achievement Award. Drabinski was recognized for her extensive publications, critical information literacy instruction, service to WGSS, and mentoring other librarians.

Thanks so much to Tara Baillargeon for her strong leadership and helpful guidance as last year's WGSS Chair. Many thanks also to Julie Adamo for her wonderful collaborative work as WGSS Vice-Chair. It is an honor to serve as Chair of WGSS, and I look forward to working with all of you! Please don't hesitate to reach out at any time with questions or suggestions.

Sharon Ladenson (she/her/hers)
Chair, ACRL-WGSS
Michigan State University Libraries

inside this issue

Notes From The Chair	1	Call for Awards Nominations	5
Section Contact Information	2	Call for Proposals	6
Committee Reports	3	Featured Resource	7
2020 Conference Report	4	Member Announcements	8

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

EDITORS

Donna Braquet
University of Tennessee
dbraquet@utk.edu

Rebecca Hopman
Sarah Lawrence College
rchopman@gmail.com

The WGSS Newsletter welcomes contributions from its members. Please send articles, items of interest, and news to the editors in electronic format.

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WGSS OFFICERS, 2020-2021

- Sharon Ladenson, Chair
- Julie M. Adamo, Vice-Chair
- Ms. Cindy Ingold, Secretary
- Elizabeth Raub, Member-at-Large
- Caitlin Shanley, Member-at-Large
- Dr. Tara Baillargeon, Past Chair

Listserv archives (1999 - present):
<http://lists.ala.org/sympa/arc/wgss-l>

WGSS Newsletters (1986 - present):
<http://libr.org/wgss/newsletter/index.html>



ACRL Diversity Alliance -- Join or Renew for 2021!

The [ACRL Diversity Alliance program](#) unites academic libraries committed to increasing the hiring pipeline of qualified and talented individuals from underrepresented racial and ethnic groups. By working together and thinking more broadly, ACRL Diversity Alliance institutions will help diversify and thereby enrich the profession. The commitment of each library leader to create one or more residency positions will expand the opportunities available to individuals from professionally underrepresented groups to gain knowledge, skills, and competencies necessary to thrive in an academic context. Renewals will go out this fall for 2020 institutional members. If your institution is not a current member and you're interested in joining the ACRL Diversity Alliance, please contact ACRL Program Manager for Strategic Initiatives Allison Payne at apayne@ala.org.



ACRL Books

ACRL publishes a range of books to assist academic librarians in developing their professional careers, managing their institutions, and increasing their awareness of developments in librarianship, providing timely, thought-provoking, and practical content and research to academic and research librarians worldwide. Some recent titles:

[Get the Job: Academic Library Hiring for the New Librarian](#) | [Sharing Spaces and Students: Employing Students in Collaborative Partnerships](#) | [Hidden Architectures of Information Literacy Programs: Structures, Practices, and Contexts](#) | [The Engaged Library: High-Impact Educational Practices in Academic Libraries](#) | [Games and Gamification in Academic Libraries](#)

Interested in writing for ACRL? Contact [Erin Nevius](#), ACRL's Content Strategist, for more information, or visit www.ala.org/acrl/publications/publishing to learn more about our book publishing program and submit a proposal.



Committee Reports

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

The work of the Membership Committee continues despite disruptions by the COVID-19 pandemic. Currently the committee is working on a survey to gauge the interest of a mentorship program. Distribution of the survey is slated for early November. Discussions are also being held about the need to increase student participation in the broader ACRL Section Membership. As a result, the committee wishes to recruit a student with the aim of exploring the best way to grow student membership. Finally, the membership committee is in discussion with the Executive Committee on ways to diversify section membership.

Megan Lounsberry & Kari Weaver
Committee Co-Chairs

INSTRUCTION COMMITTEE

Last year, the Instruction Committee worked to complete a draft of the WGSS companion document to the IL Framework that more heavily emphasized intersectionality, antiracism, diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility, as concepts central to the discipline. The draft can be viewed here: <https://bit.ly/wgss-framework>. The draft is currently being reviewed by ACRL's [Information Literacy Frameworks and Standards Committee](#), after which the committee will revise the draft to incorporate any feedback. The committee will then continue the process to get the companion document approved by ACRL.

