From The Heads Of The Table

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!!! Five years ago this Midwinter a small but determined group of pioneers started the wheels in motion that resulted in the establishment of the ACRL Women's Studies Discussion Group, the proud foremother of the Women's Studies Section. Since that 1983 day in San Antonio our membership has grown from that core of women seeking colleagues to sign a petition for a women's studies group within ACRL to a large and active force within the Association and the profession. Congratulations to us all, and a particularly heartfelt thank you to the “women of the winter of '83” for leading the way.

In terms of my own experience with the phenomenon that is the Women's Studies Section, I think that there are two ways one can view a year spent as chair of an ACRL section: as the longest sentence possible for committing a victimless crime or as one of the most exhilarating ways to serve yourself and your profession. To be perfectly honest, I had both reactions during my tenure as chair of the Women's Studies Section. Returning from a day away from the library frequently meant wading through a deluge of paper from 50 E. Huron St. My phone machine became a veritable WSS-central as officers, committee chairs, and other interested folks joined in endless games of telephone tag. Work that I deemed crucial in October dropped lower and lower in my in-basket (I even added an additional tier) as Midwinter approached. I lived in fear of the dreaded memo from the Newsletter editors, quaking at the thought of reading the sentence which inevitably began “Your article for the Newsletter is due...” In short, I had a wonderful year!

The barrage of mail from headquarters frequently contained information of critical importance to our section. The numerous missed connections and phone machine exchanges always resulted, eventually, in speaking with section members whose ideas, advice, and just plain kind consideration have made serving as chair an unexpected pleasure. I learned to “prioritize” (although I have yet to learn to like that word). I discovered that some activities could fall to the bottom of the pile and the world would still manage to limp along. I even began to look forward to the opportunity to compose what one of the Newsletter editors has labeled my “swan song.”

If the above sounds like an advertisement (albeit an odd one) for active involvement in the Women's Studies Section, that's because it is. I honestly can't think of a more fulfilling way for librarians interested in women's studies and the position of women in academic and research libraries to be active in ACRL. And we certainly are active! Given the generally light turnout at Midwinter (compounded this year by horrendous travel conditions) and the conflicting demands on people's time, attendance at our meetings was nothing short of outstanding. And people came to work! We had some lively discussions about program planning for the '89 Dallas conference and formed, in addition to our regular standing committees, several ad hoc committees charged with specific projects or tasks. The ad hoc committee on the ACRL Conference and the ad hoc committee on the Women's Studies Conspectus promise to be especially challenging and engaging projects. WSS will present its first program as an official ACRL section at New Orleans. Since the announcement for the program appears elsewhere in the Newsletter I won't describe it
From the Heads of the Table (Cont'd)

here. However, I do want to take this opportu-

nity to thank publicly the members of the New

Orleans Program Committee for all their incred-
ible work. Chair Pat Kreitz and her group not
only put together an incredible program, but
applied for and received special funding from
ALA to help us offset the cost of the program.
We're clearly making our mark in ACRL.

In addition to the New Orleans program,
the section is moving ahead with several excit-
ning projects. Our membership keeps growing
and becoming more diverse; we have truly
found a need and are striving to fulfill it. While
occasionally crowded and chaotic, our meetings
are always interesting and generally productive.
We are learning the organizational ropes while
at the same time maintaining the feminist vision
and energy that brought us together initially. I
thank you for your support and encouragement
this past year. It has been a privilege to chair
the ACRL Women's Studies Section. I look
forward to working with in-coming chair Beth
Stafford and remaining active in the group.

--Ellen Broidy
Chair, WSS '87-'88

WSS Logo Alert!

Once again the call goes out (via the
Communication Committee) for a logo for the
Women's Studies Section. Newsletter readers,
we are in need of an official WSS identifier for
not only the Newsletter but for all WSS publca-
tions and letterhead. Help us create a section
evne more distinctive than it already is! Put on
your thinking caps, put pencil to paper and send
us your idea! Critical fame and acclaim can
soon be yours!

Please mail your logo entries to Betty
Glass, ACRL WSS Newsletter, Serials Depart-
ment, Morris Library, Southern Illinois Univer-
sity, Carbondale, IL 62901-6632. We look
forward to an overwhelming response from our
talented readers!

