

# ACRL WOMEN'S STUDIES NEWSLETTER

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June 1994



WOMEN'S  
STUDIES  
SECTION

Jessica Grim, Editor  
Jill Morrissey, Asst. Editor  
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## **MAKING THE NET\*WORK\*: IS THERE A Z39.50 FOR GENDER COMMUNICATIONS?** Women's Studies Section/Education and Behavioral Sciences Section Program Miami, Florida

Monday, June 27, 9:30-12:30

The relationship between gender and communication in the electronic environment is the subject of the joint Women's Studies and Education and Behavioral Sciences sections' program in Miami on Monday, June 27, 9:30-12:30. The program will be part of an all-day ACRL series of programs focusing on interaction and networking in the electronic age.

The program, "Making the Net\*Work\*: Is There a Z39.50 for Gender Communications?", will feature two keynote speakers from academia and a librarian respondent:

Dr. Becky Mulvaney, assistant professor of communications at Florida Atlantic University, will talk about "Gender Differences in Communication: An 'Inter-cultural' Experience with Implications for the Librarian." Her talk will cover research on gender differences in communication, the ways in which cultural rules influence and produce gender through communication, and the ways in which gender communication is a type of intercultural communication.

Dr. Susan Herring, associate professor of linguistics, University of Texas at Arlington, will describe her research on the interactions and communications patterns of men and women on an electronic academic listserv. Her talk is entitled "Bringing Familiar Baggage to a New Frontier: Gender Differences in Academic Computer-mediated Communication."

Responding to both presentations will be Dr. James V. Carmichael, assistant professor in the Department of Library and Information Studies at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro. Dr. Carmichael, who has written on male and female stereotyped images in librarianship, will bring that perspective to his response as well as his viewpoint of the presentations by the other two speakers. All three speakers will also respond to questions from the audience.

A program on a closely-related topic will be presented earlier in the conference. On Saturday, June 25, 2-4 p.m., the Committee on the Status of Women in Librarianship will sponsor "The Virtual Library and the Disadvantaged Majority: Library Women and Technology." Their keynote speaker is Dr. Cheris Kramarae from the University of Illinois, a pioneer in studying women and electronic technology and communication. The Women's Studies Section is a co-sponsor of this program.

*Bonnie Jean Cox, Member, 1994 Miami Program Committee*

## NOTES FROM THE CHAIR

Despite post-quake misgivings, Los Angeles proved to be fine for Midwinter conference attendees. Its mild weather provided a much appreciated break for those from harsher climes.

The Section's new ACRL liaison, Frances Maloy of Emory University, sat in on both Executive Committee meetings at Midwinter to get to know us and to be advised about issues currently facing the Section. She wound up presenting two of the Section's concerns at the second ACRL Board of Directors' meeting on Tuesday. The first involved the draft brochure, "Principles for Development of National Information Infrastructure," which addresses fairness of information access. While race, age and other categories were specified for nondiscriminatory status, gender was not mentioned. Frances brought a motion that the Board endorse the draft with the reminder that the issue of gender be considered in future revisions. The motion passed, and the observation was made that this was only a preliminary draft and that more editing and more specific documents would be forthcoming.

The other issue is more problematical for WSS. Althea Jenkins drafted the "ACRL Response to the American Library Association Self-Study Committee Units Survey," which was then edited by ACRL's Executive Committee. Question 6: "What is the top priority for ACRL over the next three years, and how does it affect ACRL's relationship with ALA?" led to this response from ACRL: "Should ALA continue to emphasize a social issues agenda that ignores professional issues (or sees professional issues as less important), ACRL could find

that there is no longer a common professional interest or a sense of connectedness with ALA and its programs."

WSS's Social Issues and Education Committee developed a position statement which was accepted by the entire Executive Committee at their final meeting on Tuesday morning [see pg. 7]. Frances Maloy was given a copy of the statement, which she subsequently brought before the ACRL Board that afternoon. In the ensuing Board discussion, it was noted that it was not the intent of their statement to imply that ACRL and ALA should not be concerned about social issues. On the other hand, one board member claimed that a substantial segment of ACRL membership did not approve of recent decisions to change conference sites due to social controversies. Frances observed that, indeed, refusal to hold a conference at a given site was sometimes a very ethical decision, and that she could not agree with the language of the statement. ACRL President Tom Kirk agreed to mark this paragraph for revision of wording. The February 15th deadline was too close to enable the revision to be shared with ACRL members, so this is a situation requiring ongoing monitoring.

