Notes From The Chair

Dear WGSS Members and Friends,

It has been my pleasure to serve as Chair this year. Perhaps our biggest accomplishment is transitioning to a new website (http://acrl.ala.org/wgss/). Thanks to our new Webmaster Carrie Dunham-Lagree and former Webmaster Erin Stalberg for all their hard work.

The Section continues to grow. Our Membership Chair, Emily Scharf, shared that we have 797 personal and 19 organizational members.

I look forward to seeing you in Chicago this June. Please come to our 2017 Program: Women and Women First: Feminist Bookstores, Past and Present on Monday, June 26 at 8:30 a.m. This program will be a fascinating panel discussion of feminist booksellers. Stacy Russo chaired the Program Planning Committee, so be sure to thank her for her hard work in organizing this interesting panel.

Stay tuned for information about our Social, which will likely take place Saturday, July 24. Be on the lookout for information about our Membership meeting as well. ACRL assures me that the complete schedule will be available soon.

It has been such a privilege to serve as Chair this year. I’m also excited that Laura Bonella will be taking up the mantle as of July 1. We’ve got a great slate of officers for next year as well. Pamela Salela will serve as Vice Chair/Chair-Elect, Susan Hoang will serve as Secretary, and Kimberly L. Clarke will serve as Member at Large. Congratulations, everyone! It’s going to be another wonderful year, and I look forward to chairing the Program Planning Committee for Annual 2018 in New Orleans.

I hope to see many of you in Chicago this summer and wish you an uneventful end-of-semester.

Nina Clements
WGSS Chair
The Claremont Colleges Library

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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.

Follow us!

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WGSS OFFICERS, 2016-2017
• Nina Clements, Chair
• Laura Bonella, Vice-Chair/Chair-Elect
• Colleen Seale, Secretary
• Susan Hoang, Member-at-Large
• Jane Nichols, Member-at-Large
• Stacy Russo, 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

Bring an ACRL Roadshow to Your Campus!
Looking to strengthen your library’s professional skills? ACRL offers a variety of licensed workshops that can be brought upon request to your campus, chapter, or consortia. Led by expert presenters, these full-day immersive workshops are designed to engage participants and help academic librarians strengthen competencies in multiple areas of concentration. Contact Chase Ollis at collis@ala.org for details on pricing and how to bring a workshop to your institution. Current workshops include:

• Assessment in Action: Demonstrating and Communicating Library Contributions to Student Learning and Success
• Building Your Research Data Management Toolkit: Integrating RDM into Your Liaison Work
• Planning, Assessing, and Communicating Library Impact: Putting the Standards for Libraries in Higher Education into Action
• Scholarly Communication: From Understanding to Engagement
• Two Paths Converge: Designing Educational Opportunities on the Intersections of Scholarly Communication and Information Literacy
• Using the Framework for Information Literacy for Higher Education (Coming Summer 2017)

For more information about each of these workshops, including program descriptions, learning outcomes, and a sample schedule for the day, visit www.al.org/acrl/licensedworkshops.
Committee Reports

AWARDS

Jennifer Gilley, head librarian at Penn State University New Kensington, has been selected as the 2017 winner of the Association of College and Research Libraries (ACRL) Women and Gender Studies Section (WGSS) Career Achievement Award. The award honors significant long-standing contributions to women’s studies in the field of librarianship over the course of a career. A plaque will be presented to Gilley at a WGSS event during the ALA Annual Conference in Chicago. More information about Jennifer can be found at ALA Member News.

Janet Weaver, assistant curator of the Iowa Women’s Archives at the University of Iowa, is the winner of the 2017 Association of College and Research Libraries (ACRL) Women and Gender Studies Section (WGSS) Award for Significant Achievement in Woman’s Studies Librarianship. The WGSS award honors a significant or one-time contribution to women’s studies librarianship. A plaque will be presented to Weaver at a WGSS event during the ALA Annual Conference in Chicago. More information about Janet can be found at ALA Member News.

COLLECTIONS

Several people came aboard the Collections Committee this year: Toni Carter at Auburn, Robin Kear at the University of Pittsburgh, Diana King at UCLA, and Cynthia Jones Preston at The Ohio State University. There has been interest in exploring the state of free and for-fee guides to women- and feminist-related primary sources and a continued interest in evaluating the possibility of the development of a Core Videos list for WGS fields. Toni Carter is working on updating the WGSS Library Collection Development Policies, and we are ready to update Core Journals with the most recent data from our qualitative survey, led by Jane Nichols.

Submitted by Susan Wood Committee Chair Suffolk County Community College

INSTRUCTION

The Instruction Committee is making progress on a women’s and gender studies-specific companion document to the Information Literacy Framework. Preliminary drafts of the work will be shared in a poster presentation at the WGSS Research Forum at the ALA Annual Meeting in Chicago this summer. The poster presentation will be an opportunity for the committee to gather feedback from colleagues.

Submitted by Tara Baillargeon Committee Chair Marquette University

MEMBERSHIP

ACRL Engagement Fair
First time ACRL attendees and new ACRL members were invited to attend the Engagement Fair at the ACRL conference in Baltimore on April 22. A good number of participants checked in at the WGSS table to learn more about the benefits of joining our section.

Membership Numbers Rising
The Membership Committee is happy to announce that we have a total of 797 WGSS members! This is nearly a 19% jump from one year ago.