--The Editors

WSS Committee Reports

Communications Committee

At the committee's midwinter meeting
four areas were targeted for discussion and
subsequent action—the WSS Newsletter, a
logo for WSS to be used on the Newsletter and
all section publications and letterhead, commun-
ications with other women's groups in ALA,
and orientation for new WSS members. The
Newsletter will continue to report on the activi-
ties of the section and its members. A form for
soliciting information from the membership has
been developed and will be distributed at each
section meeting. The Newsletter editors 2 year
terms will now be staggered to provide contin-
ity. A WSS member will be appointed editor by
the section chair for a 2 year term and will serve
as asst. editor in the first year and editor in the
second. The committee recommends that the
section adopt a logo for all its publications and
will be subsequently promoting this idea. WSS
members are urged to submit their ideas for
such to the Newsletter editor. A member of the
committee will assume responsibility for com-
municating news from the section to the Femi-
nist Task Force newsletter Women In Libraries
and the committee will pursue further ways of
connecting with other women's groups within
ALA. The committee has also developed a
section orientation whereby new or prospective

--Beth Stafford
Chair, WSS '88-'89
WSS Committee Reports (cont'd)

members will be sent a welcome letter with an invitation to participate actively in the section. The committee also hopes to organize an informal WSS dinner in New Orleans.

Technical Services Committee

The first committee project is LC subject heading changes. Using Women in LC's Terms and A Women's Thesaurus, the committee will do an analysis and coordinate proposals to submit to LC for suggested revisions in terminology and references.

1989 Dallas Program Committee

Open and lively discussion about program ideas for the Dallas Conference resulted in a long list of possible topics. The unfinished agenda of subject headings, mainstreaming women's studies, the economics of libraries vis-a-vis women's studies, and education and training for women's studies librarianship among others were discussed. The committee will meet officially in New Orleans to continue its planning.

Women's Studies NCIP/RLG Conspectus Ad Hoc Committee

The task of developing a conspectus for Women's Studies has been assigned to the Library of Congress and Sarah Pritchard is coordinating this project. The conspectus will include classification number ranges plus supplemental guidelines for collection evaluation. Sarah will send drafts to all those who signed up at the Midwinter WSS meeting and will have extras available at Annual. WSS will host a special meeting to discuss the progress of the conspectus on Saturday, July 9th from 8-10 p.m.; check the conference program for location. Sarah in the meantime can be reached at (202) 287-2726.

1989 ACRL 5th National Conference/WSS Program Ad Hoc Committee

Section members enthusiastically agreed that WSS should present a program at the 5th National ACRL Conference next year. Sue Searing will chair the committee with members Joan Ariel, Deb Biggs, Ellen Broidy, Barbara Dean, Nancy Luikart, Sarah Watstein. The program will include a panel tentatively entitled "Women's Studies in Academic Libraries: Current Research and Implications for Service." Other papers and poster sessions may be included as well. The committee will meet in New Orleans for further planning.

Women's Studies in Academic Libraries Survey--A First!

Those of you who recall that the Women's Studies Section conducted a survey of library services in women's studies last year might be glad to know that some of the findings of that dual purpose survey will appear in the first central extensive guide to women's studies programs and libraries, to be published early in 1989.

The guide, a directory, will be organized by state and alphabetically by institution within each state. Several indexes will provide access by institution, names of individuals (including women's studies librarians), degrees, certificates, areas of concentration/minors, academic disciplines, and subject strengths of library collections.

The main section of the directory will list academic programs by institution. A separate section is to include institutions that offer academic courses, but not established programs. Each listing will also include a brief description of library support where known, e.g. whether there is a separate book budget for women's studies.

It will be the most complete description of U.S. women's studies programs and courses extant as well as the first description of library services and resources supporting the field. This directory will greatly facilitate communication and dissemination of information about the field among those teaching and doing research in the area or seeking to establish programs as well as for those seeking to provide supportive library services for the women's studies community.

Additional information on trends, needs, degree of communication between libraries and
WS Survey (Cont'd)

women's studies scholars and more will appear in library literature after publication. More analysis of the survey of libraries at over 2400 institutions of higher education will be done in the fall of 1988.

--Beth Stafford
University of Illinois

Information Exchange & Member News

Jacquelyn Marle, Reference/Women's Studies Bibliographer at McHenry Library, University of California at Santa Cruz, Santa Cruz, CA, CA1. 95064 reports that she has handouts on "Women and Health"; "Women of Color in the United States"; "Guide to Women's Studies" which she will send (one copy each) per request. Jacquelyn has also published an article entitled "Women of Color in the United States," in The Women's Annual, No. 4, 1983-1984.

Cheryl Knott Malone, formerly an assistant librarian in Preservation and Collection Development at the University of Michigan, is now History, Government, and American Studies bibliographer in the Reference Services Department at the University of Texas-Austin.

Ruth Dickstein, Reference Librarian at the University of Arizona Main Library reports that she will be participating in a Department of Education Summer Institute, "Teaching Women's Studies from an International Perspective," to be held at the University of Arizona from June 20-24, 1988. Ruth's co-authored book, Women in LC's Terms is now available from Oryx Press.

