

WGSS Newsletter

women & gender studies section

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WGSS OFFICERS, 2015-2016

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Image courtesy of the Library of Congress.

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The *WGSS Newsletter* is available to all section members at no additional cost. We welcome contributions from its members. Please send articles, items of interest, and news to the editors, preferably in electronic format.

Greetings from the Chair,

As our semesters are winding down and we begin to prepare for ALA Annual in San Francisco, here are some updates about the section. This year's WGSS program at Annual will focus on the use of local resources in Women and Gender Studies pedagogy. The Programming Committee is assembling a panel that will include a librarian, an archivist, and a faculty member. We also received three excellent proposals for the poster session at our general membership forum that takes place on Saturday June 27th at 4:30 in the Convention Center in room 124-N. We also have a social event planned for Saturday night after our general membership forum.

Our Instruction Committee is working on a draft of an Information Literacy Framework for Women and Gender Studies Programs. I am impressed with the work this committee has done and continues to do. The Instruction Section, Sharon Mader (Visiting Program Officer for Information Literacy), and other ACRL sections with discipline-specific standards are all very interested in the work we are doing on this project. These are only a few of the many projects this section is working on before we meet in San Francisco. I look forward to seeing everyone in San Francisco and thank all of you for your contributions to WGSS and ACRL.

Best,

Diane Fulkerson

WGSS Chair

Awards Committee

The 2015 Significant Achievement in Women and Gender Studies Librarianship award winner is Nancy Goebel, head librarian at the Augustana Campus of the University of Alberta, for the Augustana Human Library program. The committee was impressed by the impact this unique and innovative program is having on the Augustana community. Many of the narratives in the Human Library in 2014 focus on experiences deeply relevant to Women and Gender Studies: students, and community members, including balancing motherhood and school, challenging transphobia, and healing from sexual abuse. Nominators spoke at length about the ways this project fosters connections, promotes understanding, and provides deep learning experiences. The words engagement, compassion, and life-changing came up frequently when faculty who have been involved with the Human Library, either as Human Books, Readers, or professors who used this resource in their courses.

[ACRL Press Release](#)

The 2015 Career Achievement Award winner is Connie Phelps, librarian, services department chair at the University of New Orleans. Connie Phelps's service within WGSS and to librarianship has been wide-ranging, consistent, and productive. In addition to being Past Chair of the section (2001-2002), she has served on or chaired most of the section committees, and in the process mentored and encouraged numerous librarians to grow within the profession. Her openness in sharing knowledge, collaborative nature, and service ethic are central to what makes WGSS not just a career-enhancing section for librarians, but a professional home for those committed to feminism, women's rights, and all aspects of Gender Studies librarianship. Connie's commitment to the section and dedication to Women's Studies librarianship is unwavering, inspiring, and deserving of the Career Achievement Award.

Please join us in congratulating Connie Phelps and Nancy Goebel. A plaque will be presented to Phelps and Goebel at the WGSS program on (cont.)

Monday, June 29, during the ALA Annual Conference in San Francisco.

[ACRL Press Release](#)

Submitted by Heather Tompkins
Awards Committee Chair

Collections Committee

The WGSS Collections Committee has been working on a survey of key journals for researchers working with Women and Gender Studies. Jane Nichols developed the survey in collaboration with other members of WGSS. The survey was disseminated to Women and Gender Studies researchers and instructors at four universities and also to researchers and instructors on Women and Gender Studies listservs. The committee has collected data from the survey and will be meeting during May to discuss ways of using that data to update the [Core Journals List](#) posted on the WGSS website.

Submitted by Erica Carlson Nicol
Collections Committee Chair

Conference Program Planning Committee ALA 2015, San Francisco

The conference planning committee has met virtually several times and is planning a program on creativity in Women and Gender Studies pedagogy, specifically about using local resources such as archives. So far we have three confirmed speakers, and we are looking forward to an interesting presentation. The program will be on Monday, June 29, at 8:30am.

