Notes From The Chair
by Pamela M. Salela

The spring semester is almost over and I am in the final throes of grading papers for the semester. Today was the first Sunday of the season with no rain, and sunshine abounds. I took advantage of this opportunity to tend to my garden – pulling dandelion weeds, retraining the purple clematis, pulling out old brush from last year’s purple cone flowers and northeastern aster, and spraying mint to keep the deer from eating my daylilies and hostas. It was wonderful to get out into the fresh air and commune with nature along with the companionship of my two delightful felines – Arthur & Chewbacca. As the long and frigid winter as well as the spring semester come to an end, I am looking forward to the next major event of the academic year – the American Library Association Annual Conference in Washington, D.C.

You won’t want to miss our conference program, “Pitfalls of Neutrality: What Does Inclusivity Mean in Libraries?” WGSS has teamed up with the Office of Intellectual Freedom and will have a panel of speakers focusing on current challenges for librarians committed to promoting equity, diversity, and inclusion, and what that means in today’s political climate.

If you are not already involved in a WGSS Committee, please join us after the program for the All Committees meeting next door at the Marriott Marquis (Congress). Then mosey on back to the Convention Center and take in our Poster Session in the Exhibit Hall from 11:30-12:30.

After lunch, please join us for the General Membership meeting and poster session reprise from 4–5:30 in the Washington Convention Center (204A). We will also be presenting our two annual awards at the Membership meeting. Carrie Kruse will be honored with the ACRL WGSS Career Achievement Award. Rose L. Chou and Annie Pho are the dual recipients of the WGSS Award for Significant Achievement in Women & Gender Studies Librarianship. Please come and cheer their accomplishments.

Then, come join us to celebrate the accomplishments of women and the vote as we take a group tour at the National Portrait Gallery of the exhibition Votes for Women: A Portrait of Persistence. We will meet at 5:15 at the L St. and 9th St. conference center exit to walk to the Gallery (or meet at the front of the NPG entrance on your own). The group tour will last until 7pm. If you are interested in joining us for the tour we ask that you please make a reservation at this link so that we can properly plan: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdPTXdKb-F5kq-dTmkzVFbY7ACKb18V6-JyAI6GeQBTyaQTtw/viewform.

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The Women & Gender Studies Section Newsletter is published semi-annually by the Women & Gender Studies Section of the Association of College & Research Libraries, a division of the American Library Association, 50 E. Huron St., Chicago, IL 60611, 1.800.545.2433, ext. 2523. The WGSS Newsletter is available to all section members at no additional cost.

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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!

WGSS OFFICERS, 2018-2019
• Pamela M. Salela, Chair
• Dr. Tara Baillargeon, Vice-Chair/Chair-Elect
• Julie M. Adamo, Secretary
• Emily J. Asch, Member-at-Large
• Kimberly L. Clarke, Member-at-Large
• Laura Bonella, Past Chair

Volunteers Needed For WGSS Publications Committee
Committee appointments have been made for the upcoming year, however, the Publications Committee still has two openings. The committee is in need of a chair and a web editor. If you are willing to serve in either of these positions, please contact Tara Baillargeon (tara.baillargeon@marquette.edu).

More information on the committee can be found at this link: http://www.ala.org/acrl/wgss/acr-wgsspdb

Move your library forward with an ACRL RoadShow!
Bring local, in-person professional development to your campus, chapter, or consortium worldwide. Led by expert presenters, ACRL’s one-day RoadShow workshops engage participants and help academic and research libraries tackle the greatest issues facing the profession today.

Current workshop topics include:
• Assessment in Action
• Engaging with the ACRL Framework
• Intersections of Scholarly Communication and Information Literacy
• Research Data Management
• Scholarly Communication
• Using the Standards for Libraries in Higher Education

For more information about each of these workshops, including program descriptions, sample schedules, and a list of presenters, visit www.ala.org/acrl/roadshows.

ACRL recently launched Project Outcome for Academic Libraries, a free toolkit designed to help academic libraries understand and share the impact of essential library programs and services. It provides simple surveys and tools for measuring and analyzing outcomes.

The toolkit includes:
• Quick and simple surveys
• Easy-to-use survey management portal
• Ready-made and customizable data reports
• Interactive data dashboards
• Resources and training
• Peer discussion boards

Learn more and sign up at https://acrl.projectoutcome.org/!
Notes From The Chair (cont.)

Continued from page 1

Congratulations to the recipients of our ACRL WGSS Conference Scholarships to attend the ACRL Conference in Cleveland, OH this past April: Lalitha Nataraj (California State U., San Marcos), Martine Hallerduff (Dominican University), Deb Baker (Community College System of New Hampshire), and Brian Watson (Indiana University). ACRL makes it possible to provide these scholarships through combined contributions with our section. We will have the opportunity to provide full scholarships again for 2021.