On more mundane level, WSS is required to undergo its 5-year section review this year. This will be a true group effort, with segments being developed by the various committees. One question facing us: does WSS need a Public Services Committee? That issue will be on the agenda of the Executive Committee in Miami. Between now and June, former officers and committee chairs/members may well be contacted to help pull together information needed for the review. Thank you in advance for your assistance with this effort.

The advice for Miami is bring plenty of sun block and the common sense employed in any other large city for your personal safety. Ruth Dickstein deserves a great deal of praise for her efforts in developing our Miami program. Get ready for a very timely program and leave room for some fun in the sun!

*Betty Glass, WSS Chair*

The ACRL Women's Studies Newsletter (ISSN 0895-691X) is a semi-annual publication of the Women's Studies Section of the Association of College & Research Libraries, a division of the American Library Association, 50 East Huron St., Chicago, IL 60611. It is a communication vehicle for Section members and other interested individuals. Short articles on topics of interest to the membership will be reviewed for publication. Inquiries may be made to the editors: Jessica Grim and Jill Morrissey. The WSS Newsletter is available to all Section members at no additional cost.  
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## 1995 WSS Chicago Annual Conference Program

The Program Planning Committee for the 1995 Annual Conference in Chicago met for the first time in Los Angeles. Committee members are: Alison Armstrong, University of Nevada, Las Vegas; Cindy Faries, chair, Penn State University; Catherine Geddies, Rutgers University; Lori Goetsch, ex-officio, University of Tennessee; Barbara Heath, Wayne State University; Thura Mack, University of Tennessee; and Gretchen Pearson, LeMoyne College.

The topic selected by the committee and supported by the Executive Committee is mentoring women's studies librarians. Recent articles by Roma Harris and Mary Niles Maack and Joanne Passet point out both the benefits and pitfalls of mentoring relationships. We hope to draw at least one speaker from this group of library science faculty as well as a practicing women's studies librarian and a library science student for a panel discussion on:

What is mentoring? What does it mean/not mean?

How do we "grow our own" women's studies librarians?

What are the gender issues surrounding mentoring?

We're interested in hearing other questions that you would like us to address in this program as well as panelists you can recommend. Please send your ideas to Cindy

Faries (e-mail: csf@psulias.psu.edu) or Lori Goetsch (e-mail: goetsch@utklib.lib.utk.edu).

*Lori Goetsch, Chair-elect*

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### WSS Midwinter Discussion Meeting: "Women in Cyberspace: Women's Studies and the Internet"

The discussion was lively and moved between the practical and philosophical, but we barely scratched the surface of the topic of the uses of the net for women's studies and the impacts of this technology on women. Three "discussion starters" gave brief presentations. Bonnie Cox, Head of Collection Development at University of Kentucky, spoke on her work with a library science to identify feminist resources on the Internet. Bonnie commented on the challenges of locating relevant and useful information in an environment where vocabulary control is nonexistent and the connections are unreliable. *Wilson Library Bulletin* editor GraceAnne DeCandido spoke about women's voices on the Internet, which she prefers to call "the back fence at the global village" rather than the information highway. Finally, Jill Morrissey from University of Connecticut, demonstrated searching on CARL UnCover and presented the results of her study of the coverage of women's studies titles on UnCover. In addition to the discussion, handouts were shared that various WSS members have prepared as part of Internet training for women's studies students and faculty.

*Lori Goetsch, Chair -elect*

### **WSS Social in Miami**

*The WSS Social will be **Sunday, June 26**, from **6-7 p.m.** in the lobby bar area of the Governor Hotel, 435 21st Street, Miami Beach (just a block from the Convention Center).*

*Please plan to join us for refreshments, and to get acquainted,  
or reacquainted, with friends & colleagues from WSS.*

*See you there!*

## ACRL Feminist Task Force Feminist Author Breakfast

ALA Annual conference in Miami  
Sunday June 26th, 8-11 a.m.