Lalitha Nataraj & Maura Seale
Committee Co-Chairs

RESEARCH COMMITTEE

The Research Committee continues to work on updating the Research Agenda for Women and Gender Studies Librarianship. Currently 7 out of 12 sections have been updated. The section Gender, Race, and Sexuality in the LIS Profession is nearly complete and consists of 7 subsections: racism in the LIS profession, affective/emotional/reproductive labor in LIS, feminist leadership in the LIS profession, librarian stereotypes, LGBTQ+ LIS workers, and feminist library technology politics. Sources have been compiled to update the Bibliography of Scholarship on Women and Gender Studies Librarianship, but the web site has been inaccessible for editing since June. Updates will occur when access is restored.

Jennifer Gilley
Committee Chair

COLLECTIONS COMMITTEE

The Collections Committee held their first meeting in mid-September and is still discussing goals for the year. We established that each member will submit one WGSS-related resource review per semester to highlight in the newsletter (and distributed elsewhere, TBD). Members are reviewing the committee's previous work related to compiling a list of OERs and Open Access resources, and are considering distribution possibilities. We also discussed possible projects involving DEI-related collections assessments and collecting policies. The committee plans to meet monthly.

Erin Hvizdak & Colleen Seale
Committee Co-Chairs

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

The Nominating Committee has completed the slate for the 2021 election. Our candidates for Vice-Chair/Chair-Elect are Janine Kuntz and Caitlin Shanley. Erin Hvizdak is our candidate for Secretary, and Monica Porter is our candidate for Member-at-Large. The committee will also develop recommendations for cultivating an inclusive approach to the nominating process. Thanks so much to Stacy Russo and Jennifer Gilley for their great work on the committee, and to our candidates for their leadership!

Sharon Ladenson
Committee Member

PROGRAM PLANNING 2021

The Program Planning Committee teamed up with the Research Committee to make "decolonizing the library" the focus of both the WGSS program and research poster sessions at Annual 2021. American libraries are deeply rooted in a viewpoint that exemplifies the white, cisgender, hetero-normative, able-bodied, and Judeo-Christian points of view as neutral; anything that falls outside of these boxes is considered as 'other.' This viewpoint is reflected in the way we organize and catalog our collections, how we develop our collections and resources, how we teach information literacy concepts, the programming that we offer, and the way we allocate and promote our services and spaces. The committee is working on the proposal and will put out a call for participation to determine speakers for the panel.

Tara Baillargeon and Janine Kuntz
Committee Co-Chairs

2020 Conference Report

The year 2020 has been a milestone year in so many ways and fortunately, sometimes with positive outcomes. Such was the case when WGSS decided to venture forth in the brave new world of Zoom communications to do our planned program, “Building bridges between libraries and marginalized arts groups: A closer look at engaging with women artists of Mexican ancestry to preserve their work.” The program (or forum, in ACRL parlance) was a collaborative undertaking with the ARTS Section and would have taken place at the McCormick Place Conference Center in Chicago. But necessity is the mother of invention and Zoom proved to be a wonderful medium for bringing together our four panelists in a safe and effective way.

