Notes from the Chair

Dear WGSS Members and Friends,

I hope you are either experiencing or anticipating some lovely spring weather. Although I have tulips coming up in my yard, we also had a record cold temperature just a few days ago. Spring always makes me feel optimistic, and this year I have several thrilling items to share with you.

First, I am so excited to announce that Duke University Press has agreed to sponsor our WGSS Career Achievement and Significant Achievement awards! Each will now have an award of $750. More information about our winners is in this newsletter; and I hope you will be able to come to the awards presentation at Annual on Monday morning with our discussion forum.

Another change that I think will be great for our section is the way we are doing our poster presentations. We have always had our poster presentations as part of our annual membership meeting and will continue to do so. But this year we were asked if we would also like to join in with the overall ACRL call for posters and have them displayed as part of the general poster sessions. I think this will have the positive effect of getting more viewership for our posters, and I anticipate it also generating more publicity for the call for participants. Please plan to show support for our presenters by visiting the posters during the group poster session on Saturday as well as at our membership meeting. Check the Scheduler for details and location.

We have some wonderful plans for the ALA Annual WGSS social on Saturday night — our social committee has arranged for us to be hosted by the Newcomb Archives at Tulane. Look for more information and details on transportation as we get closer to the date.

(continued on p. 2)
(Notes from the Chair, continued)

Our new website is active. You can check it out at http://acrl.ala.org/wgss/. If you haven’t already, please be sure to subscribe to the WGSS listserv. It is one of the main ways we share information about section activities and important announcements. Go to http://lists.ala.org/sympa and search for WGSS to subscribe.

Finally, I would also like to extend congratulations to our newly elected officers — Tara Baillargeon, Vice-Chair/Chair-Elect; Julie Adamo, Secretary; and Emily Asch, Member-at-Large. We are currently taking applications for a new liaison to the National Women’s Studies Association (NWSA). More details are in this newsletter (p. 7) and on the WGSS website.

I look forward to seeing many of you in New Orleans at our committee meetings, poster sessions, membership meeting, social, awards and discussion forum, or anywhere else!

As always, please don’t hesitate to contact me if you have questions, comments, or ideas for the section. It has been my honor to serve as your chair this year.

All the best,
Laura Bonella
WGSS Chair
Kansas State University Libraries
Manhattan, KS
Committee Reports

AWARDS

For information on award announcements, see page 4-5.

Submitted by Dolores Fidishun
Committee Chair
Portland State University

COLLECTIONS

The Collections Committee has finished evaluating the possibility of creating a core list of WGS-related films and videos to complement Core Journals and Core Books. Based on questionnaires sent to WGS practitioners and to librarians, we determined that the landscape of films is too interdisciplinary to define a Core List, and we questioned the utility of a core video list in this era of streaming media subscription platforms & packages and PDA models. We’ve recently reviewed the legacy webpages created by this committee over the years, and we’re creating an updated and simplified set of pages that will be available at http://acrl.ala.org/wgss/.

Submitted by Susan Wood
Committee Chair
Suffolk County Community College

PROGRAM PLANNING

This year, WGSS will sponsor a discussion forum entitled Social Justice at the Intersection of Arts and Librarianship. There will be a panel presentation with four panelists and plenty of time for discussion with the audience. Panelists include: Jennifer Elder, Sciences & Social Sciences Team Leader and Librarian for Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Studies (among other liaison responsibilities) at Emory University; Katherine Litwin, Library Director at the Poetry Foundation; Michelle Gohr, First Year Experience Librarian at Arizona State University; and Treshani Perera, Music and Fine Arts Cataloging Librarian at the University of Kentucky Libraries.

The discussion forum will take place following the Awards presentation on Monday, June 25 at 8:30 a.m.

Submitted by Nina Clements
Committee Chair
CSU - Channel Islands

RESEARCH

The Research Committee is looking for volunteers to help update the Research Agenda for Women and Gender Studies Librarianship. Ideally, there will be a team of people working on each of the 9 sections, and each team will be responsible for summarizing the literature that has been written on each topic since 2010 (bibliographies available under Bibliography by Subject), and using that summary to identify gaps in the research and generate new questions.

Please take a look at the sections and email me at jrg15@psu.edu if you would be interested in working on one of them.

Posters for the WGSS Research Forum at Annual this year will be displayed in the Exhibits Hall from 11:30-1:00 on Saturday, June 23rd, as well as included in the General Membership Meeting. Please come by and speak with the authors!

Submitted by Jennifer Gilley
Committee Chair
Penn State New Kensington
Conkling wins 2018 ACRL WGSS Career Achievement Award

Diedre Conkling, director of the Lincoln County [Oregon] Library District, has been selected as the 2018 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 and gender studies in the field of librarianship over the course of a career.

A plaque and $750 award, donated by Duke University Press, will be presented to Conkling at a WGSS event during the ALA Annual Conference in New Orleans.