The featured author for the Feminist Author breakfast will be Mab Segrest. Segrest writes and speaks extensively on feminism, gay and lesbian issues, and racism. She was a co-editor of *Feminary: A Lesbian-Feminist journal for the South* and is also the co-editor of *The Third Wave: Feminist Essays on Racism*, forthcoming from Kitchen Table: Women of Color Press. Her most recent publication is *Mama's Dead Squirrel: Lesbian Essays on Southern Culture*, published by Firebrand Books. This collection of new essays and narratives is grounded in two decades of feminist, gay/lesbian, and anti-racist activism, where she moves from reporting to reflecting personally on the primacy of racism in shaping U.S. history and its constant complication by forces of gender and sexuality.

You are encouraged to order your tickets *before* the conference. They are available from Dottie Granger, Norman Library, Pacific Oaks College, 5 Westmoreland, Pasadena CA 91103. Tickets in advance are \$12.00, \$15.00 at the conference. Library students pay only \$7.50.

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### FOCUS ON: THE INTERNET

#### Internet Guides for Women's Studies:

*Where:* University of Maryland

*What:* There are two Internet guides, one by Turek and Hudson and the other by Laura Hunt. These guides give comprehensive overviews to listservers, gopher sites, electronic archives, and library catalogs of value to women's studies research.

*How:* telnet or gopher to  
INFORM.UMD.EDU

Use either arrow or number keys to select 4. Educational Resources, then 18. Women's Studies. Choose 3. Computing, then 2. Guides to the Internet.

#### Women's Studies Internet Sources:

*Where:* University of Maryland

*What:* Announcements, calls for papers, computing, conferences, employment, film reviews, gender issues, politics, program development and support, reading room, resources, and syllabi.

*How:* telnet or gopher to  
INFORM.UMD.EDU.  
Choose 4. Educational Resources,  
then 18. Women's Studies.

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### National Women's Studies Association Conference:

June 15-19, 1994  
Iowa State University, Ames, IA

NWSA's conference theme this year is: "Teaching, Theory, and Action: Women Working in a Global Context." The conference will also feature a two-and-a-half day Symposium on Women and Science embedded in the program.

The conference will provide a great opportunity for women's studies librarians to meet other women's studies scholars. Housing is available in the dormitories, and is inexpensive.

*Kris Gerhard, Tech. Services Committee  
Co-Chair & Member-at-Large*

#### **Assistant Editor Wanted**

**Interested in getting some great editing experience, and becoming actively involved in the Women's Studies Section?** We're looking for an Assistant Editor for the WSS newsletter for 94/95. The Assistant Editor would continue in 95/96 as Editor. No specific experience required, but you should have easy access to word processing and/or desktop publishing software. Contact Jessica Grim or Jill Morrissey.

## CAREER INFORMATION

It is an important goal of the Women's Studies Section to provide encouragement for career and research activities as well as to provide mentoring.

### JOB POSTINGS AVAILABLE ON THE INTERNET

- The Chronicle of Higher Education's job postings are available on the Internet. Telnet to INFORM.UMD.EDU. Choose 4. Educational Resources, then 1. Academe this Week - Chronicle of Higher Education, then 6. Job Openings, then 2. to search.
- The following academic institutions have library-related job postings and information available via the Internet:
  - Simmons College. Telnet to vmsvax.simmons.edu. Login as *alums*, password is *gslis*. Wait for the bulletin> prompt. Type *dir/folders*, then type *select gslis\_new\_england\_jobline*, then type *dir*.
  - University of Illinois. Telnet to alexia.lis.uiuc.edu. Login: jobs. Password: Urbain (remember the upper case U!)
  - University of Maryland gopher site (InforM). Telnet to info.umd.edu and select 4. Educational Resources, 18. Women's Studies, and 5. Employment Opportunities.
- Online Career Center — forty leading U.S. corporations that have developed this Internet-accessible database. It focuses on recruiting, outplacement, career assistance, and communications. The extensive information database includes job listings and full-text resume files with online keyword search capability. Employers, who support Online Career Center by paying a one-time association membership fee, have unlimited employment advertising on Internet and other major networks. There are no charges for individuals to access the more than 8,000 job listings, view company information and profiles, enter resumes into the company-sponsored database, or e-mail resumes to potential employers. Individuals may also receive career assistance information on subjects such as career fairs, job searches, resume writing, and other career resources.
  - You can get to the service with "gopher" e.g.  
gopher gopher.msen.com  
"Online Career Center"
  - To get more information via e-mail send a query to: occ-info@mail.msen.com (automated reply) or to occ@mail.msen.com (Bill Warren, director)