Our guest speakers included an all-star cast from the arts and librarian world in the Windy City. Diana Solis, well-known artist & photographer in the Chicago area, and teaching artist at [Urban Gateways](#) discussed her experiences working with communities of Mexican descent and women artists in particular. Professor Nicole Marroquín, faculty in the Department of Art Education at the [School of the Art Institute of Chicago](#), has long focused on how women of color built a foundation for arts and activism on the lower west side of Chicago, yet their history remains largely unpreserved, unwritten, and therefore missing from libraries and archives. Marroquín discussed her efforts to uncover and preserve these histories, challenges she has faced, and how librarians and archivists can assist in Chicago efforts, providing a model for similar endeavors across the country. Dr. Hinda Seif, faculty in Women & Gender Studies as well as the Anthropology/Sociology Department at the University of Illinois at Springfield, has been working on a book that focuses on these projects and provided a framework for the panel. And what better way to tie this all together for an academic librarian program, Analú Lopez, Ayer Librarian and [an artist](#) herself, discussed the challenges she has encountered while working with Indigenous materials at the [Newberry Library](#). She opened by contextualizing the historical significance of the Newberry & much of Chicago being situated on formerly indigenous land. The work that she does with indigenous and communities of color in the Chicago area was fascinating and wrought with much obvious passion, love and intellectual grit.



If you were unable to make this live Zoom panel session you still have an opportunity to view the recording here: <https://youtu.be/PLi68CGyyh4>

The program also included our annual awards gratis, Duke University. Our awardees were: Emily Drabinski, winner for Career Achievement in Women and Gender Studies Librarianship, her extensive publications, critical literacy instruction, and service to WGSS and Shawn(ta) Smith-Cruz, winner of the WGSS Award for Significant Achievement in Women and Gender Studies Librarianship, her outstanding work with the Lesbian Herstory Archives preserving the work of [Salsa Soul Sisters](#).

Pamela M. Salela, Chair, WGSS Programming Planning Committee for 2020

Call for Award Nominations

Nominations are now open for ACRL Women and Gender Studies Section awards!

Do you know someone who has excelled in Women and Gender Studies Librarianship? The ACRL Women & Gender Studies Section is accepting nominations for two awards. WGSS awards are given annually to honor distinguished academic librarians who have made outstanding contributions to women and gender studies through accomplishments and service to the profession. The awards recognize those who have made long-standing contributions to the field during a career (the Career Achievement Award) and those who have made significant one-time contributions (the Significant Achievement Award.)

Deadline for both awards is Friday, December 4, 2020.

Selection criteria for the awards:

The WGSS Career Achievement Award in Women & Gender Studies Librarianship is designed to honor individual career achievement in Women and Gender Studies Librarianship. Nominees should have demonstrated sustained achievement in one or more of the following areas:

- Service within the organized profession through ACRL/WGSS and/or related organizations
- Academic/research library or archival service in the area of women and gender studies
- Research and publication in areas of academic/research library or archival services in women and gender studies
- Planning and implementation of academic/research library or archival programs in women and gender studies disciplines of such exemplary quality that they could serve as a model for others

The award is sponsored by Duke University Press and includes a \$750 check and a plaque for the winner. Additional information and nomination procedures can be found at <http://www.ala.org/acrl/awards/achievementawards/wssachievement>

The WGSS Award for Significant Achievement in Women & Gender Studies Librarianship recognizes one-time achievement, by an individual or a group, during the year of the award. Achievement may be in any area of academic, women and gender studies librarianship, including, but not limited to:

- Publication of a monograph, journal article, website or media product
- Talk or other presentation at a nationally recognized conference
- Innovations in women and gender studies librarianship, including but not limited to instruction
- Development of an exemplary program, collection, digitization project, or access tool to serve women and gender studies students and/or faculty
- Significant creative and innovative contribution to the work of the ACRL Women & Gender Studies Section

The award is sponsored by Duke University Press and includes a \$750 check and a plaque for the winner. Additional information and nomination procedures can be found at http://www.ala.org/acrl/awards/achievementawards/WGSS_Significant_Achievement_Award

For questions, please contact Laura Bonella, Awards Committee chair, laurab@ksu.edu

Call for Proposals

Lack & Absence: 40th Annual Gender Studies Symposium

Proposals due November 6, 2020 at 5pm

You are invited to submit proposals for presentation at Lack & Absence, the 40th Annual Lewis & Clark College Gender Studies Symposium in Portland, Oregon, March 10-12, 2021: https://college.lclark.edu/departments/gender_studies/symposium/call_for_proposals/

This interdisciplinary symposium is designed to bring together people from academia, activism, and the arts to examine concepts of lack and absence in relation to gender and sexuality.

