Notes from the Chair

Dear WGSS Members and Friends,

I am honored and excited to serve as Chair this year. The Section and its work continues to grow and flourish, and I couldn’t be more excited to be part of it. The Women and Gender Studies Section has been my professional home since I became a librarian in 2007, and I met many of my colleagues and friends through the Section. When I moved to California last October to become a social sciences librarian at the Claremont Colleges Library, the only people I knew in the area were two friends I’d made in the Section. They made me feel welcome and introduced me to many cool places and resources around town—just like librarians throughout the Section have always done and will continue to do.

WGSS has lots of wonderful things in store for the coming year. We are in the planning stages for an exciting program at Annual 2017 about the feminist bookstore movement. Stay tuned for a new website as well.

I’m looking forward to sharing more as the year continues.

Please feel free to contact me with comments, suggestions, or questions about the Section.

Nina Clements
The Claremont Colleges Library
Claremont, CA

Photo provided by Nina Clements
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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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Follow us!

ACRL 2017

At the Helm: Leading Transformation
March 22-25, 2017 | Baltimore, Maryland

The ACRL 2017 registration is now available. The early bird deadline is January 27, 2017. Details available at http://conference.acrl.org/

Check out these keynote speakers!

Roxane Gay (Middle Keynote) is an author and cultural critic whose writing is widely revered for its reflective, no-holds-barred exploration of feminism and social criticism.

Carla Hayden (Closing Keynote) is the 14th Librarian of Congress (incumbent). She will become the first woman and first African-American to fill the post.
Committee Reports

AWARDS
The Awards Committee met virtually to plan the award process for the upcoming season. To simplify the nomination process and make the requirements to nominate an individual for the WGSS awards more aligned with awards of other sections, nomination packets for this year will require 1 letter of support instead of the 3 letters of support the section historically required. We are hoping this change will generate more nominations. Calls for nominations for the Career Achievement in Women & Gender Studies Librarianship Award and the Significant Achievement in Women & Gender Studies Librarianship Award will be posted soon to the WGSS list and website. Please visit the website to discover nomination criteria and guidelines. Nominations are due December 2, 2016. Awards will be presented at ALA Annual in Chicago.

-Submitted by Stacy Russo Committee Chair Santa Ana College

INSTRUCTION
The Instruction Committee continues to develop a women’s and gender studies-specific companion document to the Information Literacy Framework. The committee has focused on creating a document that articulates the disciplinary context for each information literacy frame. This has involved evaluating each frame to determine what a feminist perspective on the frame might look like and connecting the frame to women’s and gender studies. Members of the committee presented about their progress at the WGSS Discussion Forum and ACRL Framework for Information Literacy Update Session at ALA Annual in Orlando. In November, members of the committee will present a poster session at the 2016 NWSA Conference titled “Critical Information Literacy for Women’s and Gender Studies: Development of a Framework.” The NWSA conference will be an opportunity to solicit feedback from faculty and scholars on the work of the committee. The committee will also work closely with the Women and Gender Studies Section as we progress with the development of this document.

-Submitted by Tara Baillargeon Committee Chair Marquette University

PROGRAM PLANNING
The Program Planning Committee for ALA Annual 2017 in Chicago met virtually to discuss proposal topics and review the ACRL guidelines and requirements. Two members of the committee attended an ACRL virtual meeting specific to writing proposals for the annual conference prior to the committee’s virtual meeting. The committee submitted a proposal for a panel titled “Women and Women First: Feminist Bookstores, Past and Present.” Learning outcomes for the program include recognizing how feminist bookstores were vital information sources for their communities and discovering the impact of feminist bookstores on feminism and women and gender studies.

-Submitted by Stacy Russo Committee Chair Santa Ana College

PUBLICATIONS
The Publications Committee met via Google hangout at Annual. Erin Stalberg has officially concluded her term as web editor, and Carrie Dunham-LaGree is the new web editor. After much discussion, the committee decided to sunset the blog, which they will do over the course of the next year.

-Submitted by Nina Clements Past Committee Chair The Claremont Colleges

RESEARCH
The Research Committee is discussing ways to increase the number of submissions we get for our Research Poster Session at Annual. Submissions have been low the last two years—Is this still a useful format? EBSS has contacted us to discuss merging our research forums as one possibility. Would research presentations be more useful than posters? Should some sort of research forum be put online? Be sure to contact me at jrg15@psu.edu if you have suggestions or comments!