“Diedre Conkling has been the linchpin that holds together the collective women’s groups in ALA, including WGSS, the Feminist Task Force (FTF), the Committee on the Status of Women in Librarianship (COSWL), and the Library Leadership and Management Association (LLAMA) Women Administrator’s Discussion Group,” said award chair Dolores Fidishun, head librarian at Penn State Abington. “Over the years, as the coordinator of FTF, she has partnered with chairs of WGSS and COSWL to plan and present the annual Introduction to Women’s Issues program.”

“As a longtime member of ALA Council and the Social Responsibilities Round Table (SRRT), Conkling has continuously brought women’s issues to the forefront of our organization,” continued Fidishun. “She has served as an inspiration and mentor to many of us in the association. Through her activism she has demonstrated the power of women’s voices in ALA and in the world, always asking the important questions and looking for ways to move women’s agendas forward in ALA.”

“As one nominator wrote, ‘In whatever position she held at the moment – COSWL chair, FTF coordinator, SRRT coordinator, or simply committed librarian – she worked to bring together academic, public, school, and other librarians and library workers who shared a desire to focus on women’s issues in ALA and in libraries,’” said Fidishun. “For her leadership in bringing light to women’s and gender issues in our profession, we are proud to honor her with the WGSS Career Achievement Award.”

Conkling received her M.L.S. from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

For more information regarding the ACRL WGSS Career Achievement Award, or a complete list of past recipients, visit the awards section of the ACRL website. Read about Duke University Press, award sponsor.
Lew and Yousefi win 2018 ACRL WGSS Significant Achievement Award

Shirley Lew, dean of library, teaching, and learning services at Vancouver Community College, and Baharak Yousefi, head of library communications at Simon Fraser University, are the winners of the 2018 Association of College and Research Libraries (ACRL) Women and Gender Studies Section (WGSS) Award for Significant Achievement in Women and Gender Studies Librarianship. The WGSS award honors a significant or one-time contribution to women and gender studies librarianship.

A plaque and $750 award, donated by Duke University Press, will be presented to Lew and Yousefi at a WGSS event during the ALA Annual Conference in New Orleans.

“Lew’s and Yousefi’s book *Feminists Among Us: Resistance and Advocacy in Library Leadership* is a seminal review of the intersection of feminism, power, and leadership in our profession,” said award chair Dolores Fidishun, head librarian at Penn State Abington. “It is especially timely given the rise in awareness of women’s issues in our world today. We are happy to be able to honor their work with this year’s WGSS Significant Achievement Award.”

*Feminists Among Us* (Library Juice Press, 2017) makes explicit the ways in which a grounding in feminist theory and practice impacts the work of library administrators who identify as feminists. Recent scholarship by LIS researchers and practitioners on the intersections of gender with sexuality, race, class, and other social categories within libraries and other information environments have highlighted the need and desire of this community to engage with these concepts both in theory and praxis.

*Feminists Among Us* adds to this conversation by focusing on a subset of feminist LIS professionals and researchers in leadership roles who engage critically with both management work and librarianship. By collecting these often implicit professional acts, interactions, and dynamics and naming them as explicitly feminist, these accounts both document aspects of an existing community of practice as well as invite fellow feminists, advocates, and resisters to consider library leadership as a career path.

Lew received her M.L.I.S. from the University of British Columbia. Yousefi received her M.L.I.S. from the University of British Columbia, and her M.A. in Women’s Studies from Simon Fraser University.

For more information regarding the ACRL WGSS Award for Significant Achievement in Women and Gender Studies Librarianship, or a complete list of past recipients, visit the awards section of the ACRL website. Read about Duke University Press, award sponsor.
Women’s Herstory Wikipedia-Edit-A-Thon Event at Fresno State
by Raymond Pun and Vang Vang

For the third year in a row, I (Raymond Pun, first year student success librarian) have been working with my colleague Vang Vang, the Women’s Studies liaison librarian, to develop a Wikipedia-edit-a-thon program at Fresno State. During March, students, teaching faculty, and the community can drop in and come together to learn more about Wikipedia — how to edit and improve Wikipedia entries on women’s history and encourage participation from women, particularly women of color. In addition, we partner closely with our Cross-Cultural and Gender Center and Women’s Studies departments annually to promote this event.

This year was a bit different: our collaboration with Women’s Studies led to an actual assignment where first year students in the Introduction to Women’s Studies classes were required to “edit” or “add” a scholarly source to an entry that they found. Students were also required to write a reflection on this experience. We are reviewing them now and found that many of them didn’t realize that they could not easily “alter” Wikipedia entries without credible sources. Some of them really enjoyed the work because they got to go through print and digital resources to learn more about their topics. The professors have also been very positively receptive and glad that we are doing this kind of work since it teaches research skills differently. If you are interested in organizing your own event, we recommend this article for more information: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia:How_to_run_an_edit-a-thon.