We are accepting proposals for individual academic papers, full panels, interactive workshops, roundtable discussions, readings, and artistic productions. Please keep in mind that all events may take place on Zoom.

All presentations examining issues of gender and sexuality will be considered, but we especially welcome those focusing on questions of lack and absence. For more information about this year's theme, please visit our [overview page](#).

A [call for visual art](#) will be posted to the symposium website in January. We are not currently accepting visual art submissions.



ACRL invites you to share your research and creative endeavors with your colleagues at the ACRL 2021 Virtual Conference. Today's higher education environment calls for innovative ways to support student, faculty, and institution success. Submit your ideas for presentation at the ACRL 2021 Virtual Conference, where we will explore the theme *Ascending into An Open Future*. Through the work of talented library workers like you, and ACRL's commitments to equitable and open scholarship as well as equity, diversity and inclusion, today's academic and research libraries are providing more open and inclusive collections and services. Share your ideas with your colleagues as we work together for an open future.

The deadline for Lightning Talk, Poster, Roundtable, TechConnect, Webcast submissions has been extended to Monday, November 9. As a reminder of the new [Participation Limits](#), all submitters (even those that already submitted in the spring) are eligible to be included as a presenter or co-presenter on a maximum of two additional proposals for the revised fall submission deadline, and can ultimately present a maximum of two times during the ACRL Conference.

More details about the ACRL 2021 Virtual Conference, including the full [Call for Participation](#), are online.

Featured Resource

HISTSEX.ORG

HistSex.org is a freely-available, peer-reviewed, and open-source resource for information on the history of sexuality for students, academics and members of the public.

A common abbreviation for 'History of Sexuality,' HistSex was founded by Brian M. Watson in 2020 and is maintained by an interdisciplinary, interinstitutional, and international team of historians and librarians active in sexuality fields. Contributions to the project originate from 30+ individuals covering 9 countries, 3 continents and 6 languages. Job descriptions are varied, but the current list includes two professors, a dozen PhD. candidates or students, and nearly a dozen MLIS or MS degree holders, including 3 meta-data specialists.

Metadata is of especial interest to the HistSex project as it uses the [Homosaurus LGBTQ vocabulary](#) for cataloging. The Homosaurus vocabulary is a linked data vocabulary that is maintained by an international queer community. HistSex's use of it for subject headings serves as a demonstration of the use of an ethically developed vocabulary, as well as the possibilities of new technologies for libraries, archives, and museums.

Additionally, HistSex makes use of Schema.org, Library of Congress's Genre Terms, MARC's Intended Reading Audience, and Dublin Core, all of which integrate into the open-source platform Omeka S. Thus, in many senses, HistSex is a semantic libguide.

50 YEARS ON, MANY YEARS PAST

Funded by a generous Carnegie-Whitney Grant from the American Library Association, *50 Years On, Many Years Past: Nonfictions of Sexuality* is the first resource published for the public.

The project's name is a reference to the fact that 2019 marked the semicentennial or '50 Years On' past the 1969 Stonewall Riots in Greenwich Village, New York City. Although these 'riots' are often cited as the beginning of the struggle for queer equality in the United States, the over-attention paid to a single

event overshadows the fact that LGBTQ+ history is, in fact, 'Many Years Past.'

50 Years On, Many Years Past aims to fill a often-overlooked need for the historical representation of LGBTQ+ identity. When complete, the guide will be ranked for audience reading level, sortable by topic, time, and place, and presented online in an open and easily-searchable format. Currently, resources include:

- [A searchable annotated directory of ~100 re-search collections](#) of use to historians, students, and researchers interested in LGBTQIA+ topics.
- [A descriptive catalog of ~100 relevant digital projects](#) connected to sexuality and sexual representation.
- [A timeline of 100+ major events](#) in the history of sexuality to help ground and pique interest.
- A forthcoming (December 2020) bibliography of books tagged and searchable by research interest, reading level, topic, and more. Currently the bibliography covers 1000+ books focused on the history of sexuality, including [ACRL-WGSS's own Core Books Reading List](#).