Also, congratulations to the new leadership to follow the annual conference: Tara Baillargeon, Chair; Sharon Ladenson, Vice-Chair/Chair-Elect; Beth Towney, Secretary and Caitlin Shanley, Member-at-Large.

Our NWSA liaison, Sara Howard, has exciting news to share about two programs we have been successful in getting in to the National Women’s Studies Association Conference in November, 2019. The Librarian’s Task Force of the NWSA has two panels accepted for the conference: Archiving Activism: Alternative Ways of Documenting and Engaging with Social Justice and a workshop on Surviving Erasure: Using Archives for Social Justice (see more in newsletter). You do not need to be a member of NWSA to join us for the November 2019 conference in San Francisco. However, if you are a member of NWSA or are considering joining NWSA please join the Librarians Task Force (listed under “My Caucuses”). It is FREE and helps keep our group going. Please share with WGSS faculty, students and staff as well.

Finally, a word about equity and inclusion. As many of you have heard there was an incident at ALA Midwinter Council Forum in Seattle which did not reflect the American Library Association’s strategic direction for social justice. The American Library Association issued an official statement regarding this incident. The aftermath reverberated throughout the association and its divisions, including ACRL. The Women & Gender Studies Section’s Executive Committee discussed this issue at length at our Midwinter virtual meeting after the conference. By the very essence of who we are and what we do, we have always been keenly concerned about equity and inclusion; we were borne out of these concerns when we were formed as a Section in 1996. We had a long history preceding this as a Discussion Group founded in 1983. For a history of the Section put together by Dolores Fidishun on our 25th anniversary, see: http://libr.org/old_wgss/committees/WSShistory.html

While we may be fiercely committed to ideas of equity, diversity and inclusion, we may not always be surrounded by others who have the same fierce awareness and commitment. So it is important to have some tools in our knapsack to raise consciousness and remind ourselves that the ‘isms’ are embedded in our institutions and infect us on a daily basis. Implicit bias is not a clean infection that can be easily remedied, but a continuing infestation that we all inherit and must work toward eradicating as a lifelong process.

Many of you may have read Peggy Macintosh’s essay, “White Privilege: Unpacking the Invisible Knapsack,” while in college. It was originally published in 1989 in Peace and Freedom Magazine, a publication of the Women’s International League for Peace and Freedom. The advised within it is still relevant. There are numerous resources available for educating ourselves, our colleagues, and community associates on the many manifestations of implicit or not-so-implicit bias. I was privileged to hear Dr. Terryl Ross, University of Washington, speak at the ACRL Leadership Luncheon in Seattle. The title of his talk – “Climbing the Stairs to Diversity Success” – says it all. He provided real world examples of institutions intentionally working to change their environment. Intention is the key. The least we can do is try to be aware and the best we can do is have an actual plan. There are consultants (Dr. Terryl Ross, for instance – terryl.ross@oregonstate.edu) and there are workshops and trainings and publications. Some of the publications he recommended are: The Measure of America 2010-2011: Mapping Risks & Resilience; and Diversity Explosion: How New Racial Demographics are Remaking America (2015).

As we look to the future of the Women & Gender Studies Section of ACRL, let us stay ever mindful of the ways that we can keep contributing toward the goal of social justice and equity, diversity, and inclusion in all that we do.

--Pamela M. Salela, Chair
ACRL Women & Gender Studies Section
University of Illinois at Springfield
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Committee Reports

AWARDS
For information on award announcements, see pages 6-7.

Submitted by Dolores Fidishun Committee Chair
Portland State University
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COLLECTIONS
The members of the 2018-2019 Collections Committee have convened via email, met virtually during the Fall and early Spring, and members plan on meeting at ALA Annual 2019. Members include co-chairs Wendy Highby and Lizzy Walker, Julie Adamo, Kellie Meehlhause, Jane Nichols, Emily Porter-Fyke, Colleen Seale, Maura Seale, and Susan Wood.

Originally, the group broke into two teams to work on a reference project and an Open Education Resources (OER) project. Eventually, the two groups convened into one, focusing on OER resources. We are looking at various broad subject areas, licensing, reviews, promotion and awareness, and resources on international issues. We have several deadlines to meet prior to ALA Annual 2019 involving developing a draft of the enhanced OER bibliography, revising the document, and the date of completion.

