Notes From The Chair

Dear WGSS Members and Friends:

I hope things are going well for all of you this academic year. I’m writing to share some updates about our section.

As Vice-Chair of WGSS last year, my main responsibility was committee appointments. One thing I can definitely say from this experience is that we are a committed group. There were many volunteers requesting to serve on different committees. How fabulous to see how active our section is and how many of us want to contribute to the important work we do.

Related to our excellent work - you may have read Jennifer Gilley’s post to WGSS-L regarding the Research Committee’s update of the Bibliography of Scholarship on Women and Gender Studies. This is an amazing resource. If you haven’t checked it out yet, please visit www.libr.org/wgss and find the link under “Publications & Resources.” I would also like to acknowledge the work of the Awards Committee. At ALA Annual in San Francisco, Nancy Goebel, head librarian at the Augustana Campus of the University of Alberta, was awarded the Significant Achievement Award and Connie Phelps, past chair of WGSS and librarian at the University of New Orleans, was awarded the Career Achievement Award (see p. 6).

There is so much to celebrate about what we do, but as the section chair, I must also report on less joyful news. We recently discovered during the Executive Committee meeting at ALA Annual in San Francisco that the section membership number is at 399. Our membership number must be at 400 or higher to continue as a section. We have been hovering around the 400 number for several years. (continued on p. 2)
(Notes From the Chair, continued)
The good news is that this number is tracked over a 3-year period. So, if our number is at 400 or higher at the next annual count, the clock will be re-set. Please take a moment to make sure you are a WGSS member. Also, since ACRL members are no longer charged fees for adding additional sections, please ask your colleagues who value WGSS to add the section to their membership.

It is an honor to serve as Chair of WGSS. The section has been close to my heart and “my favorite place” in ACRL since I first discovered the section while in library school.

Thank you for your dedication, creativity, and hard work. Please feel free to always contact me with any questions, comments, or ideas about the section.

Stacy Russo
Chair, ACRL Women and Gender Studies Section
Santa Ana College
Santa Ana, California

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

The ACRL 2017 Call for Participation will be available in December of 2016. Watch www.acrl.org for details!
COLLECTIONS

Collections Committee members Jane Nichols, Erica Carlson Nicol and Susan Wood continue their work to update the WGSS Core Journals list. After a preliminary review of the findings from the WGSS Core Journals Survey, they compiled results and presented them at the WGSS Research Committee Poster Session during the 2015 Annual Membership meeting. Long time WGSS librarians may not be surprised that Signs remains a top journal used for instruction and research. However it may be surprising that survey respondents also cited a newer publication, the Journal of the Motherhood Initiative as one of the most used journals. Results raise questions about the gap between what respondents consider core and what is considered core by tools like Journal Citation Reports®. Next steps include looking more closely at the data gathered and writing up the study for publication. To view the poster, please visit: http://hdl.handle.net/1957/56276.

Submitted by Jane Nichols
Committee Member
Oregon State University

INSTRUCTION

The Instruction Committee met at ALA Annual to continue developing women’s and gender studies (WGS) specific outcomes that can be integrated into the new ACRL Framework for Information Literacy in Higher Education.

Submitted by Tara Baillargeon
Committee Chair
Marquette University

NOMINATING

The Nominating Committee met at ALA Annual to plan for the 2016 WGSS ballot. Thanks to everyone who ran for an office in 2015 and for those who are running in 2016. Consenting to be on the ballot is important service to the section and we are grateful.

This month candidates will be submitting their biographical information and statements of concern. Voting will begin in late March when ALA emails ballots to members, and the polls close at the end of the day on Friday, April 29.

Our section voter turnout last year was among the highest of ACRL sections. This is one way that we show our engagement and viability as a section. Let’s continue the trend!

Submitted by Heather Tompkins
Committee Chair
St. Catherine University

PUBLICATIONS

The Publications Committee met virtually before Annual and in person as well. Their main focus continues to be the WGSS blog, and they are looking for members interested in contributing to the blog and to social media accounts. Other concerns include WGSS Links, which may be changing formats in the upcoming year.

Submitted by Nina Clements
Committee Chair
Penn State Brandywine

RESEARCH

The Committee brainstormed new ideas, including ways of publicizing our activities to library science graduate students, ways of cross-pollinating with the CritLib community, and a possible timeline for updating the Research (continued on p. 4)
AGENDA for Women and Gender Studies Librarianship. We also suggested to the Executive Committee that WGSS consider sponsoring an Emerging Leader. If anyone else has ideas for the Research Committee or wants to help with the Research Agenda update, please let us know!

Submitted by Jennifer Gilley
Committee Chair
Penn State University

AWARDS

The Awards Committee will be sending out the following call for nominations to various lists with a deadline of early December:

The ACRL Women & Gender Studies Section is accepting nominations for two awards. WGSS awards are given annually to honor distinguished academic librarians who have made outstanding contributions to women and gender studies through accomplishments and service to the profession.