HistSex.org is a living and growing resource. It welcomes volunteers and contributors (write to sexualitiesofhistory@gmail.com or bmwatson1989@gmail.com).

HistSex also welcomes contributions in the form of annotated bibliographies, syllabi, and reading lists. If readers would like to contribute these to be republished under a CC-BY-NC license (free to use; credit to original author; no commercial use permitted) please send a copy to sexualitiesofhistory@gmail.com with a note that you are okay with them being republished. Optionally, include a 1-2 sentence biography and you will be credited on the contributors section of the site when it goes fully live next year.

Please construe 'history of sexuality' as broadly as possible, including history of the body, women's studies, masculinity studies, romance, pornography, sexual representation, etc.

Brian M. Watson
Director of HistSex.org
School of Information, University of British Columbia

Member Announcements and ACRL News

New Article

Professor Joanna Bartow and I have co-authored the following article:

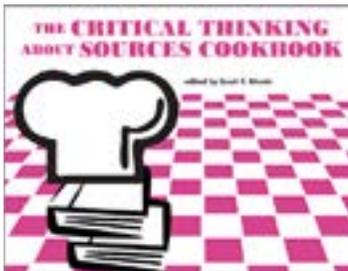
“Reimagining Epistemologies: Librarian-Faculty Collaboration to Integrate Critical Information Literacy into Spanish Community-Based Learning.” *Currents in Teaching & Learning*. Feb 2020, Vol. 11 Issue 2, p16-31. 16p.

The pdf for the issue is [Spring, 2020](#), and in the [archives list of the website](#).

Abstract: This report describes a pilot collaborative teaching experience between library and Spanish faculty members to meaningfully integrate critical information literacy (CIL) into a community-based course for advanced Spanish students. A key learning objective the two teaching methodologies share is for students to understand the social, political, economic, and cultural contexts of information and authorship in order to reframe notions of authority and students' own process of knowing--to reimagine epistemologies from local and global perspectives and from inside and outside the academy. The report defines community based learning and critical information literacy, identifies the concepts that inherently join them, describes the course's structure and assignments with a focus on the areas of closest collaboration between the authors, then describes the results with suggestions for improvement. CIL integration improved the course's overall success, and CIL learning outcomes were achieved and supported the course's general learning outcomes.

Pamela Mann
Associate Librarian for the Arts & Humanities
Library, Archives and Media Center
St. Mary's College of Maryland

New Book Chapter



I have a chapter in [The Critical Thinking About Sources Cookbook](#) (ACRL 2020). The chapter is entitled: The Whole Facts Diet: No Artificial Additives.

Sally Stieglitz
Communications and Marketing Coordinator
Liaison to Academic, Hospital, and Special Libraries
Long Island Library Resources Council

Project Outcome

Project Outcome is a FREE online toolkit designed to help libraries understand and share the impact of essential library programs and services by providing simple surveys and an easy-to-use process for measuring and analyzing outcomes. Participating libraries are also provided with the resources and training support needed to apply their results and confidently advocate for their library's future. Project Outcome's standardized surveys allow libraries to aggregate their outcome data and analyze trends by service topic, program type, and over time. Sign up today at <https://acrl.projectoutcome.org/>.



Call for Award Nominations

Excellence in Academic Libraries Award
\$3,000 and a plaque

Academic/Research Librarian of the Year
\$5,000 and a plaque

Generously sponsored by [GOBI Library Solutions from EBSCO](#)

DEADLINE: December 4, 2020

More information about these and all other ACRL award opportunities can be found on the ACRL website: <http://www.ala.org/acrl/awards>.