Submitted by Wendy Highby
(University of Northern Colorado)
wendy.highby@unco.edu
and Lizzy Walker
(Wichita State University)
lizzy.walker@wichita.edu
Committee Co-Chairs

RESEARCH
The Research Committee has a team of 24 volunteers currently working on updating the Research Agenda for Women and Gender Studies Librarianship, I am happy to announce that 5 of the 12 sections are complete and can be viewed on our website. We are also hosting a WGSS Research Poster Session at Annual in the Exhibit Hall on Saturday, June 22nd, from 11:30-1:00. Eighteen posters on a wide variety of topics have been accepted. Poster presenters will be invited to bring their work to the Membership Forum as well.

Submitted by Jennifer Gilley Committee Chair
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NOMINATING
The nominating committee met and successfully identified a slate of candidates for election to WGSS offices.

Submitted by Nina Clements Committee Chair
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PROGRAM PLANNING
We are planning a great program for ALA Annual 2019. Our title is “Pitfalls of neutrality: What does inclusivity mean in libraries?” Our program will be Saturday, June 22, at 9am. In addition to our panelists, there will be plenty of time for discussion, so please join us!

Our panelists:

Raymond Pun, Instruction/Research Librarian, Alder Graduate School of Education, will discuss experiences with online and community trolling through a lens of diversity, academic freedom, free speech, inclusion and social justice.

Jennifer L. Dean, Dean of University Libraries and Instructional Technology, and Julia Eisenstein, Associate Librarian, University of Detroit Mercy Libraries, will discuss the process of implementing student-centered, inclusive library spaces in a Catholic university, including gender neutral restrooms.

Kristin Pekoll, ALA Office for Intellectual Freedom, will highlight professional resources to guide decisions.

Submitted by Laura Bonella Committee Chair
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laurab@ksu.edu
Panel Title: Archiving Activism: Alternative Ways of Documenting and Engaging with Social Justice

Abstract: The preservation of activist records is essential to documenting and engaging with social justice history. Grounded in a critical approach to archives, panelists will examine how the collection and use of archival materials can disrupt dominant paradigms of primary source research, and generate alternative ways of knowing, teaching and creating with the physical and digital ephemera of organizing and protest. Panelists will discuss feminist collecting ethics and preserving the posters and ephemera of the 2017 Women’s Marches; issues of privacy and preservation in digital and digitized records, with a focus on the 2017 Women’s Marches, reactions to the January 2017 executive order travel ban, and community archives; engaging college students with the archival history of rape and sexual violence prevention initiatives of the 1970s, 80s, and 90s in the wake of the #MeToo movement; and the scope and challenges of archiving online activism and protest of social and political issues. The panel will be structured to promote discussion and inquiry into the ways in which critical engagement with archives and archival records can generate new ways of knowing justice. The audience will receive a zine highlighting archival and library resources discussed in the session and how to access them, as well as recommendations for donating and using archival records.

Panelists: Chloe Raub, Head of Archives and Special Collections Newcomb Archives and Vorhoff Library Special Collections (Newcomb College Institute of Tulane University). Bernadette Birzer, Archivist for Collection Management and Digital Initiatives (Newcomb College Institute of Tulane University). Mattie Taormina, Director of the Sutro Library (Sutro Library). Kris Kasianovitz, Government Information Librarian for International, State and Local Documents (Stanford University). Sara Howard (Moderator), Librarian for Gender & Sexuality Studies and Student Engagement (Princeton University).

Workshop Title: Surviving Erasure: Using Archives for Social Justice

Abstract: Using a feminist pedagogical lens, this workshop seeks to engage and illustrate different hands-on research strategies for interrogating archival materials. Workshop participants will deconstruct the perception that libraries and archives are neutral entities. By using examples from Marlon Riggs, the 2017 Women’s March, Karen Leonard, and FOIA (Freedom of Information) and public records requests, participants will explore new ways of knowing justice for those who have experienced erasure in the historic record. Workshop facilitators: Regina Lee Roberts, Librarian for Anthropology & Archaeology, Communication & Journalism, Feminist Studies, Lusophone Africa. (Stanford University). Mattie Taormina, Director of the Sutro Library (Sutro Library), and possibly Kris Kasianovitz, Government Information Librarian for International, State and Local Documents (Stanford University).

You do not need to be a member of NWSA to join us for the November 2019 conference in San Francisco. If you are a member of NWSA or are considering joining NWSA please join the Librarians Task Force (listed under “My Caucuses”). It is FREE and helps keep our group going. Please share with WGSS faculty, students and staff as well! The conference website can be found at this link: https://www.nwsa.org/annualconference.