The awards recognize those who have made long-standing contributions to the field during a career (the Career Achievement Award) and those who have made significant one-time contributions (the Significant Achievement Award.)

Selection criteria for the Awards:

The WGSS Career Achievement in Women & Gender Studies Librarianship is designed to honor individual career achievement in women and gender studies librarianship. Nominees should have demonstrated sustained achievement in one or more of the following areas:

Service within the organized profession through ACRL/WGSS and/or related organizations;
Academic/research library or archival service in the area of women and gender studies;
Research and publication in areas of academic/research library or archival services in women and gender studies;
Planning and implementation of academic/research library or archival programs in women and gender studies disciplines of such exemplary quality that they could serve as a model for others.

The WGSS Award for Significant Achievement in Women & Gender Studies Librarianship recognizes one-time achievement, by an individual or a group, during the particular year of the award. Achievement may be in any area of academic women and gender studies librarianship, including, but not limited to:

Publication of a monograph, journal article, website or media product;
Talk or other presentation at a nationally recognized conference;
Innovations in women and gender studies librarianship, including but not limited to instruction;
Development of an exemplary program, collection, digitization project, or access tool to serve women and gender studies students and/or faculty;
Significant creative and innovative contribution to the work of the ACRL Women & Gender Studies Section.

Additional information and nomination forms are available on ACRL Awards Page:
http://www.ala.org/acrl/awards/achievementawards
Please send your questions and completed nomination materials to Diane Fulkerson, dfulkerson@sar.usf.edu

Submitted by Diane Fulkerson
Committee Chair
University of South Florida
Jennifer Gilley
Jennifer Gilley presented the paper “Ghost in the Machine: Kitchen Table Press and the Third Wave Anthology that Vanished” at the Publishing Feminisms Symposium in Banff, Alberta, in May 2015. This was the first conference devoted solely to the history (and current practice) of feminist publishing and it has generated an online community. If you wish to learn more or be a part of the community, email Jennifer at jrg15@psu.edu.

Pamela M. Salela
Pamela M. Salela, Associate Professor at University of Illinois at Springfield was awarded a 9 month sabbatical leave from August 15, 2015 - May 15, 2016. She is using that time to pursue a Certificate of Advanced Studies at the Graduate School of Library & Information Science at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. The focus of her studies is Community Informatics.

Carol Smallwood
Carol Smallwood announces calls for the following publications:

Male Gender Studies in the Library: Case Studies of Innovative Programs and Resources. 3,000-4,000 word chapters by public, school, special, academic librarians, LIS faculty and those involved with library outreach, programming, collection development, resources, community partnerships in the United States and Canada. Innovative chapters on a rapidly changing topic in popular media and an increasing presence in college and graduate classes. Please send title for one or two proposed chapters: one or two sentence description for each chapter; brief bio to: smallwood@tm.net with MAL in subject line by October 28, 2015.

Women’s Studies in the Library: Case Studies of Innovative Programs and Resources. One or two chapters sought from U.S. practicing academic, public, school, special librarians, LIS faculty, sharing practical know-how about what works for women’s studies programs and resources. Chapters are encouraged that could apply to more than one type of library: useful to public, school, special, LIS faculty. Proven, creative, case studies encouraged. How-to chapters based on experience to help colleagues; innovative workshops, outreach, grant resources highly valued. Please e-mail titles of proposed chapters, each described in a few sentences by October 28, 2015, brief bio on each author; place WOM, Your Name on subject line: smallwood@tm.net
On Monday, June 29 during ALA Annual in San Francisco, we gathered for the WGSS discussion forum “Creativity in Information Literacy Pedagogy: Working with Local Archives.” Our speakers were:

Susan Goldstein, City Archivist of San Francisco at the San Francisco Public Library. Title: A Brief Romp through the San Francisco Archives - an examination of teaching with their primary source materials, both off-site, in the classroom, and back home in their department. What works, what doesn’t, and how this informs their collecting strategies and outreach to students and teachers.

Regina Lee Roberts, Librarian at Stanford University with liaison collection development responsibilities for Anthropology, Communication & Journalism, Feminist Studies, Lusophone Africa and Sociology. Title: Outing the Archives: Special Collections Related to Gender and Women’s Issues at Stanford University Libraries. A discussion of cooperative teaching and co-design principles in using special collections related to gender, feminist studies, and women’s issues in teaching and community outreach.

Ardel Thomas, Chair of LGBTQ Studies at City College of San Francisco, the nation’s first LGTBQ Studies Department. Title: LGBTQ materials, looking specifically at archives and access for community college students.

The session was well attended and extremely interesting. Attendees spoke very highly of the presenters, and people stayed for quite a while afterwards discussing additional topics with the speakers.

-Submitted by Laura Bonella, program chair

Before the discussion forum at ALA Annual, the 2015 WGSS awards were presented. Connie Phelps, University of New Orleans, was the winner of the Career Achievement Award based on her achievements in her career and her ongoing work with WGSS. Complete details are available at http://www.ala.org/news/press-releases/2015/03/phelps-wins-2015-acrl-wgss-career-achievement-award.