Submitted by Laura Bonella
ACRL/WGSS Conference Program Planning Chair



**Join
WGSS
at
ALA!**

Instruction Committee

The Instruction Group met via conference call on October 31, December 9, and March 3. The focus of the committee's work continues to be on developing Women and Gender Studies specific outcomes that can be integrated into the new ACRL Framework for Information Literacy in Higher Education.

Members of the committee recognize the importance of identifying threshold concepts that exist in Women and Gender Studies in order to connect them to the information literacy frames.

A new book called *Threshold Concepts in Women and Gender Studies: Ways of Seeing, Thinking, and Knowing* by Christie Launius and Holly Hassel has been a resource for the committee. The committee also monitored developments with the new IL Framework and provided group feedback to the Information Literacy Task Force on the third draft of the IL Framework.

Submitted by Tara Baillargeon (Committee Chair) and Juliann Couture (Interim Committee Chair)

Membership Committee

The Membership Committee would like to report that we have some great numbers! Our new memberships are up over 200%, from 11 new members last year to 35 new members this year! Overall our membership is up 20% and we are over the 500 mark with 514 members. What a great division to be a part of!

We look forward to a great social at Annual at a place to be determined, but as always, we will meet Saturday evening!

Submitted By Emily Asch
Membership Committee Chair

Nominating Committee

Consider nominating yourself or another WGSS member to run for a position on the WGSS Executive Committee. The Nominating committee seeks nominations for Vice-Chair/Chair-Elect, Secretary, and Member-at-Large. Information about these positions are available [here](#).

We will send an email to the WGSS listserv with instructions for nominations. You can also email nominations to Heather Tompkins at htompkin@carleton.edu.

Submitted by Heather Tompkins

Nominating Committee Chair

Publications Committee

The Publications Committee met virtually at Midwinter and spent the majority of its time discussing the WGSS blog and how to make it more accessible to section members. The committee reconsidered a more structured approach to blog posting, including the establishment of regular features, such as book reviews and interviews. The committee has opened up participation to the Executive Committee and also the section's general membership.

Submitted By Nina Clements,

Publications Committee Chair

Research Committee

The Research Committee is excited to announce the 2015 Research Posters that will be presented at the Membership Forum at Annual.

Librarian Participation in Faculty Learning Communities: Strengthening Partnerships with Gender Studies Scholars – Sharon Ladenson, Michigan State University.

WGSS Journals Revisited: Scholars Share Their Core Titles – Jane Nichols on behalf of the WGSS Collections Committee.

Wikipedia, Gender, & Libraries: Closing the Gender Gap on Wikipedia Through User Engagement – Chloe Raub, Newcomb Archives, Tulane University.

We hope to see you there!

Submitted by Jennifer Gilley, Ex-Officio Member of the Research Committee

NWSA Conference Report

The 2014 National Women's Studies Association Conference was held November 13-16, in San Juan, Puerto Rico, and featured two librarian panels. The first one, "Encountering Digital Feminist Scholarship: Faculty and Librarian Collaborations for Student Research in the Classroom," provided great hands-on ideas for the integration of information literacy exercises in the Women and Gender Studies classroom. The speakers were WGSS members Jane Nichols, Sharon Ladenson, and Sherri Barnes, along with a faculty collaborator at Oregon State, Kryn Freehling-Burton.

The second panel, "Technologizing Information Literacy in Introductory Course Group Projects," was a presentation by Carroll Wilkinson and Brian Jara of West Virginia University about their collaboration in Intro to Women and Gender Studies courses to have all students create projects for a Women and Gender Studies Fair, which has become a large event on campus.

The Librarians Task Force also met to discuss ideas for promoting the librarian presence within NWSA. Suggestions

included hosting a wiki-editing session at NWSA and creating a poster session advertising what librarians can do to collaborate with faculty.