Sara A. Howard
NWSA Liaison
Princeton University
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Chou and Pho win 2019 ACRL WGSS Significant Achievement Award

CHICAGO – Rose L. Chou, budget and personnel manager at American University, and Annie Pho, instruction coordinator and assessment librarian at the University of San Francisco, are the winners of the 2019 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 Chou and Pho at a WGSS event during the ALA Annual Conference in Washington, DC.

“Chou’s and Pho’s book ‘Pushing the Margins: Women of Color and Intersectionality in LIS’ is an extremely important contribution to our discipline, bringing critical thought and knowledge for consideration at a time when a focus on diversity and inclusion is greatly needed,” said award chair Dolores Fidishun, head librarian at Penn State-Abington. “Their emphasis on intersectionality will help all of us in LIS grow as we learn about ways in which multiple social and cultural identities impact individual experience. It is a must read for any librarian!”

Using intersectionality as a framework, “Pushing the Margins: Women of Color and Intersectionality in LIS” explores the experiences of women of color in library and information science (LIS). With roots in black feminism and critical race theory, intersectionality studies the ways in which multiple social and cultural identities impact individual experience.

Libraries and archives idealistically portray themselves as egalitarian and neutral entities that provide information equally to everyone, yet these institutions often reflect and perpetuate societal racism, sexism, and additional forms of oppression. Women of color who work in LIS are often placed in the position of balancing the ideal of the library and archive providing good customer service and being an unbiased environment with the lived reality of receiving microaggressions and other forms of harassment on a daily basis from both colleagues and patrons. This edited collection examines how lived experiences of social identities affect women of color and their work in LIS.

Chou received her M.L.I.S. from the San Jose State University and Pho received her M.L.S. from Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis.

For more information regarding the ACRL WGSS Award for Significant Achievement in Women and Gender Studies Librarianship, or a complete list of past recipients, please visit the awards section of the ACRL website.

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.
**Kruse wins 2019 ACRL WGSS Career Achievement Award**

CHICAGO – Carrie Kruse, director of College Library, user experience, and library spaces at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, has been selected as the 2019 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 Kruse at a WGSS event during the ALA Annual Conference in Washington, DC.

“Carrie Kruse has been a proponent of Women’s Studies and Women and Gender Studies librarianship throughout her career,” said award chair Dolores Fidishun, head librarian at Penn State-Abington. “She has mentored countless librarians and has been extremely active in WGSS where, among other accomplishments, she was a driving force behind the WGSS Core Books project. Most importantly, as a library administrator she has demonstrated her support for our community in ways that raised awareness of our discipline.”

Kruse received her M.L.S. from the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

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.

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**Conference Announcement**

**IDEAL Conference**

August 6-7, 2019, Columbus, OH

[https://library.osu.edu/ideal-19](https://library.osu.edu/ideal-19)

**Title: Queering Identity: Critique, Self-exploration and Social Justice.**

Abstract: This dual talk will be a critical investigation into gender & sexuality identity within librarianship using a social justice framework. The two LGBT subject specialists seek to problematize the profession by challenging the librarian to focus inwardly to a space concentrated with identity and self-exploration and examine how gender and sexuality influences the ways we provide library services, calling attention to our roles as librarians in responding to social justice.

Panelists: Shawn(ta) Smith-Cruz, Assistant Professor/Head of Reference (The Graduate Center Library, City University of New York). Sara Howard, Librarian for Gender & Sexuality Studies. (Princeton University).

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*–Submitted by Sara A. Howard*
Miranda Dube  
Adjunct Faculty Librarian  
UNH-Manchester  
mirandaldube@gmail.com

Inspired by my year of service with the AmeriCorps Victim Assistance Program, I am currently using my first-hand experience working with survivors of domestic and sexual violence to help raise awareness of library services to this unique population. By reading across disciplines and conducting original research, I am in the process of identifying best practices for library services to survivors of domestic and sexual violence and working to establish the library as a place of empowerment on the path to recovery.

This research is always evolving as new information is collected, some by myself and some through other channels. I’ve recently published some of my research findings (full citations below), and wanted to share with the membership some of the key takeaways from the research I have conducted and curated. Please be aware that this information might change in weeks, months, or years.

• Know where your local crisis center is. Regardless of whether you work at an academic, public, or special library, referrals are most successful when the person being disclosed to knows what resources are available beforehand.

• Check in on your implicit bias. What do you think of when you hear the word victim? Sexual assault? Justice? Advocate? Work towards creating an inclusive definition that helps empower survivors.

• What we say matters. Survivors will often decide whether they trust us or not before we even speak to them. Ensure your attitudes and behaviors are reflective of the inclusive environment you want to create. If we only use female pronouns to describe a victim, participate in linguistic avoidance, or participate in rape culture, knowingly or unknowingly, it is very likely that a survivor will determine that we (and by extension our library) are not a safe place to turn to.