Sarah Pritchard, Library of Congress and Sarah Watstein, Hunter College will participate in CLR's Academic Library Management Internship Program. Pritchard's internship will be at Princeton University and Watstein's will be at the University of Connecticut-Storrs.

Eva Sartori, University of Iowa, reports that the ACRL/Western European Specialists International Conference in Florence, Italy this past April included a successful and informative women's studies session for which she served as moderator. Sarah Pritchard, Library of Congress examined the extensive resources in microform available for the study of western European women's history, literature, work, and political activities; she also discussed the problems of acquisitions, cataloging, subject access, and public service. Simone Blanc, Bibliotheque Marguerite Durand (Paris), described the evolution of the Marguerite Durand Library, its holdings and the library's acquisitions methods and policies. Claire Posthumous, International Archives for the Women's Movement (Amsterdam), discussed the difficulties of finding funding for women's libraries and information centers. WESS plans to publish the proceedings of the conference, including the above mentioned papers.

The Editor's Turn

With this my last issue of the WSS Newsletter, I am pleased to tell our readers what a fine experience it has been. The first issue of the Newsletter debuted in December 1986, pre-official section, in fact, and since then we have continued to refine both our content and format. The WSS Communications Committee will continue to guide the Newsletter to ensure continuity and content.

So this edition of the WSS Newsletter is my "swan song." I hope you enjoy it and become informed by it. I look forward to seeing the Newsletter grow and mature under future editors with input, of course, from our readers. Betty Glass, now Asst. Editor will take over the blue pencil, keyboard and computer as Editor. She will be joined by Nancy Knipe from Colorado College as Asst. Editor. I leave this post in very capable hands and with my very best wishes.

--Deb Biggs
Editor, '86-'88
Publications of Interest

*Bibliography on Women and International Studies* is available from SIROW (Southwest Institute for Research on Women), University of Arizona, Tucson, AZ 85721.


*Building Women's Studies Collections: A Resource Guide* (the long-awaited "Checklist" which began in 1983 as a collective project of the Women's Studies Discussion Group) is published and available from CHOICE. Price is $12.00. For a review of this publication see *Feminist Collections*, Vol. 9, No. 3, Spring 1988.


*Library and Information Sources on Women: Guide to Collections in the Greater New York Area,* is now available from the Feminist Press at the City University of New York. At least 171 collections on women are detailed in this guide. Price is $12.95.

*Women Library Workers Journal* has resumed a regular publication schedule. *WLW* publishes articles and reviews; the editors can be contacted at WLW, c/o Women's Resource Center, Bldg. T-9, Room 116, University of California, Berkeley, CA 94720.


ALA Annual 1988-New Orleans Events

Program News

The Women's Studies Section will co-sponsor a program entitled "Librarians as Colleagues Across Racial Lines", on Saturday, July 9th from 12:30-4:00 p.m. in the Hilton Grand Ballroom C. This is an action-oriented program which will focus on strategies for combating racism in the profession. All librarians and trustees are encouraged to attend. Prior registration is not required. Keynote speakers are Aileen Hernandez, former president of NOW and Elizabeth Martinez-Smith, director of the Orange County (CA) Library System.

The Women's Studies Section's 1988 Conference Program "Women In Third World Countries: Research Trends and Collection Development Challenges", will be held on Saturday, July 9th from 9:30-12:30 p.m. (See page 6 for full details.) In addition to a wonderful roster of speakers, an information/exchange table will be available. The Program Committee urges WSS members to bring any bibliographies, handouts, or publication notices on third world women that you might have to share with conference participants. We expect a minimum attendance of 50 people, so if possible, please bring that amount. Our thanks!

Celebrating Women!

The SRRT Feminist Task Force is sponsoring a walking tour on "Women In New Orleans History." This tour, which lasts about 3 hours and includes a stop for beverage and pastry at a French cafe, will begin on Tuesday, July 12th at 11:00 a.m. Participants are to meet at the foot of the statue in the center of Jackson Square. Cost is $15.00. For additional information--i.e. where to mail the registration fee, contact Betty-Carol Sellen, Brooklyn College Library, Brooklyn, NY 11210. (718) 780-5618.