Submitted by Emily Scharf Committee Chair Webster University

RESEARCH

This year the Research Committee broadened its CFP for the Research Poster Session at Annual to include lightning talks as a means of increasing submissions, and we look forward to experimenting with this new format. We have also been in talks with the Education and Behavioral Sciences Section to work toward a common CFP that would allow the ACRL office to market our Research Forums together in official ACRL media channels. We hope to get that in place for 2018. Start planning your research project in women’s studies librarianship now!

Submitted by Jennifer Gilley Committee Chair Penn State University
The Conference Planning Committee for ALA Annual 2017 in Chicago is excited to announce our program: Women and Women First: Feminist Bookstores, Past and Present. If you are attending the conference, please mark your calendars and join us on Monday, June 26, 2017, from 8:30 a.m. – 10:00 a.m. at McCormick Place Convention Center. (Exact room location will be available closer to the conference date.) We will begin at 8:30 a.m. with our award recognition ceremony to honor Jennifer Gilley (WGSS Career Achievement Award) and Janet Weaver (WGSS Significant Achievement Award). The award ceremony will be followed by our program on feminist bookstores with the following panelists: Sandra Torkildson, Owner, A Room of One’s Own Bookstore, Madison, WI; Lou Kaly, Collective Member, Bluestockings Bookstore, New York, NY; Ann Christophersen, Co-founder and co-owner, Women & Children First, Chicago, IL; and Lynn Mooney, Co-owner, Women & Children First, Chicago, IL.

Women and Women First: Feminist Bookstores, Past and Present
Few feminist bookstores remain in business in the United States, but they were once vital community gathering places of inquiry, discovery, information access, and consciousness-raising. This program examines the impact of the feminist bookstore movement on feminism and women and gender studies from the 1970s to the present. Panelists include individuals who were active in this significant part of feminist history.

2017 WGSS Research Forum
The Women & Gender Studies Section will hold its 10th annual Research Forum during our General Membership Meeting at the ALA Annual Conference in Chicago on Saturday, June 24, 2017, from 4:30-5:30 p.m. (The schedule is not finalized, this may change.) The forum seeks to provide an opportunity to present newly completed research or work in progress through posters and lightning talks. Participants will receive collaborative feedback and recommendations for future publishing and/or new initiatives.

Stacy Russo, Santa Ana College
Program Planning 2017 Committee Chair

ACRL Instruction Section preconference © 2017 ALA Annual Conference
The ACRL Instruction Section is offering a full-day preconference in conjunction with the 2017 ALA Annual Conference in Chicago on Friday, June 23, 2017. Complete details, including descriptions, learning outcomes, and registration materials, are online.

Going with (and Growing with) the Framework:
Teaching Information Literacy with a Social Justice Lens
Through panel presentations and hands-on workshops, develop strategies and approaches for teaching the Framework for Information Literacy for Higher Education that also incorporate a social justice lens. The transition from the Standards to the Framework has been challenging for many librarians, especially because the Framework calls for a conceptual approach to information literacy instruction, instead of relying on measurable, skills-based outcomes. Yet the Framework may provide opportunities for deeper, more transformative learning and challenge students to think more critically about their own power and privilege, as well as the lack of certain voices, within the information ecosystem.

The preconference will focus on those ways in which the Framework overlaps, or is compatible with, critical information literacy – information literacy that focuses more on social justice, specifically on challenging systems and structures of power associated with the information ecosystem and helping students reflect upon their identities and positions within those systems and structures. Presentations will focus on specific frames, such as Information Has Value and Research as Inquiry, using contexts that range from one-shots to credit-bearing courses to curriculum design at a variety of university and college settings.

Contact Margot Conahan at mconahan@ala.org or call 312-280-2522 with questions.
One of the major luxuries of being in a tenure track faculty position, is the privilege of being able to take a sabbatical. During the 2016 Academic Year, as a part of my approved sabbatical proposal, I was a full time graduate student at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign’s iSchool in their Certificate of Advanced Study program. My course of study—Community Informatics! I was able to imbibe in seminars on Community Informatics, Networked Information Systems, Community engagement, Social Science Research Methods (for IS), and Social Justice in Libraries. And just to round things out for fun, I got to sing 2nd soprano in UIUC’s Oratorio Society (over 100 voices) performing “The Messiah” with the UIUC Symphony Orchestra in the Krannert Center for the Performing Arts. What a thrill!

While I had envisioned being a student would be a breeze—I guess I’d forgotten how much work being in graduate school can be. Yes, I worked very hard—and made most of my deadlines (with one extension that I completed within the extended term limit!). But, I also enjoyed the lovely community of Champaign-Urbana where good food, the arts and community are in abundance.

Upon my return to home base at the University of Illinois at Springfield, I started networking with people in the community and with our local public library. I have been successful in pulling together some community and university people to forge new communication networks with different community nodes and have discovered wonders in my community I hadn’t been aware of, like our own little maker space!

As I continue to forge new relationships within my community and with the local public libraries, I am hoping to develop a research project with a focus on health care and information access. At this time, I am still uncertain as to the final narrowing of my topic, but am considering focusing on teen pregnancy issues.

--Pamela Salela
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:

- The First-Year Experience Cookbook
- Students Lead the Library: The Importance of Student Contributions to the Academic Library
- Choosing to Lead: The Motivational Factors of Underrepresented Minority Librarians in Higher Education
- Curating Research Data, Volumes One and Two

Interested in writing for ACRL? Contact Erin Nevius, ACRL’s Content Strategist, at enevius@ala.org or (312) 280-2529 for more information, or visit www.ala.org/acrl/publications/publishing to learn more about our book publishing program and submit a proposal.

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