• Work with your library to reduce the amount of disclosures a survivor will have to make. Do you require a letter from the crisis center as proof of residence? Consider giving library cards to the shelter to dispense so that survivors aren’t forced to continually disclose their trauma.

• Develop survivor inclusive programming rather than survivor specific programming.

• Be aware of reporting laws specific to your area and location. For some this may mean local mandatory reporting laws related to sexual assault under a certain age, or university-wide policies related to Title IX. Knowing when, how, and what you must report will allow you to empower a survivor by informing them of your responsibility to report before they disclose. This leaves the decision of whether to disclose and be reported or seek services from a confidential service up to the person who will ultimately have to live with the decision and resulting actions.

• This last one will sound obvious but recognize that these issues do impact your area. Four percent of New Hampshire libraries shared confidently that domestic violence and sexual assault were not issues in their town. Even if our library is aware of these issues, our colleagues at other libraries may not be, and it is up to us to work towards educating them.

If you are interested in learning more about library services for survivors of domestic and sexual violence, you can check out:


• “New Hampshire public library services to survivors of domestic and sexual violence.” In *the Library with the Lead Pipe* (forthcoming June 2019)

• “Lady in the Stacks Podcast Ep. 8: Miranda Dube: Library Services For Sexual and Domestic Violence Survivors.” Found at this link: https://anchor.fm/indie-stacks/episodes/Ep--8-Miranda-Dube-Library-Services-For-Sexual-and-Domestic-Violence-Survivors-e3ubgy

• #LibrariansforSurvivors on Twitter

If you would like to talk about how your library could improve services for survivors, you can contact me at mirandaldube@gmail.com or on Twitter @blssflybookish.
**Library Exhibit: Princeton University**

This library exhibition highlighting Princeton University’s Gender & Sexuality Studies Research Collection was inspired by our campus colleagues, Sexual Harassment/Assault Advising, Resources & Education (SHARE), who recently led a campus project titled *Pause: An Enthusiastic Consent Art Workshop*. This was an initiative between a local artist, Andre Veloux, SHARE, and the Princeton University community. After reviewing principles of consent, participants worked in pairs to place Legos and complete the artwork (please see these links for interviews and time-lapse videos of the project). One of the goals was taking conversations about consent out of intimate situations and not focusing on the awkward or challenging aspects, but rather acknowledging that consent is part of our everyday activities. The items in the exhibit focus on these topics and were curated by Gender & Sexuality Studies (GSS) Librarian, Sara Howard. These titles are part of the newly minted Gender & Sexuality Studies Research Collection.

Submitted by Sara A. Howard
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**Publication Announcement**

Stacy Russo recently published *A Better World Starts Here: Activists and Their Work*. It features interviews with 25 inspiring activists who discuss their early lives and paths to activism. Several of the people interviewed are involved with feminist action, LGBTQ+ activism, and other interconnected forms of social justice work. You can read more about the book here: [https://www.amazon.com/gp/product/0998994669?pf_rd_p=f3acc539-5d5f-49a3-89ea-768a917d5900&pf_rd_r=7J71SEG1Y9YR4JSTY9V2](https://www.amazon.com/gp/product/0998994669?pf_rd_p=f3acc539-5d5f-49a3-89ea-768a917d5900&pf_rd_r=7J71SEG1Y9YR4JSTY9V2). A portion of the sales from every book will be donated on a quarterly basis to the Activists of Color featured in the collection.

Submitted by Stacy Russo
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**Creative Commons Certificate for Librarians: WGSS Member Completion**

Through funds from the New York State SUNY OER Initiative, I recently completed the [Creative Commons Certificate for Librarians](#), a ten-week online course to serve as a source of information for Suffolk Community College’s faculty who are teaching with and creating Open Education Resources (OER). The course covered the historical development of intellectual property protections and limits, the philosophy of the Commons, OER, and the CC open licensing system. [CC licenses](#) are used by creators who want their work (images, videos, textbooks, course modules, etc.) to be freely available to others with fewer restrictions on distribution and modification.

I’ve been giving presentations to faculty about the licenses in order to address questions about selecting and using OER and how the different licenses operate. I’ve also presented to school librarians in my county about the landscape of intellectual property protections (copyright, the public domain, fair use, user agreements, and open licensing), the pros and cons of copy-paste culture, and how to help students and teachers use found multimedia in their presentations and projects with an understanding of attribution and intellectual property protections.

Submitted by Susan Wood
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