-Submitted by Jennifer Gilley Committee Chair Penn State University
NWSA Conference Preview

The NWSA 2016 Annual Conference will be held November 10-13 in Montreal and centers on the theme of “Decoloniality.” The keynote speaker will be writer and activist Leanne Betasamosake Simpson, member of the Alderville First Nation. Check out the library-related programming happening at NWSA thanks to various WGSS members:

• Critical Information Literacy for Women’s and Gender Studies: Development of a Framework
  Presenter: Caitlin Shanley, Temple University
  Fri, Nov 11th, 12:00-1:15, Palais des Congrès, Exhibit Hall, Poster Presentations

• Gender and Information Inequality from a Global Perspective: A Librarians Task Force Panel
  Presenters: Karla Strand, University of Wisconsin; Jane Nichols, Oregon State University; Chloé Raub, Tulane University
  Sat, Nov 12th, 1:45-3:00, Palais des Congrès, 514a

• Librarians Task Force Business Meeting
  Sat, Nov 12th, 5:00-6:15, Palais des Congrès, 515c

• Beyond Classroom and Cubicle: WGSS, Queer Studies, Women’s Center, and Library and Archives Collaborations and the Development of Decolonial Praxis
  Presenters: Jane Nichols and Whitney J. Archer of Oregon State University
  Sun, Nov 13th, 8:00-9:15, Palais des Congrès, 521b

-Submitted by Jennifer Gilley, NWSA Liaison

ALERT: NWSA Librarians Task Force in Jeopardy

Due to new changes to the NWSA bylaws, the Librarians Task Force will become defunct if we don’t have 25 official members by August 2017. This means NWSA dues-paying memberships. The memberships are by calendar year, so you would have to pay for an NWSA membership and choose to join the Librarians Task Force between January and July of next year to help keep us alive. Librarians tend to only join NWSA if they are presenting at the conference, but if you happen to be joining next year, please be sure to check the box for the Librarians Task Force.

Did You Know? | ACRL members can view full contact information for all ACRL section committee rosters by logging into the ACRL Web site: http://www.ala.org/acrl/aboutacrl/directoryofleadership/sections
Quick! Name a female painter from any era in under ten seconds...
Susan Wood, M.A., M.S., Instructional Librarian at Suffolk County Community College on Long Island

In the Spring 2016 semester, I taught a section of a general education course called Gender & the Humanities, focusing on gender representations in popular culture, mass media, and the arts.

For their first assignment, I wanted my students to unearth everyday cultural attitudes and beliefs about women and men. Together, we developed a set of questions for each student to use in interviews with a handful of their co-workers, family, and friends.

One of the questions pertained to the pervasive invisibility of women’s cultural contributions. Students were surprised to learn that 80% of the combined sample of their interviewees were unable to name a female painter from any era in under ten seconds. Though the students themselves didn’t do well with this question either, they had assumed the gap in their own knowledge about women artists was individual, not widespread.

I wanted them to think about some reasons this was such a difficult question for so many people to answer. While gender norms and bias certainly play a part, could a lack of widely-available information contribute to a lack of knowledge female painters in mass culture? To help them find out, I designed a one-day, in-class exercise to lead them through an exploration of the availability of academic sources about female painters.

I assigned each student a female painter to research using the Library’s resources. Starting in Gale Virtual Reference Library and continuing through Artstor, Project MUSE, eBooks on EBSCO, and the catalog, students took note of how many and what types of sources were available.

This exploration opened the door to a discussion on how reference works are created, on what counts as evidence in the field of art history, and on where the content in Artstor comes from, and how that might affect its coverage.

Based on the inventories of sources they created in that class session, they came to the conclusion that though there is a relative abundance of academic sources about the female painters they researched, you’re not likely to encounter these sources if you’re not in college. We also discussed whether scholarly treatments of women artists are likely to make it through the filter of mass media and into popular awareness via movies or TV. While only one student vaguely recalled the 2002 film Frida, most students could point to the ubiquity of pop culture references to Picasso, Van Gogh, Michelangelo, and other (white, male, European) household-name artists.