### Publications/guides:

Paula Caplan. *Lifting a Ton of Feathers: a Woman's Guide to Surviving in the Academic World* (University of Toronto Press 1993).

Susan E. Cayleff, Roberta A. Hobson, Roberta J. Schmitz. "Breaking Into Print: Strategies for Publishing in Women's Studies as a Grad Student" IN *The Grad Student's Guide to Getting Published* (Allida Allison and Terri Fronga, eds. New York: Prentice Hall, 1992).

Jill Morrissey, Assistant Editor

**ACRL - WOMEN'S STUDIES  
SECTION COMMITTEES**

***We Want You to be Involved!***

**Collection Development &  
Bibliography Committee**

*Description/activities:* Monitors collection development issues and resources in women's studies, including the nature and availability of reference tools in print, electronic and other formats. Recommends and implements projects to meet needs in this area including bibliographies and guides. See also their Core List Project (page 7).

Contact: Judith Hudson  
Head, Cataloging Dept.  
University Libraries  
SUNY Albany  
Albany, NY 12222  
(518) 442-3633  
Email: jh492@albnyvms

**Communications Committee**

*Description/activities:* Facilitates communication about the Section and its activities through the newsletter; produces the WSS brochure; creates and conducts regular orientation sessions for new and perspective WSS members; communicates with other women's groups to further the goals of WSS.

Contact: May Jafari  
Indiana University-Purdue University  
University Library  
815 W. Michigan St.  
Indianapolis, IN 46202  
(317) 274-0426  
Email: mmjafari@indycms.iupui.edu

**Newsletter (see pg. 4!)**

Contact: Jessica Grim  
Associate Librarian  
Oberlin College Library  
Oberlin, OH 44074  
(216) 775-8285 ext. 250  
Email: pgrim@ocvaxa.cc.oberlin.edu

-or-

Contact: Jill Morrissey  
Univ. of Connecticut  
RISD Box U-5RI  
Storrs, CT 06269-1005  
(203) 486-0626  
Email: HBLAD129@uconnvm.uconn.edu

**Social Issues/Education Committee**

*Description/activities:*

See statement, page 7

Contact: Barb Stevens  
McIntyre Library  
University of Wisconsin- Eau Claire  
Eau Claire, WI 54702-5010  
(715) 836-4076  
Email: stevsnbr@uwec.edu

**Technical Services Committee**

*Description/activities:* Monitors technical services issues and practices having an impact on women's studies; recommends and implements projects to meet needs in this area.

Contact: Kristin Gerhard (Iowa State Univ.)  
608 Brooklyn Ave.  
Ames, IA 50010-5833  
(515) 294-1885  
Email: JL.KHG@isumvs.iastate.edu

- or -

Contact: Mila Su (Pennsylvania State  
University-Altoona campus)  
226 East Wopsononock  
Altoona, PA 16601-3935  
(814) 949-5255  
Email: MCS@psulias.bitnet

**1995 Chicago Program Planning  
Committee**

*Description/activities:* Determines and implements programming for the 1995 ALA annual conference. Contacts speakers and coordinates all aspects of sessions. The topic for this conference will be "Mentoring and Women's Studies Librarians."