Nancy Goebel, Augustana Campus of the University of Alberta, was the winner of the Award for Significant Achievement in Women and Gender Studies Librarianship based on her work with the augustana human library. Complete details are available at http://www.ala.org/news/press-releases/2015/03/goebel-wins-2015-acrl-wgss-significant-achievement-award.

-Submitted by Laura Bonella
Research Poster Session at ALA Annual

The Research Committee hosted the 8th Annual Research Poster Session at ALA Annual in San Francisco, which was a great success and generated a lot of new ideas.

The posters are now available online at http://libr.org/wgss/committees/research/postersession/index.html

The posters presented were:

• Librarian Participation in Faculty Learning Communities: Strengthening Partnerships with Gender Studies Scholars – Sharon Ladenson, Michigan State University

• WGSS Journals Revisited: Scholars Share Their Core Titles – Jane Nichols, Susan Wood, and Erica Carlson Nicol

• Wikipedia, Gender, & Libraries: Closing the Gender Gap on Wikipedia Through User Engagement – Chloe Raub, Newcomb Archives, Tulane University

Submitted by Jennifer Gilley, Research Committee Chair

Updates from ACRL

ACRL Annual Survey Now Open
Since 1999, the ACRL Academic Library Trends and Statistics Survey has gathered statistics at the national level from all types of academic libraries in the United States and Canada. The survey is developed and overseen by the ACRL Academic Library Trends and Statistics Editorial Board. Earlier this year, the ACRL Board of Directors approved a recommendation from the editorial board that ACRL create and administer its own survey instrument to make it more relevant and responsive to the needs of academic libraries. Formerly, ACRL had been using the Association of Research Libraries survey instrument with permission. Following a ten-month development process involving scores of librarians and opportunities for review and feedback, the ACRL Annual Survey has been overhauled and will open on September 18, 2015, to collect data for the 2015 fiscal year. Fiscal year 2015 is defined as the most recent 12-month period that ends before October 1, 2015. Complete details on the new survey are available on the ACRL Insider blog. Surveys will close on April 30, 2016.

Call for Award Nominations
Excellence in Academic Libraries Award
$3,000 and a plaque
Sponsored by YBP Library Services

Academic/Research Librarian of the Year
$5,000 and a plaque
Sponsored by YBP Library Services

DEADLINE: December 4, 2015

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

Did You Know?
ACRL members can view full contact information for all ACRL section committee rosters (http://www.ala.org/acrl/aboutacrl/directoryofleadership/sections) by logging into the ACRL Website.
The 2015 National Women’s Studies Association Annual Conference will be held November 12-15, in Milwaukee. Below are three panels of interest: one on information literacy in WGS, one on feminist zines, and one by our own Karla Strand, plus the Librarians Task Force Business Meeting.

Resisting Information Containment: Putting the Politics in Information Literacy
Presenters: Ayana Weekley, Danielle DeMuth, and Mary O’Kelly, all from Grand Valley State
Fri, Nov 13, 8:00 to 9:15 a.m., Hilton Milwaukee, Wright C
Information literacy is central to the political projects of women, gender, and sexuality studies that has emphasized social justice and critique of the politics of knowledge production. This workshop will share strategies for integrating the content of women, gender and sexuality studies with critical examinations of who is and is not valued as knowledge producers, disciplinary practices of knowledge production, and analyses of differential access to information and resources. In this workshop we will share pedagogical strategies as well as discuss the need to politicize information literacy and make it central to the WGS curriculum.

‘Stare at My Insides’: Feminist and Queer Zines Inside and Outside the Academy
Presenters: Jenna Freedman, Barnard College; Honor Moody, Schlesinger Library; Alana Kumbier, Hampshire College
Fri, Nov 13, 11:00 a.m. to 12:15 p.m., Wisconsin Center, 203E
Zines created by feminists, queers, people of color, and other marginalized populations both find a home in academic libraries and archives and disrupt and resist institutionalization. Zine librarians will offer brief case studies, then attendees will break into discussion groups to explore topics of interest, such as cataloging zines, combining zines with feminist pedagogy in the classroom and in local communities, and pushing out the boundaries of the academy. Each group will create an action plan and ideas generated will be reported back and shared in a wiki as a reference for participants and others.

Librarians Task Force Business Meeting
Fri, Nov 13, 3:00 to 4:15 p.m., Hilton Milwaukee, Miller
Please come if you are at the conference. We need to strategize for next year!

Challenging Distortions: Making Our Histories Visible Through Public Media Initiatives
Presenters: Karla Strand and Helen R. Klebesadel, University of Wisconsin System; Joanne Goodwin, Women’s Research Institute of Nevada
Sat, Nov 14, 9:30 to 10:45 a.m., Wisconsin Center, 101B (LCD)
Presenters will discuss the Wisconsin Women Making History Website and Makers: Women in Nevada History.

-Submitted by Jennifer Gilley, NWSA Liaison