"Women's Night Out" at Annual will be on Monday, July 11th at 10:00 p.m. The club selected in the French Quarter is "The Other Side", 621 Elysian Fields, (504) 944-9428. Drinks, food, music, dancing, and conversation available.
Women in Third World Countries
Research Trends and Collection Development Challenges

ALA/ACRL Women's Studies Section
1988 Conference Program
Saturday, July 9 • 9:30 am - 12:30 pm

Keynote Address:

"Through a Glass, Darkly: Women and World Change"
Kate Cloud, Director
Office of Women in International Development
University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign

Research Trends in:

African Women's Studies
Pauline Manaka
Georgia State University

Latin American Women's Studies
Asunción Lavrin
Department of History, Howard University

South Asian Women's Studies
Jyotsna Vaid
Department of Psychology, Texas A & M University

Collection Development Challenges:

Merry Burlingham
South Asian Librarian, University of Texas at Austin

Thomas Niehaus, Director
Latin American Library, Tulane University

Beth Stafford, Women's Studies/WID Librarian
University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign
The National Council for Research on Women has submitted a new grant request to NEH to encompass three projects: 1) a directory of computer-based resources for women's studies in the humanities; 2) creation of a database of women's studies work-in-progress which RLG has expressed interest in mounting; and 3) a directory of fugitive/ephemeral women's studies resources to be made available through ERIC. Many WSS members are included in the grant as advisors.

CHOICE editor Pat Sabosik has proposed that WSS assist in the development of a series of interdisciplinary checklists. When speaking at a WSS meeting at Midwinter '88, she noted two relevant trends: 1) the narrowness in publishing in certain disciplines; 2) the broadening of the interdisciplinary scope of others, e.g. anthropology, economics, psychology. CHOICE has identified 5-6 areas, including women's studies, for which there is an information and market need for checklists to assist faculty and libraries in curriculum and collection development. CHOICE would like WSS to help establish criteria for selection of titles to be included in these new checklists.

The National Women's Studies Association announces its 10th annual conference, "Leadership and Power: Women's Alliances for Social Change." The University of Minnesota will host from June 22-26, 1988 in Minneapolis. The conference will address differences of race, class, and ethnic background so as to effect multi-level change in the personal, social, and political spheres.

The Third International Feminist Book Fair will be held at the University of Montreal (Canada) from June 14-19, 1988. Book, magazine, and newspaper editors along with writers, translators, distributors and booksellers worldwide will come together for conferences, readings, and panels. For registration information write to the Third International Feminist Book Fair, 4060, boul. St-Laurent, Suite 204, Montreal, Quebec, Canada H2W 1Y9, or call (514) 843-3169.


Women's studies, through the application of gender analysis, provides a fresh outlook in all areas of intellectual inquiry. The interdisciplinary nature of women's studies reflects the intricate weaving of women's issues between subject areas that are, on the surface, quite distinct.

After two decades of development, a wide spectrum of women's studies programs exists. These range from separate, fully-staffed departments to single course offerings or curriculum enhancements through an individual's initiative. While all areas of collection development suffer during times of restricted acquisitions budgets, the widespread policy of allocating library budget lines only to bonafide departments makes women's studies particularly vulnerable to neglect. Few Libraries have a full-time women's studies librarian position.

Systematic selection of women's studies materials is dependent upon access to titles from small, feminist presses which are often reviewed only by independent women's reviews. New resources to aid collection development in women's studies are, however, being developed.

Standardization of subject headings by the Library of Congress has been very beneficial for U.S. libraries. The lag time for LC in adopting current usage, however, is problematic for women's studies materials. While many sexist and racist terms have been replaced and more precise headings have been developed, many earlier works are still virtually inaccessible under very general subject headings. In a similar vein, the LC classification system creates physical access problems for women's studies materials as well.

Librarian Connie Miller argues that librarians are "gatekeepers" and that our decisions in building and organizing collections not only effect the potential of feminist scholarship but also determine whether women's words will be read or lost in the stacks.

--Article abstracted by
Betty Glass, Asst. Editor
ACRL WOMEN'S STUDIES SECTION ANNUAL MEETING AGENDA

Friday, July 8, 1988
2:00-4:00 p.m.
WSS Executive Board

Saturday, July 9, 1988
9:30-12:30 p.m.
WSS Conference Program
8:00-10:00 p.m.
WSS NCIP/RLG Conspectus Committee

Sunday, July 10, 1988
9:30-11:00 a.m.
Feminist Task Force Coalitions Program

Monday, July 11, 1988
9:30-11:00 a.m.
WSS General Membership Meeting
11:30-12:30 p.m.
ACRL Conference Committee Communications Committee Nominating Committee
Dallas Conference Planning Committee Technical Services Committee

Please check the Conference Program for meeting locations.

Deb Biggs/Betty Glass, Editors
WSS Newsletter
c/o ALA/ACRL
50 East Huron St.
Chicago, IL 60611