NWSA 2015 will be in Milwaukee and will feature a panel from WGSS-er Karla Strand on digital archiving and a panel on feminist and queer zines from Alana Kumbier, Jenna Freedman, Kelly Wooten, and others, so please consider going!

bell hooks was the keynote speaker this year, so I will close with a quote from her talk: "Any time we are doing the work of love, we are working to end domination."

Submitted by Jennifer Gilley

NWSA Liaison

ACRL Report

The 2015 Association of College & Research Libraries Conference was held from March 25-28 in Portland, Oregon.

In addition to seeing fellow WGSS members, the highlights of my conference experience were a keynote speech from Jad Abumrad of Radiolab, and a paper given by Dr. Safiya Umoja Noble, assistant professor at UCLA.

Abumrad’s talk on creativity and coping with fear felt like a live episode of Radiolab. It was filled with thought provoking questions and musical effects designed to create moods and help tell stories.

Dr. Noble’s paper titled “Searching for Girls: Identity for Sale in the Age of Google,” provided a fascinating look at how Google reinforces race and gender stereotypes. You can read more about Nobel’s talk in this [American Libraries piece](#) and learn more about Noble’s work and upcoming book on her [website](#).

Submitted by Susan Gilman
 Newsletter Editor



Nina Clements, Laura Bonella, and Diana King staffing the WGSS booth at ACRL. Photo courtesy of Laura Bonella.



Image Courtesy of Steve Morgan, Wikimedia Commons.

Michael Dudley

Dudley, a Research Librarian at the University of Winnipeg, writes a blog called *The Decolonized Librarian*. His blog explores issues of intersectionality in LIS.

In a recent post titled [“Term-bending: Representation and Heteronormativity in Library Classification and Subject Headings”](#) he considers the discourse surrounding LGBTQ representation on TV -- as exemplified by Nickelodeon's *The Legend of Korra* -- as a lens for critiquing Library of Congress subject headings, and comparing these to the progressive alternatives available through The Alternative Press Index.

Here is an excerpt:

“Representations of sexual diversity in television and film — such as on *Korra* — can have emancipatory power for viewers, but if they are negative or stereotypical can also serve to disable or silence the voices of LGBTQ people; While not as visible publicly, library classification and subject heading terminology are also a powerful — and problematic — form of representation.”

Mollie Freier

Head of Public Services and Professor at Northern Michigan University, recently published the following articles:

"Limiting a Research Topic, or What To Do About Thursday Next?" *Mystery Readers International* 30.3 (Fall 2014).

["The Librarian in Rowling's Harry Potter Series," *CLCWeb: Comparative Literature and Culture* 16.3 \(2014\).](#)

Jennifer Gilley

Presented a paper titled "The Perils of Publishing: Politics and Praxis in the Publication History of This Bridge Called My Back" at the 2014 National Women's Studies Association conference, as part of a panel on feminist publishing.

Jennifer Mayer

Jennifer Mayer, associate librarian in research and instruction at University Libraries, is the recipient of the University of Wyoming's 2015 Agnes Milstead Distinguished Librarianship Award.

The late Agnes Milstead, a former professor of education and library science at UW, established the annual award in 1993 to recognize significant contributions to University Libraries in scholarship, program development, teaching, fundraising and professional achievements.

A librarian at UW since 1999, Mayer has strong working relationships with her UW liaison departments in Visual and Performing Arts and Gender Studies. She teaches credit-bearing information literacy and research methods courses, individual classes and workshops, and provides research consultations for UW students and faculty.

Read more [here](#).

Stay Connected!

Get the latest news by following the WGSS Blog!

<http://www.acrl.ala.org/WSS/>

Read up on old news and discussions with:

WGSS Listserv Archives
(1999 - present):

<http://lists.ala.org/www/arc/wgss-l>

WGSS Newsletter Archives
(1986 - present):

<http://libr.org/wss/newsletter/index.html>