In the future, we plan to include our activity with other classes such as ethnic studies, Africana studies, American Indian Studies, and more! Many libraries are organizing Wikipedia-edit-a-thons today to strengthen their relationships with the community but to also address the information inequity issue. We encourage everyone to experiment with these events and collaborative programs. It demonstrates the library’s commitment to the values of diversity, innovation, inclusiveness and social justice.
National Women’s Studies Association Report

by Jennifer Gilley, NWSA Liaison

2017 NWSA Conference in Baltimore: Report
The 2017 National Women’s Studies Association Conference was held in Baltimore from November 16-19, on the theme “40 Years After Combahee: Feminist Scholars and Activists Engage the Movement for Black Lives.” The keynote speakers were Angela Davis and Alicia Garza, and the plenaries featured such black feminist luminaries as Barbara Smith, Charlene Caruthers, Demita Frazier, Kimberlé Crenshaw and many more. The Librarians Task Force sponsored a workshop organized by Pamela Mann (also a WGSS member) on “Coalition Building Between Librarians and Activists: Navigating Race in Feminist and Social Justice Movements” and a panel on “Archiving Black Feminism,” featuring archivists from Spelman, Bryn Mawr, and Smith College.

2018 NWSA Conference in Atlanta: Preview
This year’s conference will be in Atlanta, November 8-11, and the theme is “Just Imagine. Imagining Justice: Feminist Visions of Freedom, Dream Making and the Radical Politics of Futures.” The Librarians Task Force has submitted both a workshop and a panel on critical information literacy. Please consider coming to the conference and networking with other librarians and faculty.

Librarians Task Force Status
The Librarians Task Force of NWSA managed to meet the quota of 25 official members by the August deadline last year, so we are still in existence and will have our first official election of a chair this summer. If you are interested in running for chair, you have to be an official member of the task force by June.

ACRL WGSS National Women’s Studies Association Liaison 2018-2021
Recruiting Call

The ACRL Women and Gender Studies Section (WGSS) is currently seeking applications to serve a three-year term (July 1, 2018 – June 30, 2021) as the ACRL Liaison to the National Women’s Studies Association (NWSA). Liaisons are responsible for outreach and communication between NWSA and ACRL to form strong relationships and advance the interests of ACRL and WGSS.

Qualifications include membership in WGSS and the ability to attend NWSA annual conferences for the length of the three-year term. For a full description of the responsibilities and qualifications, see the WGSS website.

Please submit a letter of application outlining your interest and qualifications to Laura Bonella, WGSS Chair, at laurab@ksu.edu. Deadline to apply is May 15th, 2018.
Join us in New Orleans! Don’t miss these WGSS events!

- **Research Posters**  
  Saturday, June 23, 11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.  
  This year, posters for the WGSS Research Forum will be displayed in the Exhibits Hall and at the General Membership Forum (see below).

- **General Membership Forum, followed by WGSS Social at the Newcomb Archives of Tulane University**  
  Saturday, June 23, 4:00 p.m.

- **Discussion Forum: Social Justice at the Intersection of Arts and Librarianship**  
  Monday, June 25, 8:30 a.m.  
  The WGSS awards ceremony will take place at the beginning of the discussion forum.  
  Panel presenters will include Jennifer Elder, Sciences & Social Sciences Team Leader and Librarian for Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Studies at Emory University; Katherine Litwin, Library Director at the Poetry Foundation; Michelle Gohr, First Year Experience Librarian at Arizona State University; and Treshani Perera, Music and Fine Arts Cataloging Librarian at the University of Kentucky Libraries.

(Room assignments were not available at publication time. Please check the ALA Scheduler for location information closer to the conference date.)

---

**ACRL Preconference at 2018 ALA Annual Conference: Big Easy RoadShow**

Join ACRL in New Orleans for the full-day preconference *Assessment in Action: Demonstrating and Communicating Library Contributions to Student Learning and Success*, an ACRL RoadShow offered in conjunction with the 2018 ALA Annual Conference on Friday, June 22, 2018.

Higher education institutions of all types are facing intensified attention to assessment and accountability issues. Academic libraries are increasingly connecting with colleagues and campus stakeholders to design and implement assessment that documents their contributions to institutional priorities. In this day-long preconference on strategic and sustainable assessment, participants will identify institutional priorities and campus partners, design an assessment project grounded in action research, and prepare a plan for communicating the project results. This preconference is based on the highly successful [ACRL Assessment in Action program](#) curriculum.

Complete details, including a full program description, learning outcomes, and registration materials, are available [online](#). Questions? Contact Margot Conahan at [mconahan@ala.org](mailto:mconahan@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:

- **Applying Library Values to Emerging Technology: Decision-Making in the Age of Open Access, Maker Spaces, and the Ever-Changing Library**
- **Framing Information Literacy: Teaching Grounded in Theory, Pedagogy, and Practice** (Publications in Librarianship #73).
  - Volume 1: Research as Inquiry
  - Volume 2: Information has Value
  - Volume 3: Searching as Strategic Exploration
  - Volume 4: Information Creation as a Process
  - Volume 5: Scholarship as Conversation
  - Volume 6: Authority is Constructed and Contextual

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