Contact: Cindy Faries  
E109 Pattee  
Pennsylvania State University  
University Park, PA 16802  
(814) 865-0665  
Email: csf@psulias.psu.edu

**Women's Studies Section - General  
Information**

Contact: Lori Goetsch, Chair-Elect  
Head, Reference Dept.  
Univ. of Tennessee, Knoxville  
Hodges Library  
Knoxville, TN 37996-1000  
(615) 6797  
Email: goetsch@utklib.lib.utk.edu

## Social Issues/Education Committee Statement

It is the position of the WSS Social Issues/Education Committee that responding to the 21st century library and information issues necessarily involves responding to social issues. As professional bound by the ALA Code of Ethics, librarians *must* address issues of access, freedom of expression, and equal rights. Continuing ALA's long-standing tradition of support for those broad social issues in no way means that professional issues are being ignored, nor that they are considered of secondary importance; social and professional issues are inextricably linked, and it is both ALA's and ACRL's responsibility to elucidate and clarify this link in both our actions and publications.

Adopted: February 7, 1994

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### ACRL/WSS Collection Development and Bibliography Committee Core List Project

The intent of the Core List Project is to assist women's studies and collection development librarians in building women's studies collections. General Editor for the project is Bernice Lacks, California State University. Distribution is being handled by Joan Ariel, University of California Irvine. For copies, send a stamped self-addressed envelope to: Joan Ariel, Women's Studies Librarian, Univ. of California, Irvine, CA 92713.

#### Bibliographies currently available:

- #1. *Reference Works in Women's Studies*  
by Joan Ariel
- #3. *Sexual Abuse*  
by Mila Su and Sue Gibson
- #5. *Women and Management*  
by Bernice Lacks
- #6. *Women and the Arts in England and the U.S.*  
by Ruth Wallach
- #7. *Women and Literature in England and the U.S.*  
by Ruth Wallach
- #8. *Women and Health*  
by Linda Krikos
- #9. *Women of Color in the U.S.*  
by Bernice Redfren

#### Bibliographies in preparation:

- #2. *Feminist Movements in the U.S.*  
by Sally Willson Weimer  
and Kathy Kerns
- #4. *Women and Language*  
by Betty Day
- #10. *Sociology*  
by Sara Brownmiller
- #11. *Philosophy*  
by Sara Brownmiller

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### ACRL National Conference (March 29-April 1, 1995) Call for Papers

The theme for ACRL's national conference will be "Continuity and Transformation: The Promise of Confluence". The focus will be on four key areas: knowledge workers and their organizations; technology and the service-centered library; multiculturalism and internationalism; and society, economics, and politics. This is an important opportunity to share professional experiences, expertise, and ideas, and your participation is certainly needed to make the conference a memorable success.



To Do: Submit a 200 word abstract to Joanne Euster, ACRL, 50 East Huron St., Chicago, IL 60611-2795.

Deadline for letters of intent is May 1, 1994; proposals are due July 1, 1994

**ACRL WOMEN'S STUDIES SECTION  
1994 ANNUAL (MIAMI)  
COMMITTEE MEETING SCHEDULE**

**Friday June 24**

2-4 Miami 1994 Program Ctte.  
7:30-9:30 EXECUTIVE CTTE. (This will read 8-10  
in the ALA Meeting Program)

**Saturday June 25**

8:30-11 Technical Services Ctte.  
11:30-12:30 Nominating Ctte.  
11:30-12:30 Social Issues/Education Ctte.  
2-4 Communications Ctte.  
2-4 Publications Ctte.  
2-4 Collection Development Ctte.

**Sunday June 26**

2-4 Communications Ctte.  
2-4 Publications Ctte.  
4:30-5:30 General Orientation & Membership Meeting  
6-7 SOCIAL HOUR - Governor Hotel

**Monday June 27**

8-9 Social Issues/Education Ctte.  
9:30-12:30 WSS/EBSS Program: Making the Net\*work\*: Is  
There a Z39.50 for Gender Communication?  
2-4 Chicago 1995 Program Ctte.  
2-4 Collection Development Ctte..

**Tuesday June 28**

8:30-11 EXECUTIVE CTTE.

Jessica Grim/Jill Morrissey, Editors  
c/o ALA/ACRL  
50 East Huron Street  
Chicago, IL 60611

Non-Profit Org.  
U.S. Postage  
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Libraries  
Association