This exercise opened my students’ eyes to some new ways of thinking about the invisibility of women’s cultural contributions. In addition to developing firsthand knowledge of the invisibility of women in the arts, we pulled back the curtain on how scholarly accounts are created and commodified.
Orlando 2016 Wrap-Up

Another annual conference is in the books!

The WGSS Discussion Forum featured panelists discussing the development of discipline-specific frameworks for information literacy (pictured below). Kayo Denda received the ACRL WGSS 2016 Career Achievement Award at the membership meeting. Two posters were presented at the Research Poster Session (Caitlin Shanley, pictured left). Special thanks to member Katherine Ahnberg for planning and executing the WGSS Social!

Photos provided by Laura Bonella

Nominations Accepted for Annual WGSS Awards

We all know amazing librarians who have made significant contributions to women and gender studies. Please take a moment to nominate these individuals, so we can all recognize and celebrate their achievements. Nominations are now being accepted for our annual awards:

- **Career Achievement in Women & Gender Studies Librarianship Award**
- **Significant Achievement in Women & Gender Studies Librarianship Award**

Nominations are due **December 2, 2016**. Awards will be presented in June 2017 at ALA Annual in Chicago. The Awards Committee changed the application process this year to require one additional supporting letter instead of the three supporting letters we required in previous years. We hope this will make the nomination process easier. Please refer to the links for more information.

If you have any questions about the nomination process, please e-mail Stacy Russo at Russo_Stacy@sac.edu.
ACRL Workshops

Looking to build your professional skills? Bring one of ACRL’s licensed workshops to your campus, chapter, or consortia. Led by expert presenters, these one-day immersive workshops are designed to engage participants and help academic librarians strengthen competencies in multiple areas of concentration. ACRL currently offers several licensed workshops available upon request on an ongoing basis, including:

- **Scholarly Communication: From Understanding to Engagement**
- **Planning, Assessing, and Communicating Library Impact: Putting the Standards for Libraries in Higher Education into Action**
- **Building Your Research Data Management Toolkit: Integrating RDM into Your Liaison Work**
- **Two Paths Converge: Designing Education Opportunities on the Intersections of Scholarly Communication and Information Literacy**

Please contact ACRL Program Coordinator Chase Ollis at collis@ala.org or (312) 280-2521 to discuss dates and locations, pricing, and for complete workshop details.

Call for Award Nominations

- **Excellence in Academic Libraries Award**
  - $3,000 and a plaque
  - Sponsored by YBP Library Services
  - **Deadline:** December 2, 2016
- **Academic/Research Librarian of the Year**
  - $5,000 and a plaque
  - Sponsored by YBP Library Services

More information about these and all other ACRL award opportunities can be found on the ACRL website: [http://www.ala.org/acrl/awards](http://www.ala.org/acrl/awards) or by contacting Chase Ollis at (312) 280-2521 or collis@ala.org.

Support the ACRL 2017 Conference Scholarship Campaign

Your contribution of any amount will provide scholarships for our new professionals and students to attend the ACRL 2017 Conference and help to ensure the future vitality of the profession, the higher education community, and the association. We invite you to invest in the profession’s future leaders as they seek to gain the experience, knowledge, and connections needed to advance learning and transform scholarship in the 21st century.

We’ve already raised more than $34,000 during the advance phase of the campaign and I hope you will join me in meeting our scholarship goal of $50,000 by December 31, 2016.

[http://www.ala.org/acrl/aboutacrl/givetoacrl/givetoacrl](http://www.ala.org/acrl/aboutacrl/givetoacrl/givetoacrl)

- Lori Goetsch
  Chair, ACRL 2017 Conference Scholarship Campaign

The 58th Annual RBMS Conference

*The Stories We Tell*

Tuesday, June 20, 2017–Friday, June 23, 2017
Iowa City, Iowa | [http://conference.rbms.info/2017](http://conference.rbms.info/2017)

*The Stories We Tell* focuses on storytelling as practice and metaphor in the mission and daily work of special collections. From writing traditional scholarly monographs to encoding digital humanities landscapes, from building deep and inclusive collections to designing new curriculum, the ability to craft a compelling narrative is at the heart of cultural heritage work. Registration opens in February!